

BRONCHO PRESS

Official Newsletter of Holly Area Schools

Spring 2019



SPRING
2019
EDITION

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Elementary students learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through fun, hands-on activities.

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6 Fast Track to the Future

Dual enrollment program provides juniors and seniors with a seamless transition to college and careers.



Superintendent Scott Roper

Dear Holly Area Schools families,

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of the *Broncho Press*, the official newsletter of Holly Area Schools!

In this second edition of the *Broncho Press* — your one-stop shop for all things Bronchos — we highlight some of the amazing accomplishments of our Broncho students, staff and families.

First, we provide a schedule update on our school safety and building improvement bond projects. These projects would not be possible without the support of our community, and I thank you again for this critical investment you’ve made in our kids.

Also in this edition, you’ll get a glimpse inside our elementary Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) instruction in all four of our elementary schools and an update on Team Hollywood Robotics, the high school robotics team.

You’ll also read about our dual enrollment programs, which provide eligible juniors and seniors a leg-up on college and careers.

These stories, and many more in this edition, demonstrate the unique and diverse learning opportunities at Holly Area Schools that provide a 21st century education that helps all students achieve and succeed.

There’s truly never been a better time to be a Broncho.

As I explained in the premier *Broncho Press*, this newsletter is part of an ongoing effort to better communicate with our families and community. We welcome any feedback you might have.

In closing, I want to thank our school board for their support and commitment to the students, staff, and families of Holly Area Schools. As always, it is an honor serving as your superintendent.

Go Bronchos!

Sincerely,

Scott Roper, Superintendent

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Bronchos in the HEADLINES

“Internet safety is more important than ever”

– (Tri-County Times, March 19)

“Michigan teachers take mental health training as first aid requirement”

– (WNEM TV, Saginaw, March 8)

“Broncho Pride strong over snow days”

– (Tri-County Times, Feb. 19)

“Robotics key to STEM learning at Holly Area Schools”

– (Tri-County Times, Jan. 28)

“Holly Middle School students explore STEM careers”

– (Oakland Press, Dec. 18, 2018)





The Broncho difference

to high-demand, high-wage careers in the skilled trades at a Professional Trades and Apprenticeship Open House.

In addition, our district is currently researching and preparing for an expansion of curricular offerings that will provide our students with pre-apprenticeship courses at our high school. Look for more announcements about this program next school year.

“Leader in Me”

Also new for the 2018-2019 school year, “Leader in Me” is provided in all four elementary buildings, and continues at Holly Middle School. “Leader in Me” teaches students problem-solving, conflict resolution, teamwork, leadership and other critical life skills. The program is part of our commitment to a culture of kindness, compassion and respect before, during and after school.



From Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) instruction, to “Leader in Me,” to a variety of high school dual enrollment opportunities, there has never been a better time to join the Broncho family.

Holly Area Schools prides itself in providing a diverse range of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, utilizing state-of-the-art, cutting-edge technology to prepare all students for success from day one.

STEM

New for the 2018-2019 school year, STEM is provided in all four district elementary schools, laying the groundwork for even our youngest Bronchos to achieve and succeed.

Professional Trades and Apprenticeship Opportunities

Holly Area Schools is committed to providing diverse learning opportunities and real-world experiences that help prepare students for the jobs of the future. This spring, HAS introduced students

Dual Enrollment

Holly Area Schools provides dual enrollment opportunities for eligible juniors and seniors that allow them to earn college credit and skilled trades certifications prior to graduation. This includes partnerships with the University of Michigan-Flint and Oakland Community College, and skilled trades programs that create a direct path to in-demand jobs.



Safety, Security

At Holly Area Schools, the safety of our students, staff and families is our number one priority. Holly voters approved a bond on the November 2018 ballot that will support essential student safety and building security enhancements in all district buildings, in addition to technology upgrades that help prepare all Bronchos for the modern workforce.

Enroll Today!

School of Choice applications for the 2019-2020 school year will be accepted May 1 through Aug. 23. Enrollment packets are available at hask12.org or by calling (248) 328-3106.





Elementary STEM blossoming across district

Our youngest Bronchos are learning key Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills, as well as problem-solving, teamwork and conflict resolution lessons that will serve them throughout their lives.

This is all made possible by Holly Area Schools' elementary STEM program in all four elementary buildings. Through the district's program, new this school year, STEM and life skills are beginning to come secondhand to students, said **Tracey Smith**, one of the district's elementary STEM instructors.

"They're starting to put the pieces together and we can see how their ability to work with others has improved," Smith said. "When they hit a roadblock, it's encouraging to see them keep trying and not give up."

As part of STEM instruction, students at Holly, Davisburg, Rose Pioneer and Patterson elementary schools work on everything from basic coding, to LEGO challenges, to solving problems lead characters face in classic fairytales.

Fourth- and fifth-graders have taken apart computers, then utilized the parts to create new electricity based projects. They have also applied basic coding to program small robots and created stop-motion animation videos. Their younger classmates have used everyday materials to solve problems.

"It's never too early for Bronchos to begin learning STEM skills that will help them achieve and succeed throughout their lives," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. "I am excited to see our youngest students grow as they take advantage of our cutting-edge technology they will one day utilize in college and careers."



Safety, security bond projects kick off this summer

This summer, Holly Area Schools will undergo the first in a series of essential student safety and security upgrades made possible by approval of the November 2018 bond proposal. The bond projects, which also include technology upgrades in all district buildings, will continue through 2022.

"I am proud to announce the launch of our bond construction projects, which will focus first and foremost on the safety of all Holly Area Schools students, families and staff," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. "These projects are made possible by the generosity of our community, which has made a long-term investment in critical school safety and building enhancements, and technology upgrades that help prepare all Bronchos for the modern workforce."

The first phase of bond projects will focus on school safety and security in all district buildings, and will be funded through the sale of \$21.5 million of Series 1 Bonds and Series 2 Bonds to be sold in spring of 2021. During the design phase of select projects, building principals will seek input from students, staff and parents.

Summer 2019 projects include:

- > Additional security cameras in all buildings
- > Enhanced security door hardware in all buildings
- > New Davisburg Elementary playground equipment
- > Holly Middle School food service and kitchen upgrades
- > Final phase of the new Holly High School boilers and chillers

The largest-scale bond projects are scheduled for summer 2020 and summer 2021. Technology upgrades are scheduled for each construction season.

Visit hask12.org/has-bond/2019-2022-bond-project-updates for a full list of bond projects.



Team Hollywood Robotics excels in ‘Deep Space’ competition

Earlier this month, Team Hollywood Robotics made it to the quarter finals of Michigan’s FIRST Robotics competition. The team ended the season ranked 103 out of 549 teams in Michigan in just its second year of competition.

At the district level, Hollywood Robotics earlier won hard fought victories at FIRST Robotics competitions March 8-9 at Belleville High School and March 14-16 at Center Line High School.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the team and the hard work and dedication they demonstrated this season both on and off the competition floor,” said **Jake Hawley**, Hollywood Robotics’ lead mentor. “By working together in the weeks leading up to competition and throughout the season, our team members learned the importance of teamwork, problem-solving, leadership and other key life skills that will serve them throughout their lives.”

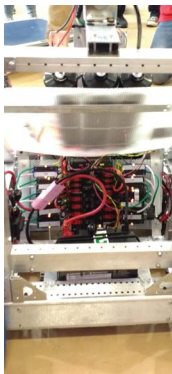
Each season, students are given a

game challenge to build a robot to compete in a 3-on-3 format. This year’s game, “Destination: Deep Space,” celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission. In January, students were given six weeks to design, build and prepare their robot for competition.

Hollywood Robotics is one of many fun, educational Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities that help prepare Bronchos for the jobs of the future.

“Congratulations to Hollywood Robotics for another successful season on the competition floor,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “Our robotics program is a unique and rewarding learning opportunity that helps prepare our kids for bright futures, whether that means college, technical school, apprenticeships or jobs right after graduation.”

Follow Hollywood Robotics on Twitter [@hollywood7211](https://twitter.com/hollywood7211).



Spheros take over Holly Middle School



Coding has been all the rage at Holly Middle School this school year, thanks to a mini-grant that funded 18 hand-held Sphero robots.

Students utilize a drag-and-drop computer coding application to program the small robots on Chromebooks, cell phones or tablets. They use coding applications to improve the distance their robots can travel and accurately complete tasks.

Students program their Spheros for races and even robot-jousting battles, among other tasks, in hallways, the cafeteria or in the gym.

“That’s where we start to see where things are used outside the classroom,” said **Paul Bryant-Ott**, a Holly Middle School computer teacher. “To watch them problem-solve on their own without being prompted is amazing.”

While a fun educational activity, computer coding lays the foundation for any career path Bronchos may choose to follow, Bryant-Ott said.

“Coding is universally applicable,” he said. “I think it’s another language that students need to learn.”



Dual enrollment provides Bronchos with leg-up on success

“I also think it speaks to the preparation for new and diverse learning opportunities we’re able to provide our students in their first two years at Holly High School.”

- Peter LoFiego
Holly High School principal

Holly High School’s dual enrollment programs provide eligible juniors and seniors with a major leg up on college and careers before leaving our hallways.

Thanks to partnerships with the University of Michigan-Flint, Oakland Community College and the Oakland Schools Technical Campus, Bronchos are saving time — and money — by earning credit toward college and skilled trades certifications.

Broncho dual enrollment programs provide a seamless transition to college and careers before students graduate, said **Peter LoFiego**, Holly High School principal. Five students enrolled in dual enrollment programs this school year, and 18 are enrolled in the programs for next school year.

“Seeing a program like that more than double is a wonderful benchmark,” LoFiego said. “I also think it speaks to the preparation for new and diverse learning opportunities we’re able to provide our students in their first two years at Holly High School.”

Most recently, the district partnered with the University of Michigan-Flint’s Dual Enrollment Educational Partnerships (DEEP) program. The program, launched last school year, allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit through U-M courses provided at Fenton and Clarkston high schools.

Through a partnership with the Oakland Schools Technical Campus, eligible Bronchos can enroll in the Early Middle College program. Students spend part of their school day at the technical campus studying a skilled trade of their choice. During their senior year, they work toward certification in their chosen field at Oakland Community College.

The district’s standard dual enrollment program allows students who complete graduation requirements to enroll in college-level coursework through Oakland Community College, Kettering University and other local community colleges.

Visit hask12.org to learn more about Broncho dual enrollment programs.



Lounds retires after long and successful career at HAS

Ellen Lounds, Holly Area Schools Administrator of Special Services, retired at the end of March. Lounds, part of the Broncho family since 1987, is a pioneer in mental health services that help students overcome challenges to achieve and succeed.

“The programs Ellen has implemented will continue to positively impact students and staff in our district for many years to come,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “We appreciate all Ellen has done for Holly Area Schools. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement.”

We are excited to announce **Michelle Flessa**, former Director of Student Services at Goodrich Area Schools, will be the district’s new Special Education Director. Flessa was previously a student guidance counselor, special education department chairperson and teacher consultant for the Troy School District.

Be sure to give Mrs. Flessa a big Broncho welcome!



Michelle Flessa



ABOVE: Ellen Lounds



Patterson students planting seeds of summer

Summer Blast will be here before you know it!

With that in mind, Patterson Elementary students have planted new crops for the Community Garden that should be in full bloom for Summer Blast — the annual celebration of all things Bronchos.

Every year, Patterson students plant, tend to and harvest a variety of fruits and vegetables for the Holly community.

In March, students began preparing this year’s garden by planting seeds in greenhouses set up in the school lobby. When weather permits, the plants will be moved outside.

“Our community garden adds an additional hands-on learning experience for students both inside and outside our classrooms.”

– Peggy Kraemer
Patterson Elementary principal



“Our community garden adds an additional hands-on learning experience for students both inside and outside our classrooms,” said **Peggy Kraemer**, Patterson Elementary principal. “During our Summer Blast Program, students enthusiastically volunteer to weed, feed, water and eventually harvest our vegetables. Our students are excited to present the community with the ‘fruits’ of their labor!”

Stay tuned to hask12.org for Summer Blast details as they become available.



End of school year Broncho events

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching, and families still have plenty of opportunities to celebrate Broncho Pride before summer arrives!

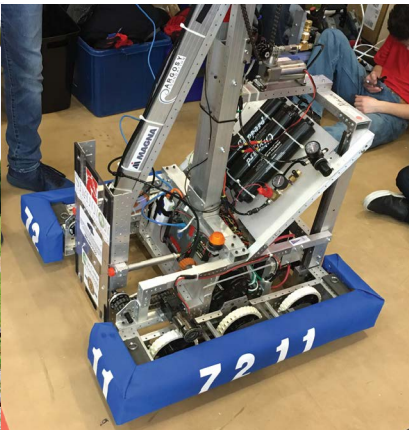
Be sure to check out these exciting upcoming events:



Date of event	Information about the event
Friday, April 26	Rose Pioneer Elementary Family Carnival, 6-8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Holly High School Honors Assembly, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, May 10	Junior and Senior Prom, 6 p.m. at Captain’s Club at Woodfield
Thursday, May 16	Davisburg Elementary Art Show, 5:30-7 p.m. at the school
Friday, May 17	Holly Elementary PTO Carnival and Art Show, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mon. through Wed. May 20 - 22	Senior exams
Saturday, June 1	HHS Alumni Banquet, 4:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium and commons
Sunday, June 2	TEAM Patterson Family Carnival, 1-3 p.m.
Tuesday, June 4	Davisburg Elementary Fifth-Grade Recognition Night, 7-8 p.m. at Camp Copneconic in Fenton
Friday, June 7	Holly High School Commencement, 7 p.m. at Oakland University
Monday, June 10	Holly Middle School Eighth Grade Awards Ceremony, 1:40 p.m. in the HMS gymnasium



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Holly, MI 48442



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