



Romeo Community Schools

The **Bulldog** Bulletin

Summer 2025

Vol. 8 No. 5

2024-2025 Year in Review



Congratulations Class of 2025!

"A class to remember" was the motto for this year's graduating class. Reflecting on what made the Class of 2025 so memorable, speakers at the Commencement ceremony on June 5 focused, as is tradition, on the past, present and future.

Class President Erin DeMeulenaere began with the past, reminding her classmates about their "shared story."

"Here's the thing about the past," she said. "It's not perfect, and that's okay. The mistakes we made, the moments that hurt, and the times we fell short are just as important as the highlights because they taught us resilience. They taught us how to grow and they reminded us that we learned that progress isn't always a straight line and that setbacks are just setups for comebacks."

During his reflection on the present, Salutatorian Angelo Bugli shared a lesson he learned during a tennis match.

"You don't win life all at once," he said. "You win it one moment at a time, one day at a time. One decision, one conversation, one effort –

today. Today we graduate. Looking back, it's clear we didn't get here because of one massive achievement. We got here because of thousands of small ones. Showing up for class when we were tired, studying for the test we didn't want to take, lifting up a friend who needed it. Choosing to try, again and again. Those were the quiet wins, the ones no one really sees, but they got us here."

The final student speaker, Valedictorian Olivia Lynn, looked to the future.

"Class of 2025, we're all headed in different directions – some close to home, some far away, and some are still figuring it out, and that's more than okay. Wherever you go, you're on your own timeline and that's the best part. As we step into our next chapter, I want to tell you something I wish I'd heard more often. You are enough, just the way you are. ... Don't be afraid to chase the dreams that you want. Don't let anyone discourage you or shut down your ideas because this is your life and your dreams are worth fighting for. ... The world is waiting for your voice, your heart and your gifts."



Photos courtesy of Mike Nicley and The Grad Team

Update from the Superintendent



Dear RCS Community,

I'm pleased to share with you the 2024-2025 year-end district newsletter. This year Romeo Community Schools has had the chance to both shine and share our achievements as we continue to advance our district in key strategic efforts. We recently published a Year 3 Update to the 2023 RCS Strategic Plan that has further defined our efforts moving forward with a focus on the

transformation of our district at all levels. Our leading transformation effort this year was the official designation of The Academies at Romeo Middle School by Ford Next Generation Learning.

Throughout this edition of The Bulldog Bulletin, you will find examples of amazing accomplishments of our students and staff at all levels. We are very proud of our achievements in the classroom, on stage, in art exhibits, on the playing field, and in state, regional and national competitions. There is no way to represent them all, but we hope this newsletter provides some examples of the great programming and the people invested in providing a well-rounded experience for all of our students.

Our 2021 Facilities Bond, Group 3 Projects are under construction this summer and we will enter the final phase of construction in 2026. Our Bond Projects page on the district website has a variety of resources for all in our district and community to stay up to date on our progress. We again thank our voters for their continued support in facility improvements.

We spent this past year with a focus on "PURPOSE" and it has been both humbling and affirming to hear the purpose statements of so many of our staff. Educators and those who work in support of the profession in most cases have a true calling to serve in the roles that they do. We couldn't be prouder of our staff and all they do to serve our students, families and community.

As we reach the midpoint of this summer, I hope you are finding time to rest and recharge. Meanwhile, our excitement is building for all that is in store for the 2025-26 school year. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and we will see you soon.

Go Bulldogs!

Dr. Todd R. Robinson
Superintendent



Retirees

Romeo Community Schools is saying goodbye to a number of teachers and professional staff this year. We appreciate their years of dedication to our noble profession and the difference they have made in the lives of our students.

Roxanne Anderson

Teacher, Romeo High School

Connie Delcourt

Teacher, Romeo Middle School

Jody Desmit

Teacher, Amanda Moore Elementary

Tammy Maloney

Teacher, Hamilton-Parsons Elementary

Heather Novey

Teacher, Romeo Middle School

Susan Olley

Teacher, Amanda Moore Elementary

Laura Rienas

Teacher, Romeo High School

Cherie Wrobel

Teacher, Amanda Moore Elementary

We are also celebrating our support staff retirees for their years of service and commitment to our district and students. We wish you all the best in your retirement!

Sharon Cratsenburg

Administrative Assistant, Administration

Janice Horton

Utility Driver, Warehouse

Tracey Kinney

Library Assistant, 9th Grade Academy

Carol Loeding

Paraprofessional, Amanda Moore Elementary

Lori Lozowski

Administrative Assistant, Indian Hills Elementary

Janet Roeber

Assistant Cook, 9th Grade Academy

Cheryl Smith

Library Assistant, Romeo High School

Kenneth Tappen

Bus Driver, Transportation Department

Teachers of the Year

All three of this year's Teacher of the Year recipients are exemplary role models of excellence in teaching. They set high standards for themselves and invest themselves in their students' success.

Below are excerpts of what their colleagues had to say about them in their nomination forms.



Amber Scheel

First grade teacher, Hamilton-Parsons Elementary

"From the moment she enters a classroom, Amber radiates warmth and energy, creating a safe and nurturing environment where every student feels loved and valued. Her genuine care for her students goes far beyond academic success; she is deeply invested in their personal growth and well-

being. Amber has a remarkable ability to connect with her students on a personal level, meeting them where they are, and inspiring them to reach their fullest potential."



Kaitlyn Venglar

ELA teacher, Leadership adviser and Student Council adviser, Romeo Middle School

"Kaitlyn fosters an empowering environment where students are encouraged to lead and step outside their comfort zones. Through her innovative project-based learning initiatives, such as the "Student of the Trimester" and the Epic

After-School Glow Party, she inspires teamwork and collaboration, enabling her students to take significant steps toward leadership by exploring and engaging their skills outside of the classroom in a fun and creative way where they can showcase their skills and create whole school involvement."



Lori Ferrington

AP U.S. Government and Education Pathway teacher, Romeo High School

"Lori has been instrumental in creating and improving our education pathway for students. She not only is an outstanding leader in her craft of teaching, she is providing the education pathway students with real-world experiences and opportunities that are truly helping shape

their ideas around the profession of teaching."

"Lori has high expectations for her students, but also for herself. She's always extremely prepared for class. Her demeanor with her students is that perfect blend of professional yet affable."

PTO Council Highlights

What a year!

Your Romeo Community Schools PTOC proudly continued its mission to communicate, collaborate, and connect our amazing Romeo community and students. Thanks to your incredible support, we hosted two highly successful fundraising events: Romeo Rodeo: Mom's Edition and Harlem Wizards vs. Romeo Staff Basketball Game, both full of energy and Bulldog pride!

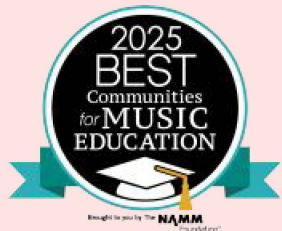


Successful fundraising enabled us to show our appreciation for the incredible staff who support our kids every day with a Paraprofessional Luncheon, Transportation Luncheon, and Middle School Appreciation events.

That's not all! Our community's support also made it possible to contribute to meaningful student experiences, including the 5th Grade Mixer, bicycles and gear for Croswell Early Childhood

Center, new middle school team branding, and Bulldog welcome signs for our incoming kindergarteners.

We're so proud of what we accomplished together this year and can't wait to continue connecting the Romeo community next year!



For the third consecutive year, Romeo Community School achieved the designation of Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation. The recognition considered various factors, such as course offerings, competition scores, enrollment, and school and community support. We are thrilled to receive this well-deserved honor in recognition of excellent music programs across the district.

RCS Band Program Highlights

We had another fantastic year for our Romeo Bands. During the course of the year, our students at the middle and high school levels had the opportunity to perform at many different venues and events. During the second semester, students performed at school concerts, competed at band festivals, and performed solo and ensemble events. As always, our Bulldog Bands brought their absolute best and did an outstanding job representing our district.



In January, RHS had 84 students perform in 61 events at the MSBOA District XVI Solo and Ensemble Festival. Nearly all of these performances earned first and second-division ratings, which are the highest possible ratings. The students prepared solos and small groups and performed for an expert adjudicator on their instrument. In addition, many of our high school events qualified for State Solo and Ensemble and represented our school at Stoney Creek High School in March. In addition, senior **Bennet Kuchenmeister** was selected to perform as a member of the MSBOA District XVI Jazz All-Stars on guitar.

Our full bands also performed successfully as full groups in the MSBOA Band Festival in March. Five bands performed at Stevenson and Anchor Bay High Schools, all at very high levels. Each group performed three pieces of music and sight-read music for an expert panel of judges. Our high school Symphony and Concert bands earned Superior ratings, and our Cadet band and middle school bands earned Excellent ratings.

All Middle School bands performed at our annual Collage concert at Romeo High School. RMS featured multiple bands from grades 6-8, including the Middle School Jazz Band. Representing Romeo in the MSBOA District XVI Honors Band were **Alexander Lenczewski, Eliana Neeson, Aidan Phillips, and Kayla Kranson**. These students were part of an all-star group from Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair Counties who performed a concert at Lakeview High School in April. Our 8th Grade Symphony Band also provided the music for the annual "OSCARS" ceremony at RMS and performed in the orchestra pit.

The 8th graders wrapped up their year with the Memorial Day parade to help the high school students honor our veterans.

As the year came to a close, our students continued a very busy performance schedule. The RHS bands took part in a New York City tour where they saw the sights, attended performances on Broadway and the Cotton Club, and performed on the deck of the USS Intrepid. Upon our return to Romeo, we had the pleasure of performing the musical, *Mary Poppins*, with the Romeo Theatre Company. As always, we had the honor of performing for our community and veterans in the Romeo Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. We look forward to another great year in 2025-26!



Romeo Theatre Company

During his first year as Romeo Theatre Company director, Lane Werth took on some challenging productions. What could go wrong?



The fall production, for starters. *The Play That Goes Wrong* included cast mishaps and set, lighting, and sound issues – all by design. The seasoned actors in the cast handled these disasters with the usual aplomb.

The spring musical was *Mary Poppins*, a family classic that has enchanted generations since the 1930s.

“Contrary to what we might expect, the magic of *Mary Poppins* isn’t really in flying umbrellas or talking animals,” Mr. Werth wrote in the playbill Director’s Note. “It’s in something much quieter: the transformative power of humility. It’s in discovering joy while doing chores. It’s in recognizing the dignity of a chimney sweep, no matter how sooty. It’s in the quiet compassion of the Bird Woman, who finds purpose in simply feeding the birds. And it’s in George Banks learning that true success isn’t measured in money or status, but in presence, love, and family.”



As a result of their strong performances, junior **Tierney Tocco**, who played Mary Poppins, and senior **Alec Nolff**, who played her love interest Bert, were nominated for the Sutton Foster Awards, which recognize outstanding student performances and productions across the state.

Romeo Middle School Choir



Romeo Middle School’s Choir had an exciting and successful season filled with music, growth and memorable performances. Our talented students showcased their hard work and passion at multiple events, including three concerts, a performance for the Board of Education, and participation in the MSVMA District 16 Music Festival.

Highlights include the RMS Choir received a Division 1 Rating at MSVMA Choir Festival; two students, **Mallory Lovrinice** and **Olivia Zakoore**, received Division 1 Ratings at MSVMA District 16 Solo and Ensemble; and, outside of class, students auditioned for and participated in both the Garfield Singers and the Detroit Youth Opera Chorus.

We are so proud of our choir members for their dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm. Thank you to our families and community for your continued support – your encouragement means the world!

Romeo Middle School Theater



This year’s production of *Aladdin Jr.* brought almost 1,500 people to the RMS auditorium. The over 80 member cast and crew worked hard to put on amazing performances for their families and the Romeo community. The students involved worked hard learning music, choreography and blocking as well as running the lights, the sound board, creating props and costumes and serving as the backstage crew.

The RMS Theater department also hosted the after school drama club where over 70 students gathered once a week to work to enhance their skills in theater. The students in both productions and Drama Club were led by RMS Theater teachers Patrick Salembier and Chelsea McKay.

Athletics Recap

Romeo High School's athletics department has turned the page on another successful year! Special memories made during 2024-25 include six **MAC Division Championships** – **Girls Cross Country, Girls Golf, Hockey, Lacrosse, Boys Golf** and **Girls Bowling**. In addition, **Boys Soccer, Volleyball** and **Wrestling** each won **District Championships**. The **Girls Cross Country** team, **Wrestling** and **Girls Track** teams also brought home **Regional Championships**. Our **Dance** team finished in 4th place in Pom and 8th place in Jazz at **Nationals**. Romeo was represented in eleven sports in the **State Finals**, with wrestler Kaili Manuel winning an **Individual State Championship**. Also repeating as **State Champions** was the **Girls Cross Country** team.



State Finals

This year Romeo was well represented at the **State Finals** in eleven sports. The **Girls Golf** team finished in 15th place and Tula Puzzuoli came in 2nd place overall. The **Boys Golf** team finished in 18th place. The **Bowling** team sent Cam Hill as an individual and the **Girls Swim** team sent Alyssa Chambers, Izzy Greco, Harper Savage and Giselle Stone. Competing for the Bulldogs at states for the **Girls and Boys Track** team were Gavin Shade, Ryan Rohrborn, Avery Glugla, Layla Babich, Samantha Sackfield, Sydney Fabbri, Josie Finkbeiner, Evelyn Goedge, Violet Hrabovsky, Annie Hrabovsky, Olivia Purdy, Natalia Guaresimo, Ella Goodsell, Evianna D'Angelo, Emmerson Clor, Owen Perry, Henry Terrien and Luke Allen. The **Boys Cross Country** team finished in 24th place while the **Girls Cross Country** team (Annie Hrabovsky, Natalia Guaresimo, Emmerson Clor, Lillian Deskins, Olivia Purdy, Violet Hrabovsky and Ella Goodsell) won the **State Championship**. The **Boys Wrestling** team sent seven wrestlers (Nico Adamo, Valentino Adamo, Bryce Holt, Tommy Jaynes, Owen Perry, Justin Rizzo and Jake Turley) and the **Girls Wrestling** team sent four wrestlers (Addison Roose, Jolene Thompson, Belicia Manuel and Kaili Manuel), with Kaili bringing home a trophy as an **Individual State Champion**. Finally, the **Girls Tennis** team finished the season in 13th place.



All-State Awards

Alex Kelley, Football
Natalia Guaresimo, Cross Country
Annie Hrabvosky, Cross Country
Violet Hrabvosky, Cross Country
Olivia Purdy, Cross Country
Emmerson Clor, Cross Country
Lillian Deskins, Cross Country
Tula Puzzuoli, Golf
Alyssa Chambers, Swim
Anthony Elias, Soccer
Nico Adamo, Wrestling
Valentino Adamo, Wrestling
Tommy Jaynes, Wrestling
Owen Perry, Wrestling
Justin Rizzo, Wrestling
Belicia Manuel, Wrestling
Kaili Manuel, Wrestling
Violet Hrabvosky, Track
Ella Goodsell, Track
Olivia Purdy, Track
Natalia Guaresimo, Track
Sydney Fabbri, Track
Evelyn Goedge, Track
Josie Finkbeiner, Track
Sam Sackfield, Track
Evianna D'Angelo, Track
Annie Hrabvosky, Track

Coaching Awards

Four of our coaches were recognized by their peers as Macomb Area Conference **Coach of the Year**. These coaches were **Paul Scally** – Girls Golf; **Mike Buslepp** – Girls Cross Country; **Matt Burr** – Regional Tennis; and **Jack Smith** – Lacrosse MHSCLA D1 Coach of the Year

All-Conference Awards

Boys Tennis – Austin Habicht, Gavin Habicht, Jaren Habicht, Cooper Schornack, Connor McGrath, Lennox Pataca
Volleyball – Eleanor Williams
Cross Country – Owen Perry, James Brickel, Luke Allen, Marek Unger, Violet Hrabvosky, Annie Hrabvosky, Natalia Guaresimo, Emmerson Clor, Olivia Purdy, Ella Goodsell, Lillian Deskins
Girls Swim – Alyssa Chambers, Giselle Stone, Isabella Greco, Harper Savage
Girls Golf – Addi Karwowicz, Tula Puzzuoli, Anna Fergusson
Boys Soccer – Anthony Elias, Mikel Camaj, Brayden Burke, Owen Perry
Football – Alex Kelly, Carter Sutton, Austin Ericson, Joey Badalamenti, Trevor Siemen
Boys Swim – Dylan Hlavin
Girls Tennis – Alexa Mackovski, Kayla Deguzman
Baseball – Nick Kaminski, Will Scally
Boys Golf – Chase Laverell, Robert Martin
Boys Basketball – Ben Stojanovski
Girls Basketball – Layla Babich
Bowling – Ethan Amormino, Brody Gniech, Maddy Raska, Alexis Combs
Competitive Cheer – Rachel Malacko, Kayla Sims, Mary Wesley
Hockey – Drew Basha, Landon D'Angelo, Lincoln Lipasek
Softball – Jess McLeod, Katie Murphy
Lacrosse – Noah Sarrach, Connor Hevel, Michael Belyea, Ethan Amormino
Girls Soccer – Julie Sandoval, Lydia Hill, Clare Carmody, Olivia Luther
Wrestling – Logan Serra, Bryce Holt, Anthony Yuguilima, Jacob Burnham
Track – Sydney Fabbri, Josie Finkbeiner, Sam Sackfield, Evianna D'Angelo, Olivia Purdy, Annie Hrabvosky, Ella Goodsell, Violet Hrabvosky, Emmerson Clor, Natalia Guaresimo, Avery Glugla, Evie Goedge, Layla Babich, Brooke Bendick, Jolene Thompson, Trevor Siemen, Gavin Shade, Owen Perry, James Brickel, Luke Allen

After High School

The following seniors will be continuing their athletic careers at the next level:

Will Scally – Heidelberg University – Baseball
Cooper Meadows – Cleary University – Baseball
Luciano Bollini – Cleary University – Baseball
Jackson Swords – Kalamazoo College – Football
Aedan Rocha – Kalamazoo College – Football
Drake VanDriessche – Morehead State University – Football
Alex Kelley – Northwood University – Football
Trevor Siemen – Northern Michigan University – Football
Joey Zyrek – Alabama Huntsville – Lacrosse
Kendall Shaw – Alma College – Dance
Sanyah Earl – Grace Christian University – Softball
Emily Dawson – Cornerstone University – Softball
Lydia Hill – Ball State University – Soccer
Clare Carmody – Ferris State University – Soccer
Evie Goedge – University Arkansas Little Rock – Track
Violet Hrabvosky – Grand Valley State University – Cross Country/Track
Olivia Purdy – High Point University – Cross Country/Track
Emma Hullinger – Cornerstone University – Cross Country/Track
Marek Unger – Lawrence Tech – Cross Country/Track

THE 9TH GRADE ACADEMY

A Year of Exploration

The 9th grade journey began with the signing of the Class of 2028 banner, recitation of the Commitment to Graduate pledge, and team competitions on Barnabo Field.

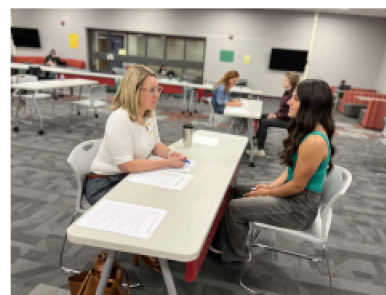
It continued with Career Day at Romeo High School, the Michigan Career Quest Southwest, a visit to Macomb Community College, online career card sorting to help determine a pathway for 10th to 12th grades, a tour of all the pathways at RHS, the Pathway Reveal Ceremony, and college tours based on which Academy the freshmen elected to attend (Northwood University for the BEI Academy; Kettering for the DEM Academy; and University of Detroit Mercy for the HHP Academy).



Freshman Seminar Interviews

Over the course of the year, 9th graders learned skills in their Seminar class that they will bring with them next year when they transition from the 9th Grade Academy to the 10th to 12th grade building. As part of developing their communication skills, the students participated in mock interviews with adults, including business partners and Romeo staff. Questions included which Portrait of a Romeo Graduate value they demonstrated most regularly (and ways upholding that value was challenging) along with two “pros” and one “grow” for the year.

Interviewers were asked to complete a rubric to provide helpful feedback to the students to help prepare the “Four P’s” to a successful presentation: purpose, plan, poise and practice.



THE BEI ACADEMY

A Cross-Curricular Celebration of Street Food

Students in Mike Savage’s mechatronics/drone class captured the third annual Staff Appreciation Day Food Trucks event on May 6 from a bird’s eye view. This cross-curricular project for 10th graders in the BEI Academy is particularly popular with Romeo High School teachers and staff, who enjoyed the variety of foods prepared by culinary students. This year’s theme was street foods. Students in the BEI history classes researched and wrote a page-long essay about the origin of the food, English students corrected any grammar or spelling errors, science classes made and labeled containers of hand sanitizer for everyone, and business classes served the food to the special guests.



Inaugural Mock Interview Fair

The first Mock Interview Fair for all juniors in the BEI Academy was a resounding success.

The idea came up in a Small Learning Community (SLC) meeting among 11th grade BEI team members.



“We wanted an authentic experience for our students,” said Laurin Crenshaw, BEI team lead teacher. “Recently, at least after COVID, we hear a lot about high school students in general lacking those soft skills, not being able to talk to adults and look them in the eye and shake their hands.”

The initial concept was to invite business partners to participate in mock interviews, but the logistics of doing this with 150 students was tricky. The solution? Split the students into three groups and rotate them through three sessions – a resume building session, alumni panel, and mock interviews.

The focus on creating a resume was a natural fit and the CTE teachers in the pathway classes played a foundational role in this. Business and marketing teachers Shelly Bartolotta and Julia Lengemann worked with the students to help them develop their resumes.

“CTE teachers are on the front lines, connected with the business world and what people are looking for,” Mrs. Crenshaw said. “We also relied on our business partners to help determine what should be on a resume.”

The team recruited 15 business partners to participate in the mock interviews. The morning began with a meeting with breakfast treats prepared by the culinary students and a briefing for the business partners on what to expect.

“It looked like speed dating,” said BEI Principal Amber Fountain, who admits that she felt like “a proud mom” when she saw the students in the hallway dressed for success in their business attire.



Some of the business professionals were so impressed with the students, they “said they would hire that person today,” she added.

One of Mrs. Fountain’s favorite parts of the morning was the alumni panel.

“To watch former students tell current students the value of their education here was so powerful,” she said.

Cakes for Blakes

The BEI Academy's partnership with Blake's Apple & Cider Mill reached a new level when students brought their Hometown Apple Cakes to sell at the Blake's in Bloom event on May 10.

This student-driven project for 12th graders began last year when students brainstormed with Blake's on a product to sell. Once they landed on apple cakes, the logo and branding phase began. From there, the project took off. With Chef Monica's guidance, students developed and tested recipes, even selling trial batches at parent-teacher conferences and other school events to determine which recipe was the best.

The entrepreneurship classes piloted early sales, while marketing students created eye-catching

logos and labels. English students worked on fun slogans, the positive psychology class contributed inspirational messages for the packaging, and health classes created nutritional labels. Lastly, the accounting class researched cost analysis.

The next phase was implementation – selling the apple cakes at Blake's, with students manning the sales station and sharing their journey with customers.

The long-lasting impact of this BEI senior project was that students learned what it takes to bring a product to life, work with peers from other disciplines, build a partnership with a company, and create a final product they can be proud of.



THE DEM ACADEMY

A Banner Year for Photo-Graphics Students

It was a big year for Sherri Stough's Photo-Graphics students. Not only was this the most recent class to be approved as a CTE offering at RHS, but students had the opportunity to participate in a project that will be a lasting legacy at their school. The students collaborated on designs for banners that will be installed in the fall.

"This was a great project for Sherri's group," said Evva Dossin, CTE Director and Work-Based Learning Coordinator. "It was authentic in

every way – a real project, meeting a real need, for a real client. It entailed multiple rounds of revisions and review."

Mrs. Dossin went on to say: "I remember when the State was on the fence of not wanting to approve the Photo-Graphics program for CTE. We spoke to them and they realized that Sherri's vision was for bona fide student produced work and they were sold."

MITES Awards



Students from the architecture, mechanical design, machines and construction pathways submitted projects for the Michigan Industrial & Technology Education Society (MITES) 2025 regional competition at Dakota High School on May 2 and 3.

Congratulations to senior David Atkinson, whose wrought metal guitar was the regional grand prize winner. Of the 122 total projects submitted, 94 advanced to state competition. At the regional level, there were 27 first place winners, 21 second place winners, 17 third place winners, 13 fourth place winners, nine fifth place winners, seven sixth place winners, and 27 honorable mention awards.

<p>THE ACADEMIES AT ROMEO HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>R PRIDE R FUTURE R WAY</p>	<p>THE ACADEMIES AT ROMEO HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>R PRIDE R FUTURE R WAY</p>	<p>THE ACADEMIES AT ROMEO HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>R PRIDE R FUTURE R WAY</p>
<p>READY FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, & LIFE</p> <p>Students in the BEI Academy will be BOLD (to stand on your own confidently) EMPOWERED (to be successful) INVOLVED (to connect with community)</p> <p>BEI THE ACADEMY OF BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND INNOVATION</p>	<p>READY FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, & LIFE</p> <p>The DEM Academy will design accountable leaders who engineer our true potential to Manufacture innovative solutions for our global community.</p> <p>DEM THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND MANUFACTURING</p>	<p>READY FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, & LIFE</p> <p>The HHP Academy will prepare students to build, nurture, and protect their community through service, inspiration, and leadership.</p> <p>HHP THE ACADEMY OF HEALTH, HUMAN, AND PUBLIC SERVICE</p>

THE HHP ACADEMY

Future Educators Signing

Each year, Educators Rising, a career and technical student organization, celebrates upcoming high school graduates who have committed to pursuing a postsecondary degree in education by encouraging them to participate in an Educators Rising National Signing Day at the local level.

Fourteen seniors successfully completed the Education Pathway in the HHP Academy and committed to pursuing a postsecondary degree in education. These students participated in the National Educator Signing Day on May 6, coinciding with Teacher Appreciation Day.

Colleges and universities represented by the group include Central Michigan University, Cornerstone University, Grand Valley State University, Macomb Community College, Michigan State University, Oakland University and Wayne State University.

During the signing ceremony attended by the students' families, Superintendent Dr. Todd Robinson reiterated what he referred to as The Bulldog Promise and the opportunities



Pictured with Education Pathway teachers Lori Ferrington (left) and Tammy Gielniak (right) are, in alphabetical order, Aubrey Christensen-Horton, Isabella Clark, Emily Dawson, Macy Ford, Alyse Fouts, Emma Hullinger, Zaria LaFave, Elizabeth Park, Caleb Rabert, Brooklyn Robinson, Joanna Sinishtaj, Bianca Testagrossa, Ava Tidrick and Ava Wojtunicki.

open to these students as a graduate of RHS in the Education Pathway. The Bulldog Promise is a guaranteed field study placement or student teaching experience; support of summer employment at Romeo

Community Schools based on positions available; and the guarantee of an initial interview for any posted position they are certified and qualified for after they obtain their teaching certificate.

Ed Rising Michigan Conference

In March, Education Pathway students who joined Ed Rising as an after school club attended the Ed Rising Michigan Conference. Of the 40 students present, six students competed, with the following results:

- **Zaydia Gocha, Mackenzie Shaw and Helena Murphy** earned certificates in Children's Literature, Secondary Bulletin Board Design, and Teacher Created Materials.
- **Mackenzie Shaw** earned a high enough overall score to qualify for national competition.
- **Vanessa Delgado** won first place in Bilingual Children's Literature.



- **Logan Christenson** won second place in CTE Lesson Planning.
- **Sophia Baranich** won third place in Elementary Bulletin Board Design.

"I was complimented several times about the politeness, respectfulness, and kindness of all our students who attended," said Education Pathway teacher Tammy Gielniak. "Our kids are pretty great and the word is out!"

Mock Trial State Champ

Congratulations to Romeo High School senior **Gabrielle Gilliam**, who was named the 2025 Michigan Courtroom Artistry State Champion. Romeo's first national Mock Trial competitor, Gabrielle went on to showcase her courtroom art skills at the Mock Trial national championship in Phoenix in May.



A Big Year for Romeo Middle School

Romeo Middle School had a landmark year, implementing year one of its implementation as The Academies at Romeo Middle School and furthering its partnership with Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) to become the first officially designated Ford NGL middle school in the state. This transformation was also made possible through the school's work with the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE).

"Part of our mission is creating smaller learning communities so our students feel part of something," said Academy Coach Jen Raicevich.

To create this smaller learning environment, students are placed in grade-level academies. Teachers work collaboratively to develop initiatives within the team based on the needs of current students. The sixth graders are in The Explore Academy, seventh graders in The Engage Academy and eighth graders in the Empower Academy.

The names of the academies represent the growth and progression the students experience through their three-year journey.



The Academy Reveal



The students enjoyed a "big reveal" of their academy names and teams during an assembly in the fall. Assemblies celebrating team successes continued throughout the year.

"What the teachers have done is take their team and create an identity," Mrs. Raicevich said. "When I see them come down to our assemblies, they are just all in. That's a big part of middle school – the students want to have fun and feel a part of something."

For RMS Principal Brad Martz, the work began with connections before content.

"Before we dove into this work, we needed to know who our students are," he said.

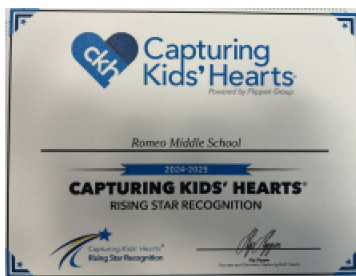
Capturing Kids' Hearts

Instrumental in this effort was the adoption of Capturing Kids' Hearts, a K-12 character curriculum that equips professionals to strengthen connectedness and build a relationship-driven culture. Each classroom has agreed upon a social contract – norms and expectations the students and staff follow in and outside the classroom – and each day begins with the sharing of "good things."

In October, RMS enjoyed a visit from Vern Hazard, and his daughter, Alexandria Hazard, who also works for the nonprofit organization. The guests had the opportunity to stop in several classrooms and observe students sharing "one good thing" at the start of class and following the social contract they created to help build a positive classroom culture.

Mr. Martz is particularly pleased with the school's national recognition from CKH as a 2024-25 Rising Star.

"We went all in with this," he said. "It's an amazing time for us and represents the culmination of our work in merging two middle schools and implementing a master plan we've been working on since the 2018-19 school year."



Pictured are Alexandria and Vern Hazard from Capturing Kids' Hearts, RMS Academy Coach Jen Raicevich, RMS Principal Brad Martz, and Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School Principal Rita vanStaveren. (Ham-Par also implemented CKH as part of its character curriculum this year.)

Nonprofit Exploration Fair



The signature event of the year was the inaugural Nonprofit Exploration Fair in February, which brought nearly 60 nonprofit and community organizations together in the school's gym to help students explore their interests, engage with

the community, and be empowered to make a change.

"It reminded me of a college job fair," said Empower Academy Principal Jason Eldridge. "To get to see our students starting to realize there's a world outside of themselves is such an important thing."

Next year the nonprofit fair will be the guaranteed experience for sixth graders and all new students to the school.

Presentation to Ford NGL



On February 14, The Academies at RMS Master Planning Committee, made up of a team of administrators, teachers, students and nonprofit partners, presented the plan to Ford NGL, sharing their journey as an informal, conversational podcast.

On March 11, the long awaited letter from Ford NGL Executive Director Cheryl Carrier arrived, congratulating Superintendent Dr. Todd Robinson on the completion of Romeo Middle Schools' Master Plan and the district's "unwavering commitment to putting students first."

"Ford Next Generation Learning is proud to formally recognize the Academies at Romeo Middle School as part of our growing K-12 Community Network," she wrote. "This distinction affirms that your plan is not only community-connected and seamlessly aligned across middle and high school, but also deeply reflective of the Ford NGL Framework and values."

Eighth Grade Farewell

While this year's eighth graders were only able to be a part of the inaugural year, their contributions were recognized at the closing assembly. Dr. Mary Welsh, co-founder of Susie Q's Kids, was a special guest speaker at the event. Susie Q's Kids, founded in honor of Dr. Welsh's late daughter Susie, creates and distributes comfort bags to kids in need at a host of nonprofit organizations, including hospitals and shelters.

The eighth graders presented Dr. Welsh with positive notes of encouragement to be included in these comfort bags.

Principal Martz is excited about everything that transpired over the past year and what's ahead.

"It's an amazing group of students who have the ability to do anything their heart desires," he said. "It's absolutely thrilling to watch these kids flourish and be excited about being in school. That's the biggest thing for me. They belong to something. There's an energy to that."



District PTOC Hosts Second Annual Fifth Grade Mixer

Fifth graders from Amanda Moore, Hamilton-Parsons, Hevel, Indian Hills and Washington elementary schools came together at Barnabo Field to get to know one another before they embark on their middle school journey next year. The second annual Fifth Grade Mixer included tug o' war, relay races, Jumbo Jenga, charades, cornhole and more. The event was led by the District PTOC with help from the fifth grade teachers, The Academies at Romeo education pathway students, and members of RHS's National Honor Society and SERVE (Students Enriching Romeo Through Volunteer Experiences).

Photos courtesy of Mike Nicely



Little Inventors Make a Difference

The fourth graders had the vision – and the drafting and mechanical engineering students from the DEM Academy brought that vision to life. Fourth graders from all five elementary schools participated in Little Inventors, an annual competition that challenges students to solve real world problems from around the globe. The goal of Little Inventors is to inspire young



minds to use their creativity and innovation to make a difference. This year's focus was on inventions that generate or save energy.

Students worked on their design ideas in STEM class, then submitted them to the RHS drafting students, who selected finalists and a grand winner for each school. The mechanical engineering students then got to work to create prototypes for each of the winning entries. These prototypes were presented at an awards ceremony at the high school on May 28. The ceremony was organized and run by the students, who also served as emcees.

The winners were Ruben Chapa Castillo from Washington ("Roller Energy"), Archer Seggie from Amanda Moore ("Temp Cup"), Lincoln Clark from Hevel ("The Hoopinator"), Sophia Harrison from Hamilton-Parsons ("Bob the Pool Cleaner"), and Michael Gentile from Indian Hills ("The TV on Wheels").

Amanda Moore Elementary

Amanda Moore Elementary wrapped up an incredible school year filled with community, kindness, and meaningful milestones. In her first year as principal, Mrs. Aimee Wojciechowski shared how deeply moved she has been by the unwavering support and care the Romeo Community shows for one another, for the schools, and for all students.

"After returning to Michigan following ten years away, being part of Amanda Moore feels like coming home," she said.

This year also marked the retirement of three cherished staff members – Mrs. Olley, Mrs. DeSmit, and Mrs. Wrobel – whose decades of dedication have left a lasting impact on the school community.

Students had plenty of reasons to celebrate and give back. The beginning of the year held the annual high-energy Foam Fun Run, where families and community members helped raise over \$20,000 for the school, and continued with the exciting Basketball Jones assembly. February's Kindness Month brought thoughtful letters to every adult in the building, countless acts of student-to-student kindness, and a "random acts of kindness" chain that stretched throughout the school. Amanda Moore students also raised over \$13,000 through the Kids Heart Challenge to support children with

heart-related health needs. And in a powerful show of compassion, three students shaved their heads during the St. Baldrick's event in support of childhood cancer research.



Looking ahead to next year, the Amanda Moore community has much to be excited about: a brand-new playground, a continued focus on the school-wide PBIS system – Positivity Always Wins (PAWS), and new academic resources, including CKLA Edition 3 and Bridges Number Corner.

Amanda Moore Elementary is proud of the growth and heart shown by its students, staff, and families this year and is already looking forward to what's next.

Hamilton-Parsons Elementary

Hamilton-Parsons focused on three areas of growth for students, as outlined below.

Academic: Every classroom received new furniture, books, and bikes to support our academic needs. To meet our primary goal of teaching students to read, we continued the adoption of our new Language Arts curriculum known as CKLA, or Core Knowledge Language Arts. We also take our NWEA and MSTEP tests seriously, making it a priority for our students, teachers and parents to further our students' academic growth.

Social Focus:

Focusing on the motto "Treat equipment and others kindly," Principal Rita vanStaveren revamped recess, increasing both enjoyment and student accountability by



bringing in athletic balls, Pogo sticks, sleds, snow brick makers and chalk, and charging students with responsibility for taking proper care of the new equipment. Materials for inside recess included LEGO tables, art carts, loom bracelets and necklaces, and Jumbo games. In addition, the gym received a rock wall and ropes, the outdoor area gained gathering tables, and staff members have a new lounge to support their social needs as well.



Emotional Focus: Our new character curriculum, Capturing Kids' Hearts, gave us the opportunity to get to know our students and staff better by paying close attention to who they are and how to meet their needs. The Positivity Project provided common language to enhance our community. Staff were trained to prepare for these new programs, and Mrs. vanStaveren kept a presence by zipping around on her scooter, writing notes to each student, and handing out inspirational pins to staff throughout the year.

Hevel Elementary

We have a lot to celebrate at Hevel Elementary School.

Academically, we answered 2.5 million questions on IXL and had growth across the board with our students. Our students dedicated 17,000 hours of time to improve their skills. This year we incentivized students' growth on IXL for Language Arts and Math. If they made their goals in both areas, they earned a field trip to SkyZone. We are proud to say that over 90% of the students earned their trip this year.



Culturally, we continued our character education program through Basketball Jones and stuck with our theme "Look Out to Help Out." Each month we celebrated 45 to 50 students who made great character gains with a certificate, a SuperHero T-shirt and a McDonald's lunch with the principal. Socially, we opened up more

opportunities for students to be involved throughout the year. We ran Art Club, Junior Kindness Klub, Kindness Klub, Student Council, Junior LEGO Club, LEGO Club, Science Olympiad, and Girls on the Run. Participating students learned a lot about themselves and improved our building tremendously.

We pride ourselves as a FAMILY school and embraced this as we worked to support all of our students and families. A prime example was our big fall fundraiser. We chose to host a Welcome Back Bash in September to get all of our families out to Hevel to enjoy an evening of fun and food. We had bounce houses, food trucks, games and more to



entertain and celebrate our families. Staff members even volunteered to get into a dunk tank!

"Hevel is so thankful for our community and everything everyone does to support us," said Principal Paul Essian.

Croswell Early Childhood Center

Croswell Early Education Center has served over 320 children in our Early Childhood programs for the 24-25 school year. We welcomed back to Croswell, Macomb County programs Head Start and MIPP last September, and we opened another GSRP full day program with our Washington teaching team, Mrs. Stojanovski and Mrs. Amal, who moved to Croswell. We had a fun year getting settled in our new classrooms that were renovated and families have loved the new addition. The children love the playground and are excited to have water days outside this summer. Parents who attended Croswell are now enrolling their children here. What wonderful news that families return generation after generation. This reminds us that our PURPOSE is to guide, nurture and help

young children explore the world around them in a safe place. We look forward to Croswell expanding with more programs this fall (GSRP, Toddlers, and Discovery 3). We are excited about Croswell's growth and proud to be a part of this Bulldog community!



Preschoolers at Croswell enjoyed a special visit from Indian Hills second graders as part of March is Reading Month.

Artistry in Bloom at Indian Hills

The Student Showcase Night is an annual highlight at Indian Hills Elementary School, held this year on May 15. The walls and hallways were decked out with artwork representing a year's work of learning and growth, and parents were invited to tour the display to see not only their own children's creations, but the imagination and inspiration from children across all grade levels.

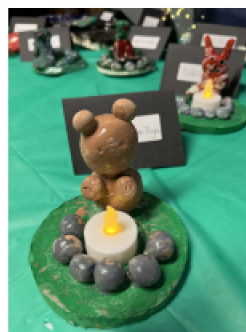
While the student showcase is a longstanding school tradition, it was a first for art teacher Sara Petry, who joined the staff this fall. Some of the projects represented her own interests and areas of expertise. She also loves to tie in art history whenever possible, to enhance the students' learning and also create more relevancy and authenticity.

For example, third graders learned about car clay modeling, an art that is tied to Detroit's automotive history as well as to Mrs. Petry's own family history, as her grandfather and great grandfather were clay modelers. This is an art form she hopes to expand on next year.

Also native to Detroit and Michigan is the second grade Pewabic Pottery with Native Michigan Trees project. Students learned about Detroit's own Pewabic Pottery studio (founded in 1903) along with founder and artist Mary Chase Perry Stratton and the arts and crafts movement. The second graders designed their own pewabic tiles with images of trees or leaves native to Michigan. Afterwards, they glazed their works of art in similar glazes bespoke to Pewabic Pottery.

Popular culture also influenced the artwork choices. The Young 5 and Kindergarten "Sense of Self" sculpture was inspired by the movie *Inside Out*. Students practiced rolling clay into various shapes to explore this medium. They also practiced forming shapes and adding color patterns to elements of their sculpture.

In first grade, students were introduced to the clay pinch pot technique.



Some chose to make mini cups, bowls or heart-shaped bowls. Some students even chose to follow along for additional instruction on making mini bird feeders. The first graders also learned about glaze and applied their own glaze to their bowls.

The clay projects became increasingly sophisticated with each grade progression. Fourth graders created Campfire Animals. They practiced the "score and slip" technique and applied multiple glazes and paints to

create a tealight candle holder or battery-operated candleholder. To make these mini clay sculptures extra cozy, the students designed the animals to be warming their paws or resting by a campfire.

Finally, fifth graders were given two prompts to create Sgraffito Narrative Plates. The first prompt was: What was your first memory? The second prompt was: What is your dream career and what would the day to day look like in real life if you could visualize it? The students designed the plates with images to create a visual story to answer one of these questions.

"Sgraffito" means "scratch" in Italian, and the students were challenged to slab roll, cut and form a plate without the use of a potter's wheel. After glazing their works, they used tools to create the scratch technique into glaze during the extremely fragile greenware stage. This technique is extremely challenging for even advanced artists, Mrs. Petry said. While this was one of the most difficult projects the fifth graders took on this year, the results speak for themselves.

Other standout projects at the showcase were the Young 5 and Kindergarten sleeping bear collages, the first grade Monet inspired water lily bridges, the "How I've Bloomed" garden of flowers, and the fourth grade self-portraits.

"The Student Showcase is one of our favorite events at Indian Hills because every inch of the building is showcasing the tremendous talent, creativity, and energy of our students," said Principal Lisa Wujczyk. "We love seeing our students' vision come to life!"

Washington Elementary

As we wrap up another successful year at Washington Elementary School, we proudly celebrate our students' remarkable academic growth, a reflection of their hard work, resilience, and dedication. Our outstanding staff have inspired curiosity, fostered a positive learning environment, and remained committed to continuous improvement, ensuring every student is valued and empowered. We remained committed to our Caring School Community with many special assemblies, encouragement and awards, along with opportunities to learn problem-solving, self reflection, and collaboration skills. We spent the year working with Playworks to support students with collaboration and problem solving during recess, and many of our 4th and 5th graders served as Junior Playworks coaches to mentor our youngest learners.



Our Green Team was able to secure a new recycling company in order to help promote a greener community. Washington Student Council participated in many community service projects, including food drives, sock/mitten/hat drives, and raising awareness around autism acceptance. Our Washington PTO supported our work through many events aimed at bringing our families together, including three Family Fun Nights, skating parties, gymnastics nights, book fairs, can drives, Santa Shop, and a

school dance. We were also able to host a Family Game Night where students left with math and reading games.

Washington was excited to open our new STEM Room this year, a large, collaborative space where students have the space and technology to explore how science, technology, engineering and math all work together to invent and create for the future. We are preparing for more construction during the summer months with the installation of our new playground, which will offer more activities and playground equipment for our students during recess time.



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

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Become A Bulldog Today!

Enroll your child in Romeo Community Schools for the 2024-25 school year. **Schools of Choice** is available for non-district residents entering Young 5 to 8th grade and a limited number of applicants will be accepted for grades 9-12. We are also accepting applications for **Romeo Virtual Academy**, an online program for grades 6-12.

Visit [RomeoK12.org/enrollment](https://romeok12.org/enrollment) for enrollment information and application deadlines. Questions? Contact the Enrollment Center at (586) 281-1404 or email enrollment@romeok12.org.



*Scan or
click the QR
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Mission

Embracing **R** community while engaging, educating, and empowering students to inspire the future.

Vision

Forging pathways through academic exploration guided by...

- Passions of our students
- Dynamic learning environments
- Invested community advocates



Fall Community Events

Mark your calendar now!

- **Varsity Football Watchdog Game**
Friday, September 5
- **Homecoming Parade**
Wednesday, September 24
- **Homecoming Varsity Football Game**
Friday, September 26

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a learning/working environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment. There will be no tolerance for discrimination or harassment on any basis prohibited by law. The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. The Superintendent designates Ms. Julia Butler, Executive Director of Employee Services and Title IX Coordinator, to supervise the implementation of this policy and its implementing regulations.