



**ROMEO  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS**

## **GOOD NEWS ACROSS 'R' DISTRICT**

March 2025

### **Community connected learning**

Romeo Community Schools opened its doors to a wide range of visitors over the past month, from local and regional businesses, nonprofits and community organizations to educators from across the Atlantic Ocean. Romeo High School even hosted a special guest from Lansing.



### **RMS Nonprofit Exploration Fair**

On February 27, The Academies at Romeo Middle School held its inaugural Nonprofit Exploration Fair, with 57 nonprofits and community organizations in attendance. Students prepared for the event during 'R' Time (formerly known as Advisory), selecting at least three organizations to visit and deciding in advance what questions to ask. They also learned about the importance of introducing themselves, shaking hands and making eye contact.

Eighth grader Maddie Cupp's biggest takeaway from the fair was that she could volunteer and make a difference even as a middle school student.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT**

316 North Main Street • Romeo, Michigan 48065 | [www.romeok12.org](http://www.romeok12.org) | (586) 752-0225 • Fax (586) 752-0228

“I didn’t think that being so young I could help with all these nonprofits, like cleaning up water or helping younger kids with disabilities,” she said. Learning she could “make a difference in this community and be a changemaker” was eye opening to her.

The event also exceeded Academy Coach Jen Raicevich’s expectations. She received positive feedback from the participants on their interactions with students. She also joined ‘R’ Time classes after the event to gain insight from the students on what they most enjoyed and what could be improved in the future.

Participants and students alike agreed that they could have used more time – something that can be remedied next year when the fair is the guaranteed experience for sixth graders in the Engage Academy. The Explore (seventh grade) and Empower (eighth grade) academies will delve into other ways for students to get involved with nonprofit organizations and make a difference in their community.



## **RHS Construction Hiring Fair**

Craig Bryant got the idea to host a hiring fair from his Construction Advisory Board. Homebuilders, contractors and other members of the industry agreed there was an immediate need for young talent.

The fair took place on March 13 and was open to Romeo High School juniors and seniors in the construction pathway as well as students from area high schools. The more than 25 companies in attendance offered jobs or apprenticeships in heating and cooling, plumbing, drywall, electric, millwork, landscaping, lighting, lumber, tile installation, roofing, woodworking, carpentry and heavy equipment.

Many of these companies are hiring employees out of high school or for summer work.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT**

“The best route for these kids is to go through apprenticeships,” Mr. Bryant explained. “There are union apprenticeships and Department of Labor apprenticeships. I can set these kids up with the company, with the Department of Labor, and with training programs. They can train them in-house or they can send them to Macomb Community College or to a trade school.”

While seniors may get job offers immediately following graduation, Mr. Bryant’s goal with juniors is to set up summer work or apprenticeships as well as work-based learning experiences for the following school year.

“That gives a much smoother transition,” he said. “The student gets to try that field and see if they like it, and the company gets to know that kid throughout the school year. At the end they’ve got the job lined up, that career is set, and they’ve already committed hours toward an apprenticeship. That’s the ideal situation.”



Richard Silveri from R&R Ceramics, a tile installation company for area businesses and homes, attended the fair because he said it’s hard to find young people interested in construction.

The company offers a paid apprenticeship program out of high school where students would have the opportunity to learn the trade hands on.

“We would teach them all the skills they need,” he said. “The traits we are looking for are being a team player, a hard work ethic, organizational skills, reliability – stuff you need in life.”

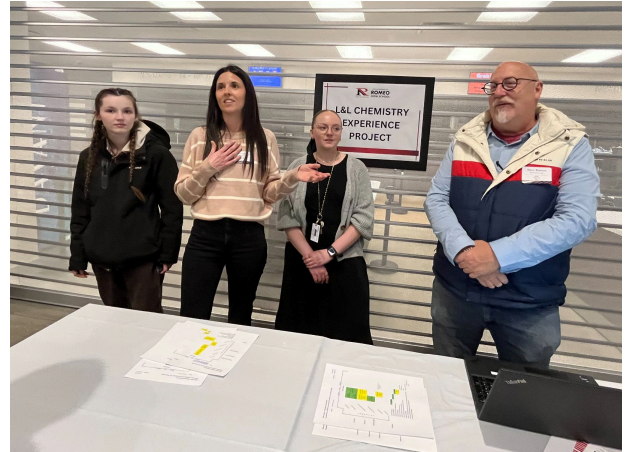
## **The Academies at RHS Annual Retreat**

The Annual Retreat at Romeo High School brought together over 100 business partners and district staff on March 18 to engage in conversation around improving community connected learning opportunities.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT**

316 North Main Street • Romeo, Michigan 48065 | [www.romeok12.org](http://www.romeok12.org) | (586) 752-0225 • Fax (586) 752-0228

This year's spring retreat was organized as a roundtable of cross-curricular and industry partner projects. The business partners had an opportunity to visit the different tables and discuss with the students and their mentors successful projects such as Blake's Hometown Apple Cake, the L&L chemistry experience, a redesign of the Romeo Ford engine plant, Washington Forest View Park, the TK Mold RHS iPad and phone holder project, and the cross-curricular food truck project, a popular tradition during Staff Appreciation Week.



“Our business partners’ insights, collaboration and expertise made for an engaging and productive discussion,” said Evva Dossin, CTE Director and Work-based Learning Coordinator. “Their willingness to share ideas and connect with fellow business partners is invaluable in making these projects meaningful and impactful for our students. Already some of the ideas shared at the retreat have helped start new work!”

## Scottish Learning Lab



Thirty educators from Scotland were on campus on March 18 and 19 to learn about the Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) implementation at our high school and middle school and the difference community connected learning makes to our students.

Some key components of The Academies at Romeo High School model Principal Bernie Osebold shared with the visitors include creating relevant learning for students based on their interests; shrinking the learning

environment to create a more personal feeling while at the same time retaining the benefits of a larger school; preparing students for life after high school beyond the diploma; and empowering RHS students to make the world a better place.

The Academies at Romeo Middle School Principal Brad Martz walked the visitors through the journey the school has undergone on its way to becoming an officially designated Ford NGL model school – the first middle school in the state to do so.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

316 North Main Street • Romeo, Michigan 48065 | [www.romeok12.org](http://www.romeok12.org) | (586) 752-0225 • Fax (586) 752-0228

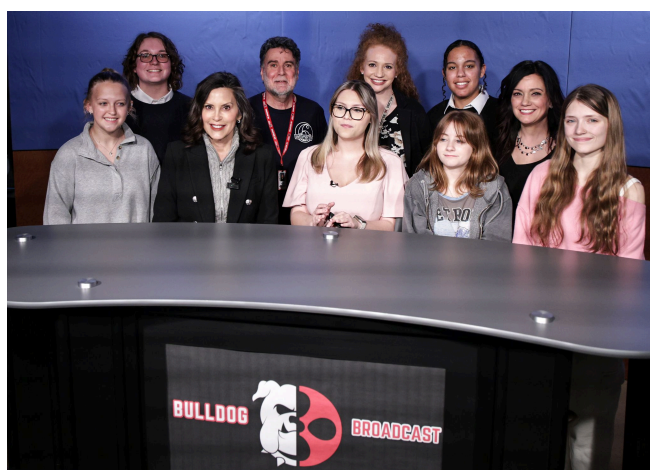
“Middle school students want to change the world,” Mr. Martz said. “They just don’t know how yet. We need to give them those opportunities and empower them.”



### **A Visit from the Governor**

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Dr. Michael Rice, State Superintendent, visited The Academies at RHS on March 20 to learn about the district’s unique approach to Career & Technical Education through the Academies model.

The tour included visits to the architecture, construction and video production pathways. Gov. Whitmer’s last stop was in the broadcast studio, where she was greeted by video production teacher Stephany Harbison and her production crew, each of whom played a role in interviewing the governor for the Bulldog Broadcast.



Gov. Whitmer said she anchored the morning news when she was in high school and wanted to be a sports broadcaster.

“There are so many different options for people to explore what a career might look like,” she said. “We didn’t have offerings like this when I was growing up. Not every school has what Romeo has and it’s really special. It’s something that I hope we can emulate because every student deserves the opportunities that you guys have here at Romeo.”

At the conclusion of the interview, senior McKenna Milne presented the governor with a Bulldog Broadcast Crew T-shirt.

“Thank you for your visit, and on behalf of The Academies at Romeo High School and the video production pathway, we would like to make you an honorary crew member,” McKenna said.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT**