



Romeo Community Schools

The Bulldog Bulletin

Winter 2026

Vol. 9 No. 2



Celebrating Transformation

Winter has made its mark this year as the combination of consistent snowfall and extremely cold temperatures has led to school closures. I want to thank our parents and guardians for their continued flexibility in navigating the disruption these “snow days” can cause to your routine. We review each situation locally and in communication with our County Superintendents Association. My hope is that we can get through the winter without exceeding our annual allotment of six days from the Michigan Department of Education.

I want to thank our voters again for their support of the 2025 Facilities Bond. We are currently working with our construction manager and architect to finalize the construction schedule for the approved projects. Design efforts for the initial group of projects will begin in 2026, with construction to follow in 2027.

I'm also excited to share that the board has approved refinancing the 2016 Series 1 Facility Improvement Bonds, which represents continued fiscal responsibility on behalf of the district. While this refinancing doesn't generate additional revenue for facilities improvements, it does allow the district to pay off the debt sooner. We learned from our legal counsel and financial advisor that refinancing this debt is achieving some of the highest savings they have seen in several years.

This year also sees the launch of our new “RCS Strategic Framework” that not only helped to reauthorize our Strategic Plan in its third year, but is now the benchmark for district improvement efforts for years to come. We have learned through the Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) network that their three transforming strands can guide systemic efforts PK-12. We have included a fourth strand around improving facilities and infrastructure.

Thank you for your continued support of our district.

Go Bulldogs!



Dr. Todd R. Robinson
Superintendent

TRANSFORMING...



Teaching
and
Learning



Culture,
Structures
and
Systems



Partnerships
Between
Schools and
Community



Facilities
and
Infrastructure



Click on the image below the description to view each video.



Real World Experience

Chemistry students had the opportunity to take learning beyond the classroom into the real world through a hands-on partnership with L&L Products.



R-Time at RMS

Learn how teachers at the Academies at Romeo Middle School create a welcoming environment and ensure that every student has an advocate.



Leaders in Athletics

Athletes grow as leaders through the Romeo Athletic Advisory Committee (RAAC), contributing to the broader community while also supporting fellow athletes.



Daily DEM Transformations

Video production teacher Stephany Harbison, construction teacher Craig Bryant, and art teacher Lisa Joseph share daily classroom transformations.



Making a Big School Small

The focus of this video is on creating small learning communities through SLC's and teaming, which ties into The Academies at RMS mission.



Dog Dens at Indian Hills

Students K-5 meet in small groups once a month throughout the year to do activities and get to know one another, enhancing a sense of community.



TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

Romeo Community Schools' transformational efforts across the district directly impact students and staff both in the classroom and beyond. In alignment with our annual theme, "TRANSFORM," we have created a series of videos that both affirm our work and celebrate our dedication to improving the student experience.

9TH GRADE ACADEMY

Ninth Graders on a Career Quest



Ninth graders participated on November 18 in MiCareerQuest Southeast, the region's largest interactive career exploration event for high school students. MiCareerQuest exposes students to a broad range of our region's high-demand industries through interactive experiences with local employers.

Careers were showcased in health services, construction, advanced manufacturing and technology. The goal of the event is to connect classroom learning with real-world jobs and their requirements.

Exposure to careers in these industries ties in with the ninth graders' yearlong exploration to choose a pathway for their 10th to 12th grade experience at The Academies at Romeo High School.



MCC Visit

Ninth graders visited Macomb Community College, exploring opportunities in clay modeling, advanced auto technology, metallurgy, media and communication arts, and IT.



EMMA Award Recipients

The Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted its Extraordinary Membership Merit & Achievement (EMMA) Awards on December 5, recognizing outstanding individuals and businesses for their contributions toward the improvement and growth of the community that the Chamber serves.

Romeo High School video production teacher Stephany Harbison was selected for the Excellence in Teaching/Mentoring Award. In addition, Rylie Stemple and Madeline Kafoury received the Chelsea Elizabeth Pascoe Memorial Youth Award.



Romeo Athletic Advisory Committee (RAAC) hosted an alumni panel in December, giving current student athletes a taste of collegiate sports from their peers' perspective.

A Culinary Competition

Romeo High School's Culinary program competed in the Macomb Schools & Government Employees Credit Union Luncheon and Dessert Competition on December 3. The event brought together credit union representatives and community members for a networking and informational lunch. The highlight of the event was the high school Culinary Dessert

Competition, where student chefs from seven local schools showcased their skills, wowing guests with creative and delicious desserts. While Armada took first place with their Sea Salt Caramel Tiramisu, Romeo's Frost Bite Cheesecake was a fan favorite. The icing on the cake for the students was a tour of the Italian American Cultural Society and Banquet Center, where the event was held, courtesy of Chef Ryan Butyler, who participated as a mentor chef during the CTE Academy Advisory Annual Meeting this fall.



PERFORMING ARTS

Alumni Concert

Choir director Jeff Hinkle and band director John Phillips led an alumni concert on December 18. More than 50 alumni performed from 78 years of Romeo graduating

classes, spanning from the Class of 1947 to the Class of 2025. The event raised \$800, which was donated to the Romeo Goodfellows Association.



A Certain School of Magic

Romeo Theatre Company opened its fall play, *Puffs*, on Thursday, November 20. This light-hearted comedy, directed by Lane Werth, follows a group of well-meaning but overlooked students at a magic school as they navigate seven years of schooling alongside a "certain boy wizard" who saves the world.





A Recipe for Success

Eighth graders in life skills class made dog biscuits out of canned pumpkin, rolled oats and applesauce to donate to the Humane Society of Macomb. Students in Tiffany Heikkala's assisted studies program bagged the treats, which the Humane Society then sold at events to raise money for the shelter.

Humane Society representative Annie Grzeszczak followed up with a visit to the life skills classes, sharing volunteer opportunities and best practices for dog nutrition.

Stream Leaders Field Exploration

Romeo Middle School seventh graders participated in the Clinton River Watershed Council's Stream Leaders Field Exploration to Wolcott Mill Rotary Park in mid-October. The students learned how to monitor water quality, interpret data, and identify macro-invertebrates.

This engagement activity, which supports the water quality unit in the seventh grade science curriculum, aims to raise young people's awareness of the importance of water quality in the local region.

A Guaranteed Experience for The Explore Academy



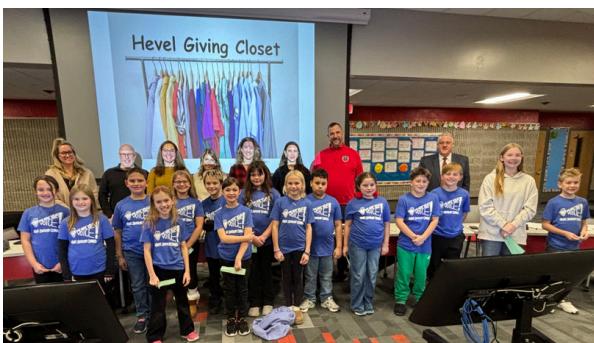
The second annual **Nonprofit Exploration Fair** at The Academies at Romeo Middle School on November 6 gave sixth graders the opportunity to interact with professionals from nonprofit and community organizations throughout the area. The students prepared for the event during their R-Time, researching and preparing questions in advance for the organizations they planned to visit. This guaranteed experience for sixth graders is part of The Academies at RMS mission to create small learning communities where each student has an advocate, can explore their interests, engage with our community, and be empowered to make a change.

The Difference Kindness Makes



Fourth grade teacher Milene Farkas decided to start a kindness club at **Washington Elementary School** because she knew her students could make a difference if they were given the opportunity.

Recently Mrs. Farkas and two members of the new Kindness Squad participated in Keeping Up With 'R' Community, the district's podcast, to share with listeners the many ways they have made their school a better place. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to listen on Spotify (or wherever you get your podcasts).



Student Council members from **Hevel Elementary School** were recognized at the December 15 Board of Education meeting for supporting families in need with the creation of the Hevel Giving Closet.



Holiday Music is in the Air

These three **Indian Hills** students were among the kindergarteners who sang Christmas carols during the Romeo Santa Parade on December 4. Kindergarten students from across the district participated in this community outreach.

Santa and his reindeer made a guest appearance during the all-school holiday sing-a-long at **Amanda Moore Elementary** on December 16, fittingly during the song "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."



Unity Day at Ham-Par



Hamilton-Parsons celebrated Unity Day, an anti-bullying day. Link Crew leaders from Romeo High School read stories to the children, including

Kindness is My Superpower and *A Little Spot of Belonging*. They also helped them make friendship bracelets and create messages about kindness for a paper chain to be hung in the building.

FALL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Cross Country

Our girls and boys teams dominated again, making their way to the state finals. Both girls and boys varsity and JV teams were named MAC Red and MAC champions and the girls and boys varsity teams were regional champions. The boys placed 14th in the state and the girls placed second.

Football

Romeo Football celebrated 100 years this fall! The varsity team finished the regular season 6-3 and were named MAC Red Champions and District Champions, finishing eighth in the state.

Girls Golf

The team moved up to the MAC Red this season and set a record of 166 at the last regular match of the season.

Boys Soccer

The varsity team finished the regular season with a 15-2-6 record, setting a school record of 13 shutouts. Finishing undefeated at home, the team were named MAC Red Champions and back-to-back District Champions.

Boys Tennis

The varsity team finished the regular season with a 7-5 record, placing second in the MAC Red.

Girls Swim

The team placed fourth at the County Meet and was named MAC White Team Champions. Alyssa Chambers was the MAC White MVP and was a MAC White Individual Champion along with Izzy Greco, Harper Savage and Giselle Stone. The 200 Medley Relay team of Alyssa Chambers, Izzy Greco, Harper Savage and Giselle Stone placed 14th in the state and Alyssa Chambers earned All-State status.

Volleyball

The varsity team finished the season with a 28-11-1 record. The district champions were also in the Top 16 in the state and were named the Macomb County Team of the Year.

Coach Accolades

Cross country Coach **Mike Buslepp** was named MAC Red and MHSAA Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Varsity football Coach **Curt Rienas** was named MAC Red Coach and Region 4 Coach of the Year.

Girls Golf Coach **Paul Scally** was named MAC Red Coach of the Year.

Boys Soccer Coach **Vinnie Vasilevski** was named MAC Red and District Coach of the Year. He also recorded his 100th win as Romeo's varsity coach.

Girls Swim Coach **Sue Trush** was named MAC White Coach of the Year.

Volleyball Coach **Stacy Williams** was named Regional Coach of the Year.



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2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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

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.



Romeo Means Community

In this new video, produced by Romeo High School video production students as part of the in-district work-based program, administrators share what Romeo Community Schools means to them. Special thanks go to McKenna Milne '25, Anastasia Edwards '25, Kaitlyn Wisniewski '25, Alyssa Hartman '26, Molly Peters '26, Caleb Carpenter '26 and Riley Frederick '26.

RHS Scholastic Art Award Winners



Congratulations to the 2026 Scholastic Art Awards winners (above from left): Poppy Fanning – “Convergence of Wind and Sun, Gold Key; Abigail Wipp – “Down the Spiral Hole,” Gold Key; Abigail Wipp – “Shards of Trust,” Silver Key; and (below from left): Madison Gugel – “Echoes in the Alley,” Silver Key; Katherine Anderman – “Shards of a Scarab,” Honorable Mention; Rylee Armstrong – “Fragments of a Former Self,” Honorable Mention.

