Second, there is a well-deserved sense of pride that permeates this community and our school district. There is great pride in being a Trojan and along with it, a sense of responsibility to represent our district well. It is what makes Troy at great place to live, work, and learn.

Finally, there is a commitment to one another like none I have seen before. I am thankful for the support our schools receive from our community and I am proud of the commitment in our schools to give back to our community. Troy is a special place and I am humbled and honored to be one of the leaders charged with making it even better.

“I feel very fortunate to work in Troy City Schools. The many professional opportunities I have been given to grow as an educator and advocate for children are immeasurable. I have also been greatly influenced by some of the most dedicated teachers, support staff, and administrators in the district, and for that I am genuinely grateful.”
When used responsibly, social media has the power to connect friends and family, educate and entertain, build confidence, and expand our global awareness.

But the reality is technology is being used by children and teens at a rapidly increasing rate. According to Smart Social, in 2012, only 41% of teens had a smartphone compared to 89% of teens in 2018. And 34% of teens used social media multiple times a day in 2012, compared to 70% of teens in 2018.

To address this growing technology trend, Forest and Kyle Elementary parents, grandparents, guardians, and school officials recently gathered to hear from Miami County Juvenile Court’s probation department about the potential harm, emotional consequences, and serious legal ramifications tied to some of the texting and social media actions of minors.

Judge Scott Altenburger, who has presided over cases with students charged as young as age nine, and probation officer Stephanie Henning, with more than 15 years of experience, drove the point home: “Parent communication with their children is key.”

Statistics shared from a 2014 Liahona Treatment Center study were staggering, showing that 43% of teens said they would change their online behavior if they knew that their parents were watching them, while only 34% of parents said they were actively checking their child’s social network sites.

Parents have a right to check the devices their students use, ask questions, and educate them about internet safety.

Parent Betsey Nave said, “This is so important because our kids are more advanced online than we are. We need to find more ways to protect them. Cyberbullying has become a real threat, and it’s often something we don’t see until it’s a problem. Having open lines of communication is going to be important.”

To learn more about what steps you can take to prepare your child for a positive digital experience, visit: smartsocial.com/social-media-statistics
**CHANGING COURSE:** How the Troy High School Credit Recovery Program Gets Students Back on Track

Sometime certain students struggle to complete a course requirement or are unable to obtain the number of credits required to graduate. Whether due to an extended illness, an unexpected surgery, moving from another school district, or other reasons outside of their control—the Troy High School faculty believes that students who have been unable to keep pace deserve a chance to catch up.

That’s why administrator Josh Patterson is working with the Troy High School Credit Recovery Program to address the needs of students who need to make up credits. Students are referred to the Credit Recovery Program by their school counselor based on their individual situation. The program is providing an excellent opportunity for students who may not have had the same chance in a traditional academic setting. So far, through this program, 161 credits have been recovered helping more than 80 students get back on the right path and get one step closer to reaching their academic goals.

**AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:** Troy City Schools is Honored to Receive the 2018 Auditor of State Award Recognizing a Highly Successful Financial Audit

We’re pleased to announce that the Troy City School district received the 2018 Auditor of State award! This award is the direct result of our diligence in adhering to effective accounting principles and our strong commitment to being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Every year we go through a thorough audit process. Among other things, the audit seeks to ensure that we properly handle district funds, appropriately account for all revenues and expenditures, file all reports in a timely manner, and keep accurate public records.

We take this responsibility to our community seriously and thank everyone who made this award possible.

**COLLABORATION AT KYLE:** How Fourth Grade Students Solved a Problem and Learned a Valuable Life Lesson

As educators, we aim to help students become productive members of society, a big part of which is learning to work collaboratively. At Kyle Elementary, our fourth grade students are getting real-life lessons in collaboration, communication, and problem-solving.

Throughout the school year, students are encouraged to add ideas to a suggestion box, which are shared during one of the students’ regular community town hall meetings. This year, one student suggested we find a way to make the drinking fountain line move more quickly. And another student observed that the line moved slowly because others were trying to fill water bottles.

To solve this issue, the students worked with local businesses, the Kyle Elementary faculty, and the Parent Teacher Organization. The students searched for an alternative and determined that a water bottle filler could be fitted to the current water fountain.

In order to pay for the fountain, the students reached out to Kyle School’s business partners, including First Financial Bank, Lightner & Stickel CPAs, and Kerber Sheet Metal by writing letters explaining their problem and asking for a donation. Each of the businesses, along with the Kyle PTO, donated $75. After these generous donations, the students decided to seek a loan from Kyle PTO for the remainder of the funds—which they plan to repay by selling decorated pencils.

As a result of their efforts, all the students at Kyle Elementary will now enjoy fast-moving drinking fountain lines and full water bottles. Above all, the students all learned a valuable lesson about how solving one problem together can have a positive impact for all.
**COFFEE CHAT: Recap and Upcoming Event Date**

*By Chris Piper*

Thanks to everyone who joined me for a coffee chat this year! These events have been a great way to meet new people and learn about our district and community. Each month I was joined by about 10 people for these informal discussions. Some have students in our district, while others just wanted to share their views and learn more about what we’re working on.

This kind of two-way communication is important and is something I am committed to continuing next school year.

If you haven’t had a chance to join me yet and are interested, there is still another opportunity remaining this school year! **You can meet me for a chat at Panera Bread at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28.**

And, coffee chats won’t be the only way we engage our stakeholders next school year. Starting in September, we will host monthly evening meetings to tour our K-6 facilities and discuss why we need to develop a plan to build new schools for our students. Stay tuned for more details!

“My six years at Heywood have been the best. I’ve grown a lot since my first day of kindergarten at Heywood...I will miss my teachers. I will miss my classmates who I won’t see every day. I will miss the slides on the playground, laughing at Mr. Stan, and getting a smile from Mrs. Deam. I will miss everything about Heywood!”

—Max Fong, Student, Heywood Elementary

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Troy High School Proud to Announce Co-Valedictorians for the Graduating Class of 2019**

Troy High School is delighted to be in a unique position of recognizing two Valedictorians to represent the class of 2019. Historically, Troy High School has one Valedictorian and one Salutatorian. But this year, the faculty was pleased to discover there were two students who tied at the top of the class after seven semesters with identical grade point averages.

After a brief discussion, it was quickly decided that both students would be invited to serve as Co-Valedictorians.

After three and a half years of hard work and dedication to their academic pursuits, Josalyn Abrams and Zach Niswonger will represent the Troy High School class of 2019 as Co-Valedictorians with shared GPA’s of 4.633 and transcripts full of Honors and College Credit Plus courses from their time at Troy High School. Upon hearing that she would represent her graduating class as Co-Valedictorian, Josalyn said, “It took a lot of hard work to get here. It seems kind of surreal and I’m very grateful.” When asked how he felt, Zach replied, “It’s an honor and a privilege to represent my class.” Salutatorian Megan Malott will also be celebrated alongside Josalyn and Zach at this year’s commencement ceremony.