

# The Tallmadge TELEGRAPH

[www.tallmadgeschools.org](http://www.tallmadgeschools.org)

April 2023

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## Superintendent's Message

*Steve Wood, Superintendent*

It is hard to believe that the school year is nearly over. At Tallmadge City Schools, we have been busy creating meaningful end-of-year student activities. From the eighth grade trip to Washington, DC to the Graduation Parade, our staff has worked diligently to design events and experiences that will promote continued learning and engagement throughout the end of the school year.

As you will see in this newsletter, our students are flourishing and developing incredible skills. Through their participation in academic and extracurricular activities, our young people are discovering the unique talents they bring to the world through their participation in educational activities. We're proud of the determination, creativity, and growth that we observe daily from our students in their respective areas of interest.

Tallmadge High School students triumphed at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference this year, with all placements in the top ten, garnering medals on stage for their accomplishments.

Recently, we held our Distinguished Scholars Banquet, Tallmadge High

School's recognition for student academic excellence. Many tenth, eleventh and twelfth-graders met the stringent academic criteria to make the list. We take pride in their academic success.

This week, 11 students from Tallmadge Middle School participated in the Kent State University Reading and Writing Festival. These students were chosen after reading six specific young adult books. Students were able to meet and work with Author April Henry and Professional storyteller and Author Kevin Cordi.

This year, Tallmadge High School is offering a new Civic Engagement through Service Learning class. The class aims to teach students how government entities function and encourages them to become active community members. The students in the class have organized a 5k event to support the National Youth Advocate Program. The event is called "Runnin' with the Devils" and will occur on May 13th at 9:00 AM. Plan to support our students in their outreach efforts.

Additional initiatives include Second Grade Family Fun Nights, Fifth Grade Scripts Competition, and a Unified Sports Track and Field Event.

Watching how far our students have come and how much potential they have going forward is truly inspiring. As always, we remain committed to supporting our students in achieving success at every level.

Thank you for your support of Tallmadge City Schools.

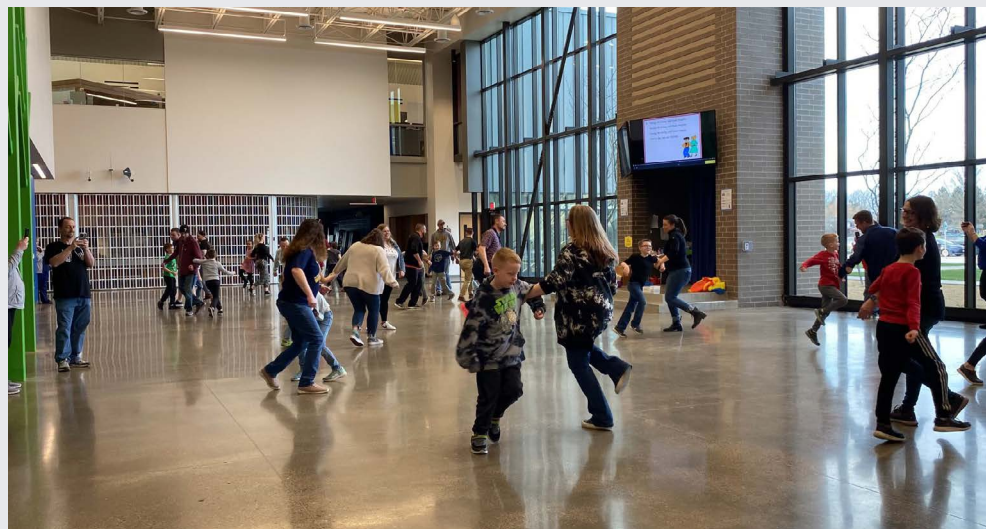
### Important Dates

- May 3** 7th Grade Chicago Trip
- May 9** 5th Grade Band Concert
- May 10** 8th Grade DC Trip
- May 10** Senior Video and Bonfire
- May 10** Senior Community Give Back Day
- May 10** Senior Picnic
- May 11** Cap and Gown Pick-Up
- May 11** Senior Breakfast
- May 11** Senior Walk
- May 12** Graduation Practice
- May 15** Graduation Practice / Panoramic Picture
- May 16** Graduation
- May 18** PTA Color Party
- May 22** Kindergarten Graduation and Last Day
- May 26** Last Day for students Grade 1-11 (Early Release)

## TES Updates

Our 5th grade Kid Scripts assembly was a huge success! Rooney Komito and Kara Kelley's winning scripts were incredible and made it a memorable day. The students loved the creativity, humor, and enthusiasm that everyone brought to the assembly.

The Family Fun night for 2nd graders was a success thanks to the efforts of Physical Education and Music teachers Brooke Gustavel, Ami Crawford, Dana Herro, and Cara McGuinness. The activities provided were engaging, and nobody wanted to leave. We urge our families to watch for upcoming events like this at TES.





# Tallmadge Middle School Students Attend Kent State Reading and Writing Festival

Sponsored by the Six District Educational Compact, Kent State University's Reading and Writing Festival is held every year for 7th and 8th-grade students from local schools. Our 11 TMS students joined approximately 250 other students for three days of engaging activities.

Students had the opportunity to meet the guest author April Henry and participated in sessions involving book cover art, drama, poetry, and various writing contests, all pertaining to the Festival Books. Students also had the opportunity to meet and interact with a professional storyteller and author, Kevin Cordi, who led a storytelling workshop session during the Festival.

The Festival kicked off with each student independently reading six pre-selected Young Adult (YA) books from September through April. In order to attend, 11 TMS students read the pre-selected and approved YA novels, including the incredible stories of *Playing with Fire* and *The Girl I Used To Be* by April Henry, Daven McQueen's *The Invincible Summer of Juniper Jones*, *Solo* by Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Hess, Emily Lloyd-Jones' *Bone House*, and Marie Lu's *War Cross*.

Books for this year included two titles by our guest author, April Henry, who was also onsite to speak and run several classes. Other special guests were local author Jody Casella and storyteller/author Kevin Cordi. These acclaimed authors offered special workshops and classes.

The best part was that each student was able to choose four out of a variety of classes, with a mix of reading and writing focus. Whether the child was an aspiring novelist or just loves to read, it is sure to be the highlight of their academic year! During the Festival, students also had the opportunity to participate in contests for a chance to win some amazing prizes! Alaina Egger, an eighth grader from Tallmadge Middle School, won the Logo Contest. Her design will be featured on next year's program! to consider parking, entertainment, grocery stores, and of course, housing. They concluded the project by presenting it to the "town hall" and, of course, Mayor McCourtie & Mayor Moyer for final approval.



# Students Shine at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Leadership Conference

Mrs. Kim Brendel's Tallmadge High School students triumphed at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference this year, with all placements in the top ten garnering medals on stage for their accomplishments!

Unlike DECA's standard of sending five students, BPA only sends the top three performers to their National Leadership Conference. Otherwise, more THS BPA members would have had a chance at qualifying for Nationals due to their hard work and intensive research that is indicative of project management job expectations in today's industry.

Congratulations to Emma Lally, the Fundamental Spreadsheets/ Microsoft (MS) Excel contest winner, at the 2023 BPA State of Ohio Leadership Conference! She will proudly represent Tallmadge High School in Anaheim, California, for the National Leadership Conference from April 26th through May 1st.

Emma is an exemplary student who will be attending Kent State University in the fall to pursue her dream of becoming a Physician's Assistant. She recently completed Financial Accounting and has been taking Management Principles, which involves regularly using MS Excel. Her impressive academic performance, regular job as assistant manager at Panera Bread, and four years on varsity golf for the high school make her one of the most well-rounded students!



## Spring Musical

The Tallmadge High School cast and crew of Freak Friday put on an incredible show! Thank you to all involved for your dedication and for showcasing your talents.





## Civic Engagement Curriculum Offers Excitement at THS

A new class called Civic Engagement through Service Learning has been added to Tallmadge High School's curriculum this year. The course aims to aid students in comprehending the functioning of government at various levels, such as local, state, and national. It highlights the significance of their participation as active citizens in their community.

The class this semester is organizing a 5K event called "Runnin' with the Devils" to support The National Youth Advocate Program. The program has been actively involved in the planning and execution of the event, including selecting the organization to support and seeking sponsors.

A group of students went to the Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce luncheon to present their project and discuss the remaining requirements needed for success. The experience helped them develop skills in organization, leadership, communication, collaboration, outreach, compromise, flexibility, and creativity.

Community members can support the event happening on May 13th at 9:00 AM by participating in the 5K race, which will take place on the Tallmadge High School and Recreation Center properties.

Registration is available online at [www.runninwiththedevils.run](http://www.runninwiththedevils.run). Regardless of fitness level, we are excited to welcome new members and participate together in community service!



# Hall of Fame Induction

Last year, the Tallmadge Athletic Department revitalized the Tallmadge Athletics Hall of Fame with the first class of inductees. The Class of 2023 inductees were honored during a banquet on April 22nd at St. Georges Hall. Here are the new inductees:

## **Amanda Bennett '09**

Amanda earned four letters each in Track & Field and Basketball. She was All-State more than any track athlete in THS history, scoring 14 points over three years. Amanda still holds the school record in the High Jump (5' 7"). She was part of two District Championship track teams (2006 and 2009). Amanda was First Team All-Suburban League in basketball in 2009, netting a career-high 30 points in a game vs. Wadsworth. She was THS Female Athlete of the Year in both 2008 and 2009.

## **Scott Campbell '87**

Scott authored one of the great pitching careers in Tallmadge Baseball history. He holds records for most strikeouts in a game (18), in a season (118), and a career (270). He was the first player ever to earn four letters in baseball at THS. He pitched a no-hitter in 1987 vs. Nordon. Scott was a member of Metro League championship teams in baseball and basketball in 1986. He went on to pitch collegiately at Louisiana Tech. Scott has coached baseball, basketball, and golf at THS.

## **Greg Kesselring '72**

Greg lettered three times each in Wrestling and Cross Country. He was among Ohio's best wrestlers, qualifying for the State Tournament all three years. Greg was State Runner-up in 1972 and captained the team that year which won Sectional and District titles. He became a Two-Time All-American at the University of Akron and is a member of their Hall of Fame.

## **Danny Mosholder '01**

Danny was one of the most dominant golfers in local high school history. He earned All-Suburban First Team honors four times, was the Touchdown Club Player of the Year, and is still co-holder of the THS record for low 9-hole score (32, 3 times). His teams won 3 Suburban League titles and earned three trips to the State Finals in Columbus. Danny also lettered twice in basketball; these teams had a 39-1 regular season record.

## **Laura (Phillips) Christiaens '96**

Laura earned nine letters combined in Track & Field, Basketball, Volleyball, and Cross Country. Her school record in the 400 meters (57.9) still stands as of her induction. Laura was first-team All-Ohio in the 400 in both 1993 and 1994. She played key roles on the 1994 State Final Four volleyball team and the 1995 District Championship basketball team. Laura continued her track and field career at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Rachel (Phillips) Copeland '94**

Rachel earned four letters in basketball, 3 in volleyball, and 2 in track and field. She was voted first-team All-Suburban League in basketball three times and twice in volleyball. Rachel was named District Player of the Year in volleyball in 1992 and 1993 when the team made the State Finals for the first time. Rachel was also a state qualifier in the 4x200 relay in 1994. Her basketball number (32) was retired by Coach Whitmer. Rachel went on to play volleyball at the University of Akron.

*Continued*



## Hall of Fame Induction - cont.

### Jackie (Rensel) Van Horn '95

Jackie earned 11 varsity letters at THS (4 in softball, 4 in volleyball, and 3 in basketball). Those softball teams won 4 Suburban League titles and the 1993 State Championship. The 1995 team was State Runner-Up. She still holds softball records for stolen bases in a season (37) and for a career (92). Jackie was All-Ohio 3 times. Her volleyball teams were twice State Runners-Up and twice Suburban League Champs. She played on the first Tallmadge Girls basketball team to win a District title (1994-95). Jackie earned four letters in softball at Ohio University.

### Gary Robinson '00

Gary earned nine Football, Basketball, and Track & Field letters at THS. He was an All-Ohio wide receiver and earned All-State honors in the 800 meters, 4x800, and 4x400 relay. Gary proceeded to Walsh University, where he was a 2-time All-American in Track & Field. He also earned four letters in football for the Cavaliers.

### Jeff Walck - Coach 1989-2002

Coach Walck helped lift the Tallmadge volleyball program to prominence. As THS coach, he led the Blue Devils to nine Suburban League Championships, nine District titles, and six consecutive State Final Fours (1993-1998). Tallmadge had four straight State Runner-up finishes (1994-1997). Jeff was Suburban League Coach of the Year six times and Ohio Division II Coach of the Year twice.

### Jeff Bachtel - Service Award

Dr. Bachtel has provided athletic physicals for Tallmadge athletes for over three decades, starting in 1985. He has also provided medical care for the football, basketball, and soccer programs, plus referrals from other sports. A 1975 graduate of THS, Dr. Bachtel is an alum of Kent State University and was in the first class at NEOMed. He explained his work for Tallmadge athletes: "It's one way I can give back to the school and the community."





## Unified Track and Field

The Tallmadge High School community recently celebrated the success of a Unified Track and Field event, where students with and without intellectual disabilities could come together and compete in various events. It was a fantastic opportunity for all involved, as they had the chance to learn from each other while showcasing their skills.

With the help of Special Olympics Ohio Unified Champion Schools®, THS Intervention Specialists Lauren Stone and Tammie Habbyslaw organized a Unified Sports Track & Field event with Tallmadge, Cuyahoga Falls, Kent Roosevelt, and Stow School Districts on April 20th.

Special Olympics Ohio Unified Champion Schools® aims to promote social inclusion through initiatives and strategies that affect systems-wide change in K-12 schools and on college and university campuses. With sports as the foundation, Unified Champion Schools offers programs and activities that equip young people with the tools and training to create inclusive experiences.

Inclusive experiences in sports, classrooms, and community improve attitudes and behaviors among all young people, both with and without intellectual disabilities. The smiles on everyone's faces prove that Unified Track and Field events are a great way to build community and create positive change. The experience showed our young people the importance of inclusion, teamwork, and acceptance.

Everyone cheered on their fellow athletes as they competed side-by-side in running races, long jump competitions, and shot put challenges. We want to thank everyone who made this event possible and created such a fantastic opportunity for our students. Seeing athletes with different abilities come together and compete as equals was truly inspiring.





## Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the classes of 2023 and 2024 on their academic excellence! The Distinguished Scholars Banquet was held on April 19th at St. George's Family Center in Fairlawn, where students were celebrated for their outstanding achievements.

The criteria for eligibility as a Distinguished Scholar is based on your cumulative GPA after the first semester of each year. For the Class of 2023 and 2024, a 4.0 GPA was required for their 10th, 11th and 12th grade coursework. For incoming freshmen and future classes, Tallmadge High School has updated its criteria to align with the Summa Cum Laude benchmark; now, it will require a 4.2 GPA for cumulative GPA after the first semester of each year.

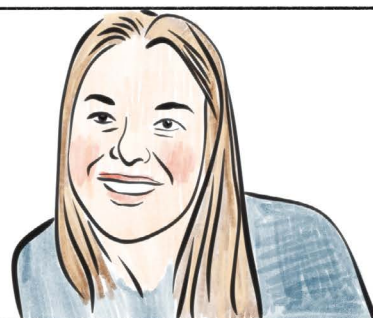
Congratulations to all the students who qualified for the Distinguished Scholars Banquet! The district is very proud of your achievement and looks forward to having even more Distinguished Scholars next year.



## SPEAK OF THE BLUE DEVIL

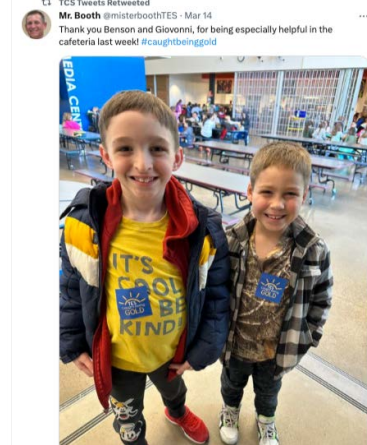
**ERICA DEYARMIN**  
*TALLMADGE HIGH SCHOOL*

*"I AM THE HIGH SCHOOL SECRETARY. MY ROLE IS TO BE THE REAL-LIFE VERSION OF ALEXA OR SIRI AND KNOW "ALL THE THINGS". I HAVE HELD THIS POSITION FOR 2 MONTHS NOW. I ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE AND ADDING VALUE TO THE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE."*





## Tallmadge Social



Check out what is happening in our school buildings this month. Follow @tsctweets1 for more info!