



# KNOW Your Schools

Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence.

Vol 18, Issue 4, June 2024

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Holton Families:

Thank you for a great school year! I hope you and your family have a great summer filled with lots of time to read and enjoy all the beauty West Michigan has to offer! Below are a few updates as we launch into summer break:

### THANK YOU!

I am so very grateful for the community's support this school year. Your messages of encouragement, donations, and support of our students, staff, and families are appreciated. Thank you for your recent support of the Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal! Your support helps all of us make Holton Public Schools a great district for our students!

### STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029:

After reviewing feedback from surveys, focus groups, and performance data, a new District Strategic Plan has been approved. The plan will guide the district for the next five years as we continue to be a district Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence, and Ready for the Future. You can view our new District Strategic Plan 2024-2029 by visiting: [https://www.holtonschools.com/downloads/administration/holton\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2024-2029\\_2.pdf](https://www.holtonschools.com/downloads/administration/holton_strategic_plan_2024-2029_2.pdf). Thank you for your input and feedback in the creation of our new plan!

### 2023-24 ENROLLMENT:

We continue to enroll students for the 2024-2025 School Year. We have a variety of options for enrollment. You can learn more about how to enroll by visiting <https://www.holtonschools.com/for-parents/parents/enrollment/>. Holton Public Schools is a great place to Grow, Learn, Graduate, and Succeed!

### PROJECT FOCUS:

We have recently learned that the grant that funds Project Focus, our afterschool program, has been funded again for five years! We are grateful to continue to provide this program to our students and families. Information about enrolling in next year's program will be available in the fall.

### SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION

We recently celebrated our 20, 25, and 30 years of service employees. Completing 20 years of service to the district is Mrs. Denise Goyings. Completing 25 years of service to the district are Ms. Stacy Wright and Mrs. Deb Straub. Completing 30 years of service to the district are Ms. Donna Chartrand, Mrs. Brenda Bosset, Mrs. Jessica Wagenmaker, Mr. Jeff Wharton, and Mrs. Deb Galy-Veldman! We are incredibly thankful to the dedication of each of these staff members!

### RETIREES

Heather Chickering, Cammie Crane-Stanhope, Trisha Niemi-Mayse, and Deb Straub will be retiring from Holton Public Schools. Each of these individuals profoundly impacted the students, staff, and community they've served. We wish them each a long, happy, and healthy retirement and many fun memories on this new journey! We are grateful for their contributions to Holton Public Schools.

### GOLDEN APPLE AWARD:

The Golden Apple Award was established long ago with the intent of honoring an individual or group of people who have contributed to Holton Public Schools by volunteering significant time to support our students. This year, the District is recognizing a group of Read Muskegon Tutors who helped support several of our middle school students. They include: Amy Brookhouse, Hailey Maycroft, Andy O'Riley, Elizabeth Reid, and Allana Rossell. Holton Public Schools honored these awesome volunteers at our end of year luncheon. They were each provided a plaque to recognize their contributions.

### FACILITY PROJECTS:

We will be completing several facilities projects this summer. Some of these projects will disrupt access to our buildings. The projects we have planned include:

#### Well Repair at the Middle/High School

○ This repair we expect will take one week and will disrupt water service to the building. The building will be closed for ANY water use during this time. We are hopeful to begin this project during the week of June 17.

#### Sealcoat and Stripe Back Parking Lot at MS/HS

○ This project should only take a couple of days but will require several days of curing before the lot can be accessed again. We plan to complete this project at the end of June.

#### Room Cleaning and Floor Waxing

○ Access to different parts of the building will be impacted as our custodial and maintenance team clean rooms and wax floors. Please follow all signage and avoid entering areas that are being worked on.

Thank you for your understanding as we take care of these needed improvements!

Thank you for all of your support throughout the school year! I am so proud to serve this district! On Holton!

*With Great Respect and Pride, Dr. Adam Bayne*



## 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Open House	August 21
First Day of School	August 26
No School	August 30 - September 2
Early Release	September 4
Early Release	September 18
Early Release	October 2
No School - Teacher PD	October 11
No School - Fall Break	October 14 - 15
Early Release	October 16
Early Release	November 6
1/2 Day - Conferences	November 7
Early Release	November 20
No School - Thanksgiving Break	November 27 - 29
Early Release	December 4
Early Release	December 18
1/2 Days - Exams	December 19 - 20
No School - Holiday Break	December 23 - January 3
School Resumes	January 6
Early Release	January 15
No School - Teacher PD	January 20
Early Release	February 5
Mid Winter Break	February 17 - 21
Early Release	March 5
1/2 Day Conferences	March 6
Early Release	March 19
Early Release	April 2
No School - Spring Break	April 4 - April 11
Early Release	April 16
Early Release	May 7
Early Release	May 21
1/2 Day	May 23
No School - Memorial Day	May 26
1/2 Days - Exams	June 9 - 10
Start time: MS/HS.....7:45 a.m.	End time.....2:35 p.m.
Start time: Elem.....8:50 a.m.	End time.....3:45 p.m.
Half day end time:	MS/HS.....10:55 a.m.
	Elem.....12:00 p.m.
Early Release end times:	MS/HS.....1:05 pm
	Elem.....2:15pm



**Kylee Rickle** is the daughter of Howard and Lori Rickle. She is ranked 5th in her class. Kylee plans to attend Northern Michigan University to get her bachelor's degree in Forensic Biochemistry.



**Ryann Robins** is the daughter of Jayson and Rochelle Robins. She is ranked 6th in her class. Ryann plans to attend Ferris State University.



**Abigail Fowler** is the daughter of Brian and Tammy Fowler. She is ranked 7th in her class. Abigail plans to attend Ferris State University to study Radiology and become an Ultrasound Technician.



**Emma Monette** is the daughter of Tommy and Dawn Monette. She is ranked 8th in her class. Emma plans to attend Muskegon Community College to study Automotive.



**Sydney McCormick** is the daughter of Jesse and Sarah McCormick. She is ranked 9th in her class. Sydney's future plans are undecided.



**Caiden Laster** is the son of Jeff and Jolee Laster. He is ranked 10th in his class. Caiden's future plans are to make money.

## Class of 2024 - Top Ten Graduates



**Zoey Carty** is the daughter of Chris and Kristy Miles and the late Thomas Carty Jr. She is the Valedictorian of her class. Zoey plans to attend Ferris State University to get her Bachelor of Science in Nursing with hopes of working in a birthing center.



**Bo Larabee** is the son of Mike and Angie Larabee. He is ranked 3rd in his class. Bo plans to attend Muskegon Community College and study abroad in Ireland.



**June Newell** is the daughter of Marcus and April Newell. She is the Salutatorian of her class. June plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.



**May Newell** is the daughter of Marcus and April Newell. She is ranked 3rd in her class. May hopes to work with the Aesthetic of Interior Decorating.



## Principal Letter

As we wrap up another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Holton community. Your unwavering support, dedication, and involvement have made this year truly special.

Our students have achieved remarkable milestones, both academically and personally. From outstanding performances in the classroom to moments on the sports field and in extracurricular activities, their hard work and resilience have been commendable.

Thank you, teachers and staff. Our exceptional teaching staff has poured their hearts into nurturing our students' growth. Their passion, creativity, and commitment have made a lasting impact. Let's take a moment to appreciate their tireless efforts.

Now, as we bid farewell to the school year, it's time to embrace the joys of summer break. Summer break is a time to recharge. Whether you're planning family vacations, exploring new hobbies, or simply enjoying quality time together. I encourage you to make the most of this well-deserved break.

Stay connected. Although the school halls may be quiet, our community remains strong. Stay connected through our Facebook page, newsletters, email, and upcoming events. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer!



Warm regards,  
Mr. Erik Carlson, Secondary Principal

### Decision Day

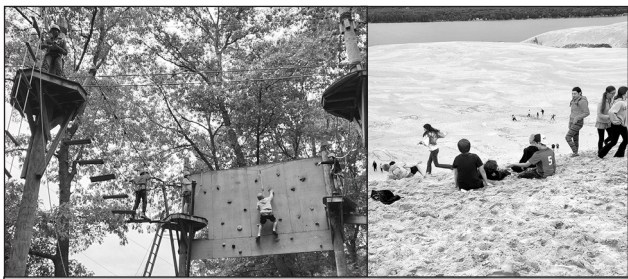
Decision Day this year was a success! It was a great day for the whole school to celebrate the Class of 2024's "decision" on what their plans will be for after graduation. The day started with breakfast to celebrate the senior's plans and watch a movie. Then the National Guard brought inflatable obstacle courses and yard games that were set up on the



football field for a Senior Track and Field Day and Grill Out. Finally the day concluded with the annual Decision Day assembly where the senior groups got to walk out to a song of their choice. Several seniors won prizes including echo dots, laundry basket sets, Keurigs, an iPad, and gift cards.



### 6th Grade Camp



6th Grade Camp 2024 was another rewarding year. The students enjoyed swimming, climbing the dunes, teambuilding, horseback riding and challenging themselves to do things that are hard. With every activity the students set goals and processed through what was difficult. They pushed themselves beyond what they thought they could do, some with tears but with great excitement. We also took a ride through the dunes with Mac Dune Rides, learning about the history of the dunes. Thanks to our counselors and Grace Adventures for another great time!

### Varsity Quiz Bowl

The Varsity Quiz Bowl season was highly successful and culminated with a trip to Atlanta, Georgia to compete in the NAQT National Championship.

The conference season ended with a heartbreaking last minute loss to Hart to finish second in the Lakes Division. This was the team's only loss during league play. The overall WMC Tournament ended with the Red Devils in third place, dominating a solid Manistee team for that spot.

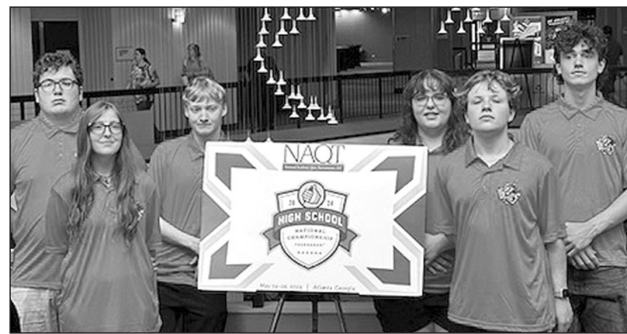
The next stop for the Holton crew was the state tournament which was held at Michigan State University. They battled their way to a 4th place finish in the small school division. Team Captain Jaxson Thiele was the leading scorer in the state for the second year in a row.

The successes in the League and State Tournaments earned Holton an opportunity to compete in the NAQT National Championship. The team fundraised and was able to make the trip.

The trip was split up with a stop to rest in Nashville, Tennessee where they toured the Country Music Hall of Fame and ate at the famous chicken restaurant Hattie B's. Then it was on to Atlanta. Once there, they toured the College Football Hall of Fame and the World of Coke. As tournament play commenced, the team competed with the best teams in the nation and had some wins and some close losses, finishing near the middle of the field.

Although it was an excellent team effort, Jaxson Thiele once again shined, finishing 127th in the field of almost 1700 competitors, which put him in the top 8% of Quiz Bowl participants in the nation.

*The Quiz Bowl Team and coaches would like to thank everyone who contributed both monetarily and otherwise. The season and trips to East Lansing and Atlanta could not have been accomplished without all of them.*



### PBIS/Ride With Pride 2024!

Holton Middle/High School held its annual PBIS/Ride With Pride assembly on May 8th. This assembly recognizes students for positive behavior shown throughout the year. Students that had earned at least one RED Ticket during the second semester were eligible to win tons of prizes. We gave away pop, candy, gift cards, free ice cream from The Scoop, pizzas, games, electronics, and more. Students who filled out their Ride With Pride Pledge at the beginning of the year and met the conditions of the pledge were eligible to win bikes, an e-bike, and a car donated by Fremont Ford! Our middle school winners of the bikes were Emberlynn Hopkins-Gillespie, Aubrey Jurecki, and Jordyn Newell. The winner of the e-bike was Emma Kempf. Sophomore Justice Hill won the car. Justice needed a car and loves her new ride! We could not hold this event without the generous donations of our sponsors. **Holton Middle/High School would like to sincerely thank Fremont Ford, The Pizza Mill, Slater Directional Drilling, Twin Lake Greenhouse, The Crane Family Foundation, Chartwells, The Scoop, Yodels, Hackley Community Care, and Dawn Hall. Thank you so much!**



From left to right: Deputy Lindahl, Ed Devine - owner of Fremont Ford, Justice Hill and Mr. Tyers.

### Geometry in Construction

Mr. Fishel and Mr. Kamrowski acknowledged the 2022-2023 1st-ever Holton High School Geometry in Construction class in a ceremony to celebrate the completion of the shed that the class built for Holton Public Schools. Administrators, school board members, and donors to the program were also honored. On Holton!



### HOLTON RED DEVILS ESPORTS

The Holton Red Devils Esports team concluded their second season of MHSEL Esports play at the end of April. They participated in two Nintendo Switch titles; Super Smash Brothers Ultimate and Mario Kart 8 Deluxe. Although they did not make the MHSEL playoffs this year, they did enjoy an upgraded Esports facility and more practice and competition time. The Esports team plans on hosting a fall Smash and Mario Kart tournament for other local schools. Over the past two years the program has seen rapid expansion of the team and interest by Holton Students. They hope to have continued success next season and may even add additional titles to their repertoire.







## Principal Letter

Holton Elementary Families,

The 2023-2204 school year has come to a close. Each year the end comes faster and faster. This Spring has brought some very hot summer like days some beautiful spring weather days, and some grey, rainy days. We were very lucky that all of our planned events ended up having perfect weather for them to go on as planned.

As the year ends, we look back at all of the successes that have taken place throughout the year. Some of these are as small as shy kids coming out of their shell and participating more and some are huge as we have seen some of our students make gains larger than is expected in one school year. Whether successes are small or large they are all worth celebrating, and we are so proud of our staff and students for another amazing school year.

As summer begins our hallways and classrooms will transition to prepare for our summer learning program. This program begins on June 17th and goes through August 1st. The program runs six weeks with a break during the week of July 4th. Once again the program will focus on academics in the morning in both math and ELA with Holton Elementary teachers, and moving to Project Focus activities in the afternoon.

I look forward to seeing some of our students throughout the summer, but also hope everyone has the opportunity to relax and enjoy our beautiful Michigan summer. Class assignments will be solidified over the summer and letters will be sent to families at the start of August. As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime at [ebyrnes@holton.k12.mi.us](mailto:ebyrnes@holton.k12.mi.us) or 231-821-1828.

*Enjoy Your Summer, Erin Byrnes, Holton Elementary Principal*



## Hey 6th Graders! (Hey What?!) BEGINNING BAND INFORMATION MARCHING BAND

Mrs. Thompson is preparing for a great show for the upcoming Marching season! Tunes will be selected for this show soon. Leading the Band this year are NEW Drum Majors, IZZY ERICKSON and ELIZABETH STOLL! Also newly appointed to the positions of Field Commander are JACOB BAYNE and EMMA "OLIVER" EDWARDS!

### COLOR GUARD

Emma & Hannah will CO-Captain the Guard this year! Holton Band would also like to welcome our new Guard members, KLOYE LOWDER, KAELEN FREES, and SAVANA BARAJAS!

If you would like to make a donation to the band or deposit money into a student's band account (make checks payable to "Holton Public Schools") and mail it to:

Holton Public Schools  
c/o Gretchen Thompson, Band Director  
6500 Fourth Street  
Holton, MI 49425

## Michigan's Adventure

The fifth grade students enjoyed a glorious day at Michigan's Adventure on Friday, May 31st. One last field trip before they move on to middle school.



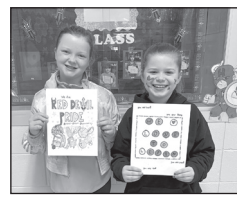
## Year End Celebration

Respect, Effort, and Dependability are the Holton Elementary schoolwide expectations. These expectations are taught throughout the year to all of our students. Students were celebrated on June 6th for working hard to follow these expectations. Bounce houses, slides, and obstacle courses were available for the students to play. There were face painters and tattoos available as well. On their way back to class each student received a popsicle to cool down.



## Yearbook Cover Design Contest Winners

Congratulations to  
Bailey & Hannah!



## JOB FAIR

Three cheers for careers! MS and HS students attended several career events this year. In honor of Manufacturing Day, the 7th grade visited MillerKnoll to see manufacturing in action. Freshmen participated in the MI Career Quest in May where they visited with hundreds local employers from high-demand careers. In December, sophomores toured the CTC in preparation for signing up for it their Junior year. And lastly, our Seniors attended a Job Fair in May. While there, they met with local employers who are seeking summer or full-time employees. Our seniors were expected to shake hands, introduce themselves, and inquire about the company and potential job openings. Many employers commented on how prepared and self-confident Holton students were. Several of them walked out with an application in hand! Here's hoping an employment match was made!

## Holton Branch of the Muskegon Area District Library

*Adventure Begins at Your Library*

Check out [MADL.org/Summer](http://MADL.org/Summer) to sign up for the summer reading program. Track your reading hours to earn awesome prizes!

### HOLTON BRANCH SUMMER CALENDAR

June 24th at 1:00 **Cameron Zvara Magic Show**

July 1st at 1:00 **Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary**

July 8th at 1:00 **Bingo**

July 15th at 1:00 **"Hooked on Reading with Broadway Bootcamp"**

July 22nd at 1:00 **Camp MADL**

July 26th/27th 9:00 - 5:00 **Book Sale**

July 27th 10:00 - 1:00 **Author Meet and Greet**

July 29th at 1:00 **Backyard Safari with ODC**

August 7th at 5:30 **Pokemon Family Fun Night**

August 14th at 1:00 **Fly Away with Science**

July 10, 17, 24, 31 - 11:00 - 12:00 **Playtime Power Hour**

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 10:00 - 12:30 **ABC's of Art**

*Check out [MADL.org/Summer](http://MADL.org/Summer) for more information!*

## Bus Washing



Our annual bus washing event happened on the last day of school, June 11th. Each year the bus riders load on to the bus for the last time of the school year. Since the buses take students home each day, on the last day the buses need to be cleaned up before sending our students home. Staff members prepare for this washing by bringing any sort of vessel that holds water. The buses drive around the bus loop a few times so the staff can make sure the buses get a good cleaning. It is usually warm, like it was this year, the windows are down and the inside of the bus and some of our students also get cleaned. The students get so excited for this each year. It is a fun tradition to say good-bye and send our kids on to summer.

## 4TH GRADERS AT THE CAPITOL IN LANSING







## Graduation 2024



Graduation for the Class of 2024 was held in Red Devil Stadium on May 29, 2024. It was a beautiful ceremony celebrating the graduates and all of their accomplishments. Mr. Justin Wilson, Class of 2002 and Ravenna High School Principal, returned as a guest speaker to inspire the graduates with words of wisdom.

***Congratulations to the class of 2024!!***

## Congratulations Retirees!



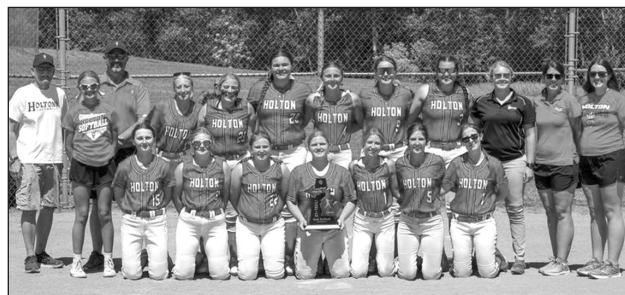
*Deb Straub, Cammie Stanhope, and Tricia Niemi-Mayse. Not pictured - Heather Chickering*

## ATTENTION WRESTLERS!!

7th-12th grade Holton Wrestlers have an opportunity to practice on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at Muskegon Community College (221 S. Quarterline Road, Muskegon, MI 49442).

The PROGRAM paid for all wrestlers to go through fundraising this season. This is a great local program looking to help everyone improve their craft.

## STATE RUNNER UP!!!



*Congratulations to the 2024 softball team on their success this year!!!*

## Recognized for their years of Service to Holton Public Schools!



*Back row - Jeff Wharton (30), Brenda Bosset (30), Jessica Wagenmaker (30)  
Middle row - Donna Chartrand (30), Deb Galy-Veldman (30), Deb Straub (25)  
Front row - Denise Goyings (20)  
Not pictured - Stacy Wright (25)*

## Golden Apple Award Winners



*Read Muskegon Volunteers - Amy Brookhouse and Andy O'Riley. Not pictured - Elizabeth Reid, Hailey Maycroft and Allana Rossell*

## SUMMER MEALS

*Summer meals are in full swing!*

**Free for all students 18 and under!**



### Holton Public Schools Summer 2024

**Contact Food Service @ 231-760-1550 with any questions/concerns**

#### Meet Up/Eat Up Site Information

All students 18 and younger can get a free meal. Children have to eat the meal on-site.

Building	Address	Breakfast	Lunch	Dates
Holton Elementary School	6245 Syers Rd	8:30-9:00a (Mon-Thur)	11:30a-12:00p (Mon-Thur)	6/17-8/1 Closed 7/1-7/5

#### Rural Non-Congregate Meal Distribution Site Information

Summer school students are eligible for a 3 day box, all other students eligible for a 7 day box

Holton Middle/High	6477 Syers Rd Holton MI 49425	3 or 7 day meal distribution Thursdays 10:00a-12:00p	6/20-8/15/24*
True North Community Services	6308 S. Warner Fremont MI 49412	3 or 7 day meal distribution Thursdays 9:00-11:00a	6/20-8/15/24*

\*Will not be distributing the week of July 4th

## CONTACT NUMBERS

Administration Office:  
821-1700 Fax: 821-1724  
High School Office:  
821-1725 Fax: 821-1774  
Middle School Office:  
821-1775 Fax: 821-1774  
Elementary Office:  
821-1825 Fax: 821-1849  
Transportation Office:  
821-1707 Fax: 821-1722  
Maintenance Office: 821-1709  
Athletic Director: 821-1930  
Athletic Office: 821-1707

## Start the Day with School Breakfast!

Did you know that your school offers a healthy **FREE** breakfast every day? Help make sure students are ready to learn by starting the day with school breakfast!

Why eat school breakfast?



**Increased Productivity:**

Students who eat school breakfast have better attendance rates, improved behavior, decreased tardiness, and are more likely to have better comprehension and memory in class.

**Better Health:**

School breakfast can help protect students against obesity and other negative long-term health outcomes. It can also stop hunger-related tummy aches and headaches, decreasing visits to the school nurse.

**Easier Mornings:**

Eating school breakfast helps save money and gives families one less thing in the morning to worry about! Students can reliably eat a healthy, balanced meal every day.

**School breakfast is available to all students, FREE, every day!**

School breakfast includes fruit, whole grains, and protein, making a nutritious start to the day.

**Breakfast location:** Holton Elementary in the classroom  
Holton Middle and High school in the Cafeteria line  
Virtual Academy, GRSP, and Head Start in the classroom

Menu can be found at: <https://holtonschools.nutrislice.com/menu>

Questions or comments? Please call Kayleigh Macomber, Food Service Director, 821-1731

## DISTRICT SERVICES BUILDING SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 3:30  
Phone 231-821-1700

## Back to School Open House

Wednesday, August 21, 2024  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

## \$25 Sports Physicals & Well Child Visits

**Hackley Community Care School Based Health is offering \$25 Sports Physicals and Well Child visits.**

*Two Opportunities to schedule an appointment, conveniently taking place at Holton High School.*

Monday, July 15, 2024  
Thursday, August 1, 2024

8:00AM - 4:00PM

**To schedule an appointment please call 231-733-6692**

## SPRING

## ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES

### SOFTBALL

Ryann Robins, Abbie Fowler and Kenzie Greene (1st Team)  
Sydney McCormick and  
Grace Thompson (Honorable Mention)

### BASEBALL

Steven Kersting and Carter Brant (Honorable Mention)

### GOLF

Tanner Steffens and Rylee Pierce (Honorable Mention)

### TRACK

Daneile Tomasi (1st Team - Hurdles and Long Jump)  
Ava Crowell (1st Team - Long Jump)  
Ava Crowell (2nd Team - Hurdles)  
Danielle Tomassi (Honorable Mention - 400m)  
Justice Hill, Leanna Giddings, Lillian Pierce and  
Ava Crowell (Honorable Mention - 400m Relay)

## Casting Dreams



*Two Holton students were awarded ribbons, one for Honorable Mention and one for 3rd Place.*

Holton students participated in the first ever Casting Dreams competition this year. This event was hosted by the Steel Founders' Society of America. This competition aimed to celebrate the fusion of artistry and craftsmanship through metal casting. This opportunity also allowed students to have a closer look at manufacturing and foundry industries.

Thank you to Tim Mills and his staff at Port City Architectural Signage for taking the time to have the students visit and help in the process of casting their designs. Thank you to Beth and Scott Barnard for getting Holton students involved in this project. Thank you to Marty Holzchuh for putting in endless hours as our school's sponsor and thank you to Erin Turrell for setting up our collaboration with Port City Architectural Signage.



**We Are  
HIRING  
FULL TIME  
BUS DRIVERS**

**No Experience Required!  
Paid Training and Certification!**

Contact:  
Stacy Wright  
swright@holton.k12.mi.us  
(231) 821-1700

