

Dear Tawas Area Students, Staff, and Community:

As we approach the end of the first semester and the midway point of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the accomplishments achieved by our students and staff during the first semester. The following are some of the many highlights from the end of last year and the first semester of 2020:

- We created a remote learning plan to help continue to educate our students from March through June.
- We continue to grow our 1:1 computer initiative to include 5-12 with take-home devices.
- K-4 will have Chromebooks for both the classroom and to keep at home.
 - Streamlined our digital forms into Skyward and continue to increase the use of RevTrak. (starting our 3rd year).
- Tawas Area High School was selected by US News and World Report as a “2020 Best High School”, ranking 211th in the State and 6,144th in the Nation.
- Clara Bolen Elementary received an A rating from the Mackinac Center, ranking the elementary school at 60th in the State.
- Mrs. Karen Decker was nominated as a 2019 Fox 66 Golden Apple Educator.
- Our HS and MS Bands received either 1st place or Superior Ratings in several events and the HS band qualified for the State Festival.
- We had Students selected to both the Regional Honors Choir and State Honors Choir.
 - Two students received 1st and 2nd place ratings in the District Choir Solo and Ensemble, with one student qualifying for the State event(Kirsten Mikkola), who also was accepted to the University of Wisconsin’s Vocal Music Program.
- The MS and HS Knowledge Bowl Teams earned the privilege to compete at the State Tournament in 2020 before the closure.
- Our Robotics Teams finished in the top 15, including a 3rd place finish at a tournament that was hosted here in Tawas in the fall of 2020.
- Middle School MathCounts Team finished 2nd place at their annual competition held at SVSU. This is their highest finish in the team’s history.
- CBE playground upgrade took place on Sept. 21.

- Of 96 graduates last spring/summer, 5 were valedictorians graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA, 2 co salutatorians and 55% graduated with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

- **Tawas Athletics:**
 - We had four Student-Athletes sign to play collegiate sports: Lexi LaJoice, softball at Saginaw Valley University; Ally Frank, softball at Siena Heights; Alysse Russo, softball at Cleary University; and Carly Bolen, soccer and basketball at Delta College.

 - Kirsten Mikkola qualified for the State Bowling Tournament.

 - Despite the season being cancelled, our softball team qualified for Academic All-State Honors.

 - Varsity Volleyball academic all-state in 2020 for the tenth straight year.

 - We successfully completed our fall sports seasons for 2020.

In addition to sharing highlights from this school year, I would also like to take this opportunity to update everyone on our present construction projects. Throughout late summer and early fall, we continued to update our boiler system's infrastructure by adding new circulating pumps. We also added four new windows, and upgraded electrical breaker boxes in the high school. And finally, we replaced the fencing by the bus lines that had been damaged over the years from the freezing and thawing process, which caused them to heave out of the ground.

Tawas Area Schools has a long history of excellence in academics, athletics, and fine arts. As a District, we remain committed to continuous improvement while we strive to provide our students excellent educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

John Klinger

Superintendent

Tawas Area Schools