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CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



Troy Tech Through the Decades: The Evolution of the Renowned Program

From its inception in 1986 to present times, the Troy Tech program continues to shape generations of students through innovation and opportunity.

By Salman Waheed
STAFF WRITER

Implemented in 1986, Troy Tech is a STEM-based program founded to increase student enrollment and introduce new technologies to the school campus. Created with the intention to match the academic interests of students, Troy Tech requires registrants to take one elective course yearly in a career pathway such as media, business, engineering, computer science, cybersecurity or government leadership. Students are permitted to switch pathways or take two elective courses at once. Each class offered within the program satisfies college prerequisites and is an honors-weighted class. Since 1986, eighth-grade applicants to Troy Tech have been required to complete an entrance examination and score highly to enter the program, with the exception of the COVID-19 pandemic during which applicants were required to submit an essay to gain acceptance. As the first magnet program to enter Orange County, Troy Tech started with two pathways focusing on computer programming and engineering courses. Between 2001 and 2002, the business

and media pathways were added to the program. In the 2002 to 2003 school year, the government leadership pathway was added, and in the 2016 to 2017 school year, cybersecurity became the final pathway amended to the program. Troy has also maintained several competitive teams tied to Troy Tech’s career pathways. Warrior institutions like the Oracle school newspaper and Ilium yearbook committee, Esports team, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics, Future Business Leaders of America and CyberPatriot teams directly branch from the media, computer science, engineering, business and cybersecurity pathways, respectively. In order to graduate from Troy Tech, juniors must complete an internship during the summer before their senior year. The six-week program allows students to work within a company, business or other institution to obtain working experience in a career field. All students spend 150 hours in their internships to demonstrate excellence and immersion in a job path. To find internships, students can look through a previous list of Troy internship sites or apply within an organization. Starting off at Troy High teaching computer science in 1993, Troy Tech Coordinator Laurie Downum-Bonnett has been a supervisor for the program since 2001. Each day, she works closely with department leaders, school administrators and Troy Tech teachers to ask



PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. DOWNUM-BONNETT

TROY TECH ANNUAL FAIR 2024: *Troy High School’s Senior Class of 2024 present their summer internships at the annual Troy Tech fair.*

for feedback or suggestions. According to Downum-Bonnett, most pathway additions or program changes are made with the input of Troy staff. “All the developments or additions to the Troy Tech program have come about pretty organically,” Downum-Bonnett said. “New pathways or additional changes have come from the expertise of the staff as well as the trending career trajectories of our student body.” Throughout its existence, the Troy Tech program has received steadily increasing enrollment numbers into the program. As of 2025, over 140 public and private junior high

schools feed directly into Troy Tech. According to Downum-Bonnett, the Troy Tech program remains dedicated to its mission of helping all students pursue their academic interests and endeavors. Students should be able to continue using the program effectively to gain work experience and identify careers, Downum-Bonnett said. “I hope it continues to encourage students to pursue both their academic and future goals,” Downum-Bonnett said. “I also want students’ internships to not only help them get into college, but really also aid them in identifying what colleges and what programs to apply to.”

Soaring to Success: Patricia Wu’s Boeing Internship

Through a competitive selection process and hands-on experience at Boeing, Patricia Wu’s internship highlights the real-world impact of Troy Tech.

By Bianca Naranjo
STAFF WRITER

One of the most important parts of a student’s experience in the Troy Tech program is the required summer internship. Juniors are initially informed about this internship at the beginning of the school year, and are subsequently assigned to complete assignments in preparation of securing internships at their desired institution. These assignments include job shadows, creating a resume, answering possible interview questions and applying to internship sites that align with their interests and potential careers. The assignments are looked over by the students’ assigned pre-internship coaches who give student feedback on what they can improve on to increase their chances of acquiring an internship. Once summer starts, the now-rising seniors are expected to embark on their internship of choice, creating a schedule and frequently updating their advisers on their experience and work completed through check-ins and timesheets. Patricia Wu, a current senior and former intern at Boeing’s Huntington Beach site, speaks on her participation as an intern, starting with the selection process: “They prioritize people who were taking a level design in Tech, I think also a level in computer science,” Wu said. “They asked me a couple questions like, ‘Why do you want to intern

for Boeing?’...I don’t think I heard back until the middle of January where around 30 to 35 kids were invited to interview for any of the Boeing, Raytheon or Parathon positions,” Wu said. “I did an interview with Mr. Reed and Mrs. Downum...And then I think around like this time last year, I got an email that was like, ‘You’ve been selected for Boeing’ and so that was really great,” Wu said. Interns may obtain positions as early as Wu (mid-February), while some others may take more time, extending their internship search into April or May. This is intentional, as some processes to apply take a considerable amount of time, and students may be rejected from sites before finding a match. Newly accepted interns like Wu may feel a bit overwhelmed by the possibilities of their internship, but most sites offer a consistent workload that students should easily manage. Wu describes what a normal day at her internship would typically look like, stating: “I’d get to my laptop or my cubicle. I checked my emails. I checked in with my team members, and then I would head into the failure analysis lab, where I interned. And I would just continue categorizing past projects on a spreadsheet,” Wu said. Of course, as internships are meant to mimic true work environments, students can find themselves entrusted with more careful tasks, which Wu personally experienced: “I had a Boeing issued computer that all of my work had to be done on because there’s a lot of sensitive information,” Wu said. Despite the consistency of most internships, students will still find challenges in other parts of their experience, including time management, communication



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA WU

PATRICIA WU’S BOEING INTERNSHIP: *Troy Tech senior Patricia Wu (third from the left) is pictured with her team members at the Huntington Beach internship site.*

and learning new skills. Wu personally learned to work without Troy students in her internship team, despite Boeing being a relatively common site for Troy: “We were all different interns from all different schools...So I didn’t know anyone in my group, and you had to make friends that way,” Wu said. However, what initially seemed like a daunting part of her internship became a highlight of it for Wu: “My favorite part was definitely during our lunch breaks, me and the other kids in my group, because luckily, we got along really well. I still talk to some of them...we would all pile into our cars, and we would just go to like random places for lunch,” Wu said.

As she looks toward the future, Wu is excited to apply the skills she gained at Boeing to her next academic and professional endeavors. Her journey exemplifies how real-world experience can shape a student’s career path and open doors to new possibilities in the every-evolving world of technology and engineering. The Troy Tech internship paves the way for students like Wu to learn more about what their career and future may hold, in addition to preparing them for their entry into the workforce. This internship does not only honor the academic aspect of Troy Tech, but furthermore, honors the part of this program that allows students to see their future in action.

Advancing Inclusion: The Growth of Troy High’s Special Education Department

Troy High’s Special Education Department has expanded to enhance accessibility and support for students with special needs.

By Paulina Lee
STAFF WRITER

Troy High School’s Special Education program was founded in 1968 to ensure that Warriors with diverse learning needs had access to the support and resources necessary for academic and social success. Now, many years later, the program has grown significantly, adapting to new educational approaches, efforts and policies to promote inclusion. In the 1970s and 1980s, students in the Special Education program took core classes like math, science and history, but also participated in classes like Functional Life Skills, which are still offered today. These classes focus on teaching basic daily tasks, such as making a sandwich or writing their name and address. They also work with speech therapists and take physical education classes in the gym. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, passed in 1990, emphasized inclusion and equal access to learning with the least restriction. According to Mild Moderate Department Chair and Case Carrier Mr. Link, this act was one of the most significant changes to the program. “The IDEA law changed the Special

Education completely, as it took the department from being completely segregated to included,” Link said. “[Before] this act, [Troy High School] used to have a General Education population, and then the Special Education was kind of segregated. This act killed that, it said that these kids should not be segregated campus.” More classes at Troy began integrating students in the Special Education program, allowing them to learn alongside their general education peers. Later, the introduction of Individualized Education Programs ensured that students received the necessary support to succeed in a classroom. These personalized plans helped students receive the accommodations and resources they need to reach their academic goals. Technology has also played a major role in shaping the department into what it is today. Assistive tools like text-to-speech have helped students with limited reading skills access higher-level content. Online platforms such as Lexia have also provided nonverbal students with new ways to engage with the material. These resources have enabled students to better demonstrate understanding and express themselves. The success of the Special Education program is largely due to the dedication of educators and administrators. According to former Special Education teacher and current social science teacher Mr. Shirota, former Department Chair Mr.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEST BUDDIES

BEST BUDDIES: *Troy’s Best Buddy volunteers sharing a meal with students in the Special Education Department.*

Rich Hess, shaped the Special Education department into what it is today. His vision extended beyond academics, focusing on providing students with life experiences. His efforts led to unforgettable events like field trips to Hawaii, Yosemite and Disneyland, where students had the opportunity to create lasting memories. “[Mr. Hess] wanted to give kids more than just an academic education,” Shirota said. “He wanted these kids to have experiences that some other kids get that they do not.” Troy High School has made significant progress in integrating Special Education students into the general

school community. The school’s Best Buddies chapter, an organization dedicated to creating friendships and opportunities for people with disabilities, has earned multiple Best Chapter awards. “I think the inclusion of Special Education in all facets of school, whether it is in the classroom, on the sporting event field or Best Buddies,” Link said. “It has gone from students being completely unknown to most of the students on campus getting more acceptance.” Troy’s Special Education program has had a lasting impact, not only on its students but on the entire Troy High School community.

Special Education Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Morgann Teeter’s Lasting Impact

Mrs. Morgann Teeter shares her experiences, teaching philosophy, and the meaningful ways she supports students in Troy High’s Special Education program.

By Kathleen Hong
STAFF WRITER

Laughs and shouts abound in the classroom as students settle into their desks. The school bell goes off with a ring, and Special Education teacher and educator in the Fun Academics and Community Experiences Program Morgan Teeter greets her students with a smile and positive attitude, ready to dive into the day’s lessons. As a member of Troy’s faculty for nine years, Teeter always strives towards excellence in her teachings and goes above and beyond in support for her students. For Teeter, teaching isn’t just about academics; it’s about creating a nurturing space where students can grow, thrive, and gain confidence to navigate the world. Teeter was first introduced to the Special Education Department as she progressed through her journey of becoming a teacher. She initially planned to teach English in a community college, and had decided to take a gap year after receiving her Bachelor’s degree to apply for graduate school. During that time, she was required to work, and was offered a position as an ASL interpreter for a young student with Down syndrome. Teeter accepted the job and stepped into a Special Education classroom for the first time as a result. She adored her students in this new job and quickly became immersed

in the department. Following up from this job, Teeter continued working with Special Education students in various schools as she began her PhD program. After receiving her masters degree, Teeter decided to dedicate herself to teaching Special Education and joined Troy’s faculty. “I fell in love with the kids and the program,” Teeter said. “And then after I got my masters, I decided I’d work as a Special Education teacher. Troy hired me, and I’ve been here ever since.” When Teeter first joined Troy High School’s Special Education Department, the program focused on making their students’ high school experience as fun and lively as possible. Teeter, however, believed that there are many more possibilities for these students that extend beyond the classroom walls. She strongly believed that the department should emphasize and prioritize setting up and preparing their students for success and happiness after graduation. This belief was brought to reality over the next 10 years, as the Special Education department transitioned towards building their students’ independent skills. Now, Teeter enjoys witnessing her students learn life skills, such as learning how to cook, clean and navigate their communities as well as go on to work jobs after graduation. The program has also created opportunities for special education students to achieve higher levels of education with support from other teachers on campus including Mr. Hufferd, Mr. Nguyen, and Mr. Thomas, who welcomed many Special Education students into their classes. Teeter believes the Special Education Department has truly helped their students grow to see



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOD MORNING AMERICA

MRS. TEETER HONORED: *In a special feature episode of Good Morning America, Mrs. Teeter is awarded \$10,000 in recognition of her outstanding efforts.*

themselves as capable, competent individuals who are able to achieve their goals. “Something we really help students do is learn to see themselves as capable, competent individuals,” Teeter said. “I think we... really help empower them to be... a productive person of society that... has meaning for the world and gives meaning to the world.” Now, looking towards the future, Teeter continues to strive forward. For her students, she’s continuing to set them up for success by teaching them the basic academic and life skills they’ll need to achieve their personal and post-secondary goals. As an educator, she’s pushing herself to continue her personal learning journey to better serve her

students. She remains dedicated to finding innovative ways to enhance the program. Whether through implementing new teaching methods or fostering a more inclusive school culture, she is committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of her students. As Teeter reflects on her years of teaching, she encourages others to remember that Special Education students don’t just belong to their department; they belong to the Troy community and should be treated as such. “Remember that students in the FACE program are Troy students, they are your peers,” Teeter said. “Being kind and accepting that...they are a student just like you...goes a really long way.”

The Trail-blazing Science Olympiad Team Continues Its Impressive Academic Legacy

Science Olympiad offers uniquely challenging STEM opportunities from classrooms to national competitions.

By Anastasia Efremova
STAFF WRITER

Among Troy’s many programs, one stands out for its rich history and experiences: Science Olympiad. Within this program, students compete as two teams in STEM-related subjects and are tested in event categories such as study, lab, and building. Science Olympiad provides students with opportunities to explore science beyond classrooms, making the program an excellent experience for aspiring scientist Warriors.

In 1987, Science Olympiad started as a small team led by former physics teacher and current coach Kurt Wahl.

As the team built its prestigious reputation, member selection evolved from teacher recruitment to a highly competitive tryout process that still stands today.

“It went to a different level,” Wahl said. “This way, [students] had to prepare in advance and show that [they] were actually willing to work on something.”

Warriors prepare for competitions during the fall and compete throughout the spring semester. Before competition season, students participate in invitational tournaments, which are considered practice events. Troy’s Science Olympiad teams consistently earn opportunities

to compete at universities like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—a testament to the team’s academic excellence. After these tournaments come regional, state, and national competitions. Science Olympiad has brought home the state championship for 27 consecutive years and nationals 13 times.

Building such an impressive legacy is no easy feat, but the tight knit community that Science Olympiad fosters provides a consistent support system for the team members.

Students and captains travel, study and live together for years, building lifelong connections. On top of the strong internal bonds, the team receives much support from parent volunteers for food and transportation. It truly takes a village to earn the accolades that the Science Olympiad team earns.

With an inspiring history and bright future, Troy Science Olympiad is a challenging yet rewarding program for ambitious students with a passion for science. Fostering a community where everyone is motivated towards one goal makes the hard work worth it, team captain Josephine Idanawang said.

“It is a lot of [work] with organizing, but I enjoy motivat[ing] my team to do our best during competitions and practices,” Idanawang said. “Everything I learn is connected to what I experience, and that is what keeps me interested in the program.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
SCIOLY DES-TROYS: Teams A and B win first in the 2025 MIT Invitational.

Science Olympiad Spotlight: Cloris Shi

Throughout her four years on the Troy Science Olympiad team, senior Cloris Shi has poured her passion for biology into competitions and connections with like-minded peers.

Shi’s journey began in junior high with the Disease Detectives event. Especially relevant during the pandemic, epidemiology challenged her to explore disease and population health.

At Troy, the team’s demanding schedule taught Shi balance. After practices, she treated herself to her favorite foods, believing relaxation and

fun are just as important as rigorous study. “Balance is important for mental health and maximizing productivity while enjoying life,” Shi said.

Beyond personal discipline, the program introduced Shi to a nationwide community of passionate peers, reinforcing her love for science. She hopes to nurture this sense of community at Harvard University this fall.

“Science Olympiad got me into finding the people that I want to surround myself with ... [as well as] finding a subject that I really care about,” Shi said.



PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program Sets Warriors Up For Success

Through pristine uniforms and exact formations, Warriors learn discipline through the community of NJROTC.

By Ethan Ferrer
STAFF WRITER

As a pathway in the Troy Tech program and an iconic community on campus, the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has been central to Troy’s culture and academics for years. Despite its name, NJROTC is meant only as a citizen development program, and military service is not required. Through the Navy core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, NJROTC improves students’ skills in leadership, precision and problem-solving. Over the years the program has made many achievements—in 2022, Troy NJROTC ranked second best in the nation in 2022 and

first at NJROTC Nationals in 2024. In essence, Troy’s NJROTC program allows students to excel, providing them with countless military and STEM-oriented opportunities.

NJROTC holds many events that accompany its expanding activities. Events held at Troy include the Troy Athletic Field Meet, with 12 to 15 athletic competitions, and Basic Leadership Training, where students learn military skills such as preparing uniforms and marching. Outside of campus, NJROTC students compete in events such as the traditional and military-based exhibition drill and marksmanship, where air guns are used to fire at targets. The program also opens doors for many tangential opportunities through specialized categories such as the STEM-focused Cyberpatriot, robotics, and drones teams.

With hundreds of students involved at Troy alone, NJROTC helps cadets to meet

new people and gain valuable insights. NJROTC Color Guard Department Head Annie Guo appreciates the program’s abundant opportunities. At events, Color guard displays the U.S. and Navy flags during the national anthem—through this, Guo learned responsibility, leadership and confidence. 1st Sergeant Barnes, a Naval Science Instructor, encourages students to both act independently and build connections. Commander Lauper, Troy NJROTC’s senior instructor, agrees: “We [are] a family. Students come...from different middle schools [and] don’t know anybody else, but when they come into [N]JROTC, they make friends, find[ing] a connection to the school [and] to the community.”

By joining NJROTC, students will not only excel personally and academically, but gain a community that leaves a lasting bond and sense of family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NJROTC
LEVELING UP: NJROTC upperclassmen huddle during leadership training to pass on the torch to underclassmen.

NJROTC Master Chief Petty Officer

Senior Jally Yang and her armed exhibition drill team execute a perfect routine before a cheering crowd, spinning and catching the rifle in a fluid motion. As the cadet Master Chief Petty Officer of Troy NJROTC, or student third in command, Yang uses exciting moments like these to inspire and promote camaraderie among the



many cadets under her care. Yang’s journey in NJROTC began with a curious step into an unfamiliar environment. Having transferred from a different district, she entered NJROTC to try something new. Now, as c/MCPO, she handles the crucial responsibility of guiding and developing enlisted cadets. Yang is always searching for new ways to connect with her underclassmen, hoping to foster their love for the program and for each other.

Jally Yang And Her Cadet Family

“I just hope the new cadets will see the opportunities this unit offers...and...love this unit as much as we do,” Yang said.

As she connects with the new generation, Yang also reflects on her past journey as a first-year cadet. She recalls finding comfort in the drill team’s tight-knit community, which they endearingly nicknamed “Ohana,” after the Hawaiian word for family. She carries this value closely when teaching the new cadets, preserving its sense of family and its welcoming learning environment.

Yang hopes to showcase these values of

development and unity in the upcoming Annual Military Inspection, a yearly event where officers come together to inspect and evaluate JROTC programs across the nation. In this presentation, Yang hopes to pass on the legacy of fostering a sense of community, honoring the strong familial bond of the unit and sustaining the haven NJROTC represents for its cadets.

“I want to leave an impact in this way before I leave and way after I leave,” Yang said. “It’s a family to me, and I just want to know that it’s going to be fine.”

PHOTO BY LAUREN SONG

Troy Cyber Defense’s Winning Streak Continues at CyberPatriot Nationals

With five national championships and a culture of collaboration, Troy Cyber Defense continues to lead in youth cybersecurity.

By Victoria Yang
OPINION EDITOR

Five time National Championship winning Troy Cyber Defense has had 25 teams advance to the National Finals of CyberPatriot, a youth cybersecurity competition, since its establishment in 2010. Most recently, Team W.A.T.T., short for We Are Troy Tech, won both the Cisco challenge and overall competition in the All Service Division last March. Students’ evident passions for cybersecurity are nurtured by hands-on teachers, expansive opportunities, and countless resources—such empowerment is proof of the diverse opportunities offered at Troy, especially for STEM-loving high school students.

Students in the program compete in teams of six, collaborating to complete cybersecurity challenges. Tasks include guarding Windows and Linux computers against threats, as well as building a simulated online network. Teams either compete in the All Service Division, which requires all members to be part of the ROTC program, or the Open Division, which is open to all students. The top 12 teams during semifinals from each division advance to the nationals competition in Maryland.

To succeed, contestants must explore and learn on their own, practicing for the application-based tasks. “[The program taught me] the value of...how to learn and work for myself,” said Evan Deters, Troy Class of 2021, who now works at SpaceX.

Besides just mastering the topics, teamwork is also crucial for success. Members are typically divided into three specialties—Windows, Linux, or Cisco networking—with a mix of all three on each team. Not only do teammates have to work with their specialty partners, they must also make sure the entire team is on the same page. Collaboration within teams helps enhance each member’s specialized skill while building a widely applicable skillset. This team setting helps develop not only technical cyber skills, but also soft skills of interpersonal communication—an essential life skill that Cyber Defense intentionally emphasizes.

“I think in general, cyber is not really about just how good you do individually. It’s about the team chemistry between you and your members...and how you communicate with them,” said Michael Xiong, the team captain who led W.A.T.T. to victory.

In an unexpected way, the collective tension of practicing with and competing against one another brings students together. Troy Cyber has created a community across teams, forming lasting bonds between hundreds of students. Instead of having teachers lecture, student instructors lead



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY CYBER DEFENSE

SECURING THE LEGACY: Over 15 years of cybersecurity, Cyber Defense totals 25 teams to advance to the CyberPatriot National Finals Competition.

practices after school. The system of peer-led learning allows knowledge to be passed down from upperclassmen to underclassmen, allowing older students to serve as role models for newer members. As seasoned participants themselves, older students are experienced with competition materials and well-equipped to give advice. This system of trust and relatability allows everyone in the program to learn from and be inspired by national-level competitors. One cannot forget the valuable wisdom of the instructors either.

“I think befriending your instructors

is one of the biggest points that you should do just simply because they can give you a lot more advice than, let’s say, your teammate or somebody outside your team,” said Xiong, who is also an instructor and a member of the Development Team that makes curriculum and practice materials.

With such a tightknit, experienced team of dedicated Warriros, Troy Cyber Defense is sure to continue to excel. As the team prepares for this year’s upcoming competitions, Oracle wishes them the best of luck as they take on the National Finals.

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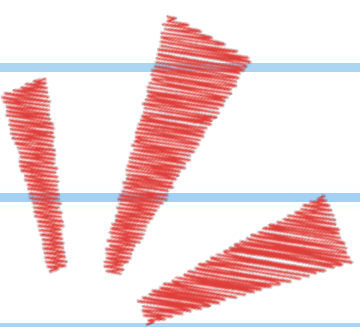
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Our His-TROY



Take a walk down Troy’s memory lane with this timeline of our school’s rich history, from 1960 to 2025.

Compiled by Jenny Huang and Samantha Luo, NEWS EDITORS, articles by Iman Babiker, COPY EDITOR, and Chelsea Engelhardt, STAFF WRITER, graphics courtesy of Canva, photos courtesy of Variety and San Diego Metro Magazine

2010 - 2025

After decades of growth, Troy gained recognition for its innovative tech programs, wide course selection, and a slew of extracurricular opportunities supporting student interests in computer science, music, speech, cadet programs, performative arts and so on. Further student support became available when Troy adopted the 1:1 Chromebook device program, which allocates and distributes Chromebooks to each student for campus and at-home use at no cost to students and families. In 2019, Troy adopted the globally-recognized Cambridge AICE Diploma program, which offers students more diploma options and allows them to explore unique courses such as Global Perspectives and Research amongst other higher-level courses. Troy’s acclaimed Science Olympiad team accomplished a record number of 13 national wins after competing nationally for a sum of 29 times and earning 24 state titles in a row. Students continue to thrive in an environment cultivated by dedicated teachers and staff as a culture defined by commitment to intellectual and extracurricular growth, all while exploring their passions and finding possible career paths. With enriching theater programs, a talented orchestra and marching band, and comprehensive film program, Troy continues to champion its students’ endeavors in the arts and humanities.

1990 - 2000

Beginning the decade with a significant increase in test scores, Troy High School gained recognition for top scores in the FJHSD district’s writing tests, making it eligible to pursue the National School Recognition Program in 1990. In supporting the growing student body, Troy also curated more key programs and campus resources for students. Troy initiated its English as a Second Language (ESL) program to support an influx of students from various cultures and native languages. The ESL program was designed to provide individualized instruction for students as well as facilitate smooth integration into the student body and the school’s comprehensive curriculum. By 1995, Troy was a recipient of grants such as the Tech Prep Grant, earning a sum of \$30,000 that helped fund the addition of five new courses to the Computer Science department as well as a new computer lab. From exploring software through languages like C++ to delving into the intersection of computer science and writing via the Technical Writing course, the grant helped Troy further expand the plethora of resources it offers students.

1960 - 1970

Troy High School opened its doors to students in 1964. Along with an entirely new staff and student body, the school utilized a new educational method called modular scheduling, a system in which school days consisted of several 20-minute sections instead of longer instructional periods. In spring of 1966, Troy hosted its first prom at Fullerton College. In 1967, students voted for an open campus during lunch, and at the start of the spring semester that year the school granted upperclassmen the opportunity to leave at lunch with restrictions on cars. This open campus policy still exists today! Any upperclassman is welcome to leave school property at lunch with or without cars and permission slips. Also in 1967, Troy hosted the first school sanction swap meet, where clubs sold miscellaneous items such as clothes, old furniture or household items to raise money. Today, Warriors raise money for their clubs by participating in similar events such as Food Fest. Additionally, with a new school came new construction. The construction of what is now known as the 500s building was finished in 1968.

1970-1980

The 1970s for Troy were more than just the disco age, with a kaleidoscope of new features and events. As the age of modular scheduling ended, the 1973 school year began with an eight-period schedule starting at 8:10 and ending at 3:00. This schedule included an “inperiod,” or break, between first and second periods, with four-minute passing periods. Similar to the zero period of today, first period was an optional class that select students took before the designated school day. In 1975, Troy introduced the first integrated learning program with Fullerton College, granting students the opportunity to individualize their education to their interests while still earning their mandatory high school credits. In the late 70s, the construction of a new gym began, leading to the North Gym we have today.

1980-1990

The 1980s for Troy was possibly the most revolutionary and change-driven period in its entire history. In California, the Hughes-Hart Educational Reform Act of 1983 was put into effect, and 800 million dollars were allocated to public schools to implement long-lasting educational reforms. With this opportunity, the STEM-based Specialized Secondary Program named Troy Technology was born, eventually growing into the Troy Tech magnet program that Troy is known for today. Aside from the new program, Troy enhanced its educational standard through the implementation of further Advanced Placement courses. As graduation requirements increased mandatory science credits by one year in 1985, Troy added the AP Biology and AP Chemistry classes to the curriculum. Consequently, with the continued addition of challenging courses and high school rigor, Troy established stricter requirements to move up grade levels by adding a reclassification of grade level needs. With this new district policy, students were required to reach a minimum amount of credits in order to be promoted.

2000 - 2010

Troy began the new millennium with scores exceeding state and national averages on the SAT 9 in 2002, cementing its position as a top scoring school in Orange County. Striving towards becoming a high-tech educational space for students, Troy purchased technological supplies such as computers, projectors, electronic whiteboards and a network server funded by \$76,000 from the Wilson W. Phelps foundation. In 2005, the school also added a new science wing to its campus as well as a host of renovations to campus utilities and classrooms to meet its growing technological demands via a campus-wide renovation and remodeling project. As the campus envisioned new heights for its facilities and resources, Warrior students also continued to reach for the stars. Alongside their intellectual endeavors, Warrior students also made it a point to pursue their passions and talents with the same commitments. Warriors’ interests and talents vary widely, ranging from nationally competitive dance teams, to well-applauded theatre, to student-led speech and debate, to a beloved marching band, and so on. At Troy, there truly is a place for everyone.

Rob Bredow, Class of 1992

Academy Award nominee Rob Bredow started his business Bredow Video Productions as a student at Troy. Enrolled in both the Troy Tech program and the International Baccalaureate diploma program, Bredow developed a wide variety of skills that allowed him to pursue videography as well as computer science. He pursued projects in animated computer graphics as well as helped make instructional videos for the school library. Today, Bredow is a visual effects artist further exploring creative technology innovation as Senior Vice President of digital studio Industrial Light & Magic. He also served as VFX supervisor and co-producer on the acclaimed film “Solo: A Star Wars Story,” for which he was nominated for an Academy Award under category Best Visual Effects.



Alumni Through The Ages

Daniel Lee, Class of 2011

Troy Tech alum Daniel Lee explored engineering through shadowing and internship opportunities facilitated by the Troy Tech program. Six years later, Lee found himself as a full-fledged engineering student and startup founder of Hush Technology, creator of the world’s first smart ear plug for curated noise cancellation and functions. Lee pitched his product at EvoNexus Demo Day, where he won \$50,000 for product development. After raising nearly \$600,000 on the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter in 2014, Lee’s startup took off, earning him a spot on Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list in 2016. Lee credited the experience and resources he had at Troy for the domino effects that led him to his current endeavors. In 2020, Lee co-founded Lumia, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of those with chronic illnesses by designing wearable technology, where he continues to work today.



Troy Athletics Plays an Important Role in the School Community

The Warriors have always worked hard to lead all 25 of the school’s teams to success for 60 years, and now, the Warriors continue to be competitive in their fight for athletic victory.

By Jayden Beaumont
STAFF WRITER

From the lanes in the swimming pool to the dust of the baseball fields, sports are a vital component to Troy’s vibrant community. The school’s extensive athletic program is not only largely successful, but also helps to create empowered and well-rounded students. The Warrior athletes are extremely impressive. There are 25 teams at Troy and 750 students who play at least one sport—though many play multiple—all while maintaining an admirable 3.30 unweighted GPA. Sports are a large commitment for any student and each participant must learn how to balance Troy’s rigorous academics with the time they dedicate to their team. These athletes have led their teams and the school to triumph. Athletic Director Chris Blume said, “Troy’s had a

long history of having superb athletics.” This past winter season, five of six teams qualified for the California Interscholastic Federation tournament, marking outstanding seasons for them all. Additionally, four of the five fall sports teams went on to CIF. Girl’s golf won the first round of CIF and the first-year girls flag football team, in an amazing feat of hard work and athleticism, won the entire championship. In addition, the Girls Flag Football team made Troy history by winning the CIF tournament in the first year of the team’s performance. They were not the only team in Troy’s history to take first in CIF. Girls



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
TROY ATHLETICS

basketball, tennis, golf, baseball and wrestling have wins under their belt. Not only are the athletes devoted to making each team the best it can be, but so are the coaches. “We have great coaches at this school. We pride ourselves on them,” Blume said. Sports offer Troy students priceless opportunities and life lessons. Varsity golfer Cyanne Kim said, “[Being on the team] improved my study techniques as well as being a more well-rounded student.” She also reflected that golf has taught her how to motivate and support others. The truth is, most of the school’s athletes

will not go on to play at the next level, but Troy athletics still have a lasting impact on every participant. However, many athletes still commit to universities to play their sport. While balancing academics and athletics at Troy is tough, considering the rigor of the school, the Warriors fight through to maintain their talent and position in their sport and with their grades. Blume reflected on the goals of the school’s coaches. “We really want them to have a great experience playing the game, [and] to teach them life skills, to teach them how to be good citizens,” he said. In a greater effort to support athletes, Blume created the Warrior Leadership Academy, which takes athletes from each sport and teaches them important skills on how to be a leader in their community. In a school as academically competitive as Troy, athletics are often overlooked, but that does not mean sports are not an integral part of our campus and a huge source of school pride. “You can compete in the classroom and do well and succeed, but you can do it on the athletic field as well,” Blume said. “We do it every single day at this school.”

Teacher Dave Shiota Reflects Upon Troy’s Innovations and Traditions

Longtime teacher, coach and alumn, Dave Shiota examines the shift in culture and emphasizes the importance of restoring balance after experiencing 42 years in Troy High School.

By Seungwoo Lee
STAFF WRITER

Although Troy Tech, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge are a part of Troy, they do not define the school. Rather, the culture and people at the school are what create the name and distinctness of what Troy is. Both a formal coach of Girls’ Flag Football as well as being a teacher for Government and U.S. History, Shiota is an alumnus who played Varsity in baseball, basketball and football during his high school career, enabling him to see the Warriors change and develop for 42 years. As a member of the graduating class of 1987, Shiota was able to experience what the current students can not comprehend. With only a total of 160 students in honor classes, no calculus courses available and two APs being offered: AP U.S. History and AP English Language. This was the outlook for Troy the year before Troy Tech

and IB programs were announced. Now, Troy has become an extreme academic institution focusing heavily on computer sciences alongside programs that allow students to explore different fields. However, along with these innovations, the Warriors started to lose bits of the spirit that made what Troy was. Deteriorating the harmony between sports, culture, and education. Shiota emphasized the importance of being young and having excitement in high school while

still being balanced with your work. “When I was here, for the honors kids, Monday through Thursday was school, like if you went out, we’d go out to the library and do our homework and study. But for Friday and Saturday nights, it was our time to go have fun, hang out, go to the beach, just do something other than school.” The most memorable experience for Shiota was winning the CIF championship for baseball, which was the first time Troy had won it. Back in the

80s, there was true competition and rivalry between schools, especially with Sunny Hills and Fullerton. The competitiveness between the schools made each game from football to basketball have constant tension and enjoyment from the crowd and the teams. However, the rivalry has decreased among athletes recently. The spirit to compete became nonexistent because players care less about being a team that represents the school and fighting for that name. Shiota emphasizes the cultural difference between when he was a student and where he is now. Although he is fond of how far the Warriors have come and appreciates every staff and journey from being a teacher to coaching multiple sports. Shiota desires for Troy, as much as it is wonderful, he believes it can be better, finding the balance between academics and athletics being not just great but the best in all categories. “Teachers came up with the concept of Troy Tech when there was no tech school anywhere. The point was they wanted to be better and from that point on, whether it was Mr. Hufford in drama or whether it was all the wonderful computer science teachers or math teachers, they were always trying to push the envelope to be better. Be better at whatever you do.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The Troy Choir : A Harmonious History

The Troy Choir has an extensive history full of sensational singing, a variety of awards and a loving environment full of joy!

By Celeste Hollingsworth
STAFF WRITER

Since Troy’s grand opening in 1964, students’ motivated spirit lends to large involvement in a variety of activities. Choir, in particular, continues to be an essential fragment of a multitude of programs offered by Troy. The choir program currently includes three distinct choirs; Vocal Ensemble, a mixed, advanced choir; Concert Choir, a mixed non-audition choir; and Ladies First, an all-girls show choir that adds a special flair to the choir program. Choir classes are a high-energy and fun way to break up the daily academic routine. Nevertheless, the music program upholds high standards implemented by Mark Henson, the choir director. By emphasizing the often unseen parts of choir, such as sight reading and music theory, Henson allows students to develop a deeper understanding of music as a whole. To corroborate this talent, Ladies First has numerous first-place awards from many competitions, including the Brea Olinda California Classic, in addition to excelling in evaluative festivals. Vocal Ensemble has also earned superior ratings in the Southern California Vocal Association festival. These success stories are not



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY CHOIR

VIBRANT VOICES: *Ladies First opens their Fall Concert with a gorgeous medley of Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend by Marilyn Monroe and Material Girl by Madonna.*

just limited to the highest-level choirs, as Concert Choir, the non-audition choir, also succeeds at sight-reading evaluations and festivals. The music program opens its doors to experienced and inexperienced students alike, adding

to Troy’s abundance of opportunities. These accomplishments and the growth of the choir program can largely be accredited to Henson. As a former Troy student, Henson’s familiarity with the Troy experience creates a safe environment for student’s musical and personal growth. He reflects, “It was my choir experience in high school. It’s the reason that I do what I do now, because it was very positive.” When Henson came to teach at Troy, there was only one period of choir. Slowly but surely, he built the program into having three different choir periods. Vocal Ensemble president Steven Logwood notes that choir being the largest in the district provides him with the space to share his passion for the arts with so many other students. Although the nuances of choir have changed throughout the years, the hard work within the one-hour time frame remains consistent. The day varies for each choir, but it generally involves warming up and then preparing classical or jazz songs for upcoming concerts or festivals. Henson shares, “I think that the alumni people that were in the program years and years ago would be very proud to see that it has come back and that it’s really strong.” Henson’s history as a choir student at Troy brings the original spirit of the choir program back to life, and in doing so, represents Troy’s core values and traditions. Through different students bonding over a common love of music, the music program is a direct reflection of the strong community at Troy. Regardless of students coming from different areas, Troy is one entity motivated by progress, just like the choir program.

Troy’s Booming Band and Orchestra

Take a look at the history behind Troy’s diverse band and orchestra programs, which include Marching Band, Color Guard, Symphony Orchestra and more!

By Riddhi Arora
STAFF WRITER

At the center of Troy High School’s fine arts program is a rhythmic, beating heart: Troy’s band and orchestra. With the founding of the band program in 1964 and the orchestra in 2004, each consists of roughly 150 students. As students in both groups continue their instrumental studies at Troy, they compete in a plethora of competitions, pep rallies and events, each showcasing Troy students’ constant persistence and outstanding capabilities. No matter what instrument a student plays, each student demonstrates what it means to be a warrior. The band program is split into five groups, providing many different opportunities to match students’ needs. These groups include the Marching Band, which involves color guard; Concert Band, which allows newcomers to hone their skills; Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony, which both require auditions; and Troy’s quality Jazz Band. One of the Marching Band and Wind Symphony’s most impressive accomplishments is consecutively being rated “Superior,” the highest level rating by a panel of judges at band reviews. Additionally, Troy’s excelling Winter Drumline placed second in their 2012

Spring division. Mr. Castillo, Troy’s instrumental music director, mentions how the programs play at a variety of events: “It’s not always competition you know, but something where I’d like to think is more just to make better music for music’s sake.” On a different note are Troy’s orchestra programs, consisting of the Symphony and Advanced String Orchestras. Both groups have excelled in their respective festivals, with the String Orchestra achieving a “Unanimous Superior” rating in their first festival, and the Symphony Orchestra consistently winning a “Superior” rating. Offering opportunities for students to demonstrate their artistic skills in a STEM-heavy school, Troy’s collaborative band programs encourage students to transcend their initial capabilities. Although band and orchestra intend to boost students’ musical abilities, they also learn important leadership skills during classes and summer camps. Angelo Nez, a junior in Troy’s Marching Band, Jazz Band and Orchestra, highlights his biggest accomplishments in band, mentioning, “[I] found out how to work with people and how to be a better leader.” Additionally, many students learn how to communicate better, an essential skill for everyday interactions. Ashlyn Yi, current assistant drum major and student in Troy’s Wind Symphony and Symphonic Orchestra, notes how Troy’s music programs impacted her socially: “Going into band, you really meet everyone who is in the same spot as you, and so you really

get to meet new people, and the bonds you form...are really strong.” Walking into class may not seem like much, but the relationships made and lessons students have learned last a lifetime. From the strong sense of community to the lasting friendships formed,

the multidisciplinary orchestra and band programs embody Troy’s roots, benefiting Troy students in many more ways than one. These programs not only enrich students’ musical capabilities, but inspire teamwork, discipline, and personal growth.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY BAND AND ORCHESTRA

IMPRESSIVE INSTRUMENTS: *Members of the 2024-2025 Troy Jazz Band display their various instruments, which include the drums, electric guitar, saxophone, and more!*

Troy Theatre: A Glimpse Behind the Curtain

Among Troy’s successful academics is a thriving theatre program that stages truly impressive productions.

By Scarlett Clark
STAFF WRITER

Troy’s theatre department is made up of technical theatre classes and two performing classes— Theatre 1, which teaches acting basics, and Theatre Ensemble, in which students apply those skills in festivals and shows. Actors work tirelessly memorizing lines and bringing characters to life. Drama Club President and four-year theatre student Joey Kelly is a passionate actress, having built up techniques through her time in the department. She describes her methods: “It’s really important to know your character. Know what they want.” Other theatre students take a simpler approach: “You just get onstage!” says freshman Matthew Dubei.

Troy’s productions are successful because of the way students work as a tight-knit team. Actors paint sets, stage crew help actors by running lines and everyone works together to do the best they can. “Everyone is really dedicated to a common cause,” says Kelly. “We’re like a family.” This unity is crucial for demanding productions like Troy Theatre’s recent comedy “Rumors,” a fast-moving and witty play that relied on full commitment from its cast and crew. Last year, the department managed to fully immerse audiences in the incredible world-building of “Peter Pan” despite limited resources. This feat was



PHOTO BY NICOLE GIOCOLETTI

TROY THEATRE PRESENTS RUMORS: *Student actors Scarlett Clark and Matthew Yarnell star in Troy’s latest production, Rumors! Rumors is a 1980’s comedy play that takes place during an elegant dinner party and centers around four elite couples.*

made possible because of Troy’s actors’ skills as well as the colossal amount of work technical theatre students put in. At the center of it all is theatre teacher and director Joe Hufferd, who first fell in love with theatre as a Troy student before becoming the program’s second-ever theatre teacher in 1996. Despite being the sole adult running productions, he credits his students: “You need talented kids who are eager to learn... without them, it won’t succeed.” This hands-on approach allows students to develop their skills and interests. Senior theatre student Jonathan Demian

details his appreciation for the creative freedom allowed by Mr. Hufferd: “If you have a passion for something, he’s going to let you try to do that thing. You could say ‘I want to design lights’ and he’s like ‘okay.’” Jonathan exemplifies the program’s learn-by-doing philosophy, having gone from no theatre experience to running sound, light and set design, along with landing main roles in his four-year journey in the department. Students also appreciate how Mr. Hufferd takes productions quite seriously but also manages to build levity into a professional environment.

He describes this balanced approach: “When you can build joy into the day-to-day experience of theatre, I don’t know that I would want to do anything else.” The great environment fostered in the theatre department inspires a sense of purpose in students. Members of the program are some of the most dedicated people on campus, working together like a well-oiled machine to make large-scale productions happen in a small theatre. Despite being a school full of science and technology, Troy’s theatre department is a place where art and creativity thrive.

Routinely Remarkable: Troy Red Hots

The Red Hots have danced their way to state titles and beyond, and they are only going up from there!

By Kailey Reichman
STAFF WRITER

Troy High School is well-known for its excellent technology courses and strong focus on STEM fields. However, what many people may not realize is that the dance program is equally impressive, with a stellar reputation



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY RED HOTS

SENSATIONAL SOLOIST: *Junior Red Hots Co-Captain Olivia Won presents a stunning solo performance.*

and a supportive, tight-knit team. A common theme when speaking to any of the Red Hots is their strong bond and shared passion for dance. Founder Vicki Westbrook coined the team’s name, inspired by the cinnamon candy “Red Hots,” and led them to nationals in Florida during their first year of competing. Essentially, they went from performing at the local Fullerton Auditorium to achieving a perfect one-hundred score for one of their dances at nationals, which Westbrook points out, “was very hard to come by.” Westbrook makes it clear she thought the team was special, saying “The kids that walked through those doors, they were extraordinary.” Just last year, at the USA competition at Pacifica High School in Garden Grove, their Large Jazz, Small Jazz, and X-Small groups all placed first, as did their Large Lyrical and Small Lyrical, who were close runners-up in second place. Team co-captain Claire Blume mentions how winning the jazz category was “probably the most exciting moment of the whole year.” The Red Hots have achieved incredible success, earning recognition and accolades for their dedication and talent. As they continue to put in the hard work, Red Hots always strive for excellence as they focus on shaping the future of the team. The Red Hots team members also speak highly of the program. When asked what sets the team apart from other dance programs in the district, co-captain Sofia Borromeo says, “As a team, it is really important, especially



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY RED HOTS

DAZZLING DANCERS: *Red Hots Small Jazz Group competes at their first regional competition this year.*

during dances, to trust your teammates.” The Red Hots share a drive and passion for their craft, a point co-captain Olivia Won emphasizes: “In our district, we’re one of the only schools that competes. We’re all so passionate about our sport and our art form. Having [these] goals together makes it a lot more special.” Natalia Mata highlights the positive team atmosphere that fuels Red Hot’s success: “The team’s energy and motivating spirit make each performance extremely

exciting.” The Red Hots dance team combines the intelligence of an average Troy student with a passion for their sport, which is clearly reflected in every single one of their incredible performances. From Red Hot’s humble beginnings to winning states last year, the team is making Red-Hot history. With such impressive accolades and achievements, the Red Hots help strengthen Troy’s reputation for student excellence across all areas.

Troy’s Associated Student Body Continues to Unite the Warriors

Troy’s Associated Student Body program works extensively to create a fun and friendly environment on campus, in games, dances and more!

By Eileen Um
FEATURE EDITOR

The bright red shades of Troy’s Associated Student Body’s iconic jumpsuits can be seen roaming the campus on game-days or rally-days. ASB is responsible for representing and providing the needs of each student. To facilitate all student activities, ASB has roles to match. From inter-club organization and rally preparation to poster design and spirit teams enhancing the experience of sports games to outreach, each part of Troy is accounted for. According to ASB teacher-adviser Ms. Contreras, the organization aims to bring students from all groups, interests and personalities together to foster a strong sense of community.

“A lot of kids would rather stay, study, do other things than go out and do things on campus like attend dances,” Contreras said. “And so I feel like we’re trying to shift it back to where it’s more fun, a balance of fun and study.”

Throughout the years, ASB maintained a purpose of making school-affiliated activities enjoyable. However, in recent years, ASB implemented a policy of giving back to the community. Giveaways such as free donuts, free coffee and free socks encourage students to come out to the quad and interact with one another.

“So it’s trying to incentivize and get [the] student body to participate in things,” Contreras said. “But some kids are reluctant, which I’m proud to say that we’re at 92% involvement at the school, so we’re only missing eight percent.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY ASB

Boosting Bonds with the Warriors: *ASB works together to make posters supporting the Warriors’ football team, creating unity within the student section.*

The Warriors’ high student participation is all thanks to the recent implementation of the 5-Star phone application. 5-Star curates barcodes for each student, conveniently doubling as an identification card on their cell phone. More importantly, students can check into campus activities such as school dances, sports games, club meetings and ASB-related giveaways. Despite initial reluctance from students initially unfamiliar with the mechanics of the app, ASB Senior President Riley Chiu speaks on the countless benefits of using 5-Star.

“I think this year we’ve got a system down so we’re able to scan students in for literally anything. Even if it’s just like grabbing a free donut in the morning or like checking into rallies for [the] Elf Dance,” Chiu said. “For [ASB], we see student participation and then we know exactly which students we haven’t reached. So then we try to find ways to reach out to them.”

Executing these projects requires countless hours of dedication from ASB members. On work days, Chiu describes the after-school hours

of poster-painting, decorating and organizing that take place several times per week. Although sports games and dances may not be attended by the whole student body, rallies are exclusively the one ASB event in full attendance. Pep Commissioners prepare rally games and communicate with the countless student organizations set to perform in the rally including teams such as the Red Hots Dance Team, Cheer, Color Guard and NJROTC, as well as cultural clubs like the Vietnamese Student Association and South Asian Student Association. ASB Art Directors manage the backdrops lining the foyer, class posters along the walls of the North gym and detailed decorations that are integral to immersing the students in the theme of the rally.

“I think my freshman year Halloween rally, the Squid Game theme where all of us were in our red jumpsuits with masks on and I think everyone was really impressed with that theme just ‘cause like we really went all in with that one,” Chiu said. “And it was also like one of my first rallies as a

freshman. So I think that one’s probably one of my favorites.”

Not all events are met with the same level of enthusiasm. Chiu believes this is the first lesson one learns within ASB: they cannot please everyone. However, positive reactions from the student body bring about feelings of accomplishment to the members.

“I think it’s rewarding when we’re in rallies and it’s like the dance video things and we’re like watching the crowd’s reaction,” Chiu said. “Sometimes it’s good, sometimes it’s bad, but most of the time when it’s good, like when it’s the prom venue reveal and you hear everyone in the cheering, that’s when it’s the most rewarding.”

The positive effects of ASB are visible within the program itself. As students rise into elected positions to lead their peers, the responsibilities given to them shape their skills. Riley Chiu reflects on her growth as an inclusive team leader, as the class president of all four years at Troy. Within her role, Chiu is responsible for serving the entire student body. She emphasizes the importance of ASB members providing brightness and excitement to the campus and uplifting others with their positive energy.

“I definitely think I’ve learned to branch out and hang out with different people just so that everyone in ASB feels included. And then by doing that, it spreads to them doing the same for people in their grade, not just in ASB.”



ORACLE UNFOLDED

Read more to learn more about the student-led newspaper that brings an issue to your classes every three weeks!

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, article by Finley Dalley, MANAGING EDITOR

2025 celebrates the 60th anniversary of Troy’s student newspaper, Oracle. Since 1964, there has been a constant wave of imagination, creativity, love and excitement for journalism flowing through campus. Oracle is the official student-run print publication, with the mission to “interact closely with our student body to discover relevant news on both an on-campus and national level so that we may better inform our community about the important events that happen all around us.”

Like all good stories, it all starts with an idea. For every issue each student submits three beats, a small blurb covering a range of ideas. Students strive for beats that are timely and relevant. Typical beats include, important school events, updates, notable students to feature, opinions on world affairs, entertainment and lifestyle trends. Once beats are selected and finalized, the beats are assigned to writers, photographers, graphic designers, and cartoonists, and the staff begins the creative process. The staff is run by four individuals, two editor-in-chiefs, one managing editor and one copy editor. They preside over the staff writers and creatives, ensuring deadlines are timely and followed. Once the articles and visuals are finalized, the layout process begins in which the team designs the layout of the physical newspaper. Once the issue is released, the process begins all over again.

Oracle means more than just a letter grade to its staff; Oracle is a space that develops passion, leaving its members

smarter, kinder, and more hardworking than ever before. Oracle prepares its students to enter the real world through curating a workplace environment that mimics those of professional newspapers. “Oracle has prepared me to handle responsibility with maturity and professionalism,” Troy alumnus and former Photography Editor Isaiah Pro said. “[It] has prepared me to have confidence in the real world, where I now know I can contribute meaningfully in a teamwork setting.”

There is a place for everyone in this class—even if a student is not interested in writing, they can pursue other areas of creativity, such as photography, graphic design, or cartoons. The variety of different paths one can take within the program lead it to be one filled with passion and love, since everyone is doing something which they are interested in, and determined to get better at. “When I first joined Oracle as a sophomore, I had little to no background in journalism,” Troy alumnus and former editor-in-chief Kira Chen said. “Throughout my high school years, I not only honed my writing skills but also developed a deep appreciation for storytelling. Even now, as an engineering major, my passion for writing has stayed with me—I now write for my college’s lifestyle magazine.”

Another incredible opportunity Oracle provides for all students at Troy High School is the annual Literary Magazine “LitMag” in which any student can submit

poetry, music, art, film, photography, or short fiction. The Oracle staff will proceed to choose the best submissions which are compiled into a descriptive magazine, to be published at the beginning of February. Through this outlet, all Troy students are able to experience the creativity of Oracle, while also gaining published work to add to resumes and college applications. Countless staff members have gone on to major in journalism, take on internships and develop careers which prioritize the exploration and manipulation of language.

Every year Oracle participates in competitions, such as one held by the Orange County Journalism Education Association. At this competition, Troy volunteers attend a mock press conference, and proceed to write articles in their domains, or draw cartoons accordingly. Oracle has produced many, many winners, with many more to come.

The program as a whole would not be possible without the incredible leadership of our adviser, Mr. Gonzalez. As an adviser he makes Oracle the most welcoming, open place to any and everybody. He makes it clear that no one needs to be a superstar writer in order to join the team, but that through hard work and dedication, everyone can become a great writer.

Every adviser has brought something special to the team throughout the past 60 years; Oracle’s powerful collective would not be possible without such a dedicated staff.

