

### About MTA

*MTA Students* work with academic and technical instructors with access to mentors and industry experts for hands-on, technical experience. The class of 2017 was the 20th graduating class, launching students into success.

*Parents* value a tuition-free education in math, science, English, technology, and communication. Practical experiences in a manufacturing setting enhance the instruction.

*Counselors and teachers* appreciate that MTA is a TBAISD program that does not reduce a school's student funding. Students earn high school academic credits through integrated curriculum.

*Local businesses* partner with MTA to develop a workforce prepared to compete in the global economy. Students benefit from job shadowing, mentoring and professional opportunities, building strong industry relationships.

### Contact MTA

Instructor Tim Wheatley  
(231) 995-1304  
twheatley@tbaisd.org

MTA Guidance Board Chair  
Brian Dubow

Career-Tech Center Principal  
Pat Lamb

Newsletter provided by the MTA  
Guidance Board, and published by  
TBAISD Communications

**Spread the news!**  
Share this newsletter with  
parents of high school students  
and local businesses.

## Manufacturing Technology Academy Parent and Student Information Nights

Join Manufacturing Technology Academy educators for parent and student information nights. The sessions are ideal for current high school sophomores who are looking for a challenging educational experience in an environment with other motivated students. Learn about the program's rigorous academic classes in math, science, English and economics. Information will also be presented highlighting MTA's technical classes that develop skills in engineering and project management, robotics and automation, product design, and electrical and pneumatic systems.

**Select an  
Information Night**  
All sessions 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

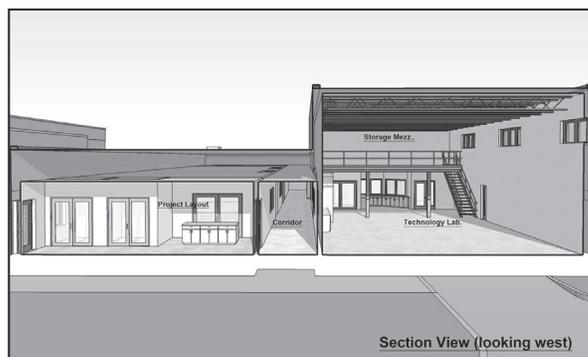
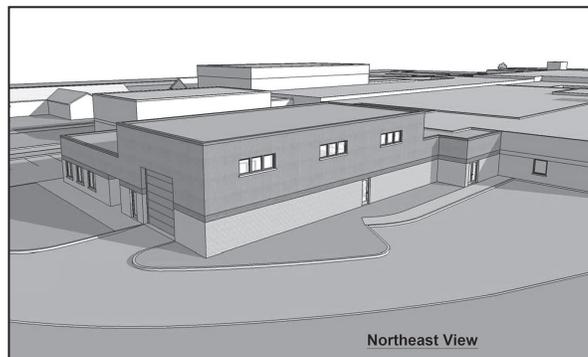
**Thursday, February 8**  
**Tuesday, February 20**  
**Wednesday, March 7**  
**Wednesday, March 21**

Information night sessions take place in Room 112 at the MTA facility located in the NMC Parsons-Stulen Building at 2600 Aero Park Drive in Traverse City. **Please RSVP to Tim Wheatley at (231) 995-1304 or twheatley@tbaisd.org. See MTA application instructions on page 4.**

*Manufacturing Technology Academy is a tuition-free program offered by Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District's Career-Tech Center for eleventh and twelfth grade students in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties.*

## New MTA Facility in the Works

In October 2017, TBAISD officially broke ground at the site of what will be the new MTA facility, located on the campus of the Career-Tech Center on Parsons Road in Traverse City. The construction project will add more than 10,000 square feet of new space to the existing CTC building to accommodate the MTA program along with Welding Technology and Precision Machining Technology programs. Upon completion of the building project MTA will relocate from its current space at the NMC Parsons-Stulen building. The project is scheduled to be complete in time for the 2018-19 school year.



## Tee Off for Talented Students

The 2017 Grand Traverse Manufacturers' Golf Outing and fundraiser benefitting the Manufacturing Technology Academy's robotics program was another great success. This year, long-time golf outing organizer Tom Hoopfer of East Jordan Iron Works announced his spring 2018 retirement. As a result, the event is transitioning to a new organizing group - the Grand Traverse Area Manufacturing Council (GTAMC). GTAMC has become very active in its support of MTA in recent years and members volunteered to take the reigns of planning the fundraiser. "We could not be more pleased to support MTA," said GTAMC Vice Chair Rob Summers. "The MTA robotics program is a regional and national leader in fostering the next generation of STEM talent and developing manufacturing leaders for our region." He continues, "We are excited to be a part of this great organization and look forward to carrying on the Grand Traverse Manufacturers' Golf Outing for years to come."



*Above left to right: Tim Wheatley, Deb Menchaca, Tom Hoopfer, Ben Loew (Elk Rapids, junior), Claire Ackerman (TC West, junior), Matt Schwarze (NMC, MMTC, GTAMC, new MTA golf outing chair), Casey Smith (GTA, junior), Debby Oliver*



### MTA extends its sincere gratitude to the many local supporters of the golf outing:

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## Get Involved in Education: Win-Win for Businesses

Manufacturing Technology Academy welcomes business support with opportunities for organizations to get involved through sponsorships, grants, mentorships, intern programs, robotics, guidance council, and more. MTA students flourish and organizations benefit from workforce development and education connections. Contact Debby Oliver at [doliver@tbaids.org](mailto:doliver@tbaids.org) or 995-1304.



**Follow MTA\_Robotics on Twitter and Instagram**  
**Like MTA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TCMTA](http://www.facebook.com/TCMTA)**  
**Visit LinkedIn for Manufacturing Technology Academy Community**

## Robotics Teams in Action

### Robotics Season Kickoff

MTA teams are in the midst of planning for the robotics season. Armed with FIRST Robotics competition details, the students have analyzed the parameters and brainstormed ideas for the core FRC team. For this year's National Robotics Challenge, MTA juniors have been matched with seniors to learn and work on the robotics competitions together.

### FIRST Robotics

The 2018 FIRST Robotics events involve 3,600 teams comprised of 90,000 students from around the world. This year's competition is named POWER UP, and is a combination of imagination and innovation. Students will build and program a robot to perform tasks against a field of competitors, raise funds, design a team "brand," and hone teamwork skills. **MTA will attend 2017 FIRST district competitions on March 2-3 in Traverse City, and April 16-17 in Gaylord.**



### National Robotics Challenge

**MTA teams are preparing for National Robotics Challenge (NRC) in Marion, Ohio on April 12-14.** Seven MTA teams are building robots for the competition. Two of the teams are building 65 lb. autonomous sumo robots; two teams are building pairs of RC hockey robots; one team is creating a manufacturing work cell that will manufacture clay pots; one team is creating a rescue robot to navigate an obstacle course and perform a rescue of objects; and one team is building a combat robot. NRC is sponsored by Honda and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. It is judged based on students' understanding and application of technical principles, problem-solving, and teamwork.

## MTA Alum Spotlight - Lieutenant Casey L. Strouse, USN

MTA graduate and 2004 Forest Area Community Schools valedictorian, Casey Strouse grew up in Kalkaska and pursued her high school education with vigor. But following high school, she continued to turn up the intensity as she spent a year in pre-med studies at Michigan Tech University before eventually graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 2012 with a bachelor of science degree in naval architecture.

After graduation from the Naval Academy, Casey was commissioned in the Navy and completed two division officer tours. Lieutenant Strouse accepted an Engineering Duty (ED) Officer option involving the design, acquisition, construction, repair, maintenance, conversion, overhaul and disposal of ships, submarines, and aircraft carriers. The ED community also supports the systems aboard those crafts such as weapons, command and control, communications, computers, etc.

In 2016, Casey was accepted at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where she, upon graduating in 2019, will earn a master of science in mechanical engineering and a naval engineers degree. The three-year MIT program accepts only approximately 12 students per year and she is presently the only female in the program. LT Strouse has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, three Navy Achievement Medals, and various unit awards. After graduation from MIT, she hopes to pursue new construction of surface ships, overseeing the design, budget, and construction. She also plans to take the test for her Professional Engineers license in naval architecture prior to graduation.



Manufacturing Technology Academy  
TBAISD Career-Tech Center  
880 Parsons Rd.  
Traverse City, MI 49686



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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

## MTA MATTERS

### Apply Today!

Manufacturing Technology Academy provides a unique and enriching educational opportunity. Students are admitted based on application. It's simple to apply... here's how:

#### Visit MTA

- Students may arrange a visit through their school counselor
- OR**
- Attend an information night session (dates on page 1)

#### Mail Application Packet by **April 13** to:

MTA, Tim Wheatley, 880 Parsons Rd.,  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Application packet should include:

- MTA application with counselor comments and signature
- 9th grade and first semester 10th grade transcripts
- One-paragraph essay explaining why student would like to attend MTA
- Two letters of recommendation (only one may be from an educator)

#### Interview with MTA Manufacturer's Council

- Students will be contacted by MTA to schedule an interview after submitting full application packet

#### Await Notification

- Students will be notified of their application status by MTA after completion of *all* applicant interviews

**Questions?** Contact Tim Wheatley at (231) 995-1304 or [twheatley@tbaisd.org](mailto:twheatley@tbaisd.org)

**Applications  
Must be  
Postmarked by  
April 13**



*Photo: Mike Drilling, Windborne Photography*

### 2017-2018: A Great Year for MTA

Current MTA students, staff and mentors are looking up toward bright futures. Students from schools throughout TBAISD's five-county region form strong academic, social and professional bonds.

Manufacturing Technology Academy received a national award from Advance CTE in May 2016 as the top STEM career-technical education program in the United States, based on its academic rigor, tech coursework, and strong partnerships for student opportunities.

MTA is currently located in the NMC Parsons-Stulen Building at 2600 Aero Park Drive in Traverse City. For additional information, contact Tim Wheatley at (231) 995-1304 or [twheatley@tbaisd.org](mailto:twheatley@tbaisd.org).

#### MTA Mission Statement

To provide a learning environment which motivates and enables students to acquire world-class manufacturing and engineering skills while positioning them to compete and excel in the global market.