



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

December 13, 2018

Graduation Requirements

Last week, an amendment bill was passed which will adjust high school graduation requirements for this year's seniors. Martin Verni wrote an excellent story on this topic in last week's Vidette. If I may, I would like to add a couple points in relation to this topic. As I have written before, state legislation has been passed in an attempt to improve education for Ohio's students. On a fair number of occasions, this legislation has met its purpose and Ohio's public schools have benefitted, with students reaching new levels of achievement.

Unfortunately, the original legislation regarding the new graduation requirements missed the mark. The original concept of students of having three pathways to earn a diploma may sound good in theory, but they have proven to be problematic in reality. As mentioned in last week's article, all three pathways require some level of passage on a standardized test. As ESC Curriculum Coordinator Gary Herman keenly noted, there are a multitude of former students in our society who are very talented in areas that cannot be simply defined by a standardized test. To assess an individual's ability to graduate from high school based on such a test is quite restrictive in a number of cases. At Columbus Grove, we have witnessed firsthand a reasonable number of students who may not succeed at the highest levels in traditional academic terms, but will no doubt be very successful contributing members of society, hopefully in our own community.

Please know that I am not advocating for lower standards for graduation. The world is very competitive and we want our young people as prepared as possible for their next step after high school graduation. Also, the requirements to earn a high school diploma are more stringent than they were 15-20 years ago. Our teachers do an excellent job educating our young people and the results speak for themselves. However, I am very much in favor of this most recent graduation requirement legislation which will give relief for this year's (and next year's) seniors. In the meantime, the State Superintendent has created a group of individuals, many who work in the field, to create a set of graduation standards that will be applicable and worthwhile for all students who enter our doors. Hopefully, these standards will be able to be implemented within the next two years to provide a worthwhile and stable set of standards for the future high school graduates for the state of Ohio.

Junior and Seniors Gearing up for Big Career Day Tomorrow

Tomorrow will be a busy day for the CGHS juniors and seniors, as they will both be participating in career preparation activities tomorrow. Our junior class members will be job shadowing in the surrounding area. These students were tasked to research a career field of interest, as well as an individual who is working in this field. Students will spend the day with these workers and report out on their experiences from this day. Junior class members who were not able to secure a job shadow placement for tomorrow will be attending an open house session at GROB in Bluffton to learn more about their internship program.

Our senior class members will be participating in mock interviews with volunteer adult community members tomorrow, as they continue to refine their skills for after graduation. We greatly appreciate the many volunteers who are giving their time to allow our students to job shadow them throughout the day, as well as those who will be conducting interviews with our seniors. We are sure both of these will be valuable learning experiences for our students!

Junior High Students Place in Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Last week, we congratulated students for placing in the annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Unfortunately, I missed recognizing an individual, Bryce Bonifas. Bryce, my apologies for missing your name in this recognition! Our five winners, Bryce, Lauren Wolverton, Trevan Halker, Caitlynn Jay, and Alexis Dotson will be honored at a banquet at the VFW on the December 16th. They will find out their exact placement in this contest on this evening. Excellent job, students!

Fall Sport Recognitions Continue

At last week's boys' basketball game versus Ottoville, we held a halftime recognition for our volleyball and golf teams for their successful fall seasons. We will continue these recognitions during halftime of the following boys' basketball games for the other fall sports programs.

- Tomorrow night vs. Paulding Football
- 1/11 vs. Spencerville Girls' & Boys' Cross Country

Come out and join us as we recognize these teams for their wonderful accomplishments this past fall!

Alumni Brick Paver Orders Available

Looking for a great gift for the hard-to-buy-for individual this Christmas? Columbus Grove community members and alumni may purchase a personalized brick to be placed near the east entrance to honor individuals or significant events in Columbus Grove Local Schools' storied history. Bricks are on sale for \$50 for a 4" by 8" brick. For an order form, please check out the Columbus Website at <http://cg.noacsc.org/> or you may pick up an order form at the school offices as well. These bricks make a perfect gift to commemorate a CG alumnus, faculty member, student accomplishment, or historical event in our district's history. In addition, a decorative postcard will be sent to recipients, notifying them of the brick purchased in their honor. If you have further questions, please contact the superintendent's office at 659-2639. Think about purchasing a brick for a gift this holiday season! All proceeds go to the CG Alumni Association's future project initiatives.

One Holiday Concert Left!

Last night, our choral program put on a fabulous holiday performance in the elementary gymnasium. At 7 p.m. next Wednesday evening, our 7-12 instrumental program will perform their holiday concert for the community in the high school gym. Everyone is welcome, so please make time in your schedule to attend! Also, the CGHS Chorus traveled to TV-44 to once again record for the Holiday Music Festival which will air during the holidays. The CGHS Chorus segment will air several times this month, including Christmas Eve.

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, December 13th

Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Paulding – 5:00 pm

Boys JH Basketball vs. St. Peter and Paul – 5:00 pm

Girls JH Basketball @ St Michael the Archangel – 5:00 pm

Girls Varsity & JV Basketball @ Paulding – 6:00 pm

Friday, December 14th

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Paulding – 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 15th

Boys Freshman Basketball @ Wayne Trace – 10:00 am

Girls Varsity & JV Basketball vs. Elida – 5:30 pm

Boys Varsity & JV Basketball @ Arlington – 6:00 pm

Monday, December 17th

Boys JH wrestling vs. Ottawa Glandorf – 6:00 pm

Boys Varsity Wrestling vs. Ottawa Glandorf – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 18th

Boys JH Basketball vs. Ada – 5:00 pm

Girls Varsity and JV Basketball @ Kalida – 6:00 pm

Girls JH Basketball @ Ada – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, December 19th

Boys JH Wrestling @ Delphos St. Johns - 5:00 pm

Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Delphos St. Johns – 5:00 pm

7-12 Band Concert – 7:00 pm