



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

January 18, 2024

Thank You, Putnam County and Beyond

Last week was an incredibly difficult week for Columbus Grove Schools, as we coped with the death of CGHS Freshman, Grant Siefker. Grant was an active student as CGHS, as he was a member of the CGHS football, basketball, and track programs. He also was a member of Leo Club. Grant was a hardworking and talented student as well, noted by his two consecutive quarters of straight A's on his report card.

The district would like to thank the many schools, community groups, businesses, and individuals who reached out to show their support for the district and families involved. The posts on social media with all area schools wearing red in support last week was simply overwhelming. CG Schools also wants to express its appreciation to Leipsic Schools, who showed their support for our community and school in multiple ways as our boys' basketball team traveled to Leipsic last Friday night.

Thank you again to all who reached out to show us support. Continued prayers, love, and support go out to the Siefker, Blue, and Fuerst families.

Thank You, St. John's Community Church!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the members of St. John's Community Church, as we received a generous donation of new winter hats and gloves for our students. These came at the right time with the recent frigid weather we have experienced! Thank you so much for thinking of our students!

Congratulations, Lauryn Auchmuty!

Last Thursday, Lauryn Auchmuty scored her 1,000th career point in a game versus Leipsic. Lauryn is seventh Lady Bulldog to reach the 1000-point threshold in school history. She is also just the second Lady Bulldog to score 1,000 points before the end of her junior year. The other player to achieve this feat was her cousin, Jade Clement, whose Lady Bulldog basketball career spanned from 2014-2017. The last 1,000-point scorer for the Lady Bulldogs was Kenzie King, who joined the 1,000-point club during her senior year in 2022.

Lauryn's discipline and commitment to athletics is widely known. This past fall, she earned 2nd Team All-State honors in soccer and qualified for the OHSAA State Track Meet in pole vault her freshman year. Her talent and determination will be exciting for CG Bulldog fans to follow over the next 18 months of her high school career. Congratulations, Lauryn, on this outstanding accomplishment!

Events and Recognition Schedule for Halftime

Due to a conflict in schedules, there is a change to this year's halftime recognitions. Please see the tentative schedule of events below which will occur at halftime of our home boys' basketball games (change is underlined):

- February 3 (Continental): Mini Cheer Night
- February 6 (Pandora-Gilboa): XC Team State Championship/Luke Ellerbrock- All-Ohio Runner
- February 9 (Bluffton): Trenton Barraza- Football All-Ohio & Brock Hoffman- Baseball All-Ohio
- February 16 (Delphos Jefferson): Senior night

National Mentoring Month-Thank You Kids Hope Mentors!

January marks National Mentoring Month and we would like to thank our Kids Hope mentors at Columbus Grove. Under the wonderful leadership of Jackie Brinkman, Kids Hope is celebrating its tenth year at Columbus Grove! We want to say thank you to the following individuals who give an hour a week to come into our building to mentor one of our students: Deb and Jack Myers, Jackie and Roger Brinkman, Brent Stechschulte, Geoff Eubanks, Elaine Kiene, Julie Shafer, Libby Oswald, Joy Halker, Lynn Bryan, Diane Miller, Mike Ebling, Becky Fuerst, Breann Bogart, Shelley Shafer, Bethany Moore, Terrie Smith, Holly Zarse, Cindy Hizer, and Kevin Schumacher. A special shout out goes to Jackie Brinkman, whose leadership of this program has allowed it to grow over the last decade as well!

District Operations for April 8, 2024 Finalized

Earlier this month, I mentioned that district operations would likely change for Monday, April 8, the date we will experience a total solar eclipse. At this past Monday evening's Board of Education meeting, those plans were finalized. Columbus Grove Schools will NOT be in session on Monday, April 8. Staff will still report for work on this day and professional development activities. Many schools in the region are following suite, as the uncertainty of what to expect in terms of visitors in our region and the time of the eclipse (right at school dismissal) would create significant disruption to school operations for this day. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact my office at 659-4301 or cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org.

Update on School Delays and Closings

As we enter the heart of winter, we have used one calamity day so far for the 2023-24 school year (January 16). We have five calamity days in total to use before we begin making these days up. As we did last year, if we reach a sixth calamity day or beyond this school year, we will first refer to the Board approved 2023-24 school calendar and to see if there are any scheduled days remaining which are designated to make-up for in person instruction. These pre-scheduled make-up days for in person instruction are February 20 (Presidents Day) and March 22 (Third quarter break). If we reach a sixth calamity day after these dates, we will make these days up via virtual school days of instruction, with students completing their instruction and assignments online.

One of the biggest benefits of using this approach is that it will eliminate school days getting added to the end of the school year, during a time when families have vacations already planned. Hopefully, we will not get to a sixth calamity day or beyond this school year, but we wanted to make you aware of this process in the event it occurs. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mr. Verhoff at 659-4301.

Regular School Board Meeting Dates & Times Set for 2024

At the January Reorganizational meeting this past Monday, the Columbus Grove Board of Education established the regular meeting dates and times for 2024. The Board of Education will meet on the third Monday of every month at 8:00 p.m. in the high school library. If you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent's office at 659-4301.

Bulldog Bites

As mentioned, Lauryn Auchmuty, surpassed the 1,000-point mark last week. Here is the complete list of Lady Bulldogs who have reached this milestone, their point total, and their graduation year:

1. Lauren Slusser (1,500 points) 2002
2. Michelle Foltz (1,412 points) 1983
3. Jade Clement (1,330 points) 2017
4. Amanda Schroeder (1,232 points) 2007
5. Kenzie King (1,226 points) 2022
6. Arin Gertsen (1,110 points) 1997

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 18

- 5:00 p.m.- Boys Junior High Basketball vs. Fort Jennings
- 5:00 p.m.- Girls Junior High Basketball @ Miller City
- 6:00 p.m.- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball @ Lincolnview

Friday, January 19

- 4:00 p.m.- Varsity Wrestling @ Van Buren Invitational
- 6:00 p.m.- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Lincolnview

Saturday, January 20

- 9:00 a.m.- Varsity Wrestling @ Van Buren Invitational
- 12:00 p.m.- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball @ Miller City
- 6:00 p.m.- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Kalida

Monday, January 22

- 6:00 p.m.- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball @ Fort Jennings

Tuesday, January 23

- 5:00 p.m.- Boys Junior High Basketball @ Bluffton
- 5:00 p.m.- Girls Junior High Basketball vs. Bluffton
- 6:00 p.m.- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Bath