



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

March 13, 2025

## Lady Bulldogs Advance to First-Ever State Final!

The Columbus Grove Lady Bulldogs continue to make history, earning a spot in the OHSAA Division VI State Championship after a thrilling 43-40 victory over Minster last Friday at the Elida Fieldhouse. With strong defensive play, clutch free throws, and unwavering determination, the Lady Bulldogs fought off a late Minster rally to secure the biggest win in program history.

Coach Brian Schroeder praised his team's composure in high-pressure moments, stating, *"At tournament time, you never know quite what to expect with all the emotions, and you're playing in new gyms, so it's a new experience. But these girls have battled all year, and I couldn't be prouder of them."*

Now, the Lady Bulldogs have their sights set on the ultimate prize as they take on Rootstown in the Division IV State Championship this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the University of Dayton Arena. This is a historic moment for Columbus Grove, and we encourage the entire Bulldog community to make the trip down I-75 to Dayton and cheer on these incredible student-athletes as they compete for a state title. Let's go, Bulldogs!



## Pandora-Gilboa Hosts Annual Putnam County Arts Festival

The 12th annual Putnam County Arts Festival took place at Pandora-Gilboa High School last Sunday. This festival celebrated the visual and performing arts from students throughout Putnam County. Columbus Grove students in grades 1-12 had artwork on display at the festival. The All County Choir and Band also performed an excellent show to a large crowd in the high school gym.

CGHS students performing in the All-County Choir were Laney Auchmuty, Addy Butcher, Keelie Langhals, Caidynce Schnipke, Katie Schumacher, Daisy Stechsulte, Autumn Stechsulte, Holden Hartzog, Jacob Ricker, Noah Strahm, Evan Verhoff, Payton Bechtol, and Grace Verhoff.

Representing Columbus Grove in the All-County Band were Delaney Wintersteller, Onna Hovest, Kiara Short, Kaylin Grohoske, Kellan McCluer, Nick Johnson, Will Horstman, and Simon Zimmerly. Both the band and choir put on an excellent performance!

Special congratulations go to Daisy Stechsulte for being honored as a four-year member of the All-County Choir.

A special thank you goes out to our art and music teachers, Sarah Hoehne, Sarah Ricker, Kristen Verhoff, and Jason Lozer for all your efforts in organizing this event for our students!

## CGHS Music Department Presents *The Pajama Game* Next Week

Next Friday, March 21, and Saturday, March 22, Columbus Grove High School will present its 58<sup>th</sup> annual High School Musical. This year's production will be *The Pajama Game*. The cast will feature Holden Hartzog, Daisy Stechschulte, Noah Strahm, Laney Auchmuty, Bryn Casper, Ethan McDougale, and Evan Verhoff, as well as a fantastic cast of talented CGHS students. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased in the Columbus Grove High School Office. Tickets are \$12.00 for reserved seating and \$8.00 for general seating. Tickets will also be available at the door. The performances will be held in the Columbus Grove Auditorium with the curtain opening at 7:00 p.m. both nights. Please come out and support the talented students of Columbus Grove! We can't wait to see you at the show!



Front Row: Holden Hartzog, Daisy Stechschulte  
Back Row: Bryn Casper, Ethan McDougale, Noah Strahm, Laney Auchmuty, Evan Verhoff

## 2025-2026 School Year Band Calendar Sale Underway

The Columbus Grove Band Boosters are now accepting orders for the 63rd edition of the Community Birthday Calendar through the end of May. Orders can be placed with any band member or by completing and mailing the order form available at <https://bit.ly/CGBand2526>. The Band Boosters sincerely appreciate the continued support of our community and local businesses in making this fundraiser a success!

## Columbus Grove Concert Band Earns Superior Rating, Advances to State!

The Columbus Grove High School Concert Band delivered an outstanding performance at the OMEA District Large Group Adjudicated Event this past Friday night at Lima Shawnee. Their dedication and musical excellence earned them an overall Superior (I) rating, qualifying them for the State Large Group Event!

During the competition, the band performed three prepared pieces on stage for a panel of three judges, each of whom provided a rating. Following this performance, the band moved to the sight-reading portion of the contest, where they were given a brand-new piece of music they had never seen before. After two short study periods, they performed the piece for an additional judge.

In a remarkable achievement, all three stage judges and the sight-reading judge awarded the band a Superior (I) rating—the highest possible score! This incredible accomplishment is a testament to the hard work, talent, and commitment of our student musicians and their director.

CGHS Concert Band members are Flutes: Lilly Buckland and Onna Hovest; Clarinet: Chloe Miller, Kiara Short, and Trinity Smith; Alto Saxophone: Wyatt Garberson, Ethan McDougale, and Delaney Wintersteller; Baritone Saxophone: Kaylin Grohoske; Trumpet: Hannah Cartwright, Holden Hartzog, Carly Hovest, and Simon Zimmerly; Horn: Carter Hitchcock and Arianna Ream; Trombone: Kellan McCluer and Mckayla Ricker; Euphonium: Harrison Kuhbander; Tuba: Nick Johnson; Cello: Connor O'Sullivan; Percussion: Aubrey Belcher, AJ Doseck, Will Horstman, Carson Mansfield, Raye McCluer, Trianna Sager, and Maura Wintersteller.

Congratulations to the CG Concert Band and Director Jason Lozer on this well-earned success, and best of luck as they prepare for the state competition!



## 2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration Now Open

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. If your child will turn 5 years old before September 30, 2025, they are eligible for kindergarten. You can register on our website ([cg.noacsc.org](http://cg.noacsc.org)) by clicking the link in the Parents/Student/Community tab or you may contact the school at 419-695-2631 and we will walk you through the registration process. At the beginning of March, a letter will be sent informing you of your date and time for screening. The dates for screening will be April 10 and 11. Documents needed are a birth certificate, immunization records and/or Kindergarten boosters, parent ID, proof of residency (if new to the district and no other siblings attend CG schools) and custody papers if applicable.

## Bulldog Bucks Raffle Tickets for Sale!

Have you purchased your Bulldog Bucks raffle ticket yet? If not, you are missing out on a chance to win \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$50,000! The Columbus Grove Athletic Boosters, in conjunction with the Columbus Grove Volunteer Fire Department and Columbus Grove Lions Club, are selling only 800 tickets for this raffle. The drawing for the three lucky winners will take place on Saturday, June 14 at 10:00 p.m. at the June Jubilee, before the fireworks display. You need not be present to win. Tickets can be purchased in the high school office this year for \$100 apiece. You may also purchase tickets from members of the various groups sponsoring this raffle. All proceeds will go to these groups sponsoring the raffle. Thank you in advance for your support of these important groups that do so much for the community of Columbus Grove!

## Discover Career Opportunities with PutnamCountyWorks.com!

Looking for a new job, career advancement, or opportunities close to home? Check out **PutnamCountyWorks.com**, your one-stop resource for connecting with employers and job openings in Putnam County. This easy-to-navigate website features a wide range of positions across industries, tools for building your resume, and resources to help you succeed in your job search.

PutnamCountyWorks.com is powered by the **Workforce Partnership of Putnam County**, a collaborative initiative dedicated to supporting local businesses, job seekers, and students. The partnership works to strengthen the community by connecting employers with a skilled workforce and offering valuable career development resources.

PutnamCountyWorks.com serves as a hub for job seekers, students and parents, educators, and employers. Whether you're a seasoned professional, just starting your career journey, or exploring options for the future, PutnamCountyWorks.com and the Workforce Partnership of Putnam County are here to help you succeed. Visit today and take the next step toward your future!

## Discover the Putnam County Resource Directory!

Looking for community events, educational opportunities, or local resources in Putnam County? The **Putnam County Resource Directory** is your one-stop shop for information and assistance! This user-friendly directory includes a wide range of resources, such as:

- Upcoming community events
- Educational opportunities
- Service directories
- Child care options
- Churches
- Clothing assistance
- And much more!

Whether you're seeking support or simply want to stay informed, the Putnam County Resource Directory has you covered. Explore it today at [Putnam County Resource Directory](#) and discover all the resources our community has to offer!

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
End of Third Quarter

**Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
No school Quarter Break  
HS Musical – 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
HS Musical – 7:00 p.m.

## Columbus Grove to Honor Former Football Players Who Served in the Armed Forces

The CG Football program is proud to announce a special initiative to recognize our former Bulldog football players who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. The Bulldog Football program, under the leadership of Coach Andy Schafer, is creating a tribute sign that will list all former Columbus Grove football players who have dedicated themselves to military service.

To ensure this sign is as complete as possible, we are asking for the community's help in identifying any former football players who have served (please see the list below). If you know of an individual who should be included, please contact Coach Andy Schafer at [cg\\_schafer@cg.noacsc.org](mailto:cg_schafer@cg.noacsc.org) or call the office at 659-2156. We appreciate your support in honoring our past and present heroes.

### Bulldogs in the Military (Years are last year playing football at CG)

#### 2025-2020

Wyatt Watt – Marines  
Mitchell Ellerbrock – Marines

#### 2019-2015

Brady Clymer – Navy  
Dylan Sargent – Army  
Adam Birkemeier – Navy  
Kyle Siefker – Marines  
Brandt Follas – Navy

#### 2014-2010

Zachary Brinkman – Army  
Trent Vorst – Army  
Eli Wiswasser - Air Force  
Andrew Burgei – Army  
Jace Darbyshire - Coast Guard  
Caleb O'Conner – Army  
Alex Walker - Air Force

#### 2009-2005

Matt McAdams – Army  
Eric Harshman – Marines  
Nate Schroeder – Army  
John Harris – Marines  
Rayce Risser – Navy  
Ryan Keck – Marines  
Nickolas McCluer – Army  
Justin Adkins – Army  
Corey Brinkman - Army

#### 2004-2000

Tyler Vorst - Air Force  
Mike Oglesbee – Army  
Scott Birkemeier – Navy  
Bryce Luginbuhl, - Army  
Andrew Conkright - Air Force

#### 1999-1995

Trent Miller - Army  
Justin Cramer - Army  
Matt Hawkey - Army  
Dustyn Antoine - Army

#### 1989-1985

Doug Alt – Marines  
Mike Dunlap – Army  
Justin LeHew – Marines  
Hamilton Harper - Army  
Joby Watkins – Marines  
Jon Witteborg – Army

#### 1984-1980

Dave Meyer – Air Force  
Todd Hoffman – Marines  
Michael Kiene – Marines  
Tony Smith – Air Force  
Arthur Aguirre - Army  
Steve Reed – Air Force  
Jeff Kissell – Air Force  
Kevin Blankemeyer – Air Force  
Jeff Thompson – Air Force

#### 1979-1975

Jay Follas – Army

#### 1969-1965

Lee Bogart – Army  
Greg McCrate – Army  
Don Clevenger – Army  
John Halker - Army  
Douglas King – Air Force  
David Hawkey - Navy

#### 1965-1960

Carl Dugger – Navy  
Virgil Lane - Army  
Gary Baxter - Army  
Gordon Ridenour - Army  
Michael Maag - Army  
Jim Dotson - Navy  
Jim Dunnett – Air Force

#### 1959-1955

Avery Douglas - Marines  
Bary Eversole - Navy  
Ed Humphreys - Arm  
Dan Maag - Army  
Ivan Verhoff - Army

#### 1954-1950

Nolan Jones - Army  
Herb Carpenter - Marines  
Bill Schumacher - Army  
Bob Brubaker - Navy  
Barney Dotson - Army

#### 1949-1945

Dick Wagner – Air Force

#### 1944-1940

A. Frank Wright - Army  
Robert Nierescher - Navy  
Richer Nierescher - Navy  
Lewis Martz - Navy

#### 1929-1924

William Witteborg Sr.-Marines  
Plummer Teegardin - Army