



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

March 16, 2023

## CGHS Assembles Concert Band for Competition

The Columbus Grove Concert Band traveled to Lima Shawnee on Saturday, March 4 to perform in the OMEA District 3 Large Group Adjudicated Event. This was the CG Band's first time performing at this event since 1999. The band performed three selections on stage in front of an audience and a panel of three judges. Following the stage performance, the band went to a separate room and had eight minutes to study a new piece of music and sight-read it in front of another judge. Each of the four judges gave the band a rating on their performance from I to V (1 to 5). The band received a I and two II's on the stage, and a II in sight-reading for an overall rating of II.

Had one more judge given them a I, they would have received a I overall, which would have qualified them to perform at the State level. While they may not have received the top rating, the band received some great feedback on things to improve and we are very proud to get so close to qualifying for State in their first time performing at this event in 24 years. Many thanks to our Band Director, Jason Lozer, for coordinating this effort!

CGHS students performing in Concert Band this year are: Arin Sandlin, Emma Bils, Lauren Wolverton (flutes); Ainsley McCluer and Hallie Hermiller (clarinets); Delaney Wintersteller, Ethan McDougle, and Linzi Schroeder (Alto Saxes); Dominic Bryan (horn); Levi Schroeder, Hannah Cartwright, Holden Hartzog, and Kaylee Baker (trumpets); Steven Dunbar, Mckayla Ricker, Kellen McCluer, and Levi Maag (trombones); James Rosengarten and Harrison Kuhbander (baritones); Kaylin Grohoske (bari sax); Connor O'Sullivan (cello); Nick Johnson (tuba); and Erin Lugibill, Gage Parker, Triana Sager, Aubrey Belcher, and Victoria Williams (percussion).

## 2023 Spring Musical this Weekend

This weekend, the Columbus Grove High School will perform its 56th annual High School Musical. This year's production will be Rodger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella. The cast will feature leads Daisy Stechschulte, Levi Schroeder, Hailey Vogt, Hunter Rode, Logan Mershman, Natalie Langhals, Ella Escamilla, Laney Auchmuty, and Addy Butcher as well as a fantastic cast and crew of talented CG high school students. Tickets are \$12.00 for reserved seating and \$8.00 for general seating. The performances will be held in the Columbus Grove Auditorium and the curtain will open both nights at 7:00 pm. Please come out and support the talented students of Columbus Grove! It is sure to be a terrific show!

## Thank you, CG Coaches!

As we reach the conclusion of the winter sports season, we would like to take a moment to thank the many coaches in our school system. With many small schools, the extra-curricular programming is a vital part of the overall school experience. Our school has been quite fortunate to experience a high level of success with numerous sports over the years. While we have been blessed with many fine student athletes who have roamed our halls, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge many longtime head coaches we have on our staff. Their knowledge and dedication to their respective programs have created a high level of stability which has been essential in the success of our school's athletic program.

Our Head Wrestling Coach, Eric Siefker (15 years), is the second longest tenured Head Wrestling Coach in school history. The program has grown over the years and has experienced a record setting number of high school wrestlers on the roster.

There have been nine wrestlers in school history to amass at least 100 wins, and eight of those wrestlers have accomplished this feat under Coach Ernie, including 2021 state champion Jeff Meyer. We now have three high school girls who are wrestling this year. A few weeks ago, the wrestling team made school history as it captured the district's first ever Northwest Conference Wrestling Championship. Two weeks later, they achieved another district first by winning the district's first ever wrestling sectionals title.

Girls' Head Basketball Coach Brian Schroeder is the longest tenured girls' basketball coach in school history, as he just completed his tenth season with the girls' program. His teams have amassed nearly 180 victories during his 10-year coaching tenure, making Brian the winningest girls' basketball coach in school history. Brian's teams had a seven-year stretch (2016-2022) where they won either a PCL or NWC title, while having won both titles in 2016, 2017, and 2020. The girls currently possess an active streak of eight consecutive sectional titles and three consecutive district titles. Their regional finals appearance two weekends ago was their second in three years.

Boys' Head Basketball Coach Chris Sautter just completed his seventh year at CG. During Chris' tenure, the Bulldogs have reached significant levels of success. Over a four-year span from 2019-2022, the Bulldogs won 87 games, a school record for most wins in a four-year span. The Bulldogs also held a five-year streak of sectional titles from 2018-2022 (tied for longest in school history), while they had a three-year streak of district titles (another district first) until finishing district runner-up in 2022. Chris has 115 victories during his CG coaching tenure, second only to former Coach Jerry Stechschulte, who accumulated 127 victories in 10 years combined as Head Boys' Basketball Coach.

As we head into the spring sports season next month, we have a girls' softball team that has won eight consecutive Putnam County League titles. Now entering his tenth season, Travis Gallmeier has amassed 113 wins in his decade-long run as Head Softball Coach,

making him the all-time winningest softball coach in school history, as well as the longest tenured softball coach. Coach Gallmeier's teams have fielded many All-District players, along with two First Team All-State selections, Brooke Hoffman (2016) and Teyah Sautter (2018). In addition to softball, Coach Gallmeier has served as our district's Head Golf Coach for the last 15 seasons as well. His teams have regularly been competitive in league play and he's had multiple teams qualify for regionals during his coaching tenure.

The success of our track teams at Columbus Grove is well documented and the longevity of excellent coaches has certainly helped this program sustain its success for decades. Going back to the tenures of Emma Pleiman, Connie Arthur and Tim Staley for the girls to Tracy Brown and Chris Grothaus for boys, both teams have accumulated dozens of league titles, with the girls' winning 25 PCL titles and 16 NWC titles since 1980. The boys' squad has won a staggering 33 PCL titles and 18 NWC titles during this same timeframe. One only needs to look at the numerous placards of state champions on the fencing around the track to note the elite levels of success these programs have experienced. These two squads are currently coached by Chris Grothaus, who is entering his nineteenth season for the boys and third year girls' coach Abbie (Stechschulte) Norton.

Like the Track and Field squads, our district has an outstanding tradition when it comes to Cross Country. The girls began to consistently field a full team in the 1990s and current Girls' Head Coach Jason Jay is in his sixteenth year serving in this capacity. The girls have won five Northwest Conference titles and have made four state appearances during Coach Jay's tenure. On the boys' side, Head Coach Terry Schnipke (seventeenth year as XC Boys' Head Coach) picked up where former longtime Coach Jerry Bunn left off with continued high levels of success as well. Coach Schnipke's teams have amassed eight NWC titles and have made eight state appearances during his coaching tenure.

Our Head Football Coach, Andy Schafer, completed his eleventh season at the helm last fall, making him the longest tenured football coach in school history. Andy is also tied with former Head Coach Mike Fell for most wins all-time in school history with 75 victories. During his tenure as Columbus Grove, Andy's squads have won four NWC titles, qualified for the playoffs six times, and have made the Final Four three times. Columbus Grove Football teams have won six regional titles in school history and three of those titles have come during Coach Schafer's tenure.

Columbus Grove High School also possesses a tradition of excellent cheerleading squads. Our squads have consistently performed in a positive and professional manner over the years for our fans. Their reputation can be directly attributed to longtime Cheer Advisor Traci Kohls, who has served in our district since 2007. Columbus Grove football and basketball cheerleading squads are yet another standout trademark of our athletic department.

While a few of our other school sports do not have coaches with long tenures, the future looks bright in these sports as well. For example, Brayden Sautter's baseball squad won the PCL title last year with a 7-0 record, which is the first time our baseball team finished the season with a perfect record in the PCL. Columbus Grove has also been fortunate to have many excellent and experienced coaches throughout our junior high, freshman, and junior varsity levels.

Both the Putnam County League and Northwest Conference have an All-Sports Award, which is awarded annually to the member school that has the most overall athletic success in a school year. This is a difficult award to win, as a certain level of success achieved throughout the entire athletic program during the school year. Columbus Grove Schools have won this award 11 times in school history between the NWC and PCL. Nine of those 11 wins have come in the last ten years. As mentioned, we have been fortunate to have many excellent student athletes come through our doors, but it is no coincidence that this level of success corresponds with consistency and stability in our head coaching positions in many of our sports. We are privileged to have such an experienced coaching staff, as this is becoming less of the norm, particularly in rural school districts. Thank you, coaches, both past and present, who have helped create and maintain our school district's exceptional athletic tradition!

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Varsity & JV Baseball @ Wapakoneta – 5:00 p.m.

#### **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

No School – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Musical – Cinderella – 7:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Musical – Cinderella – 7:00 p.m.