



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

May 1, 2025

## Columbus Grove Schools Selects New Superintendent

The Columbus Grove Local School District's Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Best as the district's next Superintendent, effective August 1, 2025. Mr. Best will succeed Nick Verhoff, who has served in the role for the past 13 years.

Brian Best brings over 22 years of experience in public education, including nearly 13 years as an administrator. Since 2013, he has served as the Principal of Columbus Grove High School, leading with a clear focus on student achievement, instructional improvement, and strong community engagement. During his tenure, the high school earned consistent academic accolades, including multiple Top 100 rankings among Ohio high schools by U.S. News & World Report and consecutive 5-star report card ratings from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Mr. Best holds a Master of Science in Education from the University of Dayton and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University. He holds Superintendent and Principal licensure from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and is known for his strengths in curriculum leadership, strategic planning, and student-centered decision-making.

Prior to becoming principal at Columbus Grove, Best served as an assistant principal at St. Mary's Memorial High School and taught social studies at Bath High School. His leadership within Columbus Grove extends beyond academics. He has played a key role in district-wide initiatives, supported transportation and budget planning, and mentored coaches and staff to build successful extracurricular programs.

"I'm deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve the district and community that means so much to me," said Best. "Columbus Grove is a special place, and I look

forward to continuing our tradition of excellence while preparing our students for success in an ever-changing world."

Mr. Best resides in Columbus Grove with his wife, Jen, and sons, Braylon and Landon, who are current juniors at CGHS.

The Columbus Grove Board of Education looks forward to a seamless leadership transition and is confident that Mr. Best's experience, dedication, and vision will continue to move the district forward.



## CGHS Concert Band Makes School History with Superior Rating at State!

This past Friday, the Columbus Grove High School Concert Band traveled to Findlay High School to compete in the OMEA State Large Group Adjudicated Event—and they made history! After qualifying with a Superior rating at the district level in March, the band delivered an outstanding performance at State, earning a Superior rating from all four judges—the highest possible score.

The band performed three prepared selections on stage for a panel of judges, followed by a challenging sight-reading portion where they had to perform a new piece with only two short, silent study periods to prepare. Their poise, musicianship, and dedication were evident

throughout the entire process.

This marks the first time in school history that the CGHS Concert Band has received a Superior rating at the State level. Congratulations to our talented student musicians and Mr. Lozer on this incredible and well-deserved accomplishment!

### 2025 Prom and Post Prom Thanks

Last weekend, the CGHS Junior Class hosted the 2025 Junior-Senior Prom. The junior class worked the week prior after school each night to transform the elementary gym into the backdrop for *Rio*. After prom, post prom was held in the commons, HS gym, and elementary gym. Post prom was coordinated and run by junior class parents. Over 120 students had a wonderful evening, which lasted until 2 a.m. We want to express many thanks to our junior class for their efforts in getting the gym ready for this momentous night. Junior Class Advisor Katie Stechschulte did an outstanding job creating a vision and working with the junior class to craft an awesome student environment. Finally, many thanks go to our junior class parents for giving their time and talents to create a fun and safe post prom for our students!



### District Communications Moving to ParentSquare for the 2025-26 School Year

Columbus Grove Schools has been using Remind for the last five years as our platform to send out notifications and allow our teachers and coaches to communicate with parents, students, and the community. Remind was recently purchased by another communications company, ParentSquare, and they have encouraged school districts to begin to migrate to the new platform.

Columbus Grove will be migrating our communications along with our website over this summer and begin using ParentSquare fully for the 2025-2026 school year. Below you can see the general timeline for this process.

- March 2025 - Initial Meetings and Kick-Off
- April 2025 - Data Synchronization Configuration
- April 2025 - Website Design and Content Migration Begins
- May 2025 - New Website Launches at <https://cgbulldogs.org>
- May 2025 - Some Athletics Groups begin using ParentSquare for Summer communications
- August 2025 - Parents and Students will be added to classes automatically. Community members can begin signing up for the new system.
- August 2025 - Final District Remind messages will be sent to announce that all communications have moved to ParentSquare.

## Attention Graduating Seniors (and Parents)!

The area Council of Churches is sponsoring the Baccalaureate Service for all graduating seniors on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. All seniors will receive an invitation in the mail. Please RSVP to the church, or in the high school office.

Seniors should clean their lockers out by Friday, May 9. Seniors will not be released from class to clean out their lockers. This should be completed at the end of the day on Thursday, or before the start of the school day on Friday. We will check senior lockers after school on Friday, May 9. Seniors still needing to attend to their lockers will be asked to take care of this after graduation rehearsal on Thursday, May 15. Students are responsible for turning in their textbooks to the appropriate teachers to not be charged for a book fee.

Other items of note:

- All technology should be returned to Technology Coordinator Mr. Keehn.
- Graduation rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, at 9:00 a.m. (this counts as school day for seniors, so they must attend). Please report to the High School Gym by 8:30 a.m. Students must attend the rehearsal on Thursday morning to participate in the commencement ceremony. The student dress code is in effect for rehearsal.
- The Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m. Graduates are to report to the high school commons by 1:15 p.m. if they are not attending the Baccalaureate.
- Any graduate not planning to participate in the commencement should notify Mrs. Pingle in the high school office ASAP.
- Final transcripts should all be ordered electronically through Parchment by Friday, May 2. Seniors needing help with this should contact the guidance office.\
- Important Upcoming Dates for Seniors:
  - **Monday, May 12** Senior Class Trip to Cedar Point
  - **Tuesday, May 13** 7:00 p.m. Senior Awards Night
  - **Wednesday, May 14** Senior Exams (open campus)
  - **Thursday, May 15** 9:00 a.m. Graduation Rehearsal/class speaker rehearsal (after practice)
  - **Sunday, May 18** 2:30 p.m. – Baccalaureate (in HS gym)  
2:00 p.m. – Graduation Ceremony

## Support the Lady Bulldogs—The Annual Salt Bag Fundraiser Now Underway!

The Columbus Grove Girls' Basketball Team is excited to announce its 12th Annual Water Softener Salt Fundraiser! This popular event helps support our student-athletes and includes the convenience of home delivery. We are offering:

- Yellow Salt Bags (40 lbs) for \$9.00
- Green Salt Bags with Iron Out (40 lbs) for \$10.00

Delivery is included and will take place on Wednesday, June 26, with the salt placed in your designated area. Orders are due by **May 9** and can be submitted in one of two ways:

1. **Online:** Complete the form at <https://forms.gle/J2koeaRAAbyyH8c8A> or scan the QR code provided in this newsletter.
2. **Paper Form:** Fill out the attached order form and return it to the school.

Please note: **Online payment is not available**, so all payments must be sent to the school or turned in to a team member. Thank you for your continued support of our girls' basketball program—we appreciate the opportunity to serve you!

## 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 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!

## 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.

## 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!

### Upcoming Events:

#### Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

District Art Show – 6:00 p.m. – Elementary Gym

#### Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

JH Baseball vs. Ottawa Glandorf (7<sup>th</sup> grade) – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Baseball @ Liberty Benton – 5:00 -p.m.

Varsity Softball @ Liberty Benton – 5:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Varsity Track @ Liberty Benton (Pat Wagner Invite) – 9:00 a.m.

#### Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

JV Baseball @ Lincolnview – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Baseball @ Miller City – 5:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

Varsity Track @ Bath Tri – 4:00 p.m.

JH Baseball @ Kalida – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Baseball vs. Leipsic – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Softball vs. Leipsic – 5:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

JH Track – PCL Meet – 4:30 p.m.

Varsity Softball vs. Continental – 5:00 p.m.

Grades 5-12 Spring Band Concert – 7:30 p.m.