



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

May 4, 2023

Staff Appreciation Week

This week (May 1-5) marks Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week throughout the United States. On behalf of the Columbus Grove Board of Education, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation for the staff at Columbus Grove that helps our children succeed. We greatly appreciate our teaching staff for not only teaching the curriculum standards, but also working to build true connections with students to help them reach their full potential. Whether it's by going to student's ballgames or concerts, or making that phone call home to make sure everything is okay, or simply initiating conversations with the students in the hallway before/after school, these types of connections go a long way in providing support to our community's young people as they mature and grow as citizens.

In addition to our teachers, we say thank you to our support staff, including cooks, bus drivers, maintenance/custodial staff, and secretaries for their countless duties which keep our day-to-day operations running smoothly. We simply could not do what we do every day without people working together and making decisions in the best interest of our students. Thank you Columbus Grove Schools staff for all you do!

Kindergarteners Attend Safety City

This past Tuesday, our Kindergarteners attended Safety City at the Ottawa Fairgrounds. Safety City is a miniature city set up for children to learn the importance of railroad, pedestrian, water, seatbelt and bike safety. With school letting out for summer, it was a great opportunity to reinforce the importance of bike helmets and arm signals, looking both ways at stop signs, water safety, use of seatbelts, and other safety topics.

CG Schools Awarded Safety Grant through Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC)

Last week, we were notified that our safety grant application that was submitted earlier this year to the OFCC had been approved. The following items will be purchased to help provide additional safety and security for the school district:

- **Bullet Resistant Film on all Glass 7' and below-** Bullet resistant film had previously been installed in all exterior doors and other areas of the building with a good amount of glass. This next installation will cover all windows 7' and below around the entire building. Approximate cost: \$31,300
- **Installation of Carbon Black End Point Detection and Response-** This is an added layer of protection to our district's technological infrastructure. While traditional antivirus software (which we have had for years) focuses on preventing known threats, Carbon Black provides a more proactive approach to cybersecurity by continuously monitoring our devices for suspicious behavior and allowing our school to respond to threats in real-time. Approximate cost: \$3,900
- **Purchase of Six Additional Motorola 2-Way Radios-** These radios are currently used by administration and all adults who take students outside of the building. We currently have approximately a dozen of these radios in use. The purchase of these additional radios will allow us to replace some of our older units and expand the number of staff who have access to this communication system. Approximate cost: \$2,700
- **Repair of Door Lock Mechanism for the Stage-** This door is connected to our key fob entry system. The repair of this mechanism will provide increased security of the elementary gym and stage. Approximate cost: \$2,500

All costs for these safety measures are covered by this grant, which totals just over \$40,000. Many thanks go to Technology Coordinator Mike Keehn for putting this application together!

Changes in Point of Sale (POS) in the Cafeteria

This past Monday marked the first day with our new cafeteria point-of-sale (POS) system, PaySchools. Procedures have gone very smoothly over the last few days and we appreciate everyone's flexibility as we get orientated to a new system. A few reminders regarding this new system:

- Students saw no changes when they went through the line. They used their same PINs and they could bring in cash or check to add money to their accounts.
- All existing student account balances transferred over to the new system.
- There is a new online portal which you can register for here: <https://www.payschoolscentral.com/>. This will be the one-stop location to check student balances, set up alerts, see transaction history, transfer money between students, or deposit money via a credit card or bank account. Please note: like before, depositing money online does incur a nominal fee.
- One feature that was not available with the new systems we evaluated was the "Family Account" which allowed all students grouped together as a family to pull from the same pool of money. When we transition to PaySchools, money that is currently in a Meals Plus family account will be split evenly between the students when the balance is transferred.
- Balance alerts will no longer go out through Remind. All balance alerts will be generated by the new system at <https://www.payschoolscentral.com>. Just sign up there and you can manage which alerts you'd like to receive.

Many thanks go to Head of Nutrition Services Kristen Hertel, and Technology Coordinator Mike Keehn for all their efforts to make this a smooth transition to the new system. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Keehn @ cg_keehn@cg.noacsc.org.

Elementary Art Teacher Opening

Columbus Grove Schools has posted for the position of Elementary Art Teacher. Candidates must hold proper teaching certification/licensure. Prior teaching experience is preferred. Salary range is based on teacher salary schedule, commensurate with education and experience. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume, a copy of certifications, and any other pertinent materials to Brad Calvelage, Elementary Principal, Columbus Grove Schools, 201 West Cross St., Columbus Grove, OH 45830. Application materials can also be emailed to cg_calvelage@cg.noacsc.org. Applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12.

Attention Graduating Seniors (and Parents)!

Please see below for important end-of-year information regarding graduation and other related events.

- The area Council of Churches is sponsoring the Baccalaureate Service for all graduating seniors on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. All seniors will be receiving 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 12. 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 12. Seniors still needing to attend to their lockers will be asked to take care of this after graduation rehearsal on Friday, May 19. Students are responsible to turn in their textbooks to the appropriate teachers in order to not be charged a book fee.
- All technology should be returned to Technology Coordinator Mr. Keehn.
- Graduation rehearsal is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 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 Friday morning in order to participate in the commencement ceremony. The student dress code is in effect for rehearsal.

- The Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 21, 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 5. Seniors needing help with this should contact the guidance office.
- Important Upcoming Dates for Seniors:
 - **Monday, May 15** Senior Class Trip to Cedar Point
 - **Tuesday, May 16** 7:00 p.m. Senior Awards Night
 - **Wednesday, May 17** Senior Exams (open campus)
 - **Friday, May 19** 9:00 a.m. Graduation Rehearsal/class speaker rehearsal (after practice)
 - **Sunday, May 21** 12:30 p.m. – Baccalaureate (in HS gym)
2:00 p.m. – Graduation Ceremony

61st Annual Band Calendar Sale Underway

You can now order your 2023-2024 band calendar by either filling out the form on the back of the March or April page of your current band calendar or you can print off an order form from the school district's website <http://cg.noacsc.org/>. Calendars are \$10 each and come with one free listing. Addition listings are still just 0.25 cents each. Listing types include (B) birthday, (A) Anniversary, (E) Meeting, (S) Military Service, (M) Memory, or (N) Band Member Birthday. Payment is required at the time of the order (due by June 1). Checks should be made payable to "CG Band Boosters" and can be dropped off at the high school or mailed to 201 W. Cross St. 45830. Many thanks for your support and to our businesses for supporting this successful fundraiser.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, May 4th

Varsity Baseball vs. Delphos Jefferson – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Softball vs. Delphos Jefferson – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 5th

Varsity Track @ PCL Meet @ Ottoville – 4:30 p.m.

JH Track @ NWC Championship

JV Baseball vs. Findlay – 5:00 p.m.

JV Softball vs. LCC – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Baseball @ Tinora – 5:00 p.m.

JH Baseball vs. Tinora – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 6th

JV Baseball vs. Delphos St. Johns

Monday, May 8th

JV Baseball vs. Kalida – 5:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday, May 9th

Varsity Track @ Lincolnview Quad – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10th

Varsity Baseball & Varsity Softball @ Allen East – 5:00 p.m.