



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

May 23, 2024

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Last Sunday, Columbus Grove Schools held its 146th commencement. The Class of 2024 at Columbus Grove concluded their high school careers with a number of accolades, including:

- Our Marching Band, led by seven of our seniors, earned its first "Superior" rating at OMEA State Competition since 2016.
- The boys' Cross-Country team, led by four seniors and two of the district's top 10 Cross Country runners of all time, Luke Ellerbrock and Evan Pitts, led this year's team to our district's first-ever State Cross Country Championship.
- On an individual level, we had a senior wrestler Loudon Auchmuty, who had a 0.0075%, or 1 in 13,000 chance of making it out of the wrestling districts for state competition. Yet, it was Loudon, along with fellow senior Kyle Lathrop, who competed in Columbus at the OHSAA state wrestling tournament this past March.
- Girls' Basketball team qualified for a fourth consecutive regional appearance- the longest streak in school history.
- After winning the district's first-ever NWC Wrestling title in 2023, the CG Wrestling team made it back-to-back titles in 2024.
- Both track teams have numerous senior athletes competing for state qualification this week.
- Over 20 graduates earned dozens of credentials at during their two years of training at the Apollo Career Center.
- This senior class consisted of 24 honor graduates.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! Here is a roster of this year's graduating class, along with their immediate plans after high school:

Loudon Auchmuty- Owens, Health & Physical Education
Kaylee Baker- Enter the Workforce
Marissa Ball- The Ohio State University, Early Childhood Education

Keegan Bame- Enter the Workforce
Devin Barnt- GROB Apprenticeship Program
Braylon Barrientes- Enter the Workforce, Standridge Color Co.
Ethan Beam- Enter the Workforce, Ohio Department of Transportation
Timothy Bergdall- Enter the Workforce
Makailey Bermudez- Akron University, Criminology & Criminal Justice
Bo Birnesser- Ohio Northern University, Accounting and Finance
Dominic Bryan- The Ohio State University- Zoology
Chloe Buckley- Rhodes State College, Nursing
Tyler Cameron- Enter the Workforce
Ariana Campbell- Enter the Workforce
Kaitlin Dipnarine- Kent State University, Fashion Merchandising
Dylan Doster- Enter the Workforce
Alexis Dotson- BGSU, Visual Communication Technology
Conner Douglas- Enter the Workforce, Five Angle Construction
Steven Dunbar- Wright State University, Undecided
Luke Ellerbrock- University of Findlay, Sports Communications
Gabriella Escamilla- University of Toledo, Psychology
Lauren Fuerst- UNOH, Ag Business
Evan Grohoske- UNOH, Digital Multimedia
Trevan Halker- Enter the Workforce
Ryan Hardeman- The Ohio State University, Lima, Finance
Jaret Heckman- Enter the Workforce, PRO-TEC
Hallie Hermiller- The Culinary Institute of America, Food Business Management
Hannah Hohenbrink- Apollo Career Center, Spa Tech.
Payton Hoorman- The Ohio State University, Animal Science
Ethan Johnson- Enter the Workforce
Brendan Jones- Enter the Workforce
Michael Jones- Enter the Workforce
Nathan Kamphaus- GROB Apprenticeship Program
Melody Karhoff- Enter the Workforce, Wal-Mart

Claire Kiene- Olivet University, Chemistry
Spencer Laing- Enter the Workforce, R.G Zachrich
Construction
Gavin Langhals- Rhodes State College, Business
Administration
Natalie Langhals- Ohio State ATI, Agriscience Education
Kyle Lathrop- Enter the Workforce
Erin Lugibill- BGSU- Accounting
Jacob Lyons- UNOH- HVAC
Madilynn Maag- Rhodes State College, Nursing
Kaidan Martin- Enter the Workforce, County Electric
Kirsten McCauley- Ohio University, Health Services Admin.
Logan Mershman- Life University, Anatomy & Physiology
Grace Myers- The Ohio State University-Lima, Early
Childhood Education
Claire Oatman- Rhodes State University, Radiologic Imag.
Sophia Olivo- Enter the Workforce, Hilty Preschool/Kids
Count Daycare
Everett Palte- BGSU- Marketing
Evan Pitts- University of Saint Francis, Exercise Science
Zachary Reynolds- Rhodes State College, Business
Administration
Brayden Ritchie- Enter the Workforce
Brody Roof- The Ohio State University, Veterinary Studies
James Rosengarten- BGSU- Business Administration
Logan Sanchez- GROB Apprenticeship Program
Evan Sautter- GROB Apprenticeship Program
Carmen Schroeder- Enter the Workforce, SRMC Project
Search Program
Karli Sharrits- Enter the Workforce
Jade Siefker- BGSU, Physical Therapy
Alyssa Smith- Enter the Workforce, Thirsty's
Abby Stechschulte- BGSU, Nursing
Zane Stechschulte, BGSU, Computer Engineering
Harley Sturgill- Enter the Workforce
Bladen Treadway- Enter the Workforce, All Excavating and
Demolition
Asencion Vasquez- Enter the Workforce, Adroit
Contracting & Electrical
Brock Verhoff- Enter the Workforce, St. Rita's Medical
Center
Hailey Vogt- University of Toledo, Psychology
Wyatt Watt- Enter the Workforce
Shelby Williams- Enter the Workforce, International Tank Svc
Victoria Williams- Enter the Workforce, Allen County Jail
Isabella Wilson- University of Findlay, Pre-Veterinary Med.
Lauren Wolverton – BGSU – Early Childhood Education

Baccalaureate Thanks

Prior to commencement exercises last Sunday, the Columbus Grove Council of Churches of hosted its annual baccalaureate in the high school gymnasium. We had approximately 25 graduates and their families in attendance for this service. Those in attendance had the pleasure to hear a life-applicable message from guest speaker, Ashtyn Jefferson, who works for Campus Life at Bowling Green State University. We greatly appreciate the CG Council of Churches for putting this event together! We will continue to schedule the baccalaureate on the same day at commencement, based on the response from parents. The 2025 commencement date will be released later this summer.

Thank You, VFW and Eagles

Many thanks go to our local VFW Post 9648 for their generous donation of \$500 to EACH of our high school sports and marching band. This amount totals over \$8,000! These extra-curricular activities require a constant revenue fund to replace uniforms, equipment, camp fees, etc. This \$500 donation per extra-curricular is a huge help! Many thanks to Commander Brian Wolverton for facilitating this donation.

Our Track program was a recipient of a \$7,000 donation from the Columbus Grove Fraternal Order of Eagles. These funds will be used to help pay for much needed pole vault poles. Many thanks to both of these groups for their generosity in giving our student-athletes the needed equipment to maximize their potential!

Elementary Host Step-Up Day for Students

Yesterday, elementary students participated in a "Step Up Day" in order to get ready for next school year. Participating in this activity meant students spending 20-30 minutes with a teacher from the grade level they will go into for the 24-25 school year. Teachers shared expectations for the students for the new grade level and spent time answering questions students may have as they transition to a new grade level. This activity is especially key for our incoming fifth and seventh graders next year, as they will experience the most amount of change to their daily routine. Many thanks go to School Counselor Brenda Bruce for setting this activity up for our students.

Brick Orders Being Collected for CG Alumni Paver

Looking for a unique and timeless gift for a 2024 CG graduate? Over 350 bricks have been purchased for the CG

the CG Alumni Paver Walk. Bricks are on sale for just \$50 for a 4" by 8" brick. These bricks will make a perfect gift to commemorate a CG alumnus, faculty member, student accomplishment, or historical event in our district's history! To order, just go to our website at <http://cg.noacsc.org>, or you can get a hard copy of an order form at any of our district offices.

Thank You Flag Crew!

As we close out the school year, we would like to thank our dedicated crew of Daisy Thompson, Layla Bendele, and Jordan Mull for putting up and taking down the American, Ohio, and Bulldog flags this school year. These Junior High students were very diligent and reliable in their flag duties every season of the school year. Great Job, Flag Crew!

Summer Lunch Program Available for CG Students in Lima

A summer breakfast/lunch program for children ages 1-18 (no adults) will be served at the following Lima City Schools: Heritage Elementary, Independence Elementary, Liberty Arts, and Unity Elementary. This program will run from 11:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, June 3 – July 25. Food truck locations include Truck #1 at Lincoln Park from 11:00 – 11:20, MLK Park from 11:30-11:50, and Faurot Park from 12:00 - 12:20. Truck #2 will be located at Lima West Apartments from 11:30-11:50 and Maplewood Apartments from 12:00 – 12:20. Meals must be eaten on-site and leftovers may be taken off-site. Columbus Grove students are eligible to participate. If you have questions, please call 419-996-3437.

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 \$10,000, \$15,000, or \$50,000! The Columbus Grove Boosters, in conjunction with the Columbus Grove Volunteer Fire Department, Columbus Grove Band Boosters, and Columbus Grove Lions Club, are selling only 700 tickets for this raffle. The drawing for the three lucky winners will take place on Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 p.m. at the June Jubilee, prior to the fireworks display. You need not be present to win. You may 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!

CG Alumni Gathering Just Over a Month Away!

This year's Alumni Weekend has been scheduled for June 14 & 15. Alumni officers have coordinated a cocktail party on Friday night at the Grove Pool and the traditional banquet on Saturday evening, which will take place at the American Legion. Classes that graduated in years ending with 4 and 9 will be honored at the banquet on June 15. The Alumni Association is pleased to announce that they will honor Mr. Jerry Hoersten and posthumously Mr. Delbert Pickens for their positive impact on the lives of the students and CG Schools. Please contact the Alumni Association at cgalumni@cg.noacsc.org. Also, look for updates on their webpage found at <http://cg.noacsc.org/alumni-association> and follow them on Facebook.

Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted for the 2024-2025 School Year

Columbus Grove Local Schools is accepting applications for substitute bus drivers. This position has the potential of becoming a full-time bus driver in the future if the applicant is interested. Substitute bus drivers are contacted to drive extracurricular and field trips and occasionally drive a regular morning or afternoon route. Certification requires the completion of attending a pre-service class, a written and driving test, CDL license, a medical physical exam, drug test, BMV check of driving record, and a background check. Cost for training will be fully reimbursed by the district for any individuals who serve as a substitute bus driver for Columbus Grove Local Schools. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver for Columbus Grove Schools, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 659-2639 for further information.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, May 23rd

Student's last day – 1:00 p.m. Dismissal

Friday, May 24th

Varsity Track Meeting – Regional Meet @ Fostoria – 4:00 p.m.