



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

August 3, 2023

School Improvements/Purchases for 2023-24 School Year:

The district has made a number of purchases and capital improvements over the last few months as we prepare for the 2023-24 school year. Here are a few larger items of note:

- Purchase of four new school buses: Due to a state grant, the Board was able to purchase four new school buses, with the state paying for \$45,000 towards each bus (average cost per new bus: \$105,000-\$120,000). This allowed the district to significantly update its bus fleet with both regular and spare buses. These buses have all passed state inspection and will be on the road at the start of the 2023-24 school year.
- Purchase of a new school van: Additionally, another state grant allowed the district to purchase another school van for student transport. This van arrived in June and has already been on a number of summer trips. The purchase of this van now gives the district three vans for student transport, which is greatly needed.
- New sound system at Clymer Stadium: If you attended any school events over the last couple of years at Clymer Stadium, you may have noticed issues from time to time with the public address system. The district has purchased a new system that will be installed this month, making it ready for this fall season.

- Resurfacing of blacktop- All the blacktop on the playground (basketball court and by the kindergarten rooms) and at the athletic field will be resurfaced. This project is due to start within a week, making it ready to go for the start of the school year.

Next week, I will provide a number of updates in our curriculum and programming for this upcoming school year.

Sales Tax Holiday this Weekend for School Supplies

Ohio will again suspend its sales tax August 4-6 to help parents and teachers save money while back-to-school shopping. During the sales tax holiday, the following will be exempt from sales and use tax: an item of clothing priced at \$75 or less; an item of school instructional material priced at \$20 or less; and an item of school supplies priced at \$20 or less. There is no limit on how many items consumers can buy.

2023-24 Open House Scheduled for Monday, August 21

Columbus Grove Schools will host its annual Open House on Monday, August 21, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please come out to meet your child's teacher for this school year! As we have done in the past, parents may drop off their child's school supplies in the room so they will not have to bring them in on the first day of school. Parents can pay 2023-24 school fees at this time as well (Cost: \$60/student). School secretaries will be available to accept payments. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

Final Forms for 2023-2024 School Year Now Available

Parents and students can begin filling out their Final Forms information for next school year now. Log in at <https://columbusgrove-oh.finalforms.com/> and click the "Click to Switch to 2022-23 Registration" button at the top of the page to get started. Please contact Mr. Keehn at the contact information above if you have any issues.

Beginning of the Year Items

- 1. Elementary, Middle, and High School Start and Ending Times-** The elementary school students (K-4) will start at 8:00 a.m. and dismiss at 2:55 p.m. daily. 5-12 students will begin at 8:00 a.m. as well, but will dismiss at 2:55 p.m.
- 2. School Supplies Lists-** These lists are posted on the district website. You can come to the building and receive a hard copy as well.
- 3. School Fees-** School fees for the 2023-2024 school year remain the same as last year. Fees for grades K-11 are \$60. For grade 12, fees are \$75. Additionally, for high school students taking an online technology course, there will be a \$15 fee per course. Please make checks payable to Columbus Grove Local Schools. Payments can be submitted at the offices or they may be given to your child's teacher. Secretaries will be in the elementary gym collecting fees at the Open House on Monday, August 22.
- 4. Pick-Up and Drop Off Reminder-** Please remember the one-way transportation on Pendleton during pick-up (2:30-3:15 p.m.) and drop off (7:30-8:00 a.m.) each day during the school year. This has increased safety measures in this high traffic area. Please remember that Pendleton will become a one-way street during these times when school begins on Wednesday, August 23.

5. Breakfast & Lunch Prices- Breakfast prices are \$2.50 for K-12 students. Lunch prices are as follows: \$3.15 for K-5 students, \$3.25 for 6-8 students, and \$3.50 for 9-12 students. Please note parents are welcome to sign up for free and reduced lunches through Final Forms. Please take advantage of this opportunity if you are eligible!

Anonymous Bullying and Safety Reporting System Available for Students and Parents

The Columbus Grove Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment for all of its students. The District encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that he/she believes to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. In an effort to increase our abilities to address and further prevent bullying behavior, Columbus Grove Schools has designed an anonymous online harassment reporting system. If an adult or child suspects a student being bullied, they are encouraged to report the bullying behavior to school officials in person or via an anonymous hotline. This hotline can also be used to notify district officials of any suspicious or potentially dangerous activity that may affect students or staff at our school. Individuals can call or text 844-SAFEROH to report anything that is suspicious or endangering anyone at school. This online service has been in place for a number of years and has been quite effective in addressing safety or harassment issues for our school district.

Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted

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 applicants are interested. Substitute bus drivers are contacted to drive extracurricular 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 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 School, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 659-2639 for further information.

Substitute Kitchen Workers and Cafeteria Monitors Wanted

If you are interested in serving as a substitute kitchen worker or cafeteria monitor, please contact the school. Kitchen worker applicants must be available weekdays with a fair amount of availability. Food service background preferred but not required (use of commercial cooking equipment and be able to prepare bulk food). Interested applicants can contact Food Service Director Kristen Hertel at cg_hertel@cg.noacsc.org. Those interested in serving as a cafeteria monitor should contact the superintendent's office at 419-659-2369 or cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

Thursday, August 17

- @ 9:00 a.m.- Student Orientation- All 7th grade and new 8-12 students (HS gym)
- @ 10:30 a.m.- 1:1 Device Orientation- All 8th grade and new high school students (Commons)
- @ 1:00 p.m.- Student Orientation- New 1st-6th grade students
- @ 1:30 p.m.- 1:1 Device distribution- 9th-12th grade students (Media Center)

Monday, August 21

- 6:00-7:30 p.m.- Open House
- 8:00 p.m.- August Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, August 23

- First day of the 2023-24 school year
- Apollo first day for first year students

Thursday, August 24

- Apollo first day for returning students

Thursday, August 24 & Friday, August 25

- Kindergarten Testing

Monday, August 28 – Friday, September 1

- Kindergarten Phase-In Days