



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

August 5, 2021

## 2021-2022 School Re-Opening Guidelines Forthcoming

Understandably, there is a bit of confusion regarding school re-opening guidelines for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. On Monday, July 26, the Ohio Department of Health released its 2021-2022 school re-opening guidelines, which were recommendations, not mandates. One day later, the CDC changed its course on a number of COVID-19 safety measures, including mask wearing. We certainly can see why our parents and students are confused as to what these guidelines will be for this school year.

Tomorrow, school administrators from all county school districts will meet with the Putnam County Health Department to discuss 21-22 school guidelines. After this meeting, I will meet with our Board of Education to discuss these tentative guidelines and receive further input. Our goal is to have these guidelines released to the community early-mid next week. These guidelines will be released in next week's edition of the Superintendent Update. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 419-659-4301 or [cg\\_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org](mailto:cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org).

## 2021-2022 School Year Three Weeks Away!

Fall sports teams and the marching band are already practicing for their upcoming seasons. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 25. To view the entire 2021-22 school year calendar, please go to the district's website at <http://cg.noacsc.org/> and click on "calendars" on the left hand column of the front page.

## Final Forms for 2021-2022 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 2021-22 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.

## Sales Tax Holiday for School Supplies Tomorrow Through Sunday

Ohio will again suspend its sales tax August 6-8 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.

## Open House is back for 2021-22!

After missing Open House to begin last school year, we will return to our traditional format on Monday, August 23, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please come out to meet your child's teacher for this school year. Parents can pay 2021-22 school fees at this time as well. Secretaries will be set up in the elementary gym to collect fee payments.

The kindergarten teachers will host a separate orientation for their students on Monday, August 23 at 1:00 p.m. Our newest Bulldogs will get more individualized attention in order to get their school year started off on the right foot!

## Sign Up for Meals Plus

Columbus Grove Schools use the Meals Plus program to handle the transactions for the breakfast and lunch program for students at school. This program allows parents to have online access to their child's meal account, enabling them to deposit money in their account.

Please visit <http://cg.noacsc.org/parents-students/alerts/meals-plus-reminders> for more information regarding this convenient system.

If you have further questions regarding the start of the school year, please visit our website at <http://cg.noacsc.org/> for more information. District office numbers are 659-2631 (elementary), 659-2156 (high school), and 659-2639 (superintendent).

### **Beginning of the Year Items**

- 1. Elementary, Middle, and High School Start and Ending Times-** The elementary and middle school students (K-8) will start at 8:00 a.m. and dismiss at 2:50 p.m. daily. High school 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 2021-2022 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 19.
- 4. Pick-Up and Drop Off Reminder-** A few years ago, we implemented one-way transportation on Pendleton during pick-up (2:30-3:15 p.m.) and drop off (7:30-8:00 a.m.). This has worked well and 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 25.
- 5. Breakfast & Lunch Prices-** Free breakfasts and lunches which were implemented last school year will continue for the 2021-22 school year. ANY student who chooses to get a breakfast or lunch will not be charged. This free breakfast/lunch does NOT apply to ala carte items.

### **Safer Schools Ohio Program**

Columbus Grove Local Schools instituted an instrument that enhances student safety in our district. Safer Schools Ohio is a multi-agency effort created to assist schools in continuously improving the safety of our students. This program utilizes an anonymous tip line where students may report anything that may seem suspicious or endangering to themselves or others. Students and parents can simply text or call **844-SAFEROH** to report anything that they feel is endangering a safe school environment at Columbus Grove Schools. Thank you for your efforts in helping us keep our school safe.

### **Anonymous Bullying Reporting System**

The Columbus Grove Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing 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 the District's secure "Safe Schools Help Link" service online under "Tools" of the Parents/Students/Community tab. This online service is up and running and will remain so for the entire school year.

## **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 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 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.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Wednesday, August 11**

- @ 10:00-11:30 a.m.- COVID Vaccination Clinic in Room 160 (Mrs. Hermiller's room)
- Varsity Golf @ Delphos Country Club – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Thursday, August 12**

- Fall Athletic Pictures
- @ 7:00 p.m.- Athletic Boosters meeting in the commons
- Varsity Golf @ Bluffton Golf Course – 4:00 p.m.

#### **Friday, August 13**

- Varsity Golf@ Pike Run - 9:00 a.m.

#### **Tuesday, August 17**

- @ 8:00 p.m.- August Board of Education Meeting

#### **Thursday, August 19**

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

#### **Friday, August 20**

- Varsity Football @ Pandora-Gilboa – 7:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday, August 21**

- JV Football vs. Pandora-Gilboa – 10:00 a.m.

#### **Monday, August 23**

- 6:00-7:30 p.m.- Open House
- Freshman Football @ Liberty-Benton – 5:00 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, August 24**

- Apollo- First day for first year students
- Varsity Soccer @ Miller City – 5:00 p.m.
- Varsity & JV Volleyball @ Ayersville – 5:30 p.m.
- Varsity Cross Country – Ice Breaker Invit. @ Upper Sandusky – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, August 25**

- First day of the 2021-22 school year (and returning Apollo students)

#### **Thursday & Friday, August 26 & 27**

- Kindergarten Testing

#### **Monday, August 30 – Friday, September 3**

- Kindergarten Phase-In Days

#### **Monday, September 6**

- No School – Labor Day