



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

August 10, 2023

Substitute Teachers Needed for 2023-24 School Year

Columbus Grove School District is in need of additional substitute teachers for this upcoming school year. A major change that took place a couple years ago in terms of requirements for substitute teachers was the issuance of a 1 Year Non-Bachelor's Substitute License. Substitute teachers no longer are required to have a bachelor's degree in order to perform these duties. Interested applicants should have strong interpersonal skills and a desire to work with young people. Many of our substitute teachers have a preference of grade levels which they feel most comfortable. Also, substitute teachers have a choice of which days to work, based on their personal schedules. The district will work with interested candidates' preferences.

If you are interested in serving as a substitute teacher, please contact the superintendent's office at 419-659-4301 and we will be happy to assist you with obtaining your substitute teacher's license for this upcoming school year.

Curriculum/Programming Changes for 2023-24 School Year

This year, there are a few programming changes taking place at the high school. First, CGHS will now offer a math course called Quantitative Reasoning. This course is the application of basic mathematical skills, such as algebra, to the analysis and interpretation of quantitative information (numbers and units) in real-world contexts to make decisions relevant to daily life. Critical thinking is its primary objective and outcome. It emphasizes interpretation, representation, calculation, analysis/synthesis, assumptions, and communication.

Veteran teacher Kari Weisenburger has taken the training necessary to teach this course and we have two sections scheduled for this school year.

This course has been modified to an Algebra II equivalent course and satisfies the credit requirement for Algebra II. Students who succeed in this course may take an Algebra II, Pre-Cal, or College Credit Plus course during their senior year.

In addition to this new math course, CGHS will also offer two on campus College Credit Plus math courses in College Algebra and Trigonometry. CGHS Teacher Brian Schroeder has earned the certification necessary in order to teach these courses on campus. This means CGHS students will be able to take these courses on campus and earn college credit after successful completion of these courses. The addition of these two CCP courses on campus is part of the district's transition to offer more on campus CCP courses in the four academic content areas, providing our students the opportunity to earn college credit without having to leave the school's campus.

Another programming change that has taken place is a change in our music department, due to the recent resignation of Assistant Band Director, Sam Black. In order to replace Sam's main duties for this school year, the district will hire Rich Dubler to serve as Assistant Band Director. Rich is a retired Band Director at Otsego and has previously worked with CG Band Director Jason Lozer. Additionally, former Band Director Matt Blymyer will serve as part-time substitute music teacher during the first semester to help with some of Sam's previous teaching duties. Having experienced band/music personnel like Rich and Matt gives us peace of mind that our students will receive high quality instruction and guidance in this area of our programming.

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 2023-24 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.

Thursday Night Football Back for a Second Year

Last year, the Columbus Grove Football squad opened its regular season on a Thursday night, hosting Pandora-Gilboa. The event was a success, as the athletic department set a season opening game record in terms of tickets sold. This year, we will travel to Pandora-Gilboa on Thursday, August 17 for our season opener on the road. Please plan accordingly and we hope you can come out to cheer on our Bulldogs as they open the 2023 football season!

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 2:50 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 21.

- 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 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 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)
- 4:30 p.m. – Varsity Golf @ Allen East Quad
- 7:00 p.m. – CG Football @ Pandora-Gilboa

Saturday, August 19

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

Monday, August 21

- 5:00 p.m. – Freshman Football @ Coldwater
- 5:00 p.m. – Varsity Soccer vs. Cory-Rawson
- 6:00-7:30 p.m.- Open House
- 8:00 p.m.- August Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, August 22

- 4:30 p.m. – Varsity Golf @ Lincolnview
- 5:00 p.m. – Varsity Soccer @ Miller City
- 5:30 p.m. – Cross Country @ Upper Sandusky Icebreaker
- 5:30 p.m. – JV & Varsity Girls Volleyball @ Ayersville

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
- Kindergarten Testing
- 5:00 p.m. – JH Football @ Delphos Jefferson
- 5:00 p.m. – JH Volleyball @ Arlington
- 5:30 p.m. – JV & Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Arlington

Friday, August 25

- Kindergarten Testing
- 7:00 p.m. – Varsity Football vs. Liberty Benton

Saturday, August 26

- 9:00 a.m. – Cross Country @ Celina Invitational
- 10:00 a.m. – JV Football @ Liberty Benton

Monday, August 28 – Friday, September 1

- Kindergarten Phase-In Days