



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

August 12, 2024

2024-2025 School Year Nine Days Away!

I hope this summer has been one of relaxation for our students and their families. Believe it or not, the first day of school for the 2024-25 school year is just nine days away, beginning Wednesday, August 21. To view the entire 2024-25 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.

Welcome New CG Staff Members!

There will be several new faces on our team when we begin the 2024-25 school year. We welcome the following staff members:

Katie Vennekotter (K-12 Library Media Clerk)-

Katie is taking over for Sue Ricker, who retired this last spring after 30 years of service to Columbus Grove Schools. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and English. Katie's husband, John, has been a high school social studies teacher at CGHS for the last seven years. They live in Columbus Grove with their three children.

Brooke Nemire (2nd Grade ELA/3rd Grade Math) -

Brooke comes to Columbus Grove from Perry Schools, where she taught first grade for the last eight years. A 2012 CGHS alumnus, Brooke and her husband Luke reside in Columbus Grove with their two children.

Taylor Shafer (5th/6th Intervention Tutor) –

Taylor comes to us with five years of teaching experience, most recently as an intervention specialist at Lima City Schools. Taylor married CG alum Zach Shafer last month. She and Zach reside in Columbus Grove.

Pete Langhals (Regular Route Bus Driver) – Pete is taking over one of our regular bus routes due to the retirement of Dan Maag last school year. He has served as a substitute bus driver since retiring from his position at Whirlpool about a year ago. A longtime CG resident, Pete is also the parent of CG grads Ashley and Lindsay.

2024-25 Open House Scheduled for Monday, August 19

Columbus Grove Schools will host its annual Open House on Monday, August 19, 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 2024-25 school fees at this time as well. Our secretaries will be set up in elementary/high school office to collect payment for fees.

Final Forms for 2024-2025 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 2024-25 Registration" button at the top of the page to get started. Please contact Mr. Keehn at cg_keehn@cg.noacsc.org if you have any questions.

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 2024-2025 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/high school office 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 21. Also, we ask that parents/guardians do not park in the spots right before the bus pick-up/drop off lane, as this makes it very difficult for buses to get into the bus lane. These spots will be painted accordingly to signifying non-parking areas.
- 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!

New Curriculum Updates for 2024-25 School Year

- **Elementary STEM Course Beginning this Year-** Mr. Brodewolf has been working diligently to transform the current elementary technology class to one with elementary STEM activities this upcoming year. We look forward to seeing the transformation of this program in the coming years!

- **Science of Agriculture Course at CGHS-** Many thanks to Mr. Hassan for taking extensive training this summer as we look to broaden our curriculum in HS Science. Additional training areas Dave took included biodiesel, the potential use of a precision planter on school grounds, hydroponics, and commodity tester and commercial pesticide applicator credentials.
- **Expansion of College Credit Plus (CCP) Courses on Campus Continue-** Last year, Mr. Schroeder began teaching on-campus CCP courses in College Algebra and Trigonometry. Continued expansion of on-campus CCP courses this year include Mr. Vennekotter teaching CCP Psychology and Mrs. Baumgartner teaching CCP Biology. We appreciate John and Jenny's efforts to become CCP certified in these areas!

Notable School Permanent Improvements

- **New LED Lighting System at Clymer Stadium-** This project has been nearly a year in the making and we are happy to report that this new lighting system is installed and has passed inspection. We are very grateful to the J. Earl Belch Charitable Trust for its generous donation to the district to help pay for this project!
- **Visitor Bleacher Improvements at Clymer Stadium-** The visitor bleachers received an upgrade this summer with the installation of new perimeter fencing, kickplates, and handrails to the aiseways, making the bleachers safer and easier for our visitors to navigate.
- **Team Soccer Shelters for Hall Avenue-** These shelters arrived last week and we hope to have them fully installed by the start of the girls' soccer season.

2025 Commencement Date is Set!

It may seem odd to discuss 2025 commencement exercises when we have yet to begin the 2024-25 school year, but the Board has finalized this date for Sunday, May 18, 2025. Commencement will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the high school gym. Please note: this is the week before Memorial Day weekend. This is will be the fourth year in which the Board has scheduled commencement exercises one week prior to Memorial Day weekend, as they have received positive feedback from parents and the

community. Having this date set so early will allow parents of graduating seniors to plan accordingly for graduation parties.

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.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **Thursday, August 15**
 - @ 9:00 a.m.- Student Orientation- All 7th grade and new 8-12 students (HS gym)
 - @ 10:00 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 19**
 - @ 1:00 p.m.- Kindergarten Orientation
 - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.- Open House
 - 8:00 p.m.- August BOE meeting
- **Tuesday, August 20**
 - Varsity Golf @ Golf Tri – Hickory Sticks golf course – 4:30 p.m.
 - Varsity Soccer vs. Miller City – 5:00 p.m.
 - Cross Country @ Ice Breaker Invitational – 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 21**
 - First day of the 2024-25 school year
 - Varsity Golf @ Delphos – 4:30 p.m.
 - JH Volleyball vs. Arlington – 5:00 p.m.
 - JV & Varsity Volleyball @ Arlington – 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, August 22**
 - Kindergarten Testing
 - Varsity Football vs. Pandora-Gilboa – 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, August 23**
 - Kindergarten Testing
- **Saturday, August 24**
 - JV Football @ Pandora Gilboa – 10:00 a.m.
 - Cross Country @ Kip Kinn Invitational @ Colonel Crawford – 9:00 a.m.
 - JV & Varsity Volleyball @ Parkway – Tournament – 10:00 a.m.
- **Monday, August 26 – Friday, August 30**
 - Kindergarten Phase-In Days
- **Monday, September 2**
 - No School- Labor Day