



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

August 24, 2023

Open House Thanks

Many thanks go to those who attended this past Monday's Open House. We had an excellent turnout and the teachers were pleased to meet so many parents and students for the first time. We appreciate our parents taking the time to make it to school and allow your children the opportunity to see their room, practice their locker combinations (especially fifth graders), and meet their teachers. There is no doubt that this helped them as they began their school year yesterday.

Yellow School Buses are out! Pay Attention!

With school starting yesterday, our 11 Columbus Grove school bus drivers were out on the road transporting our students to and from school safely. Please allow yourself a little more time in the morning, as school buses being on the road will create some delays in traffic. Unfortunately, we experience about a dozen illegal bus passes with our buses on an annual basis. When watching the videos of these illegal passes, it is many times a driver not even paying attention (distracted driving) when passing through a bus safety zone. Please use caution when approaching school buses, especially with the road construction that is currently taking place (more information regarding that matter below). Many thanks to our excellent route drivers Deanna Ricker, Shelly Schroeder, Linda Ridenour, Joanne McKanna, Mike Fanaff, Dan Maag, Bill Heilman, Janel Hardeman, Brad Anderson, Chad McCluer, and Jeff Gertsen.

Village Road Construction's Impact with Student Transportation Services

Last spring, the village began two extensive road construction projects, new curbing along East Sycamore Street and the new construction and widening of the bridge on West Sycamore Street. Here is a brief update on each project as we head into the new school year as well as modified school transportation operations:

- **East Sycamore Curbing Project-** This project is scheduled to be completed by the week of August 28. Bus drivers of routes on the east side of the district which are impacted by this project will adjust pickup/drop-off times to the best of their abilities, but please note that these drivers are establishing new routes with new student riders as we begin the year. We ask for parents' patience and flexibility as these new routes are streamlined.
- **West Sycamore Bridge Project-** Since the West Sycamore bridge project will still be under construction at the start of the school year, Columbus Grove and St. Anthony's Schools will continue with the same bus pickup/drop-off procedures established last spring.
- **Pickup/Drop-Off Procedures at St. Anthony's-** Buses will unload and pick-up St. Anthony's students behind the school in the church parking lot.
- **Transport of Student Walkers who Live on the West Side of Rt. 65-** CG schools will again provide busing for student walkers who live on the west side of St. Rt. 65 in both the morning and afternoon. Here are the pickup/drop-off times:
 - **Morning-** Bus 17 will pick up student walkers at St. Anthony's school in the church parking lot at 7:35 a.m. Students must be ready to board Bus 17 at this time in order for it to stay on schedule.
 - **Afternoon-** Bus #15 (last bus in the afternoon bus line-up) at CG Schools will provide transport for student walkers to St. Anthony's. Approximate drop-off time at St. Anthony's will be 3:10 p.m.

Because our bus drivers have new routes this year that have yet to be established, we again ask for patience and flexibility from our families as we start the school year with these road projects still under construction.

Approximate times have been given to bus riders for pickup/drop-off, but parents will need to have students ready prior to these approximate pick-up times due to these new routes and construction. Our drivers will work diligently to have their routes streamlined as soon as possible based on these circumstances. If you have any questions about these procedures, please contact the Superintendent's office at 419-659-2639.

Substitute Teachers Needed for 2023-24 School Year

Columbus Grove Schools are 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.

Please fill out Free and Reduced Lunch Waiver Form for 2023-24 School Year

We encourage families that are eligible for the free/reduced breakfast and lunch program to fill out the waiver form as soon as possible. This form is now part of the group of forms that parents fill out online through Final Forms, which allows parents to update changes with information versus having to fill out all these forms in their entirety each year. Having this free/reduced form as part of the Final Forms online package should make it a bit easier for this form to be filled out and processed. If you have any questions or need assistance regarding this process, please feel free to contact my office at 419-659-2639.

CGLS Continues Transport Service at Home Football Games

We will have a golf cart available to shuttle spectators from the Pendleton Street entrance of the athletic complex to the Clymer Stadium stands. We will again increase the amount of reserved parking to decrease the walking distance by making the parking lot across from the Pendleton Street entrance handicap parking only. Below is the list of our remaining home football games this season:

Friday, August 25- Liberty Benton
Friday, September 8- Spencerville (Senior Night)
Friday, September 22 - Allen East (Military Tribute Night)
Friday, October 6 - Crestview (Homecoming)
Friday, October 20- Bluffton

Anonymous Safety Reporting System Available for Students and Parents

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 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.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, August 24th

Apollo first day for returning students

Kindergarten testing

JH Football @ Delphos Jefferson – 5:00 p.m.

JH Volleyball @ Arlington – 5:00 p.m.

JV & Varsity Volleyball vs. Arlington – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, August 25th

Kindergarten Testing

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

Saturday, August 26th

Cross Country @ Celina Invitational – 9:00 a.m.

JV Football @ Liberty-Benton – 10:00 a.m.

Monday, August 28th

Varsity Golf @ Jefferson Tri – 4:00 p.m.

JH Volleyball vs. Leipsic – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Soccer @ Delphos Jefferson – 5:00 p.m.

JV & Varsity Volleyball @ Carey – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 29th

JH Volleyball @ Wayne Trace – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity Golf vs. Grove Tri – 5:00 p.m.

JV & Varsity Volleyball vs. U.S.V. – 5:30 p.m.