



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

September 16, 2021

CG Students Remember 9/11/01 Attacks with Tribute to First Responders

To honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Columbus Grove students took part in a "Stair Climb." Each participant paid tribute to an FDNY, NYPD and EMT by walking the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. Pieces of paper with names of those who lost their lives were carried by each staff member and student while they climbed. Before this activity, teachers shared with students' various sources of information and content to provide more context to this tribute. Students then utilized the steps at Clymer Stadium, the bleachers in the high school gym and the track to complete their task of 110 flights of stairs.

In addition to this activity, students wore red, white, and blue apparel and donated \$1 to the staff jeans fund for our local fire department and first responders. Special thanks goes to school counselor Brenda Bruce for orchestrating such a fitting tribute to honor the 343 men and women who lost their lives trying to save others on September 11, 2001.

CG Football Team to Host Military Tribute Night Tomorrow vs. Allen East

The high school football team is again hosting a Military Tribute game this year, as they will honor our veterans at tomorrow evening's game versus Allen East. The players will be wearing special camouflage jerseys for the game, with the name of a veteran they chose to honor. This past Monday, Sargent Opperman, a recruiter for the Ohio National Guard, put the team through a "Boot Camp" conditioning. Last night, the team participated in "The Murph" workout as a team lift. This crossfit workout was specifically designed in honor of Michael Murphy, a Navy Lieutenant who was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005.

This evening, the team will eat at the VFW, where they will be joined by the color guard, as well as Sargent Opperman and a special guest speaker. Many thanks to our football coaching staff for coordinating such a worthwhile experience for the team each year! Also, tomorrow night's game is being broadcasted by WOSN.

Positive COVID-19 Cases in Student Body

Over this past weekend, we received word from the Putnam County Health Department that we have our first positive student cases of COVID-19. As of this past Tuesday afternoon, we have three students who have tested positive for COVID, 17 who are currently quarantined, and seven more students who have been tested for COVID and are awaiting results.

In light of these numbers, the biggest question being raised is how students are being contact traced and subsequently quarantined. Here is a quick overview of how these COVID positive situations are being handled in the county in terms of students being quarantined:

1. Once the school is notified of a positive student case, teachers will submit seating charts to school nurse, Mrs. Zimmerly. If applicable, bus drivers, advisors, and coaches are being contact to submit names of potential close contacts as well.
2. The names of potential close contacts are then submitted to the Putnam County Health Department. The health department will then reach out to parents of these students via email, to determine if the students should or should not quarantine. This is the decision of the health department, not Columbus Grove Schools.

As was the case at the beginning of the school year, a student will be exempt from having to quarantine if either one of the following two items have occurred:

1. The student who was potentially in close contact with a COVID positive student has already been vaccinated, or
2. The student potentially in close contact with the COVID positive student was wearing a mask at the time.

These are the two exemptions that have been set by the Ohio Department of Health.

Furthermore, we want to stress to our students and their families the importance of staying home from school and not participating in extra-curricular activities if a student is experiencing COVID-like symptoms. We still have flexibility in school attendance policies if a student is experiencing COVID-like symptoms, even if they do not get tested or are confirmed COVID-positive. Families following these guidelines will be the district's best way to keep everyone in school on a regular basis and maintain regular school operations, including extra-curricular activities.

We appreciate your cooperation with this matter as we work to keep regular school operations intact at Columbus Grove. If you have any questions regarding COVID or the protocols in place, please feel free to ask our school nurse, Mrs. Zimmerly, or Mr. Best, Mr. Calvelage, or Mr. Verhoff.

Homecoming Parade Planning

The 2021 CGHS Homecoming Parade will take place on Friday, October 1. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. and start from the American Legion. Advance planning to coordinate the parade participants has begun! Any group or club who is interested in being a part of this Grove tradition please email Mrs. Pingle at cg_pingle@cg.noacsc.org or call her at (419) 659-2156 to be added to the lineup.

Mark your Calendars for the 31st Annual *Eyes with Pride*!

On Saturday, September 25, Columbus Grove Schools will host the 31st annual Eyes with Pride Competition Band Show at Clymer Stadium. We would like to welcome all performers, parents, friends, and supporters of the many young musicians who will perform. Eleven high school bands, including our own Bulldog Marching Band, will entertain spectators while attempting to earn a Superior in order to compete in OMEA state finals later this fall. Bands will be judged on their technical music accuracy, musical and visual presentation, marching accuracy, coordination, and music Interpretation. The show begins at 5:00 p.m., with the first band performing at 5:15 p.m. This year's group of bands competing (besides the CG Marching Band, who will perform last) is Arcadia, Marion Local, Liberty Benton, Ottawa-Glandorf, Kalida, and Elgin. Come support CGMB and other bands in our area as they put on a spectacular show!

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 the applicant is 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.

September Board Meeting Date Changed

Due to a scheduling conflict, the September Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21 at 8:00 p.m. in the library. This is different from the typical scheduled meeting of the third Monday of the month.

Did You Know

Listed below are the K-12 beginning of year enrollment numbers for Columbus Grove Schools.

Kindergarten-66, Grade 1- 41, Grade 2- 59, Grade 3- 48, Grade 4- 53, Grade 5- 61, Grade 6- 61, Grade 7- 58, Grade 8- 68, Grade 9- 76, Grade 10- 77, Grade 11-73, Grade 12- 87. Total K-12 Enrollment: 828.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, September 16th

Picture Day

Freshman Volleyball vs. Ada – 4:30 p.m.

JH Football vs. Crestview – 5:00 p.m.

JH Volleyball @ Kalida – 5:00 p.m.

Varsity and JV Volleyball vs. Ada – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, September 17th

Varsity Football vs. Allen East (Military Night) – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 18th

Cross Country – Friendship Invitational @ Cedarville – 10:00 a.m.

JV Football @ Allen East – 10:00 a.m.

JH Cross Country – Waynesfield Invitational – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, September 20th

Varsity and JV Volleyball vs. Ottoville – 5:30 p.m.
– 5:30 p.m.

JH Volleyball @ Crestview – 5:00 p.m.
Varsity Soccer @ Ada – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21st

Golf vs. Pandora-Gilboa – 4:00 p.m.

Varsity and JV Volleyball @ Crestview

Wednesday, September 22nd

JH Volleyball @ Bluffton – 5:00 p.m.