



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

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CG Schools Earn 5-Star Rating on 2024 State Report Card!

Last Friday, the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) released the 2024 School Report Cards. These report cards have changed significantly over the years, particularly with last year's implementation of a 5-star rating system. As in its press release, school report cards are only one part of Ohio's education story. There are five categories in which schools are rated on this new 5-star rating scale. A 3-star rating means the district met the state standards, 4-star exceeded state standards, and 5-star rating means the district significantly exceeded the state standards. I am happy to report the following scores for our 2023-24 report card:

- Achievement: 5 stars (significantly exceeds state standards)
- Progress: 5 stars (significantly exceeds state standards)
- Gap Closing: 5 stars (significantly exceeds state standards)
- Graduation Rate: 5 stars (significantly exceeds state standards)
- Early Literacy: 3 stars (meets state standards)
- **Overall Rating: 5 stars!**

Furthermore, Columbus Grove Schools is the only school district in Putnam County to earn an overall 5-star rating, which is a significant accomplishment considering the many high performing school districts in our county. We are just one of 68 school districts in the state (607 total) to earn an overall 5-star rating.

We typically do not make a big deal about school report ratings in our district. Our goal is to educate every student who walks through our doors to the best of our ability, no matter what their needs may be. Of all the ratings, I'm proudest of the Progress rating of 5 stars, as it shows how well staff works with every student, no matter what their backgrounds or current circumstances are.

Many thanks to our staff for their efforts! We also want to thank our parents for their wonderful support as well! More information regarding school report cards can be found at <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>. If you have any questions about our school report card, please contact me at cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org or 659-4301.

It's Homecoming Week!

This past Monday marked the beginning of Homecoming Week at CGHS. Spirit Week activities this year have included:

- Monday: PJ Day- Wear your pajamas to school.
- Tuesday: Student-Teacher Swap Day- Students dress as teachers and teachers dress as students
- Wednesday: Color Wars- Wear your assigned class color
- Thursday: Zoom Meeting Attire Day- Business on top, and party on the bottom!
- Friday: Bulldog Spirit Day- Wear your CG Bulldog attire and be loud!

Additionally, a pep assembly, along with a high school student parade through the town (weather permitting) 9th period on Friday is scheduled. The 2024 CGHS Homecoming Parade will take place on Friday, September 20. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. and start from the American Legion. Please see further information regarding the Homecoming Parade below. Come out and support the Bulldogs for an NWC showdown with the Delphos Jefferson Wildcats. Go Dogs!

Homecoming Parade Information

The 2024 CGHS Homecoming Parade will take place this Friday. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. and start from the American Legion. To make this process as safe and smooth as possible, several guidelines have been set for all participants to follow.

- Floats arrive at the American Legion parking lot before 4:45 p.m.
- There will be a parade coordinator stationed at the entrance to the American Legion who will direct floats to their designated location.
- Beginning at 4:45 p.m., Plum Street will be blocked off at the intersection with the alley. The traffic will be one way at Plum Street and moving towards the American Legion. Parents with children are asked to enter Plum Street and drop their children off at the alley intersection before exiting down the alley.
- If children are too small to walk the distance to the American Legion by themselves, a student council representative will be available to walk with them.

For more details, please see the information sheets at <https://bit.ly/CGParade2024>.

CGHS Hosts Student Assembly with Guest Speaker Brad Hurtig

On Wednesday, we were honored to have guest speaker Brad Hurtig, an inspirational figure who overcame the loss of both his hands to earn First-Team All-Ohio honors as a high school football player. Brad shared his powerful story of perseverance and determination, describing how he rejoined his football team just months after his life-changing accident and quickly became a key player once again. His message centered around resilience, reminding students that obstacles, no matter how daunting, can be overcome with the right mindset.

Brad's turning point came when his coach challenged him with the simple yet profound words, "If you're thirsty enough, you'll Find a Way." This moment became a catalyst for Brad to take control of his life and push past his fears. Throughout his talk, he encouraged students to apply this same philosophy to their own challenges, emphasizing that perseverance, effort, and a positive attitude can lead to success. His message resonated deeply with the audience, leaving students inspired to face their own obstacles with courage and determination.

Road Construction Update

Many thanks go to our bus drivers, student drivers, and impacted families as we handle the changes related to the road construction project on St. Rt. 65. There is an additional road project that is now taking place in the

district. St. Rt. 12 east from Pandora to Grove is currently being paved. Once this paving is completed, road crews will begin paving Rt. 12 west from Grove to Vaughnsville. These road projects combined will cause significant strain on traffic patterns for a couple weeks. Parent and student drivers, please give yourself extra time in the mornings to accommodate for these projects, which will limit access across St. Rt. 65.

Live Streaming Available for Many CG Sports

The CG Athletic Boosters, CG Athletic Department, and the Columbus Grove High School of Business present live stream and on-demand options to watch CG events. All activities on the football field at Clymer Stadium and in the high school gym will be available to watch on any device including on a TV using Roku. This subscription-based service will be available to purchase before the event for a single purchase, monthly subscription, or annual subscription. While we do not want to have residents and fans skip the live atmosphere of the game, this is a great alternative for those out of the area to support our students. The option of watching games later at your convenience is another added benefit. Visit <http://fan.hudl.com/cgbulldogs> to watch highlights and subscribe to this service.

Head Softball Coach Posting

Applications are now being accepted for the Head Softball Coach position at Columbus Grove High School for the 2024-25 school year. Applicants must currently possess or be willing to acquire the following credentials to be considered for this position: NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course, current CPR licensure, Pupil Activity Permit, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest (Lindsay's Law) training. Interested applicants should apply by email to Terry Schnipke, Athletic Director, at cg_schnipke@cg.noacsc.org. The deadline to submit an application is 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 1.

Did You Know?

Yesterday marked National Rice Krispie Treat Day. All students in K-12 who purchased a lunch was given a free Rice Krispie treat. Thank you to our kitchen staff for adding some fun to our students' day! Our CG Schools kitchen staff are Kristen Hertel, Judy Newland, Beth Lugibill, Beth Buckland, Mollie Mansfield, Michelle Norway, and Jessica Zerkel.

Cross Country Teams Take Overnight Trip to Bowling Green, Kentucky

In what Coach Schnipke called the “planes, trains, automobiles and caves” trip, the cross-country team ventured to Bowling Green, KY, this past weekend. Highlights of the trip included the Aviation Heritage Museum which houses the former Marine 1, which carried Presidents Bill Clinton and George “W” Bush as well as planes from several wars and a plethora of information about pilots from the Western Kentucky region. One of the displays exhibited some hometown flavor as it showed the pilots from the famous “Thunderbirds” air show sponsored by the Air Force in which Gale “Scar” Scarbrough, a native of Grover Hill, OH, flew the #5 plane, which performed many of the solo tricks. Gale’s wife, a former airline stewardess, once dated Joe Namath before meeting Gale on a flight. The Scarbroughs still live in Grover Hill.

Other attractions included a Rail Park Train Museum displaying locomotives from the 40’s, 50’s and 60’s. These were full of interesting artifacts and locking doors. The group also visited the National Corvette Museum and saw firsthand the damage and restoration manifested by a sinkhole that affected the museum’s epicenter in 2014. The runners and parents learned that it’s a good thing Coach Schnipke doesn’t drive a ‘Vette, as he had trouble handling the simulator without crashing the beautiful machine. Since the group was visiting on Friday, the 13th, a ghost tour was in order. The team learned about the housewives of Bowling Green and how they made their mark on the history of the town.

The highlight of the trip according to the students was a flat-out tie between Mammoth Cave and Lost River Cave. Mammoth Cave is a ten-mile underground expanse of cave, complete with rock formations, a bottomless pit, underground streams, and remnants of visitors from long ago. The Lost River Cave is accessible only by boat. It is located at the lowest point in elevation in Bowling Green and remains a constant 55 degrees. The river houses stalagmites, a man-made dam in which the concrete was piped in through a hole drilled through a quarter mile of earth, flowing rivers that provide emergency exits, and a cove in which Jesse James and his infamous gang hid out after robbing a nearby bank.

The students learned a great deal about history, geology, the creative genius of man. Oh, and they ran a 5K race at the Hardin County Fairgrounds in Elizabethtown, KY.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, September 19th

Varsity Golf @ NWC Championship – 9:00 a.m.
JH Football @ Crestview – 5:00 p.m.
Varsity & JV Volleyball vs. Crestview – 5:30 p.m.
Varsity Soccer @ St. Mary’s – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 20th

Homecoming Parade – 5:30 pm.
Varsity Football vs. Delphos Jefferson – Homecoming – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 21st

Cross Country @ Ohio Caverns Invitational – 9:00 a.m.
JV Football @ Delphos Jefferson – 10:00 a.m.
Varsity & JV Volleyball @ McComb – 10:00 a.m.

Monday, September 23rd

Varsity Golf @ PCL Championship – 12:00 p.m.
Freshman Football vs. Wauseon – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24th

Freshman Volleyball @ Leipsic – 4:45 p.m.
JH Volleyball vs. Miller City – 5:00 p.m.
Varsity Soccer vs. Delphos St. John’s – 5:00 p.m.
Varsity and JV Volleyball @ Leipsic – 5:30 p.m.
Cross Country @ Bath Invitational – 6:00 p.m.