



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

October 19, 2023

Big Weekend for CGHS!

This weekend will be action packed and full of excitement for Columbus Grove High School as our students will compete in a number of different venues. Tomorrow night, our 7-2 (6-0 in the NWC) football team will host the undefeated Bluffton Pirates with the NWC Championship up for grabs. We anticipate quite a large crowd tomorrow evening, as we will recognize the 2003 State Championship football team at halftime as well. With rain in the forecast, a large crowd expected, and our district hosting the OHSAA District Cross Country Meet Saturday morning, we ask that attendees adhere to the following guidelines for tomorrow night's game:

- Gates will not open until 5:30 p.m. If you can purchase your tickets early, please do so at the school, as this will help with congestion at the ticket gates.
- **ATTENTION FANS WHO WATCH THE GAME FROM THEIR VEHICLE INSIDE THE GATES:** With the ground likely being wet/soft due to the rain, we ask that you enter the gate on West Pendleton Street instead of North High. By entering at this entrance, you will be able to avoid the cross-country course which will be run on the following morning. Thank you for your help with this!
- Food trucks will be on site this evening as well. If you are a food truck vendor, please set up along the walkway on the home side from the end zone to the pavilion area. This will keep you out of the cross-country course as well.
- As mentioned, we anticipate a very large crowd for the evening, so we advise that it will be better to come early for this game to better your chances of getting a good seat or view of the ballgame.

On Saturday morning, our school will host a District Cross Country meet. Both of our high school teams will compete on their home course this day, with the girls' race starting

at 12:00 p.m. and the boys' race beginning at 10:00 a.m. It will be another day of many cars in the village with spectators from over 50 different schools coming out to cheer for their teams.

Finally, on Saturday evening, the Columbus Grove High School Marching Band will compete at the Maumee Band Competition in their attempt to earn the coveted "Superior" rating. The band has come awfully close over the last couple competitions and we have all the faith in them that they will do it this Saturday night at Maumee! Performance time is 5:40 p.m. Good luck to our band members and all our student athletes competing this weekend! Go Dogs!

First Quarter Ends Tomorrow

Believe it or not, we are one-quarter of the way through the school year at the conclusion of the school day tomorrow. Remember that there will be no school next Friday, October 27 for the first quarter break. This break will also give kids a day off after trick-or-treating the night before. To see the 2023-24 school year calendar in its entirety, go to <http://cg.noacsc.org/> and click on "Calendars" in the left-hand column.

Reminder for Fans Purchasing Tickets for Post Season Tournaments

Bulldog fans are reminded that all upcoming tournament events for our fall teams will accept cash at the gate, but tickets are cheaper if purchased online through the OHSAA website. This includes the Sectional Soccer game and the District Cross Country meet that Grove is hosting. Passes issued by the Columbus Grove athletic department will not work for OHSAA-sponsored tournament events. Please note that ticket prices for tournament games are set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, not the Columbus Grove Athletic Department.

CG High Students Attend MakerFest

On Friday, October 13, CGHS sophomores traveled to the Allen County Fairgrounds to participate in MakerFest. MakerFest is an event that celebrated the finest employers, job seekers, future workforce, high schools, career tech schools, and college partners in the Midwest!

After a hiatus due to COVID-19, MakerFest returned in a different format, showcasing various STEM career opportunities and connecting local employers with high school students to inspire future career choices after graduation. Dozens of local companies set up booths aligned with the students' interests. Companies provided hands-on activities and demonstrations, giving students a real-life experience for working as a nurse, drone pilot, or product implementation engineer. Many thanks to School Counselor Mindy Losh for coordinating this trip for our sophomores.

Want to Catch Bulldog Sports Online?

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 local 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 own convenience is another added benefit. Visit <http://fan.hudl.com/cgbulldogs> to watch highlights and subscribe to this service.

National School Bus Safety Week is October 16-20

School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation's students, and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. Ohio's public schools transport nearly 800,000 children on 15,000 buses every school day, travelling more than 1 million miles to accomplish the task. No transportation system in existence is more effective.

This year's theme is *Driving Safely in the Future*: Here are few tips to keep our children safe.

- **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- **Red flashing lights and extended stop arms** indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again. All 50 states require traffic to stop in both directions on undivided highways when red lights are flashing.
- Traffic must stop at least ten feet from the front or rear of a stopped bus.
- It is illegal to pass a bus on the right side.
- Bus drivers must wait to resume travelling until all exiting passengers are a safe distance from the bus.
- Children are unpredictable. Be alert for children walking to and from bus stops.

Kudos to all Columbus Grove bus drivers for being so diligent and responsible in transporting our precious cargo! Fulltime drivers at CG are Shelly Schroeder (20 years), Deanna Ricker (23 years), Linda Ridenour (16 years), Dan Maag (13 years), Mike Fanaff (14 years), Brad Anderson (7 years), Bill Heilman (3 years), Joanne McKanna (17 years), Janel Hardeman (8 years), Chad McCluer (2 years), and Jeff Gertsen (1 year).

Enhancements Made to Safer Ohio School Tip Line

Safer Schools Ohio is a multi-agency effort created to assist schools in continuously improving the safety of our students. This program utilizes an anonymous tip line where students may report anything that may seem suspicious or endangering to themselves or others. Students and parents can simply text or call **844-SAFEROH** to report anything which they feel is endangering a safe school environment at Columbus Grove Schools.

Recently, the Ohio Department released further enhancements to this tip line to make it easier for users. In addition to calling or texting the tip line, Ohioans can now report school safety information through a new smartphone app and online web form at <https://app.saferohioschooltipline.com/>. The new Safer Ohio School Tip Line smartphone app, available both on [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices, and the online web form include pre-populated prompts to help users quickly upload information.

The tip line also will be staffed by crisis response professionals who are trained to help individuals contemplating self-harm. Additional upgrades to the Safer Ohio School Tip Line include more flexibility for schools and law enforcement to increase the number of staff members who receive immediate tips. School students, staff, parents and community members associated with any school in Ohio are encouraged to report any school safety concerns to the tip line including, but not limited to:

- Bullying incidents
- Withdrawn student behaviors
- Verbal or written threats observed toward students, faculty or schools
- Hazing
- Weapons/suspicious devices on or near school grounds
- Gang-related activities
- Unusual/suspicious behavior of students or staff
- Self-harm or suicidal sentiments

Those who report tips can choose to remain anonymous. If you have any questions about this tip line, please contact the superintendent's office at 419-659-2639.

Bulldog Bites

- Last Saturday, the Boys' Cross-Country team earned its 18th NWC Championship with an impressive outing at Van Wert against a tough Lincolnview squad finishing second. Seniors Luke Ellerbrock and Evan Pitts finished 1st and 2nd respectively, with Evan finishing a career best 16:20, making him the 8th on the all-time CGXC record board.
- The Girls' Cross-Country team finished 2nd at last week's NWC meet, with sophomores Lily Montgomery (3rd) and Sarah Kamphaus (5th) earning 1st Team all NWC honors.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 19th

Varsity Soccer vs. TBA (Tournament) – 5 p.m.

Friday, October 20th

End of First Quarter

Varsity Football vs. Bluffton – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21st

Cross Country – District Meet @ home – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 26th

Trick or Treat – 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 27th

No School Quarter Break