



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

November 2, 2023

Monday's Modified Lockdown Follow-Up

This past Monday, Columbus Grove Schools went into a "Modified Lockdown - Secure in Building," due to an anonymous threatening voicemail that was left over the weekend. After hearing the voicemail, school administration went into a modified lockdown and contacted law enforcement from both the Columbus Grove Police Department and Putnam County Sheriff's Department for further investigation. Based on the plausibility of the contents of the message as well as the age of the caller, both law enforcement and school administration believed this voicemail was very likely a false threat.

In an abundance of caution, the school remained in a modified lockdown (go about normal school operations within the building, students do not go outside) for the remainder of the school day while multiple law enforcement officials remained on campus, including dismissal procedures. Sheriff Siefker sent two officers to the campus on Tuesday morning for further support.

Based on the contents of the message, information received from the telephone company, and further investigation from the Sheriff's Department, it became more evident that this voicemail came from a call multiple states away, confirming our suspicions that this was a false threat.

Columbus Grove School District takes every threat seriously and follows its safety protocols to maximize the safety of everyone on campus. While the terms like "modified lockdown" can have a scary connotation, we practice these measures to make sure everyone is safe. If you have any questions regarding this past Monday's situation, please contact my office at 419-659-4301.

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony Held

This past Monday evening, the Columbus Grove High School chapter of the National Honor Society held its induction ceremony in the elementary gym. Congratulations to the 18 new members inducted! These inductees met the four pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character to become members of the National Honor Society. Congratulations to the new inductees: Abigail Buescher, Sara Henige, Kylee Longworth, Daisy Stechschulte, Ella Dotson, Audrey Keehn, Ty Meyer, Isabella Wilson, Steven Dunbar, Claire Kiene, Amber Michel, Delaney Wintersteller, Saige Frobese, Alyssa Koch, Grace Morman, Karsyn Garmatter, Keelie Langhals, and Gavin Schroeder. This group of 18 inductees joins the 20 existing members in the senior class.

Girls' Soccer Team Completes Successful Season

Last Saturday afternoon, the CG girls' soccer team closed out its season in a hard-fought battle with Kalida, losing 1-0 in the district final game. With the score deadlocked 0-0 after regulation, the Bulldogs and Wildcats battled through two scoreless 15-minute overtime periods, forcing the game to penalty kicks. The Wildcats outscored the Bulldogs in this competition, therefore winning the district title 1-0.

Congratulations for the girls and first-year Coach Kyle Verhoff for a fine season! This relatively young program achieved another first by advancing to its first ever trip to the district final in tournament. The Lady Bulldogs concluded their season at 11-7-1. Losing just one senior to graduation, the team looks to build upon this successful season for next year!

Boys' Cross-Country Team Punches their Ticket to State by Winning Regionals!

Congratulations goes to our boys' cross-country team, as they won the regional meet last Saturday at Tiffin for the third time in four years and qualified for their fourth consecutive trip to state! Coach Schnipke's squad was led by senior Luke Ellerbrock's 5th place finish in 16:21. Closely behind Luke was fellow senior Evan Pitts with a 7th place finish at 16:29. Both of these young men qualified for state as individuals. Levi Bryan was 25th in 16:56, Caiden Squillante was 35th in 17:15 and Bryce Bonifas rounded out the scoring for the Bulldogs with a 46th place finish in 17:31. Logan Mershman was 52nd in 17:37 and Braylon Best ran a new PR of 17:43, good for 58th in the 174-runner race. The year's CGXC team will mark the twenty-second time Columbus Grove has had a boys' state qualifying team! The boys will run in the state meet at Fortress Obetz on Saturday at 10:45 a.m. Best of luck, men!

Seniors in the Spotlight

Last month, CGHS seniors Jade Siefker and Nate Kamphaus were named Seniors in the Spotlight. Below is the write up for each senior

- Congratulations to Jade Siefker for being nominated by Mrs. Katie Stechschulte, the student council adviser. According to Mrs. Stechschulte, "Jade takes initiative and always goes the extra mile. She is trusted to not only do what is asked of her, but to also offer help to those who need it. She is organized, hardworking and persistent. She has a strong work ethic, well organized, a humble leader, good time/project management, and takes pride in her work."
- Congratulations to Nate Kamphaus for being nominated by Mr. Schafer, the High School of Business teacher. Mr. Schafer states that, "Nate is always going above and beyond to push out great products, willing to stay extra and comes in on his own time to make sure projects have a professional look. He takes his work very seriously, yet always has a great attitude." Personality traits that he exudes include excellent attitude, work ethic and time management.

Congratulations to both Jade and Nate! Your recognition is well deserved!

Taylor & Selhorst Families Make Generous Donation to CG Guidance Department

A few weeks ago, friends and family of Dani Tyler held their first ever Suicide Awareness 5K Walk/Run in Leipsic. Hundreds of people showed up in support of this cause and to provide additional support to the Taylor and Selhorst families. The families were hoping to get 200 registrations for their 5K Walk/Run, but were greatly surprised when they received over 600 pre-race registrations! People from all over poured into the Fogle Center parking lot on September 24 for a day filled with positivity and hope.

As a result of this very successful event and the generosity of the participants, a substantial amount of funds was raised for this worthy cause. The Taylor and Selhorst families made a kind donation to the Columbus Grove Guidance Department so these funds can be used to support students experiencing social-emotional challenges. Columbus Grove Schools would like to say a special thank you to the Taylor/Selhorst family and those from the Suicide Awareness 5K who graciously donated to support mental health programs, our students, and our staff. We can't wait to update you on what we have planned within our school and our community!

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.

Bulldog Bites

- The CG Marching Band is headed to the OMEA State Band Finals this Sunday at Piqua High School. This marks the third consecutive
- The Girls' XC team concluded its season last week in the Tiffin regional meet. Sarah Kamphaus was 45th at 20:33, Lily Montgomery 21:14, Grace Morman 22:21, Lauren Martz 22:48, Jade Siefker 24:09, Breanne Fuerst 24:48, and Abby Stechschulte 25:20. Congrats on another successful season, ladies!
- *Unsung Heroes Part II*- Last week I mentioned that our maintenance crew and Village Administrator Jeff Vance did a fine job fixing our water main leak at Clymer Stadium during the football game versus Bluffton. I forgot to mention the critical help of Ben Schroeder from Schroeder Plumbing and Heating, as he played a critical role in getting the problem fixed within about one hour. Thanks, Ben, for your help on such notice!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 2nd

Picture Retakes

Friday, November 3rd

Varsity Football vs. Black River (Tournament) – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4th

Varsity Boys Cross Country – State Meet - @ Fortress Obetz – 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, November 5th

Marching Band – OMEA State Finals @ Piqua – 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8th

6:30 a.m. - Board Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting (Superintendent's Conference Room)

4:15 p.m.- Board Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting (Superintendent's Conference Room)