



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

December 14, 2023

This will be the final Superintendent Update for 2023. The next update will be in the January 11, 2024 edition of the Vidette. May you have a wonderful holiday!

Early Dismissal on Wednesday, December 21 at 1:00 p.m.

This is a reminder that we will have an early dismissal next Thursday, December 21 at 1:00 p.m. We ask that parents of car riders please plan accordingly. School will resume Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

2023 a Great Year for Columbus Grove Schools!

As we conclude the 2023 calendar year, we have many things for which to be grateful. Here is just a small sample of achievements by the students and staff during 2023:

- The CGHS Wrestling team won the district's first ever NWC Championship.
- Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella" was last spring's musical performance. Leading roles were Daisy Stechschulte, Levi Schroeder, Hailey Vogt, Natalie Langhals, Laney Auchmuty, Ella Escamilla, Hunter Rode, Addy Butcher and Logan Mershman.
- The Girls' Basketball team won its third consecutive district title, a program first.
- The CG Marching Band not only qualified for state for the third consecutive year, but earned a Superior rating at OMEA State Competition, marking the first time in seven years.
- The Baseball team earned its first trip to regionals in over 40 years. Brock Hoffman earned First Team All-State honors in baseball as well.
- The Boys' Track team were state runner up last spring, and Tadd Koch won state in discus.
- On the 2023 State Report Card, Columbus Grove Schools was one of three Putnam County Schools to earn an overall 5-Star rating. The district had the highest overall composite star rating in Putnam County as well.

- The Boys' Cross-Country team won the district's first ever State Cross Country title this past fall.
- The Football team earned another trip to the Final Four of the State Playoffs, their third appearance in the last four years.

Congratulations, students, staff, and coaches! We look forward to another year of outstanding accomplishments in 2024!

CG Elementary Students Reap the Benefits of Fundraiser Success

As a result of the very successful CG Elementary PIE fundraiser, the top 10 sellers of the local gift cards will head to lunch at Pizza Hut tomorrow. These students are Wesley Morman, Peyton Auchmuty, Brey Stephens, Jocelyn Meyer, Gannon Zarse, Brandon Burkhart, Kenzie Weisenburger, Caleb McClarren, Lincoln Heffner, and Bo Siefker. On Tuesday, December 19, students who sold at least 10 gift cards will get a piece of duct tape to help tape Mr. Calvelage on the wall in the commons! Students will also participate in bounce house activities on Friday, January 12. Congratulations, students, for your efforts!

Career Exploration at CG Schools

CGHS will host its annual Job Shadow Day tomorrow. All juniors will attend job shadows across the state of Ohio. This year we have many unique careers toured such as engineering, publishing, cardiac nursing, marketing and public relations, accounting and teaching, to name just a few. The guidance office and Mrs. Birnesser, junior Government teacher, help the juniors coordinate their job shadows because they feel it is important to talk to adults about career opportunities and to work on how to present themselves in the workplace. At the conclusion of the job shadow, students are taught how to send a follow-up thank you letter. Many thanks to School Counselor Mrs. Losh and Mrs. Birnesser for setting up these valuable career readiness opportunities for our students!

Bulldogs Celebrating Countdown of School before Christmas Break

This past Monday marked the countdown towards Christmas before the Christmas Break for CG students. The Guidance Department created a dress up theme for each school day leading up to the break. Many thanks to Brenda Bruce and Mindy Losh for sprucing up the days before the break!

- **Monday, December 11-** Wear your Grinchiest green!
- **Tuesday, December 12-** Wear all the sparkles, shiny, sequins, garland, bells, and more!
- **Wednesday, December 13-** Wear all red and green!
- **Thursday, December 14-** Wear your favorite holiday hat, headband, antlers and Christmas socks!
- **Friday, December 15-** Wear your favorite Bulldog shirt
- **Monday, December 18-** Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas!
- **Tuesday, December 19-** Wear your favorite Christmas fleece or flannel to stay warm and cozy!
- **Wednesday, December 20-** Wear your Winter Wonderland clothes (dress like a snowman, in blue/white, etc.)
- **Thursday, December 21** – Wear your ugly Christmas sweater! (1:00 p.m. early dismissal)

Start Time for Boys' Basketball Game Versus Van Wert Changed

The start time for Boys' Basketball game at Van Wert has been moved up to a 5:00 p.m. start time for the junior varsity. Please plan accordingly.

CGHS Basketball Alumni Versus Alumni Game Scheduled

Mark your calendars, as the new Boys' Basketball Coach Connor Kohls is coordinating a CG Alumni vs. Alumni basketball scrimmage for Thursday, December 21. Here are the tentative details:

- Festivities would start at 6:00 p.m.
- No current players will participate, just alumni.
- There will be a dunk and 3-point shooting contest, besides the scrimmage.
- Admission is \$3

Come on out, enjoy seeing if our former Bulldogs still have it, and help raise some money for the basketball program. It should be entertaining, to say the least!

Events and Recognition Schedule for Halftime

This basketball season will be full of halftime activities and recognitions. Please see the tentative schedule of events below:

December 16 (Arlington): Cheerleaders 3-point shooting

December 22 (Patrick Henry): 5th/6th graders playing at halftime

December 30 (Perry): 5th/6th graders playing at halftime

January 5 (Crestview): Alumni Cheer Night/ Cheerleaders 3-point shooting

January 19 (Lincolnview): XC Team State Championship/Luke Ellerbrock- All-Ohio Runner

February 3 (Continental): Mini Cheer Night

February 9 (Bluffton): Trenton Barraza- Football All-Ohio & Brock Hoffman- Baseball All-Ohio

February 16 (Delphos Jefferson): Senior night

Bulldog Bites:

CG Football statistician Ned Stechschulte recently updated his *History of Football: Columbus Grove High School* book for the banquet to include this year's stats. Here are a couple impressive statistics for our fans:

- Senior Kyle Lathrop set a school record with five sacks in one game versus Carey in the state playoffs this past fall.
- Senior Zach Reynolds sets school records for most receptions in a season (50) and career (91).
- The Bulldogs now have an all-time record of 112-34 at Clymer Stadium.
- Sophomore Landon Best, who just completed his first full season as starting quarterback, already ranks 5th all-time passing yards (2,151) and touchdown passes (24).
- Junior Trenton Barraza rushed for 1,911 yards this season, which is the third highest single season rushing total in school history. He now stands ranks third all-time in career rushing yards with 3,716, behind Jeremy Harnishfegar (4,281), and Blaine Maag (6,134).

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, December 14th

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Ada – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15th

Boys Freshman Basketball @ Ada – 4:45 p.m.

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball @ Ada – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16th

Girls Varsity Wrestling @ Archbold – 9:00 a.m.

Varsity Wrestling @ Lincolnview – 9:00 a.m.

JH Wrestling @ Allen East Invitational – 10:00 a.m.

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball @ Carey – 12:00 p.m.

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Arlington – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17th

Girls Varsity Wrestling @ Clyde – 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 18th

7-12 Grade Band Concert – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19th

Boys JH Basketball vs. Leipsic – 5:00 p.m.

Girls JH Basketball @ Leipsic – 5:00 p.m.

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Kalida – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 22nd

No School Christmas Break

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Patrick Henry – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 23rd

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Delphos St. John's – 12:00 p.m.