



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

December 16, 2021

CG Sophomore Awarded Putnam County Optimist Character Award!

Yesterday, Evan Grohoske a 10th grader at Columbus Grove High School, was awarded the December Putnam County Optimist Character Award. The Optimist Creed states, "To look at the sunny side of everything and make optimism come true, to talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet, and to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own." Evan Grohoske exemplifies these characteristics on a daily basis. Staff have observed him helping new students during the school's 911 event, talking to students at lunch that are sitting alone, including students in group work that may not have a partner, and always saying please, thank you, and excuse me. His behaviors are worth noting and many adults at Columbus Grove High School have noticed these exemplary behaviors. The school nurse, principal, teachers and school counselor have noticed how Evan has matured the last couple of years into a fine young gentleman that looks out for ALL students, and Columbus Grove Schools felt he was worthy of being nominated for the Putnam County Optimist Character Award. He is a friend to all that he meets, and we are extremely proud he is a Columbus Grove Bulldog! Evan, his mother Andrea Grohoske, and school counselor Mrs. Losh attended the PC Optimist meeting at Henry's Restaurant yesterday for a breakfast and recognition of Evan's excellent character. Congratulations, Evan! This honor is well deserved!

CG Lady Bulldog Basketball Player Named WLIO Scholar Athlete of the Week

Senior Kenzie King was recently selected as a WLIO Scholar Athlete of the Week. Her story was featured on Your Hometown Stations this past Monday. Kenzie has had quite an accomplished athletic career at CGHS, as he has served as a four-year starter in basketball and has earned three consecutive 1st Team NWC honors, including a Special Mention All-Ohio Award last year. Additionally, Kenzie played a key role on the soccer team, as she garnered 1st team NWC honors as well, helping the girls' soccer team win its first

NWC and PCL titles in school history.

In addition to these athletic accomplishments, Kenzie has maintained a 3.95 GPA during high school and is scheduled to be an Honor Graduate in May. Next fall, Kenzie plans to begin her college career at OSU-Lima, with plans of becoming a physician assistant in the future. Congratulations, Kenzie, for representing our district so well in both the classroom and on the fields and courts of competition!

CG Spanish Teacher Selected as Participant of Fulbright-Hays Project

Spanish Teacher Andrea Ankerman was recently informed that she has been selected to be a participant in the Fulbright-Hays Group Project in Colombia this summer! This project is a language and cultural immersion program in Cali, Colombia which is specifically designed for K-12 Spanish teachers. This program includes pre-departure seminars, Spanish classes, cultural excursions and family stays. Virtual exchanges with Colombian teachers prior to travel and follow-up sessions after the in-country program are part of this program as well.

This experience in which Mrs. Ankerman will participate over the next nine months, will allow for Columbus Grove students to have virtual follow-up sessions with Colombian high school students. Students will be able to learn more about Colombian culture through Mrs. Ankerman's experiences, as well as exchanges with students from Colombia. Congratulations, Mrs. Ankerman, for being selected to participate in this excellent program!

Upcoming Presentations at Boys' Basketball Games

As we have done in the past, we look forward to taking time to recognize the accomplishments of our student athletes over the past year. Here is the tentative schedule for this year's recognitions:

December 17 vs. Crestview: 2021 Girls' Soccer Team

December 18 vs. Patrick Henry: Jeff Meyer, 2021 State Champion Wrestler & Blake Reynolds, 2021 1st Team All-Ohio

January 29 vs. Continental: 2021 Boys' Cross-Country Team

February 4: vs. Bluffton: 2021 Football Team, A.J. Schafer & Rece Verhoff, 1st Team All-Ohio

Come out and join us to recognize these student athletes for their accomplishments!

Athletic Boosters Planning for Reverse Raffle in March

One of the Athletic Boosters' main fundraisers each year is the Reverse Raffle, which typically raises \$20K or more annually. After its cancellation in 2020, the boosters held a scaled back alternative last spring. This year's plan is to host the Reverse Raffle on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at the American Legion. The boosters plan to make this a full-scale event, so mark your calendars now!

This year's officers are Matt McCauley (President), Melissa Basinger (Vice President), Leslie Schumacher (Secretary), and Amy Young (Treasurer). We thank these individuals for their service and thank our community for your continued support of the CG Athletic Boosters!

COVID-19 Update

As we continue to navigate through the challenges of COVID while entering the heart of the cold and flu season, I wanted to give you an update on our school protocols as well as recommendations to maximize wellness for all.

First, let's talk about COVID. As of Tuesday, December 14, there were a total of four COVID positive students and 28 students contact traced. At this time last year, we had two COVID positive students and 15 students contact traced.

One of the health protocols for schools that is different from last school year is contact tracing. Per the Ohio Department of Health, a student who is contact traced through a **school related** event may continue to go to school if they remain symptom free and properly wear a mask seven days after the close contact. Regarding the guidelines for how long a contacted individual must mask, they have two options:

1. After seven days, a student may discontinue wearing a mask if they do not develop any symptoms **and** test negative for COVID between days five and seven of wearing a mask.
2. If a student chooses not to test, they may discontinue wearing a mask after 14 days from the date of the close contact.

In regards to extra-curricular activities, a close contact student choosing to go through the testing option to participate in extra-curricular activities must mask whenever they can during practices/games (on benches/sidelines, in locker rooms, buses, etc.) through day seven. For more information regarding these guidelines, go to <https://bit.ly/MasktoStayTesttoPlay>.

As has been the case since the beginning of the school year, a student will be exempt from a close contact if either one of the following are in place:

1. The close contact student has been previously vaccinated, or
2. The close contact student was properly wearing a mask during the time of close contact with a COVID positive individual.

Please note: Per the Putnam County Health Department's (PCHD) guidelines regarding a family or social related contact tracing **outside** of school, a contact traced student would not be eligible to participate in the Mask to Stay/Test to Play option. They must quarantine at home for 10 days, or at least seven days if they test negative on day 5-7. Again, these are the guidelines from the PCHD.

General guidance for community or in-home spread of COVID regarding school aged children:

- If someone in the home is being tested for COVID and school aged children have been in contact with them (even up to 48 hours prior to symptom onset) please keep them home and call the office for further guidance.
- If someone in the home has tested positive for COVID and school aged children have been in the home and/or in contact with them, please keep children home, call the absences into school, then call the PCHD at 419-523-5608 for further help on quarantine and contact tracing.
- If you have tested positive with a home testing kit you may call the PCHD at 419-523-5608 for further help on quarantine and contact tracing.
- If you are fully vaccinated and have been exposed to COVID, you may attend school if are asymptomatic and masked up properly.

We understand that the guidance and protocols surrounding COVID have been changing since schools started back to in person instruction at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. If you have further questions regarding these guidelines, please call me at the number listed above.

We are also in the midst of cold and flu season. Our school district has not been immune, as we have experienced an increase in the number of students and staff who have had the cold or flu. Combating this during COVID has compounded the matter.

We are asking for our parents' help as we work together to mitigate the spread of any sickness in our school district. Parents, we ask that if your child is displaying any signs of sickness, please keep them home, monitoring their symptoms and not allowing them to return to school until they are symptom free. Students are also encouraged to wear a mask during this time of year when there is typically a heightened amount of sickness.

On the school's end, we will continue to monitor our absence lists to look at any increased trends of sickness taking place in a classroom, grade level, or extra-curricular activity. If we detect an increased rate of illness in a particular group, parents will receive a Remind message notifying them of this situation. The school will continue its regular cleaning and sanitizing protocols to help mitigate the spread of germs as well.

Thank you again for your help as we work together to reduce the spread of sickness in our school and allow students to continue to have in person instruction.

Face Masks Now Required on School Buses

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) previously issued an order that required face masks to be worn on school buses. Even though Ohio law does not currently require students to wear masks on school buses, school districts are required to follow federal law in this area. Therefore, Columbus Grove Schools will follow this order and masks will be required for all bus riders effective immediately.

I wanted to make you aware of this change, as this is different from the Putnam County Schools' 2021-2022 Back-to-School COVID Protocols that were shared in August. Previously, our COVID-19 safety protocols on buses included passengers being spaced out on the bus as much as possible and being required to sit with siblings. The district's fleet consists of 84-passenger buses and we currently do not have a bus route with over 31 passengers. To date, we have not experienced any spread of COVID-19 on our school buses.

Even with the existing measures in place, passengers will need to wear a mask when riding the bus. This includes extracurricular trips and sporting events as well. Bus drivers will have masks available for riders who forget their mask. We ask for your help in making sure your children have a mask when they are scheduled to ride the bus. If you have any questions regarding this change in protocols, please feel free to contact me at cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 16th

Girls Varsity & JV Basketball @ Crestview – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 17th

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

Saturday, December 18th

JV Wrestling @ Liberty-Benton – 9:00 a.m.

Girls JH Basketball vs. Kalida – 10:00 a.m.

Girls Freshman Basketball @ Bluffton – 10:40 a.m.

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

Monday, December 20th

Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Miller City – 5:00 p.m.

Girls Freshman Basketball @ Delphos Jefferson – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21st

Early Dismissal – 1:00 p.m.

Boys JH Basketball @ Lincolnview – 5:00 p.m.

Girls JH Basketball vs. Lincolnview – 5:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, December 22nd

No School Christmas Break

JH Wrestling vs. Delphos St. John's – 6:00 p.m.

Varsity Wrestling vs. Delphos St. John's – 6:00 p.m.