



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

July 27, 2023

2023-2024 School Year One Month Away!

I hope the summer so far has been one of rest and relaxation for our students and their families. Believe it or not, the first day of school for the 2023-24 school year is just under a month away, beginning Wednesday, August 23. To view the entire 2023-24 school year calendar, please go to the district's website at <http://cg.noacsc.org/> and click on "Calendars" on the left-hand column of the front page. While the beginning of school is just under a month away, we will see much more activity at the building in the next week, as the official start to the fall sports season begins August 1.

Welcome New CG Staff Members!

After going a couple years without any changes on our staff, there will be a number of new faces on our team when we begin the 2023-24 school year. We would like to welcome the following staff members:

- **Trey Roney (5th & 6th Grade Science)** - Trey comes to CG from Delphos City Schools, where had taught the previous five years as a middle school science and math teacher. A 2013 CG alumnus, Trey will also serve as an Assistant Varsity Football Coach this fall. Trey resides in Columbus Grove with his wife, Keianna.
- **Sarah Hoehne (Elementary Art)** - Sarah previously taught at Delphos St. John's as a K-12 art teacher for the last two years. Sarah and her husband, who teaches at Continental reside in Ottawa. Sarah and her husband are expecting their first child in September. Mrs. Thompson will serve as Sarah's long term substitute during a portion of the first semester.
- **Beth Buckland, Jessica Zerkel, Michelle Norway, & Beth Buckland (Kitchen Workers)** - All four of these ladies will be hired on a part-time basis in our kitchen for this year. All of these ladies have had extensive experience as substitute workers in our kitchen and have done an excellent job.

We look forward to having Beth, Jessica, Michelle, and Beth with us on a regular basis beginning this school year!

- **Ryan Ricker (Maintenance Worker)** - Ryan, who comes to CG with over 25 years of experience working at Carter Lumber, began working at CG Schools last month. Ryan is a CG alumnus and resident, with children Mckayla (11th) and Morgan (6th) attending CG Schools. Ryan also serves as the district's On Board Instructor (OBI) for our Transportation Department and is the unofficial overseer of the Band Boosters bus.

We are excited to welcome these highly talented individuals to our district!

2023-24 Open House Scheduled for Monday, August 21

Columbus Grove Schools will host its annual Open House on Monday, August 21, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please come out to meet your child's teacher for this school year. Parents can pay 2023-24 school fees at this time as well. Secretaries will be set up in the elementary gym to collect fee payments.

Mandatory OHSAA Meeting for ALL 7-12 Student Athletes

The CG Athletic Department will host its annual mandatory OHSAA parent meeting on Monday, July 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Parents of all student athletes (not just fall athletes) are required to attend this meeting. Fall athletes will have a brief follow-up up meeting with the coach of their respective fall sports. Many of the forms needed to be filled out for student participation in athletics are now on Final Forms, an online platform that allows parents to fill out these forms electronically. This information is saved year-to-year, allowing parents to simply update any information as opposed to having to complete the entire form again on

An annual basis. Parents should have received emails about updating their child's forms for the 2023-24 school year. If you have any issues with filling out these forms online, please contact Mr. Mike Keehn (cg_keehn@cg.noacsc.org or 659-5090) for further assistance.

Final Forms for 2023-2024 School Year Now Available

Parents and students can begin filling out their Final Forms information for next school year now. Log in at <https://columbusgrove-oh.finalforms.com/> and click the "Click to Switch to 2023-24 Registration" button at the top of the page to get started. Please contact Mr. Keehn at the contact information above if you have any issues.

Beginning of the Year Items

- 1. Elementary, Middle, and High School Start and Ending Times-** The elementary school students (K-4) will start at 8:00 a.m. and dismiss at 2:50 p.m. daily. 5-12 students will begin at 8:00 a.m. as well, but will dismiss at 2:55 p.m.
- 2. School Supplies Lists-** These lists are posted on the district website. You can come to the building and receive a hard copy as well.
- 3. School Fees-** School fees for the 2023-2024 school year remain the same as last year. Fees for grades K-11 are \$60. For grade 12, fees are \$75. Additionally, for high school students taking an online technology course, there will be a \$15 fee per course. Please make checks payable to Columbus Grove Local Schools. Payments can be submitted at the offices or they may be given to your child's teacher. Secretaries will be in the elementary gym collecting fees at the Open House on Monday, August 21.
- 4. Pick-Up and Drop Off Reminder-** A few years ago, we implemented one-way transportation on Pendleton during pick-up (2:30-3:15 p.m.) and drop off (7:30-8:00 a.m.). This has worked well and increased safety measures in this high traffic area. Please remember that Pendleton will become a one-way street during these times when school begins on Wednesday, August 23.

Also, we ask that parents/guardians do not park in the spots right before the bus pick-up/drop off lane, as this makes it very difficult for buses to get into the bus lane. These spots will be painted accordingly to signifying non-parking areas.

- 5. Breakfast & Lunch Prices-** Breakfast prices are \$2.50 for K-12 students. Lunch prices are as follows: \$3.15 for K-5 students, \$3.25 for 6-8 students, and \$3.50 for 9-12 students. Please note, parents are welcome to sign up for free and reduced lunches through Final Forms. Please take advantage of this opportunity if you are eligible!

Sales Tax Holiday for School Supplies August 4-6

Ohio will again suspend its sales tax August 4-6 to help parents and teachers save money for back-to-school shopping. During the sales tax holiday, the following will be exempt from sales and use tax: an item of clothing priced at \$75 or less; an item of school instructional material priced at \$20 or less; and an item of school supplies priced at \$20 or less. There is no limit on how many items consumers can buy.

2024 Commencement Date is Set!

It may seem odd to discuss 2024 commencement exercises when we have yet to begin the 2023-24 school year, but the Board has finalized this date for Sunday, May 19, 2024. Commencement will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the high school gym. Please note: this is the week before Memorial Day weekend. This is will be the third year in which the Board has scheduled commencement exercises one week prior to Memorial Day weekend, as they have received positive feedback from parents and the community. Having this date set so early will allow parents of graduating seniors to plan accordingly for graduation parties.

Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted

Columbus Grove Local Schools is accepting applications for substitute bus drivers. This position has the potential of becoming a full-time bus driver in the future, if applicants are interested. Substitute bus drivers are contacted to drive extracurricular field trips and occasionally drive a regular morning or afternoon route. Certification requires the completion of attending a pre-service class, a written and driving test, CDL license, a medical physical exam, drug test, BMV check of driving record, and a background check. Cost for training will be reimbursed by the district for any individuals who serve as a substitute bus driver for Columbus Grove Local Schools. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver for Columbus Grove School, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 659-2639 for further information.

Substitute Kitchen Workers and Cafeteria Monitors Wanted

If you are interested in serving as a substitute kitchen worker or cafeteria monitor, please contact the school. Kitchen worker applicants must be available weekdays with a fair amount of availability. Food service background preferred but not required (use of commercial cooking equipment and be able to prepare bulk food). Interested applicants can contact Food Service Director Kristen Hertel at cg_hertel@cg.noacsc.org. Those interested in serving as a cafeteria monitor should contact the superintendent's office at 419-659-2369 or cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

Monday, July 31

- @ 6:30 p.m.- Mandatory OHSAA student and parent meeting for **ALL** 2023-24 school year student athletes in grades 7-12

Tuesday, August 8

- 5:00 p.m.- Bus/Van Certified Drivers Training at Putnam County ESC

Monday, August 14

- 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. ALICE Training-Miller City-New Cleveland School

Tuesday, August 15

- 8:30 a.m. Opening County Administrators Meeting- ESC

Thursday, August 17

- @ 9:00 a.m.- Student Orientation- All 7th grade and new 8-12 students (HS gym)
- @ 10:30 a.m.- 1:1 Device Orientation- All 8th grade and new high school students (Commons)
- @ 1:00 p.m.- Student Orientation- New 1st-6th grade students
- @ 1:30 p.m.- 1:1 Device distribution- 9th-12th grade students (Media Center)

Monday, August 21

- @ 8:00 a.m.- Opening Staff Meeting in the commons
- 6:00-7:30 p.m.- Open House

Wednesday, August 23

- First day of the 2023-24 school year
- Apollo first day for first year students

Thursday, August 24

- Apollo first day for returning students

Thursday, August 24 & Friday, August 25

- Kindergarten Testing

Monday, August 28 – Friday, September 1

- Kindergarten Phase-In Days