



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

June 2, 2022

## Baccalaureate Thanks

On Sunday, May 22, the Columbus Grove Council of Churches of hosted the first baccalaureate since 2019. This year, the baccalaureate took place on the same day as the commencement in the high school gym. We had nearly 40 graduates and their families in attendance, our highest attended baccalaureate in over a decade. Those in attendance had the pleasure to hear a life applicable message from guest speaker Pastor Mark Bayliff. Many thanks to the CG Council of Churches for putting this event together! We are tentatively planning to host next year's baccalaureate on the same day as the commencement, due to the success of this years' experience. The 2023 commencement date will be released later this summer.

## Thank You, CG Staff!

Last Friday, the district held its annual staff recognition awards for its staff members, recognizing years of service and staff who are retiring at the conclusion of the school year. The following staff members were recognized for their years of service at Columbus Grove:

### Five Years of Service

Rachael Bohrer (Tutor), Matt Blymyer (Band Director), Brenda Bruce (School Counselor), Mindy Losh (School Counselor), and John Vennekotter (High School Social Studies)

### 10 Years of Service

Caleb Arthur (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Jennifer Baumgartner (Chemistry/Physics), Melissa Schnipke (Tutor), and Laurie Siefker (Intervention Specialist)

### 15 Years of Service

Mike Brodwolf (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Tiffany Clem (Digital Academy), Gwen Klear (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Math), Matt Suever (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Science), Kara Vorst (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Mike Keehn (Technology Coordinator), and Linda Ridenour (Bus Driver/Monitor)

### 20 Years of Service

Andrea Ankerman (Spanish), Chad Ricker (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), and Jill Maag (EMIS/AD Secretary)

### 25 Years of Service

Rachael Jay (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies) and Mark Ellerbrock (Treasurer)

### 30 Years of Service

Greg Griffith (Maintenance)

The district also said farewell to Mr. Matt Blymyer, Band Director, who will be attending graduate school to obtain a master's degree in visual impairment. After graduate school, Matt plans to work in the field to assist others who are visually impaired and incorporate musical instruction as well. Matt has done an outstanding job leading our band program over the last five years. We wish Matt the best in his future endeavors! The district's goal is to have a new band director named by the end of June.

The district also will say farewell to a number of staff members who retired at the conclusion of this school year. Ann Fought (Family Consumer Science- 9.5 years), Barb Reed (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- 36 years), Suzy Daley (5<sup>th</sup> Grade- 36 years), Vicky Schroeder (Guidance Secretary- 33 years), and Dale Schroeder (37 years- Director of Maintenance) either finished their careers last Friday or will conclude their positions later this month. Columbus Grove School District's biggest strength over the years has been its people. We have been very fortunate to have so many excellent individuals serve our community and its young people for so many years. While we will miss having these fine people working at the school next year, we are very appreciative of their dedicated service to our district and wish them many happy and healthy years of retirement! We will introduce our new staff members in an August edition of this update.

### **CG High School Wins PCL All-Sports Award**

Congratulations to our high school athletic teams, as they won the Putnam County League's All-Sports Award for the 2021-2022 school year. This award is based off a point system that schools earn for how well they do in each sport compared to their county rivals. This award has always been very challenging for our district to win in the county, as the Putnam County League does not award points for football, girls and boys' cross country, or wrestling. Furthermore, it does award points for boys' soccer, a sport that our district does not have. Even with all of these stipulations, our athletic teams did so well in all the rest of its sports that it was able to beat out second-place Kalida by six points! Kudos to our student athletes on an overall impressive year in sports! We should hear more in the next week about what place our district finished in the Bachman Award, which is the NWC's equivalent of the All Sports Award. CGHS has won the Bachman Award each of the last three years.

### **CG Alumni Weekend in Two Weeks!**

This year's Alumni Weekend has been scheduled for June 17 & 18. The annual cocktail party will take place on Friday night at the Grove Pool and the banquet on Saturday evening at the school. Last year marked the first time in many years that the school served as the venue for the banquet and the association officers have decided to hold the event here again this year. Many thanks to the cooks at the American Legion for going off site to serve their delicious meal. Alumni Association will be honoring the classes that graduated in years ending with 2 and 7. The Alumni Association is pleased to announce that they will honor Mrs. Joyce Edwards and posthumously Mrs. Lois Halker for their positive impact on the lives of the students and CG Schools. Please contact the Alumni Association at [cgalumni@cg.noacsc.org](mailto:cgalumni@cg.noacsc.org). Also, look for updates on their webpage found at <http://cg.noacsc.org/alumni-association> and follow them on Facebook.

### **Brick Orders Being Collected for CG Alumni Paver**

Looking for a unique and timeless gift for a 2022 CG graduate? Over 375 bricks have been purchased for the CG Alumni Paver Walk. Bricks are on sale for just \$50 for a 4" by 8" brick. These bricks will make a perfect gift to commemorate a CG alumnus, faculty member, student accomplishment, or historical event in our district's history! To order, just go to our website at <http://cg.noacsc.org/>, or you can get a hard copy of an order form at any of our district offices.

### **FREE ACT Test Prep for Sophomores and Juniors**

Columbus Grove Local Schools is offering free ACT prep for current sophomores and juniors. Students can choose from two options.

**Option 1** - The Official ACT Self-Paced Course, Powered by Kaplan - on the ACT website. Students can sign up online for this course and the school will reimburse you. The cost is \$99 with tax. Sign up on the [ACT.org website](http://ACT.org).

**Option 2** – In-Person ACT Prep Workshop- This is a two-day workshop at Owens Community College in Findlay. For more information, you can visit the website at [www.actprepworkshop.com](http://www.actprepworkshop.com). Please feel free to call Shelly at 419-305-0816 or email [actprepworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:actprepworkshop@gmail.com) if you have any questions! The cost is \$200, but once you sign up and pay, simply turn the bill in to Mrs. Losh in the guidance office for reimbursement.

### **Summer Lunch Program Available for CG Students in Lima**

A summer breakfast/lunch program for children ages 1-18 (no adults) will be served at the following Lima City Schools: Heritage Elementary, Independence Elementary, Liberty Arts, and Unity Elementary. This program will run from 11:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m., Monday -Thursday, June 6 – August 4. Meals must be eaten on site and leftovers may be taken off site. Columbus Grove students are eligible to participate. If you have questions, please call 419-996-3437.

## **Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted for the 2022-2023 School Year**

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 the applicant is interested. Substitute bus drivers are contacted to drive extracurricular and 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 fully 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 Schools, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 659-2639 for further information.

### **Thank You, Readers!**

I would like to thank everyone who took time to read these weekly updates in the Vidette throughout the past school year. I hope these articles continue to keep you informed of the many activities happening at Columbus Grove Local Schools. Thank you again for all your support of our school district. Without the support of our community, we could not achieve the level of success we have come to expect. This will be the last weekly superintendent report of the summer, but I will share school related information periodically throughout the next few months. May all of you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

### **Annual 100 Positives Coming Soon**

Our annual edition of "100 Positives" will be released soon, highlighting the 2021-2022 school year at Columbus Grove Schools. You should receive this in your mailbox by mid/late-June. We hope you enjoy this latest edition, as it shows just a sample of the many accomplishments of our students and staff this past school year. Here are a few examples of the numerous positives at CG this past school year:

- The top 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math students were Mia Schroeder and Ellie Stechsulte
- Top Science students for the year: Grade 7 – Simon Zimmerly, Grade 8 – Devin Geckle
- Aleah Stauffer and Nathaniel Jones won bikes donated by CG Family Dentistry
- Second grade students earned a total of 1140 AR points!
- Congratulations to Kendal Palte for being the top scorer in Pre-Algebra for the year
- The Golf team reached 22 wins this past season, which is the most wins since 2010
- Alex Meyer and Liv Mayberry were crowned fitness King and Queen for elementary
- The top student in 7<sup>th</sup> grade World History class was Will Horstman
- Football won their 4<sup>th</sup> straight NWC Championship
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball team finished 13-2, while the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team finished 11-4 on the seasons
- Hannah Morman and Caleb Stechsulte were nominated Homecoming Queen and King
- 20 elementary art students were showcased in the 2022 Putnam County Arts Festival
- The Quiz Bowl team was named 2022 Putnam County League Champions
- New Chromebooks were purchased for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
- The Columbus Grove Softball team captured their 8<sup>th</sup> straight PCL title with a 5-0 record
- 16,635 books were checked out of the library during the 2021-2022
- Top 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math students for the 21-22 school year were: Isaac Barto and Ella Schroeder
- CG Marching Band performed at the State Finals in Dayton
- Brayden Bellman set the Basketball record for most blocked shots in a season with 88
- Fifth graders read over 33 million words for AR this year!