

**Cedar Cliff Local Schools
Superintendent's Newsletter
December 2022**



It is the mission of Cedarville Schools to “Provide students with the best well-rounded education that teaches, challenges and develops the mind, body and character and prepares responsible graduates who contribute within society.”

Supply Chain Issues!

It seems as though, no matter what I am trying to complete—for school or in my personal life, the “*supply chain*” issue affects me. It seems impossible to get parts, and to get workers, to get skilled tradesmen to do any work is a lengthy wait—the list goes on and on.

I do not hold anyone responsible and I do my best to maintain patience—it is not anyone’s fault if they simply do not have the materials or the time to complete work the way we were all accustomed to in the past. *BUT*...as I was driving to work the other day, it occurred to me—Cedar Cliff has been learning all day, every day for some time. In spite of my inability to get work done or even order a sandwich at times, our teachers and staff have been diligently working. These dedicated individuals have been teaching, caring for, and watching over 600 students regardless of what is taking place around us in the state and country.

Education is not alone in this situation—our first responders have been there for all of us as well, regardless of supply chain issues. The same can be said of our brave servicemen, our hospital staff, and those in many other government services. In spite of not being alone in this fact, it does not diminish the pride I have for my school or even, for my profession.

I always have wishes for my community during the holidays—one wish is a constant, that we all remember Christmas is not about gifts and trinkets and this year; number two is that, as a community, folks take the time to reflect on just how lucky we are to have the talented and dedicated faculty and staff who work with our children each and every day. As educators, we hope to be a constant in our students’ lives—to be there every day when needed and when called upon. I believe that to that end, Cedar Cliff Local School District has accomplished that goal.

The holidays are a great time to be thankful, to be reflective, and to be cognizant of the blessings we all share. Below you will see a picture of the Cedarville Elementary *Thanksgiving Feast* recently held in the school cafeteria. The event was so widely attended we had to move it out of our normal classroom experience into the cafeteria. This is just another reason why I am so very thankful for my students, my

staff, and this great community. Moments like this illustrate how important a strong sense of community can be. I hope each and every one of you appreciate this as well.

Best regards and have a great holiday season,



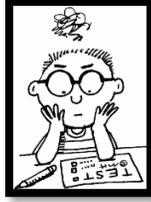
Chad Mason, Superintendent
Cedar Cliff Local Schools

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(The Cedarville Elementary Thanksgiving Feast pictured above)





### Meet Our Quick Recall Team

Quick Recall is an academic competition, whereby Cedarville High School students compete against other schools in the Ohio Heritage Conference (OHC) on a range of topics from virtually all subject areas. Cedarville students have done very well in this competition in the past and we expect they will compete at a high level again this year. Be sure to follow their schedule on the district calendar and feel free to stop by and watch a competition; the team would appreciate all the support they can get. Under the direction of Ms. Shaw, this year's current team members are:

**Seniors:** Eli Bigham, Reece Ferguson, Haylee Florkey, Benjamin Ormsbee

**Juniors:** Jack Baise, Dylan Cook, Megan Hulbert, Connor Smith, Priscilla Stogner

**Sophomores:** Tristan Berkheiser, Austin Bigham, James Brooks, Isaiah Dewitt, Eden Foerch, George Landon, Jacob Lide, Ezri Rice, Josh Sultan, David Tarwater, Josh Wallace

**Freshmen:** Mac Foerch, Sophia Lopez, Emily Steigerwald

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## *Congratulations to our Awarded Fall Athletes!*



Once again, Cedarville High School was represented when the coaches of the Ohio Heritage Conference voted for All-Conference selections. We wish to congratulate all honorees for their work and accomplishments on a job *Well-Done!*

### **Golf:**

**Luke Wallis** –2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference  
**JJ Donnaker** –Honorable Mention

### **Volleyball:**

**Molly Mossing**—1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Zoe McKinion**—2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Taylor Butts** –2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Anna Shepherd** –Honorable Mention

### **Football:**

**Jackson Pyles** –1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Jackson Howdyshell** –1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Chase Baldwin** – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Josh Flora** – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Jackson Miller** – Honorable Mention

### **Cross-Country Girls:**

**Anna Mark** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Ellie Mark** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Rachel Tarwater**—Honorable Mention All-Conference  
**Noel Kira**—Honorable Mention All-Conference

### **Cross-Country Boys:**

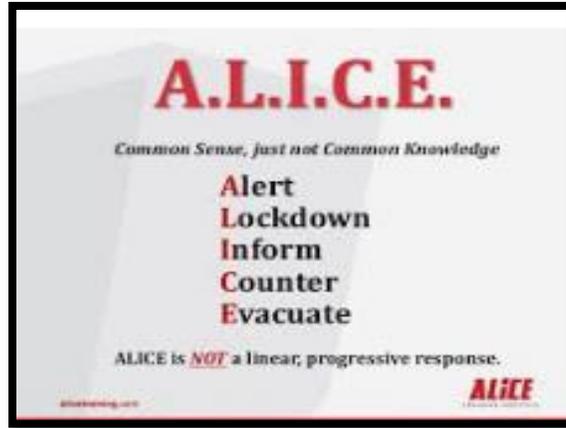
**Caleb Sultan**—*OHC Runner of the Year* / 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Isaac Wallis**—1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Ben Ormsbee**—Honorable Mention All-Conference  
**Josh Sultan** -- Honorable Mention All-Conference  
**Stewart Kroh**—Honorable Mention All-Conference

### **Girls' Tennis:**

**Anna Bowman** –*OHC Player of the Year* / 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Sara Cooley** -1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Reagan Smith** – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Ryleigh Burnett** – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference  
**Hannah Peterson** – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference

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**Crisis Training To Be Conducted in January**

In January, all students in grades K-12 will be involved in a mandatory active-intruder crisis drill. Three crisis drills are now required by Ohio law for public schools for three distinct purposes; a lock-down drill, evacuation drill, and an active shooter/intruder drill.

All students have been participating in fire, tornado and lock-down drills for decades, but the addition of active intruder and evacuation for reasons such as bomb threat are now also requirements by Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Faculty and Staff have been trained in a nationally recognized crisis reaction protocol, referred to as ALICE training and the safety of our students and staff is of the utmost concern and additional safety features have been added to assist in that mission.

This year, we will complete this mandatory training in some capacity to meet our legislative mandates. Each year, the district attempts to address a hypothetical scenario in which to train the staff and students. *As of now, the exact scenario has not been established, but be on the look-out for more information as we get closer to the training date.*

As noted previously, while no system is fool-proof, these steps should assist in the reaction time and safety of law enforcement should an event such as those in the national media happen on our small campus.

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*“Tis the Season”*  
*(For Delays, Cancellations and Phone Calls!)*

Each year, as the winter approaches, I try to pass along some information regarding the thought process for closing or delaying school due to inclement weather. The following is the information that I have passed along in previous years—as you can see from the snowball throwing picture below, the inclement weather season is upon us!

*Why are they not in school?*

Winter has finally begun; it took some time but it is here. I hope you each have a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break enjoying time with family and friends while you have a safe holiday season.

As we approach this time of year, “snow days” are often the topic of conversation and exactly what process a superintendent utilizes for the alteration of a normal school day. Last year, I submitted an article for this newsletter entitled “Anatomy of a Snow Day,” and I thought it pertinent as we approach the typical winter season/events and may answer any questions you have as to the necessity of school delays and/or cancellations. Here is a re-print of that article:

*Anatomy of a “Snow Day”*

Experienced superintendents often talk of the stress and worry associated with calamity days and whether or not to make the decision to cancel school. Community members often ask what determines whether or not school is on-time, delayed, or cancelled and exactly what takes place when superintendents have those conversations (and yes, those conversations take place).

As superintendent, I can now attest to the process and having been through it, unfortunately, on multiple occasions, I know the frustration involved. After all, it is Ohio, and it is winter—snow is going to come. School will always take place during winter months, however, there are many considerations when cancelling school—and in an effort to be honest and frank, here are some of the things I consider during those times Cedar Cliff Local Schools have to be closed due to inclement weather.

*First and foremost—Safety.* There is a difference between a ‘*consideration*’ and a ‘*determining factor*.’ For all intent and purpose, there is only ONE determinant for a calamity cancellation/delay, that being safety. Superintendents may consider many things when making a decision, but the one true factor is always the well-being of the students. Safety in all facets—safety on the roads for the buses and our drivers, for the students waiting at the stops/homes, for the parking lots and parents dropping off students for the day in the hustle and bustle of their morning routine, for the new teen-age drivers who are facing slippery streets for the first time, and for staff who may be driving some distance to get to the workplace. Superintendents carry a heavy burden—no superintendent wants to attend a funeral or visit a family in the hospital after an accident in which a child was traveling to school.

*Snow Day (cont.)*

After safety, all else is merely a consideration:

*Second—Other perspectives.* Yes—we call colleagues, those others entrusted with making the decision. Having other perspectives and input is valuable, especially when your colleagues have more experience. To not have that interaction is naïve and an example of poor judgment, in my opinion. The opportunity for criticism is ever-present; it is exacerbated when a call is made that goes ‘against the grain’ and leaves your district in a solitary position.

*Third—Timing.* It is very frustrating school starts at 8:00 am (roughly) and you believe weather conditions will be fine by then; however, you must make your decision at 5:30 am. Drivers begin arriving for work, preparing their buses for pre-trip activities, and then begin their routes shortly after. It is quite common to expect conditions to be acceptable by the start of school but you wonder if there is a chance that you may not get the weather you expect. Then, the district is caught with drivers on routes that make the superintendent’s decision questionable.

*Fourth—Days out already.* Most folks think at some point in the year, “Well, they had 5 days to burn and had only used one, so they cancelled today.” I detest that point of view—NO good educator likes to “burn” a day of a child’s education, when, for some children, that school day is the best sense of normal they have. Having said that, ‘pressure’ seems to mount as one nears that 5-day ‘limit’ imposed by the state. So, do some superintendents consider the number of days missed already? Probably so.

*Fifth—Activities at school.* OAT testing, OGT testing, expensive presenters that cannot be re-scheduled admittedly do enter into your mind when making the decision. But to be very clear, entering your mind and rising to the level of safety are not the same—while “what is happening that day” may be a consideration, but remember, it is not a determination for a delay or cancellation. It is merely what crosses one’s mind as a repercussion for the actions of altering the daily schedule.

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**Pass along the Information!**

If you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter, feel free to forward the information. We will also have copies available at the Board Office and the Senior Citizens’ Center if someone would like the traditional paper copy. Once again, you can sign up to receive the newsletter from the Cedar Cliff Website at:

<http://www.cedarcliffschools.net/>

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## **Want to Stay Up-to-Date on Cedarville High School Athletics?**

As newspaper coverage for local high school sports teams decreases, many fans have turned to alternative ways to stay current on their high school team's seasons. **Scorestream**, a web/app based resource offers fans a way to report the scores and statistics and provide a means for those who are not in attendance to stay up-to-date on the High School happenings.

While not all sports teams are tracked, it is a way to stay current on the teams that utilize this site. If you (or someone you know) would like to see how our teams are faring, check out: <https://scorestream.com/team/cedarville-high-school-indians-12891> and follow the Indians as they progress through the seasons.



## ***Parents—Be Aware of the Danger!***

*The following article was passed along to me. This article outlines the danger of vaping and what this practice often leads to later in life. All parents should be aware and educated on this topic. Feel free to peruse and pass along should you be inclined.*



Vapes and e-cigarettes pose significant risks to young people who use them. A previous [Know! Tip](#) provides general information about vaping and how to start a conversation about the health risks in order to prevent vape use. Although preventing vape and e-cigarette use before it starts is the goal, many young people are already vaping. You may not want to believe that a young person in your life may be using vapes or experiencing nicotine addiction. Unfortunately, vaping device usage among young people is more common than you may think -- about [1 in 5](#) high school students vape. If you notice the warning signs of vape use, try not to assume that it is just a phase. Nicotine is highly addictive and most people do not just grow out of an addiction.

When you know that a young person in your life is vaping, it's time to consider how you might be able to help them quit. Almost [two-thirds of students](#) who use tobacco products are seriously thinking about quitting. Quitting is difficult alone, but as a caring adult, you can help the young people in your life by offering support and resources. While they may not be ready to quit, it's important to start the conversation and keep talking.



(Vaping cont.)

The following are some [indicators](#) that a young person in your life may be vaping from the Partnership to End Addiction:

### **Equipment**

You may find devices that look like flash (USB) drives, e-liquid bottles, pods/ cartridges (that contain e-juice) or product packaging. Aside from leaf marijuana, gel jars that contain highly concentrated marijuana extract (dabs), small tools to scoop dabs and cartridges that contain THC oil or wax (a yellowish-brown substance) are signs of vaping marijuana.

### **Online Purchases / Packages in the Mail / Store Purchases**

Be on the lookout for purchases made online and charged to your credit card or unusual packages that arrive in the mail. Kids also buy them at big box stores, gas stations or from friends.

### **Scent**

While the smell from vaping is faint, you may catch a whiff of a flavoring where there appears to be no other source. For example, if you smell bubble gum or chocolate cake, take note. It might be a flavored nicotine vaping product. Marijuana vapes can produce a skunk-like smell.

### **Increased Thirst / Nosebleeds / Interest in Stronger Flavors**

Some of the chemicals used in e-juices dry out the mouth and nose. As a result, some kids drink more liquids, have nosebleeds and may show a desire for stronger flavors (when the mouth is dry, flavor perception is reduced).

### **Decreased Caffeine Use**

Some teens and young adults who vape nicotine develop a sensitivity to caffeine because both nicotine and caffeine are stimulants. Taking multiple stimulants can result in feelings of anxiety. If your child drank caffeinated energy drinks and has cut back or quit, it may be because of vaping.

### **Vaping slang**

You may see vaping slang in text messages or hear young people using it when they talk. Familiarize yourself with common vaping lingo with this [resource](#) from Truth Initiative.

### **Social Media and Online References**

Kids often talk about vaping on social media. Pay attention for pictures or references on their Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Twitter, and other social media accounts. Take note of popular vaping terms in their online searches.

### **Appearance and Behavior Changes**

Vaping nicotine may lead to anxiety, irritability, difficulty concentrating and loss of appetite. Vaping marijuana can result in bloodshot eyes, dry mouth and thirst, increased appetite and shifts in behavior and mood. Sometimes, there is a noticeable change in friends and a decrease in activities that were once enjoyed.

### **Physical Symptoms**

Physical side effects of vaping may include trouble breathing, headaches, cough, dizziness, sore throat, chest pain and allergic reactions such as itchiness or swelling of the lips. More severe effects include worsening of asthma symptoms, lung disease or failure and heart disease.



(Vaping cont.)

Starting the conversation about quitting is difficult. It's important to take vaping seriously as a health concern while maintaining an open and empathetic line of communication.

Use the following tips to help guide you through a conversation with your loved one about quitting vaping:

## Before You Talk

### Know The Facts

Caring adults need to be aware of the dangers of vaping and e-cigarette use. Knowing the dangers allows you to share the harms of vaping with a young person in an informed way. We know that vapes are [harmful](#): nicotine in any form is highly addictive and the aerosol inhaled while vaping contains known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, as well as potentially toxic metal nanoparticles from the device itself.

### Consider Their Perspective

Try to put yourself into the young person's shoes. Think about the obstacles, pressures, and social environment in their life. By relating to them and preparing to communicate with empathy, you can better support them in their quitting journey.

### Take It Seriously

Vaping is serious and worthy of concern. Just about all vaping products contain nicotine, a highly addictive drug, and the negative health effects are broad and can be serious. The [vast majority](#) of people with nicotine addiction started using a nicotine product before age 21. If you believe your loved one has tried vaping or is vaping regularly, it is definitely an issue worth addressing.

### Practice What You Will Say

If you know a young person in your life is vaping, it can be difficult to know what to do next. You may want to jump in immediately to help them quit. However, it is important to prepare yourself for having a conversation about quitting. It's helpful to know what you plan to say before you say it. Practice in front of the mirror or with a partner, and consider how you plan to react to various questions or comments that may come up in the conversation.

### Go Easy On Yourself

When it comes to vaping, caring adults are working against strong forces. This includes limited government regulation, clever advertising and marketing and young people's natural tendency to try risky things. Kids of all backgrounds, and many who have never before used an addictive substance, have been lured into vaping. With patience, love and the right interventions, you can help your loved one quit and get back to living a healthy life.



### Connect With Cessation Help

You are not alone in helping your loved one quit vaping. Talk to your doctor or another health care professional about how to quit vaping. Ask how they might be able to help you. They can offer support and resources.

Another option is talking to a tobacco cessation counselor. Get free, personalized support from an expert. Call [1-800-QUIT-NOW](tel:1-800-QUIT-NOW) or [1-877-44U-QUIT](tel:1-877-44U-QUIT) to talk with a tobacco cessation counselor. You can also chat online using the National Cancer Institute's [LiveHelp](#) service.

### Follow up

Talking about quitting vaping isn't a one and done conversation. Ongoing follow-up and support are essential for helping the young people in your life, even if they aren't yet ready to quit after one conversation. Keep talking, check in with how your loved one is doing, and return to the conversation. You are at the beginning of a difficult process that requires your commitment and follow through to be helpful.

Even if your loved one is still not interested in quitting, you've planted an important seed. Nicotine is an addictive chemical, and quitting can seem really overwhelming.

**If you find that your loved one cannot stop vaping on their own, or with the help of your support, they may be addicted, and will need professional help to stop. Talk to your pediatrician, or consult an outpatient behavioral health center for adolescents, to see what treatment options are available.**

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## ***Cedar Cliff receives School Safety Grant!***

Recently, the State of Ohio awarded the Cedar Cliff Local School District a \$50,000 Safety Grant for safety improvements to the campus. The camera system is quickly getting outdated in terms of software and mechanical issues. Additionally, over the course of the last decade, it was apparent more cameras are needed for securing the facilities.

A preliminary cost analysis with vendors indicated that bringing the current system up to standards would cost approximately \$100,000. As a result, the district was thrilled that 50% of the cost of the project can now be paid for utilizing the safety grant proceeds. The remaining balance will be funded using Permanent Improvement (PI) dollars. Thank you, *once again*, to the voters for approving the PI levy renewal in November as these types of projects are pivotal to the success of our district moving forward!



## Looking for a Great Christmas Idea??

CedarCare Pharmacy is now, once again, stocking some wonderful Cedarville Indians Apparel for your holiday shopping needs. All proceeds benefit the Cedarville High School Athletic Department and the items have been garnering great reviews! So, remember to stop by if you are in the need for some great gifts—or you could pass along the information to Santa if your child is asking for some school spirit items under the tree! Just another bit of information to pass along, the pharmacy will be open during “*Little Town of Lights*” for sales of all merchandise—see you there!

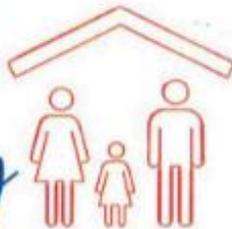


**Additional Information to Pass Along**

**LOOKING FOR A  
BETTER JOB?  
WORRIED ABOUT BILLS?**  
Create a Brighter Future  
for You and Your Family



United Way of the  
Greater Dayton Area



**Strong  
FAMILIES**

helping families navigate and  
prevent financial crisis

**Get the support you need to earn more.**  
We offer your family:

- Individualized assistance
- Support in working with landlords
- Referrals for community resources and benefits
- Education resources for both parent and child
- Support in gaining and maintaining employment
- Possible financial assistance

Improve your family's financial stability through the Strong Families program, call Ariel Lee **(937) 519-0272** today! Or email [ariell@homefull.org](mailto:ariell@homefull.org)



**1 in 5**

households in our region  
are behind on rent

**34%**

of students will fall behind  
due to changing schools

To afford fair market  
rent for a two  
bedroom, a minimum  
wage earner must work



**74 hours  
per week**

**99%**

of families in the program stayed  
in their homes or received a  
supported transfer

## **Upcoming December Events**

### **Thursday, December 1**

Quick Recall Match (H) vs. Greeneview (4:00)  
5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Southeastern  
5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Southeastern

### **Friday, December 2**

GCCC Sophomore Field Trip  
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Catholic Central High School-Springfield

### **Saturday, December 3**

1:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Catholic Central High School-Springfield (Varsity Only)  
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Dayton Christian Jr/HS

### **Monday, December 5**

End of Course Test  
5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Madison-Plains  
5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Madison-Plains  
6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Twin Valley South HS/MS

### **Tuesday, December 6**

End of Course Test  
5:00pm—HS Boys' (9<sup>th</sup> Grade) Basketball (A) vs. Southeastern HS  
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Southeastern HS

### **Wednesday, December 7**

End of Course Test  
5th Grade Field Trip to the Ohio Statehouse  
5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Catholic Central  
5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Catholic Central  
6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Greeneview HS

### **Thursday, December 8**

End of Course Test  
Elementary (6:00), MS/HS (7:15) Christmas Concert

### **Friday, December 9**

End of Course Test  
5:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (9th grade) (A) vs. Greeneview HS  
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Greeneview HS

### **Saturday, December 10**

12:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Madison-Plains High School  
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. East Clinton High School

**Sunday, December 11**

Elks Hoop Event (1:00-- MS and HS gyms)

**Monday, December 12**

Athletic Booster Meeting (7:00)

Music Booster (7:00)

Regular BOE Meeting (7:00)

Quick Recall Match @ Greenon (4:00)

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Fairbanks

5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Fairbanks

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Greenon Jr/Sr High School

**Wednesday, December 14**

K- 12 Early Dismissal (2:00 p.m.)

4th Graders Field Trip to Boonshoft

Middle School Spelling Bee (8:30—Live Streamed for parents)

**Thursday, December 15**

K- 12 Early Dismissal (2:00 p.m.)

Elementary Spelling Bee (8:30—Live Streamed for parents)

Quick Recall Match @ West Liberty (4:00)

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Northeastern

5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Northeastern

**Friday, December 16**

K- 12 Early Dismissal (2:00 p.m.)

Elementary Christmas Around the World (8:30-11:00 am)

5:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (9<sup>th</sup> grade) (A) vs. Madison-Plains High School

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Madison-Plains High School

**Saturday, December 17**

5:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (9th grade) (H) vs. Greenon Jr/Sr High School

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Greenon Jr/Sr High School

**Monday, December 19**

Christmas Break Begins

5:30pm—MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. West Jefferson

5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. West Jefferson

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. East Clinton High School

**Tuesday, December 20**

Christmas Break

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Twin Valley South HS/MS

**Wednesday, December 21**

Christmas Break

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Fairbanks High School

**Thursday, December 22**

Christmas Break

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Troy Christian High School

**Wednesday, December 28**

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Triad High School

**Monday, January 2, 2023**

School resumes after break.

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Chaminade Julienne HS

**\*\* All Administrative Central Offices Closed:  
December 19, 2022--January 1, 2022**