

Cedar Cliff Local Schools  
Superintendent's Newsletter  
November 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.”*

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### ***The Things we Keep...***

Recently, we found ourselves “downsizing.” No longer needing a larger home as empty nesters, the necessity for small accommodations became very apparent. However, downsizing is more than just moving to a smaller residence; it also involves reflection, organization, decluttering, and sometimes, hard choices. Many of those decisions revolve around what to keep. This is often associated with the requisite decision-making as to what a “need” truly is.

Quite frankly, most of us have a plethora of items we do not truly need. We keep things we like, things that are memorable, things that bring us satisfaction—but do we truly need those things? As we laboriously looked through box after box and storage container after storage container, we started to realize just how much a person can accumulate over nearly half a century.

One item, pictured below, when I came across it made me laugh out loud. This particular box contained many items my mother had given me from my High School years—pictures, awards, certificates, and mementos. One particular certificate was given to me as a result of the “*newly developed*” Ohio Test of Scholastic Achievement. This initiative from the state came out after the controversial “*A Nation at Risk*” report decrying how horrid America Schooling had become. I may be aging myself, but this was 1986, and state testing of subject matter areas was a relatively new phenomenon.

Fast forward nearly 35 years later and the testing has increased exponentially, the educational quality debate has continued, the legislation “fixing” the system has been nauseating, and I am now a Superintendent of Instruction for a public school. I can promise everyone, I never saw that coming when I participated in this Scholastic Achievement initiative 35 years ago!

I grew up in public schools—devoted my life to public school service—defended public schools against detractors—argued for funding for public schools when my district was facing cuts. All I could think when I saw the certificate was, “I am so glad we started the testing to ensure kids were learning—things are so much better now!”

Yes, that was, indeed, blatant sarcasm. President Kennedy once argued in 1955 the greatest issues facing America at that time were healthcare and education—today, we argue the same. We have fixed and fixed both systems to the point of exhaustion.

My sincere hope for all of my students is that, one day, when they are cleaning out their closets and they find items of interest from high school, they do not find *ONE* item related to state testing—not a single iota of any type of certificate as it relates to the topic. Schooling is, and should be, so much more---our students are so much more. We, as Americans, are paying the price for our past decades with an over-emphasis on testing. I will let each of you decide if you think this was put back on the shelf as a “needed” item in our household—or if it would be in yours.

Here’s to having a great year—with many items to fill storage bins along the way.

Best Regards—



Chad Mason, Superintendent  
Cedar Cliff Local School District



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### Senior “To-Do” List for Graduation

If you are a senior this year, below are some important dates and events to keep in mind for this last year of your CHS schooling:

- Make sure you are “on the right path” for graduation. Do you have all credits needed? Is your schedule “graduation ready?” See Mrs. Tingelstad in the Guidance office if you have concerns!
- Begin applying for your college choices: Have you taken the ACT/SAT? Did you send your scores *DIRECTLY* to the university to which you are applying (Side note: the NCAA requires the scores come directly; they will not take information from the high school)? Have you done any college visits? Do you have a focus for your college studies?
- Send college applications (if you know where you want to attend) in December! Do you need a letter of recommendation from a Cedar Cliff faculty member? If so, give them at least two weeks’ notice to give your letter its due time. Remember to keep copies of everything you send, should a need arise later for questions.
- Check with CHS guidance department on the Cedar Cliff website under the “High School Counselor’s Corner” tab, your university choice’s financial aid department, your parents’ employers, your church, your employer, or even internet websites (but be careful there) for scholarship opportunities. Listen to school announcements for scholarship opportunities, as well as new items that may come in from time to time.
- In October, get a FAFSA Pin number on-line. Remember, FAFSA applications may be completed anytime. You must be accepted to the college/university to receive a financial aid package for the financial aid office.

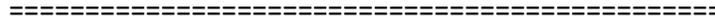
These are just a few reminders and not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Should you have specific questions about graduation, see either Mr. Chad Haemmerle, HS Principal, or Mrs. Rachell Tingelstad, HS Guidance Counselor.



## **District Looks to Renew Permanent Improvement Levy!**

The Cedar Cliff Local School District is running a campaign for the renewal of a 5-year Permanent Improvement (PI) Levy. It is important to note, this is a *renewal levy* and will *not* be an increase in property taxes for the homeowner. Currently, this levy provides the district approximately \$250,000 for expenses related to upkeep and maintenance of the facilities; it is not for general operating expenses.

Further, it is collected at a rate of 3.0 mills and collects roughly \$63.00 yearly from the owner of a home valued at \$100,000. This levy would be for a duration of 5 years and be, again, used for maintenance to our facilities. Currently, these funds are also used for Bus Purchases, Musical Instruments, Library Materials, and Student textbooks/technology.



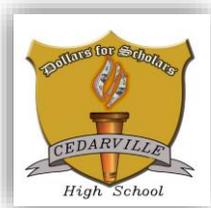
## **Cedarville Elementary Partners with Cedarville University for Family Math Night**

A Family Math Night took place on October 10, 2022, where approximately 15 families participated in an annual Family Math Night held at Cedarville Elementary. Students joined different stations and used math knowledge to work together as a family to solve problems.

This event, in its fourth year, is done in partnership with future educators studying at Cedarville University, and is a win-win for both schools. For the University and Professor Lori Ferguson, it allows her future educators an opportunity to put theory into practice to create engaging activities related to Math content standards. For the elementary students and their families, it's an engaging way to spend time together, and learn something at the same time!



***Please Consider Donating!!***



## ***The Cedar Cliff Educational Endowment Program***

Over the years, many talented and hard-working Cedarville High School graduates have furthered their education and gone on to accomplish great things. Additionally, many of those students were fortunate to receive financial assistance or scholarships to offset the cost of a college education and achieve their future goals.

Typically, financial assistance is provided either to families whose income is insufficient to supply resources for a graduate's continuing education *or* to those students achieving exemplary grades and a standardized test (ACT/SAT) score. We are often asked, "What about those students whose parents earn just enough to prohibit needs assistance or the graduate who did well in school academically, but just below the cut-off for academic awards?" In essence, what about the student who earns a 3.0 or better GPA whose middle-income family works hard struggling to provide the help for the dream of a college education?

Thus, the idea of the Cedar Cliff Educational Endowment was formed. The administration and Board of Education saw the need and expressed the desire to help *ALL* graduates earning a 3.0 or higher regardless of need and/or final academic standing. Quite frankly, the desire was to assist any student, regardless of their background or testing results, who simply meets one criteria—that of a 3.0 GPA. It is our goal to provide financial assistance with a check issued to any graduate who provides proof of college enrollment who meets the GPA requirement.

*This endowment program cannot achieve its goal without your support!* Endowment programs such as this exist only with donations and support from community members and donors. It is our goal to "grow" these funds so the original principal remains and the interest earned is distributed to those qualifying graduates. It is our hope by publicizing this program, donors and community members will remember the Cedar Cliff Endowment Program when searching for altruistic and charitable locations for wills, estates, and tax purposes. All donations are tax deductible as the program is recognized under the *Greene Giving Community Foundation*.

For additional questions see Mrs. Julie Lowe, Treasurer, Cedar Cliff Local School District.

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## *Upcoming November Events*

### **Monday, November 7**

Board Meeting Work Session (6:00)

### **Tuesday, November 8**

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Oakwood (Scrimmage)

### **Wednesday, November 9**

MS/HS Winter Sports Pictures (3:30)

Picture Make-up Day (K-12)

6:00pm--MS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Northwestern (Scrimmage)

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Northwestern HS (Scrimmage)

### **Friday, November 11**

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Urbana High School (Scrimmage)

### **Saturday, November 12**

10:00am—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. New Bremen High School (Scrimmage)

### **Monday, November 14**

Athletic Booster Meeting (7:00)

Music Booster (7:00)

Quick Recall Match (4:00—Greenon (H)

Spanish Concert for High School Students

5:30pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Carlisle High School (Scrimmage)

### **Tuesday, November 15**

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Newton High School (Scrimmage)

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Legacy Christian Academy (Scrimmage)

### **Wednesday, November 16**

K-12 Early Dismissal (1:00 p.m.)

### **Thursday, November 17**

7th Grade Field Trip to Glen Helen Raptor Center (8:30-10:45)

Quick Recall Match @ West Liberty (4:00)

### **Friday, November 18**

Interim Reports Go Home

### **Saturday, November 19**

12:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Beaver Creek HS (Scrimmage)

### **Monday, November 21**

Quick Recall Match @ Northeastern (4:00)

Regular Board Meeting (7:00)

**November 21 (cont.)**

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

7:30pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Yellow Springs High School

**Tuesday, November 22**

Kindergarten Breakfast Feast

**Wednesday, November 23—Friday, November 25**

Thanksgiving Break

**Friday, November 25**

4:30pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Emmanuel Christian Academy (9<sup>th</sup>)

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Emmanuel Christian Academy

**Saturday, November 26**

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

**Monday, November 28**

PTO Meeting (7:00)

Quick Recall Match @ Madison Plains (4:00)

School resumes after break.

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

**Wednesday, November 30**

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

**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