

Cedar Cliff Local Schools
Superintendent's Newsletter
November 2023



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.”

The Social Media Parent...

One of the things I notice when I read articles, watch television, or peruse the web is the lack of any real substance to the outrage people express. Honestly, when someone shares an article, clicks on a thumbs up/down emoji, or “dislikes” something on Facebook, they are not really *doing* anything. One could make an argument they are calling attention to a topic, but does calling attention really help solve a problem? Maybe, if calling attention is then followed by actual action. I am less impressed by those forwarding climate change articles along than I am with those who walk the ditches and clean up garbage. I am also less impressed with those who lament the state of education than those who pick up a book and read to a child. And finally, I am less impressed with a parent who posts on social media all that is wrong with the school or education but then does nothing to help their own cause.

Passing articles and posting videos is not fighting for a cause, ordering others around is not leading, and demanding folks do things to help raise your child is not parenting. It just isn't. This is probably the biggest change I have seen in education over a thirty-year career. We, as Americans almost seem to *look for a cause* and believe that is the same thing as *fighting for a cause*—I assure you, that is not the same thing. Likewise, demanding the school treat your child one way while you ignore them or treat them the exact opposite is not parenting. It sends the wrong message, it counteracts all progress and, ultimately, slows the development of a child's maturation. Teaching is hard but so is proper parenting and children really only truly succeed to the maximum of their potential when both take place simultaneously.

In professional sports, there is often a Human Resource position known as a *General Manager*. This is the individual who contracts the players, hires the coaches, and puts together the roster. *But...* when the season begins, the coaches and players actually do all the work—the actual work of trying to win games and championships. Often parents today seem to take on the role of General Manager rather than the Coach role. Putting things in place, demanding programs, or navigating events are important—but they are not parenting.

Actual parenting is coaching—actual parenting is sitting down (with no phones) and talking to your child, honestly getting to know who they are and what they want out of life. Actual parenting is helping a child navigate a bad grade, not demanding a change of a grade. Actual parenting is understanding that kids

screw up and get into trouble—and when they do, remembering that we did too when we were young and that disciplining a child means they will not always like you, but they need it just as much as we did when we were young.

We as adults need to actually *do* the work, not call attention to a behavior/issue and demand someone else do the work—especially as it relates to our children. I can honestly say, I never heard my parents say to one of my teachers, “*I need you to address this for me.*” Quite honestly, the phrase that worried me most (as a child) were the moments my parents spoke with my teachers and said, “*I will take care of this at home as well,*” when it pertained to my behavior or academics.

Demanding and fighting for our kids at all costs is not parenting—teaching them to fight for their own cause is parenting. Teaching a child to stand on his/her own is slower, less efficient, more stressful, and often needs repetition. But I promise you, every child needs a coach working through difficult times *with* them, not a General Manager demanding things *for* them—and they will respect you more for your efforts along the way if you coach.

Here’s hoping for a new cause to fight for—the dismissal of the General Manager/Social Media parent.

Best Regards—



Chad Mason, Superintendent
Cedar Cliff Local School District

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## *A Serious Topic*

Sometimes I choose to put things in a newsletter that I believe are important and information for parents trying to stay engaged in their children's lives. To do this, we **MUST** understand what it means to be a child in 2023 and what types of things they deal with on a day-to-day basis.

I urge folks to watch this documentary, if you have not seen it already. Admittedly, as a Superintendent, you can be nervous when you recommend things that can be sensitive to your community members. This documentary can be alarming, it can be upsetting, and it can be off-putting. *BUT*...it can also be a wake-up call for parents. There are disclaimers at the beginning of the video and I highlight those as well and I recommend viewing with caution—but the information for educators and parents alike outweigh any shock from the content, in my opinion.

Here is the link: <https://www.childhood2movie.com/>



## About the Documentary

Childhood 2.0 is required viewing for anyone who wants to better understand the world their children are navigating as they grow up in the digital age. Featuring actual parents and kids as well as industry-leading experts in child safety and development, this documentary dives into the real-life issues facing kids today – including cyberbullying, online predators, suicidal ideation, and more.



## 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 December, 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.



## ***Suicide Prevention and Violence Prevention Initiatives***

Suicide Prevention and Violence Prevention Initiatives

Dear parents,

September marked Suicide Prevention month across the world and October is National Bullying Prevention month. As a district, we wanted to share with you what we are doing to build support for students around these topics. As part of Governor DeWine’s House Bill 123, all school districts in the state of Ohio are required to provide yearly health education in 6-12th grades on suicide prevention, violence prevention, and social inclusion.

All students in grades 6-12 watched the Sandy Hook Promise “Starts with Hello” video in September that taught students about loneliness and social isolation and how to identify it in other peers. The video also taught the importance of establishing healthy connections with peers and taking time to reach out to others with something as simple as a hello in the hallways.

In the fall and early winter, 6-12 grade students will be taught to identify suicide risk factors and warning signs and learn what to do to seek help. Our goal is to teach students to do three steps: (1) Look for warning signs and threats, (2) Act immediately and take it seriously, (3) Say something to a trusted adult.

Within our high school and middle school, we expand upon this foundation with *Sources of Strength*, a student-led wellness program designed to build resilience, increase connection, change unhealthy norms around help-seeking, break down codes of secrecy and silence and teach healthy coping strategies. A diverse group of peer leaders works with adult advisors throughout the year in advisory class to plan, problem-solve and activate a variety of strategies. These campaigns are designed to spread messages of hope, help and strength within the school community.

Suicide prevention also occurs through the day-to-day actions of our staff – building trust and relationships with students. Recently, our staff was trained in QPR - “a universal intervention developed specifically to detect and respond to anyone emitting suicide warning signs.” QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer. As the complex mental health needs of our students continue to be a top priority, our district has put into place these trainings and videos with the hope of improving help-seeking behaviors among our students.

Most importantly, talk to the young people in your life. Let them know that they are important. Let them know they have a network of support, care and love. Carry the message that while difficult times in life are inevitable, suicide is not. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of every single one of our students.

Thank you—

Mrs. Walker

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## ***Football Playoff Tickets Available!***

Congratulations, once again, to the High School Football team for an outstanding season. Having secured the victory Friday night, the team will advance to the next round of the OHSAA Football playoffs!

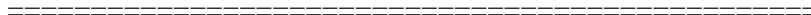
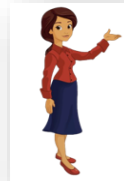
Tickets are available on the front page of the district website. For individuals who order their tickets online in advance of the game, the cost will be: Adults--\$12.00 and Students --\$9.00. For those individuals who choose to pay cash at the game, the cost of all tickets will be \$15.00.

We are very proud of the coaches and the team and encourage everyone to travel to Marion Local Friday night at 7:00 pm to cheer on the Indians.

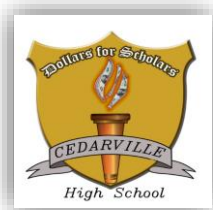


## ***We could use a hand...Classified Staff Help Needed!***

Have you ever thought about helping out around the school? We are currently looking for substitute custodians, aides, and cooks who can be available on an as-needed basis. If interested in becoming a substitute custodian, aide, or cook please send an email to Mrs. Campbell, Secretary to the Superintendent, at: [MCampbell@ccliff.net](mailto:MCampbell@ccliff.net).



***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*

### **Wednesday, November 1**

Superintendent Interviews (5:00)

### **Thursday, November 2**

Superintendent Interviews (5:00)

### **Thursday, November 9**

High School Fall Sports Awards (6:30)

Republican Party Meeting (7:00)

### **Saturday, November 11**

Second Round of Superintendent Interviews

### **Monday, November 13**

Athletic Booster Meeting (7:00)

Edgar Rene High School Spanish Concert (during School Day)

Music Booster Meeting (5:00)

PTO Meeting (7:00)

Quick Recall Match—(4:00) @ West Liberty

### **Wednesday, November 15**

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

### **Thursday, November 16**

Quick Recall Match—(4:00) vs. Northeastern (H)

### **Monday, November 20**

Quick Recall Match—(4:00) vs. Madison Plains (H)

Regular Board Meeting (7:00)

### **Wednesday, November 22**

Thanksgiving Break Begins

### **Thursday, November 23**

Thanksgiving Day

### **Monday, November 27**

5th Grade Gifted Testing

Quick Recall Match—(4:00) @ Greeneview

School resumes after break

### **Tuesday, November 28**

5th Grade Gifted Testing

High School End of Course Test

D.C. Deposit Due

**Wednesday, November 29**

5th Grade Gifted Testing  
High School End of Course Test

**Thursday, November 30**

5th Grade Gifted Testing  
GCCC Field Trip for Sophomores  
Quick Recall Match—(4:00) @ Mechanicsburg

**Friday, December 1**

5th Grade Gifted Testing

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