

**Cedar Cliff Local Schools
Superintendent's Newsletter
October 2020**



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.”

COVID, COVID, COVID—it seems like that is constantly the topic for school Superintendents. COVID protocol for sports, for classes, for lunch, for transportation, for activities—the list is endless. As an example of the trials and tribulations of all school leaders right now, the financial impact is huge.

Consider the following list of Cedar Cliff costs associated with COVID protocols (these are just an example; there would inevitably be additions in a more comprehensive list):

- Additional Custodial Help--\$8,370.00
- Plexiglass--\$6,457.00
- Desk Dividers/Shields--\$3,031.50
- Drinking Fountain Cups--\$1,200
- District Virtual Program--\$65,000
- Bottle Filling Drinking fountains--\$2,531.00
- Hand Held and Stationary Temperature Scanners--\$13,000
- Custodial Supplies--\$3,500.00
- Facility (Building) Changes--\$3,140.00
- Masks/Lanyards/Shields--\$7,352.00
- Assorted Curriculum Changes (Software/Ukuleles/etc..)--\$4,500.00

In addition to the costs just to be open each day, the entire country faced economic costs due to the virus and school districts are definitely not immune to economic downturn(s). Cedar Cliff relies on both local property and local income taxes to meet expenses—in addition to our state funding. The State of Ohio cut budgets by approximately 7-10% due to Coronavirus conditions. This cost the district thousands in lost revenue, *and*, according to recent reports from the County Auditor’s office, delinquent tax bills are higher and income taxes are lower for the 2020 collection year.

Lastly, school choice for parents is different during a pandemic school year. Every child and every family has the right to choose the educational plan that best “fits” their situation—I believe that as well. But for every student that leaves the district for another option, the per student cost is between \$4,300 and \$6,000—for every student.

This article is not meant as a financial sympathy expedition from the community. Quite honestly, everyone has taken an economic hit; in some fashion, due to the Coronavirus, we really are in this together. But, we have never tried to hide nor shield any news from the public—good or bad—and this is just an example of what it is like to maneuver in this particular school year.

However, in spite of all the hardships—in spite of all the trials and tribulations, we have been in school for almost an entire quarter when this newsletter goes to print. That is hard to believe and a fact that I am so proud to report—we have been in school—*all day—every day* for the first quarter of the year. I remember telling the staff when we started, for every day we get in as a school day, be thankful, be happy, and feel blessed.

Here's to being just as successful in quarter number two—in spite of the difficulties and costs—

Best Regards,



Chad Mason, Superintendent

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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/>





Memorial Endowment Established for Cedar Cliff Schools



Partnering with the “Greene Giving,” the Cedar Cliff Local School District is fortunate to have established an endowment scholarship program. Through this program, anyone who wishes to donate or bequeath dollars to the continuing education of CHS graduates may now do so. This is a great way to ensure continuing educational opportunities exist for our students and potentially change a young person’s future. For more information contact Edward Marrinan at: friend@greenegiving.org



Please Honor the Traffic Pattern!

Please see the picture below—this is the front entrance to the school. *Please DO NOT* pull into the lot and then proceed to travel up the outbound lane, as illustrated below. We have had some “near misses” with traffic accidents for individuals attempting this maneuver.



Fall Sports Awards Night Set!



Even though we will need to have COVID protocols in place, the district intends to hold the annual Fall Sports awards night. Please put this on your calendar—The awards night has been set for Tuesday, November 10, with the Middle School starting at 6:30 and the High School commencing at 7:30. More details will follow as to the exact locations in the building and protocols in place but we wanted everyone to have notice ASAP.

Please Give us Your Feedback

This year, Cedar Cliff Local School District is fully implementing a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program. There are many components to a successful program aimed at teaching students skills and understanding of emotions, responsibility, and mental health awareness, but one necessary aspect is the ability to gauge the climate of the current school culture.

As such, the district has a current survey instrument placed on the district website. Parents/Guardians can follow the link on the front of the website and complete the 52-question survey. The picture below is on the front of the site and will initiate the survey form.

It was brought to our attention there was an initial error and individuals could not log in and take the survey. The error has been corrected and we encourage everyone to take a few minutes and give us your feedback.

We “Thank You” for your time and truly do value and desire your responses.



Lady Indians Score Two wins in the Same Night!

On Thursday, October 1, the Indians Varsity Volleyball team scored a big win over Greenon High School, winning in three straight sets and moving to 7-5 in the OHC.

While this victory was exciting, the Indians also captured this win on their “Rally for the Cure” night to raise money for the fight against breast cancer. In addition to the contest the team raised over \$1,700.00 through a *GoFundMe* link and various activities at the game, with all funds going to cancer research. Great Job to Coach Mason and the girls for a great night all around!



We could use a hand...Drivers Needed!

Have you ever thought about driving a school bus? We are currently looking for substitute bus drivers who can be available on an as-needed basis. If interested in becoming a bus driver, please send an email to our transportation supervisor, Tom Morgan: tmorgan@ccliff.net.



How Do I Get Access to the Building Announcements?

Often parents wonder how/when we make daily activity announcements to our students. Additionally, if a child forgets, is there a way for them to go back and check on this information? We read announcements each day and yes, there is a pathway for checking daily announcements (see below):

First: Click on the Building (Elementary, MS, or HS) from the district website (www.cedarcliffschools.net), then see the announcement heading right below the building name—it is that easy.



Interested in Youth basketball???

Those individuals interested in the youth basketball program can complete this form and return it to the Middle School to the Elementary or High School Office. The deadline is fast approaching so please be prompt with your completion of needed materials.

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Cedarville Youth Basketball</h3> <h4 style="text-align: center;">Skill Sessions & Open Gyms Registration</h4> <p style="text-align: center;">Cost \$20 (Grades: 3 - 6)</p>	
Player Name _____ Grade _____		
Address _____		
Father's Name _____ Phone # _____		
Mother's Name _____ Phone # _____		
Email _____		
T-Shirt Size YS YM YL AS AM AL AXL		
I can assist with sessions: ___ Yes ___ No		
<hr/> Travel Basketball Registration Cost \$60 (Grades: 4 - 6)		
_____ Yes , player plans to try out for travel league (\$20 Skill Sessions/Open Gyms + \$60 Travel = \$80 Total) Parents who volunteer for scoring/ticketing on a game day will earn back \$15.		
_____ No , player will not be participating in travel league		
I can help*: ___ Coach ___ Assistant Coach		
* To coach, you must clear the Secure Volunteer background check located on the school website. The Athletic Boosters will reimburse this expense to you.*		
<hr/> Registration due by Wednesday, October 14th		
Due to COVID-19, we are unable to offer Little Dribblers this year. Skill Sessions/Open Gyms will be held at separate times for each gender/grade level to maintain small groups. The Travel League has not yet received a final go-ahead, but we are moving forward for now as if they will.		
Contact Becky Pauling at 937-631-1862 or beckypauling@gmail.com with any questions.		
Amount Due: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Cash/Check _____		

**CHS Boys' CC Team
Ranked Number One in the State!**



For the past two weeks, the Cedarville High School Boys' Cross-Country Team has been ranked #1 in the state in the annual OHSAA Division III Cross-Country Coaches Poll. The boys have worked extremely hard, and under the tutelage of Head Coach Kris Williams, they have been experiencing a great deal of success.

Consider this—the Cedarville High School team has competed against nearly 60 other high schools to this point in the season and has only been beaten by one other school—and that was a team ranked in the top five in a Division II poll.

The Springfield News Sun recently ran an article highlighting the accomplishment and can be found here: <https://www.springfieldnewsun.com/sports/prep-notebook-cedarville-boys-cross-country-ranked-no-1-in-d-iii-state-poll/3PWY4GA2CFEP3CSFKRZXTV4E6I/>

The cross-country good news does not stop there—the girls' team is having a very successful season as well and find themselves ranked as high as 33rd in the coaches' poll on the girls' side!



Boys' CC Team Members include: Ethan Wallis, Trent Koning, Caleb Sultan, Drew Mason, Payton Herron, Ben Kinsinger, Dylan Cook, Ben Moore, Jack Baise, Eli Bigham, Reece Ferguson, Issac Wallis and Ben Ormsbee

Masks are Required—Do You Have Yours?

This year, masks are required for entrance into the facility and to attend events at the school. Why not show a little school spirit and meet the mandate at the same time? The administration is selling Cedarville Indian Logo Face Masks for \$10.00 each at all offices (Elementary, HS, and BOE) until supplies run out.

If we have to wear them, why not show some spirit at the same time while making a great fashion statement?



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This is why I HATE Social Media!

Usually, as a school Superintendent I attempt to be less forthcoming in some of my opinions that are non-educational when writing for the public. However, there are topics that I feel compelled to let folks know, to make them aware, and to hopefully protect some students along the way.

I have heard many tout all the reasons that social media can be positive, how it can be used in the educational settings, and how we can better “stay in touch” when we use it correctly. I have tried to see those benefits, even utilize social media platforms if we need to get the word out for events at school, but if it were to all go away tomorrow, all social media platforms, I would not be disappointed in the least. In fact, I believe the majority of my administrative colleagues would agree, the harm just outweighs the good when it comes to our students.

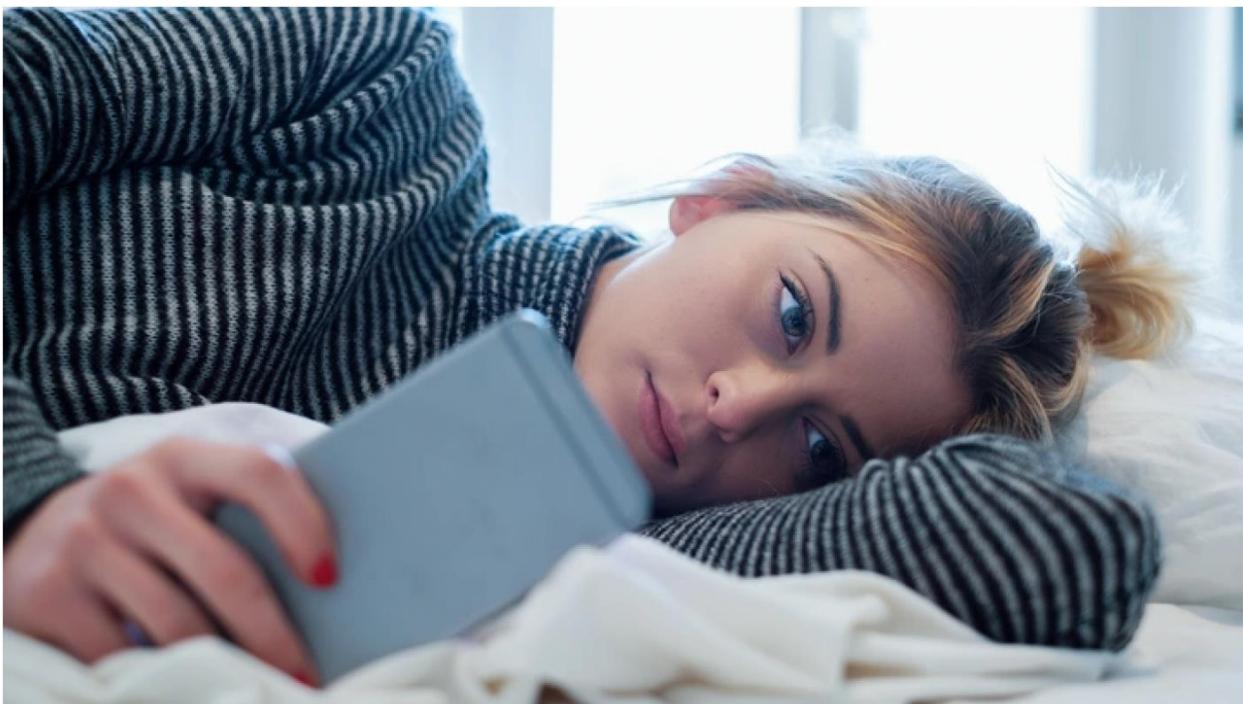
Some of the material in the article that follows can be alarming—I do not pass it along for that reason. I pass it along as just another, in a long string of reminders, about the need for parent vigilance in our work with young people. Please reflect on your parenting and rules in your house as you read through this material.

Teens Are Being Bullied ‘Constantly’ on Instagram

By Taylor Lorenz | Oct. 10th, 2018 [Send to Kindle](#)

Harassment on the platform can be uniquely cruel, and for many it feels like there’s no escape.

Taylor Lorenz October 10, 2018



Shutterstock

No app is more integral to teens’ social lives than Instagram. While Millennials relied on Facebook to navigate high school and college, connect with friends, and express themselves online, Gen Z’s networks exist almost entirely on Instagram. According to a recent study by the Pew Research Center, 72 percent of teens use the platform, which now has more than 1 billion monthly users. Instagram allows teens to chat with people they know, meet new people, stay in touch with friends from camp or sports, and bond by sharing photos or having discussions.

But when those friendships go south, the app can become a portal of pain. According to a recent Pew survey, 59 percent of teens have been bullied online, and according to a 2017 survey conducted by Ditch the Label, a nonprofit anti-bullying group, more than one in five 12-to-20-year-olds experience bullying specifically on Instagram. “Instagram is a good place sometimes,”

said Riley, a 14-year-old who, like most kids in this story, asked to be referred to by her first name only, “but there’s a lot of drama, bullying, and gossip to go along with it.”

Teenagers have always been cruel to one another. But Instagram provides a uniquely powerful set of tools to do so. The velocity and size of the distribution mechanism allow rude comments or harassing images to go viral within hours. Like Twitter, Instagram makes it easy to set up new, anonymous profiles, which can be used specifically for trolling. Most importantly, many interactions on the app are hidden from the watchful eyes of parents and teachers, many of whom don’t understand the platform’s intricacies.

“There is no place for bullying on Instagram, and we are committed to fostering a kind and supportive community. Any form of online abuse on Instagram runs completely counter to the culture we’re invested in—a platform where everyone should feel safe and comfortable sharing their lives through photos and videos,” an Instagram spokesperson told *The Atlantic* in September. This week, the company also announced a set of new features aimed at combatting bullying, including comment filters on live videos, machine-learning technology to detect bullying in photos, and a “kindness camera effect to spread positivity” endorsed by the former *Dance Moms* star Maddie Ziegler.

Still, Instagram is many teens’ entire social infrastructure; at its most destructive, bullying someone on there is the digital equivalent of taping mean flyers all over someone’s school, and her home, and her friends’ homes.

After a falling-out with someone formerly in her friend group last year, Yael, a 15-year-old who asked to be referred to by a pseudonym, said the girl turned to Instagram to bully her day and night. “She unfollowed me, blocked me, unblocked me, then messaged me days on end, paragraphs,” Yael said. “She posted about me constantly on her account, mentioned me in her Story, and messaged me over and over again for weeks.”

Yael felt anxious even just having her phone in her pocket, because it reminded her of the harassment. “Every time I logged on to my account, I didn’t want to be there,” she said. “I knew when I opened the app, she would be there. I was having a lot of anxiety over it, a lot of stress.”

But still, she hesitated to quit the app entirely. Her friends on Instagram serve as a source of support. Also, quitting wouldn’t stop her tormentor from talking about her, and she’d rather know what the girl was saying. “You know someone’s talking about you, they’re posting about you, they’re messaging about you, they’re harassing you constantly,” she said. “You know every time you open the app they’re going to be there.”

Because bullying on your main feed is seen by many as aggressive and uncool, many teens create hate pages: separate Instagram accounts, purpose-built and solely dedicated to trashing one person, created by teens alone or in a group. They’ll post bad photos of their target, expose her secrets, post screenshots of texts from people saying mean things about her, and any other terrible stuff they can find.

“I’ve had at least 10 hate pages made about me,” said Annie, a 15-year-old who asked to be referred to by a pseudonym. “I know some were made in a row by same person, but some were from different people. They say really nasty things about you, the most outrageous as possible.”

Sometimes teens, many of whom run several Instagram accounts, will take an old page with a high amount of followers and transform it into a hate page to turn it against someone they don’t like. “One girl took a former meme page that was over 15,000 followers, took screen caps from my Story, and Photoshopped my nose bigger and posted it, tagging me being like, ‘Hey guys, this is my new account,’” Annie said. “I had to send a formal cease and desist. I went to one of those lawyer websites and just filled it out. Then she did the same thing to my friend.”

The scariest thing about being attacked by a hate page, teens say, is that you don’t know who is doing the attacking. “In real-life bullying, you know what’s doing it,” said Skye, a 14-year-old. “Hate pages could be anyone. It could be someone you know, someone you don’t know—you don’t know what you know, and it’s scary because it’s really out of control at that point. Teachers tell you with bullying [to] just say ‘Stop,’ but in this case you can’t, and you don’t even know who to tell stop to.”

Aside from hate pages, teens say most bullying takes place over direct message, Instagram Stories, or in the comments section of friends’ photos. “Instagram won’t delete a person’s account unless it’s clear bullying on their main feed,” said Hadley, a 14-year-old, “and, like, no one is going to do that. It’s over DM and in comment sections.”

Mary, a 13-year-old who asked to be referred to by a pseudonym, said that relentless bullying on Instagram by a former friend gave her her first-ever panic attack. It started, Mary said, after she made the cheer team and her former friend did not. “She would DM me, or when I was with my friends, if they posted me on their Story, she would [respond] and say mean stuff about me since she knew would see it since I’m with them,” Mary said. “She would never do it on her own Story; she’d make it seem like she wasn’t doing anything.”

“There was literally a group chat on Instagram named Everyone in the Class but Mary,” she added. “All they did on there was talk bad about me.”

On Instagram, it’s easy to see what people are up to and whom they’re hanging out with. For teenagers who are acutely aware of social status, even a seemingly innocent group photo can set a bully off. Teens say that tagging the wrong friend in a photo can unleash a bully’s wrath. Every location tag, comment, Story post, and even whom you follow or unfollow on your finsta (a secondary Instagram account where teens post more personal stuff) is scrutinized.

“Lots of bullying stems from jealousy, and Instagram is the ultimate jealousy platform,” Hadley said. “People are constantly posting pics of their cars, their bodies. Anything good in your life or at school goes on Insta, and that makes people jealous.”

Many high schools have anonymously run “confessions”-style Instagram accounts where users submit gossip about other students at school. For instance, an account like Greenville High School Confessions will pop up with a bio asking followers to “send the tea,” i.e., gossip.

Students will follow the locked account and submit texts of people saying bad things about one another or gossip they've heard about people at school. The account admin or admins will select the juiciest rumors and blast them out on Stories or on the main feed, sometimes even tagging the student's handle.

When someone who runs a school's confessions account doesn't like you, it can feel like the whole school has turned against you. "There was a page made called DTS.gossip, the initials of our school," Riley said. "The account was made to post rumors and crap about people in my school, but a lot of them were about me."

Rory, a 15-year-old, said that confessions accounts had gotten so out of control at her high school that administrators had banned taking photos of other students on campus. "People at my school would ... expose drama or make up stuff, Photoshop people's faces, bully them basically. It's all anonymous."

But Rory said that the no-picture rule hasn't really curbed bullying. Not long ago, someone posted an entire diss track saying awful things about a 15-year-old girl to Sound Cloud, which students promptly set as the link in their Instagram bio.

"I think a lot of kids get really invested in drama," Riley said, "with beauty gurus, YouTube, stuff like that. When it happens at school, they're very interested in it. It's fun. Which is horrible."

In Rory's case, Instagram has been both the catalyst and the medium for bullying. When she was 13, she was featured on the official Instagram account of Brandy Melville, a popular teen clothing brand.

"Tons of people from my school saw it immediately and started to make memes of me, calling me anorexic," she said. "Then there were others suggesting I wasn't thin enough. On their finstas, people were posting these mean things, people I thought I was friends with. I would block their finstas and they would tag my main account."

But even in the midst of the worst bullying, teens say they're wary of logging off. Rory is still active on the platform, though she only uses one account.

"Everyone has friends from Instagram," said Liv, a 13-year-old. "Everyone makes friends that way. It's inevitable. Everyone does it." Some teens did say they'd deactivate or take a break if their parents forced them to, but quitting forever "wasn't an option."

"You can message someone on insta 'Hey, you're a bitch' so easily," Liv said. "People need to think more about what they say before they say it, even if it's a DM you forget about and log off. The person you sent that message to, it can impact them. You can really screw someone's life up."

Upcoming October Events

Friday, October 2

7:00pm—HS Football (A) vs. Southeastern HS

Saturday, October 3

10:00am—CC @ Washington Court House (Washington Invitational)

Monday, October 5

Athletic Booster Meeting

5:30pm--MS Volleyball (H) vs. Southeastern

Tuesday, October 6

5:30pm—HS Volleyball (A) vs. Madison-Plains High School

Wednesday, October 7

5:30pm—HS Volleyball (A) vs. Fayetteville High School

5:30pm--MS Volleyball (A) vs. Greenon

Thursday, October 8

Class of 2023 Colonial Pizza Dine Out Day!!

5:30pm—HS Volleyball (H) vs. Southeastern HS

5:30pm—MS Football (H) vs. Greeneview

Friday, October 9

7:00pm—HS Football (H) vs. ? Playoff Game (opponent TBA)

Monday, October 12

Music Booster

5:30pm--MS Volleyball (H) vs. Madison-Plains

Tuesday, October 13

K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences

5:30pm—HS Volleyball (A) vs. Catholic Central High School-Springfield

5:30pm--MS Volleyball (H) vs. Northeastern

Wednesday, October 14

5:30pm--MS Volleyball (A) vs. Catholic Central

Thursday, October 15

End of 1st Nine Weeks

5:30pm—HS Volleyball (H) vs. Greeneview HS

5:30pm--MS Football (H) vs. Greenon

Friday, October 16

No School Teacher In-Service Day

Saturday, October 17

10:00am—MS/HS CC @ Cedarville University (OHC League Tournament)

Monday, October 19

No School Fall Break

Regular Board Meeting (7:00)

Tuesday, October 20

Virtual Family Math Night

Wednesday, October 21

Fall 3rd Grade Language Arts Test

Thursday, October 22

Fall 3rd Grade Language Arts Test

K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences

5:30pm--MS Football (A) vs. Catholic Central

Saturday, October 24

9:00am—CC @ Cedarville University (OHSAA District Meet)

Tuesday, October 27

Scoliosis Screening

Saturday, October 31

9:00am—HS CC @ Troy HS Athletic Dept (OHSAA Regional Meet)