

Cedar Cliff Local Schools
Superintendent's Newsletter
October 2021



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."

Sometimes, a picture truly is worth a thousand words. Utilizing the Reggio approach to learning in our kindergarten setting, we have the opportunity to allow students the ability to explore, work together, take risks, and investigate scientific theory. This is done through a variety of approaches, beginning with time to choose learning stations and expand on each student's individual interests.

For this to take place, there are times when students must learn to compromise. The teacher can't, obviously, have the entire class choose the same learning station when there are 4-6 stations of which to choose for the students. A really important aspect is how students learn to regulate the fact they cannot get what they want for that day—how do we teach that lesson, the lesson that you "can't always get your way." Our teachers do so by teaching compromise, using that very word. Ask any one of our kindergarten students what *compromise* means, they can tell you.

When students compromise and give up their selection of learning station, they write their name on the board—the next day, they choose first, and another student may, in turn, have to compromise the next day.

Kindergarten—lessons from our kindergarten. Just imagine if the lessons were, *whoever yells loudest gets to choose, or whoever gets there first get to choose* or even, *whoever is the strongest/most intimidating gets to choose*. When I look around, I am constantly reminded, my day is best spent with children and my day is best spent teaching students. The students are great—truthfully, often better behaved and setting better examples than the adults.

It seems wherever I look, people are angry, people are not healthy, and people are lashing out. Our society is facing tough challenges, especially in the educational setting, and we need good answers. I am not certain where we will end up, but I am certain of this: *we will learn to compromise and get along or we will remain in this divisive period for a long time—and we will ALL pay for our failures*. I truly believe this fact.

Here's to our ability to listen, our ability to work it out, most importantly, our ability to compromise—if you forget what that is, just ask our kindergarten students; I am certain they will be happy to explain it to you.

Have a great October, and 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



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 Thursday, November 4, with the Middle School starting at 6:30 and the High School commencing at 7:15. 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 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.



Please Give us Your Feedback

The Cedar Cliff Local School District, in an effort to evaluate its Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program, is conducting a “*School Climate Survey*” of all stakeholders. 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.

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



Johnny Appleseed comes to Visit Cedarville Elementary!

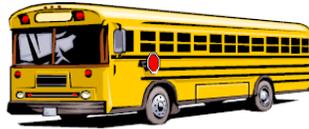
Recently, Johnny Appleseed (or Mr. Gainer by his 2021 day-to-day name) came to visit and share his experiences with our Cedarville Elementary students. The students learned a great deal and the experience of a historical figure coming to life is a great deal more impactful to our students.

This is just another example of the dedication and professionalism of the Cedar Cliff team—
Great Job Mr. Gainer!



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 Elementary, Middle, or High School Office. The deadline is fast approaching, so please be prompt with your completion of needed materials.

	Cedarville Youth Intramural & Travel Basketball	
Intramural Basketball Registration \$30 Grades: 3-6, Runs 10/25/21-11/20/21		
Player Name _____ Grade _____		
Address _____		
Father's Name _____ Phone # _____		
Mother's Name _____ Phone # _____		
Email _____		
T-Shirt Size YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL AXL		
Circle how you can help*: Coach Referee Clock/Scorebook		
<hr/> Travel Basketball Registration \$60 Grades: 4-6, Practices Start 11/22/21 Games Run Jan thru Mid-Feb 2022		
_____ Yes, player plans to tryout for travel league (\$30 intramural fee + \$60 travel fee = \$90 Total)		
_____ No, player will not be participating in travel league		
Circle how you can help*: Coach Assistant Coach		
<hr/> * Volunteers earn back \$20!!! *		
* In order to coach intramurals or travel, you must clear the Secure Volunteer background check located on the school website. The Athletic Boosters will reimburse this expense to you. *		
Registration due by Friday, October 8th Contact Becky Pauling at 937-631-1862 or beckypauling@gmail.com with any questions		
Amount Due: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Cash/Check _____		

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.

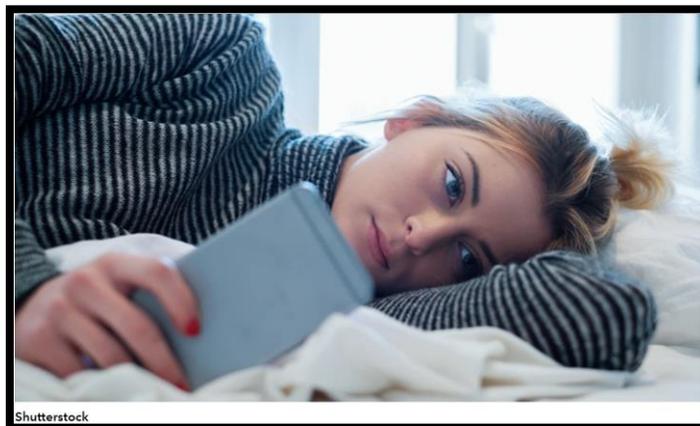
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Teens Are Being Bullied ‘Constantly’ on Instagram

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



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.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/10/teens-face-relentless-bullying-instagram/572164/>

“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.”

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/10/teens-face-relentless-bullying-instagram/572164/>

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## ***Cedar Cliff School District Refinances Debt for Building Project***

At the last Cedar Cliff Local School District Board of Education meeting, the Treasurer, Mrs. Joy Kitzmiller and Superintendent Chad Mason, gave updates as to two debt actions taken over the course of the summer.

The school district voters passed a bond issue for a new building in November of 2010. According to Mr. Mason, “sometimes it is hard to believe the referendum was passed over a decade ago, it is also hard to believe almost every class in the school only knows, and has attended, the *new* building.”

The debt for the construction was secured by three payment methods—Build America Bonds (BABS), Quality School Construction Bonds (QSCBS), and Certificate of Participation (COPS). According to Mrs. Kitzmiller, “The district was able to pay off one of the methods already (The COPS in May of 2021) with a savings to the district of 1.3 million dollars.”

Recently, with interest rates falling, the district sought to refinance the Build America Bonds. The total savings to the district was approximately \$638,000, which is currently equal to a one year 3 mill levy. Therefore, between the refinancing and the payoff, Mrs. Kitzmiller, reported to the Board of Education, “We have garnered the taxpayers of this district 1.64 million dollars in savings with these two actions, which is good news for every taxpayer in the Cedar Cliff Local School District.

The debt is scheduled to be completely paid off in the year 2035, but with prudent planning, it may be possible to complete all payments prior to that date. As Mr. Mason stated, “Most (if not all) districts need operating monies after a building project. Cedar Cliff was able to build this facility and not ask for additional funds. We hope the community appreciates the fiscal stewardship of the administration and the Board of Education because we know there will be a time in the near future when additional operating funds will be needed.”



*Above: Cedar Cliff Local School District Treasurer, Joy Kitzmiller, looks over documents in preparation for the refinancing of district bond debt for the August Board of Education Meeting.*

## **Upcoming October Events**

### **Friday, October 1**

7:00pm—HS Football (A) vs. Catholic Central High School-Springfield

### **Saturday, October 2**

9:00am—MS Cross-Country @ Washington Court House (JH only)

7:00pm—HS Cross-Country @ Centerville High School (HS only)

### **Monday, October 4**

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

### **Tuesday, October 5**

10:00am—HS Golf @ Southeastern HS (OHSAA Districts @ Glenview Golf Course)

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

### **Wednesday, October 6**

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

5:30pm—MS Volleyball (A) vs. Greeneview

### **Thursday, October 7**

PTO Meeting (6:30—MS / HS Library)

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

5:30pm--MS Football (A) vs. Greeneview HS

### **Friday, October 8**

7:00pm—HS Football (H) vs. Greeneview HS (Senior Night)

### **Saturday, October 9**

Advanced PE Whitewater Rafting Trip

10:00am--JV Football (A) vs. Greeneview HS

### **Sunday, October 10**

Advanced PE Whitewater Rafting Trip

### **Monday, October 11**

Music Boosters (7:00)

### **Tuesday, October 12**

Jostens Order Day

K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:30-6:45)

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

### **Wednesday, October 13**

Young's Jersey Dairy Field Trip

**Thursday, October 14**

End of 1st Nine Weeks (41 Days)

5:30pm—HS Volleyball (A) vs. Greenon Jr./Sr. High School

5:30pm—MS Football (H) vs. Southeastern

**Friday, October 15**

No School: In-Service Day for Teachers

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

**Saturday, October 16**

9:00am—MS/HS Cross-Country @ Cedarville University (OHC Conference Meet)

10:00am--JV Football (H) vs. Southeastern HS

**Monday, October 18**

No School: Fall Break

Regular Board Meeting (7:00)

**Tuesday, October 19**

Family Math Night (6:00-8:00) Cafeteria

**Wednesday, October 20**

Third Grade ELA Testing

**Thursday, October 21**

Third Grade ELA Testing

K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:30-6:45)

8<sup>th</sup> grade D.C. Trip Parent Meeting (7:00)

**Friday, October 22**

7:00pm—HS Football (A) vs. Madison-Plains High School

**Saturday, October 23**

9:00am—HS Cross-Country @ Cedarville University (OHSAA District Meet)

**Tuesday, October 26**

Hearing/Vision Screenings

**Wednesday, October 27**

Hearing/Vision Screenings

National FFA Convention

**Thursday, October 28**

National FFA Convention

**Friday, October 29**

National FFA Convention

**Saturday, October 30**

National FFA Convention

9:00am—HS Cross-Country @ Troy HS (OHSAA Regional Meet)

**Thursday, November 4**

Fall Sports Awards (MS 6:30 / HS 7:15)

PTO Meeting (6:30) MS / HS Library