

Cedar Cliff Local Schools  
Superintendent's Newsletter  
October 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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### ***Three Short Words!***

I recently dropped my son off at Walsh to begin his Freshmen year. My wife and I were fortunate to hear the President give an opening address to all Freshmen and their families regarding their time at Walsh University. The premise of his speech was for students to persevere and fight through adversity—adversity he guaranteed would come while they were on campus.

I had to smile each time he told students to, "*Get Back Up!*" I must admit, I used some of his message to the faculty and staff at Cedar Cliff during my *Back to School* welcome address.

I have listened to adults tell young children repeatedly over and over during my career to, "*Get Over It*" as life is hard and, "You have no idea what real problems are," when students are struggling with issues that adults may find trivial by nature.

I kept reflecting--*Get Back Up vs. Get Over it*--both just 3 short words.

But...What I truly believe is this—I love *Get Back Up!* I am not a fan, anymore, of *Get Over it!*

*Get Back Up* is reassuring--*Get Back Up* says, "I know you can do this"--*Get Back Up* says, "Keep Going; things will be OK."

*Get Over It* is dismissive--*Get Over It* says, "You don't get it"--*Get Over it* says, "You lack intestinal fortitude."

I kept reflecting on what would motivate me more, personally, if I were struggling.

I would say *Thank You* to every mentor or adult in my life who told me to "*Get Back Up*" What a great and simple, yet powerful message. Nearly thirty years in the business of educating young people has taught me that words matter--interactions matter--and they matter greatly!

Here's hoping the next time you see a child, family member, or even a friend struggling, you remember these three short words of encouragement, "Get Back Up!"



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/>



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**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](mailto:friend@greenegiving.org)

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## ***Fall Sports Awards Night Set!***



Please put this on your calendar—*The MS Fall Sports Awards Night* has been set for Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. *The HS Fall Sports Awards Night* has been set for Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. *The HS fall sports awards night is tentative and will be determined by OHSAA play and results of the success of our Fall Athletic Teams—a back-update has been scheduled for Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 as well.* 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.



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## ***We could use a hand...Custodians Needed!***

Have you ever thought about helping out around the school? We are currently looking for substitute custodians who can be available on an as-needed basis. If interested in becoming a substitute custodian, please send an email to our Maintenance Director, Kris Williams: [Kris.Williams@ccliff.net](mailto:Kris.Williams@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](http://www.cedarcliffschools.net)), then see the announcement heading right below the building name—it is that easy.



*In case you are interested*

I have been asked to pass this information along as this individual needs some assistance. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please reach out.



**Seeking Part-time Personal Assistant**  
For a motivated 34 year old woman gifted with Cerebral Palsy

Starting As Soon As Possible (:  
Job Share (hours negotiable)  
11-4 T/W/Th  
\$12.50/hr

**Want to know more?**  
For Questions or to Schedule an Interview Email:  
emily.a.shanahan@gmail.com

**Job Description**  
Completing General Administrative Tasks:

- Team Scheduling
- Book writing, Vlogging, Blogging

Providing Personal Care:

- Meals, Hydration, and Snacks
- Restroom Trips

**Job Requirements**

- Verbal and written articulation
- Strong Organizational Skills
- Professional Discretion
- Ability to work in person:  
Cedarville Ohio

**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.

**PEE WEE BASKETBALL**  
**REGISTRATION**

**INTRAMURAL SEASON - \$30**  
3RD - 6TH GRADE  
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 19

**TRAVEL SEASON - \$60**  
4RD - 6TH GRADE  
NOVEMBER 21 - FEBRUARY 19

**REGISTER NOW!**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT 7**

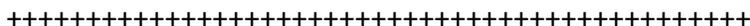


***This is why I HATE Social Media!***

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 about, to make them aware of, 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 educational settings, and how we can better “stay in touch” when we use it correctly. I have tried to see those benefits, even utilizing 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



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 b\*\*\*\*' 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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## **Upcoming October Events!**

### **Saturday, October 1**

Marching Band In Cedarville University Homecoming Parade  
9:00am—Cross-Country @ Washington Court House (JH/JV Invitational)  
10:00am—HS Volleyball (A) vs. Away Arcanum High School  
8:00pm—HS Cross-Country @ Centerville High School (Centerville Invitational)

### **Monday, October 3**

4th/5th Grade Math Parent Training (6:30 pm)  
Class of 2023 Senior Graduation Meeting  
Class of 2025 Sophomore Class Ring Meeting  
5:30pm--MS Volleyball (A) vs. Catholic Central

### **Tuesday, October 4**

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

### **Wednesday, October 5**

Elementary School Fall Pictures  
5:30pm—HS Volleyball (H) vs. Newton High School

### **Thursday, October 6**

Middle/High School Fall Pictures  
5:30pm—HS Volleyball (H) vs. Greeneview HS  
5:30pm--MS Football (H) vs. Greeneview  
5:30pm--MS Volleyball (H) vs. Greeneview

### **Friday, October 7**

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

### **Saturday, October 8**

Powder Puff Football Game

### **Monday, October 10**

Athletic Booster Meeting (7:00 pm)  
Class Ring & Senior Graduation Order Day  
Family Math Night (6:30 pm)  
Music Booster Meeting (7:00 pm)

### **Tuesday, October 11**

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

### **Wednesday, October 12**

PSAT Test

**Thursday, October 13**

End of 1st Nine Weeks  
K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:30-6:45 pm)  
5:30pm—HS Volleyball (H) vs. Greenon HS  
5:30pm--MS Football (A) vs. Southeastern HS

**Friday, October 14**

Homecoming Football Game  
No School-In-service Day  
7:00pm—HS Football (H) vs. Southeastern HS (Homecoming)

**Saturday, October 15**

9:00am—HS Cross-Country @ Cedarville Univ. (OHC League Meet)

**Monday, October 17**

No School -- Fall Break  
Regular Board Meeting (7:00)

**Tuesday, October 18**

K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (3:30-6:45 pm)  
Washington D.C. Parent Meeting (6:30)

**Wednesday, October 19**

Fall 3rd Grade ELA Testing

**Thursday, October 20**

Fall 3rd Grade ELA Testing  
Middle School Fall Sports Awards (6:30)

**Friday, October 21**

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

**Saturday, October 22**

PTO Mother/Son Event (7:00-8:30)  
9:00am—HS Cross-Country @ Cedarville Univ. (OHSAA District Meet)

**Monday, October 24**

PTO Meeting (7:00)

**Tuesday, October 25**

Fall Concert, HS Band, Choralation & Jazz Band (7:00)

**Saturday, October 29**

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