



# Superintendent's Newsletter – Winter 2025

*It is the mission of the Cedar Cliff Local School District 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.*

## Cedar Cliff Hall of Honor

Part of what makes Cedar Cliff special is the multi-generational involvement of the community and the District's commitment to stewarding its heritage. One way this is accomplished is through the Cedar Cliff Hall of Honor program. Each year the District assembles a committee to induct at least one individual into the Hall of Honor, the purpose of which is to "recognize and honor those persons who through their performance, service, or achievements reflect positive credit on the Cedar Cliff Schools, thus inspiring present and future students."



Last year 1983 graduate Dr. Anthony Arment was inducted for his exemplary contributions to the field of science, science education, and biotechnology research. A picture and biography of all past inductees is

proudly displayed on plaques in the hallway between the high school office and stage.

Please consider taking time to nominate an individual you believe has made significant contributions to the school, community, state, nation or world. The nomination form can be located on our website under the "District" tab, and is attached to the end of this newsletter. Nominations must be **submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup>** for current year consideration.

*Brian R. Masser*

Brian Masser, Superintendent

## Focus on Safety

On the 2024 Climate Survey, approximately 60% of students, 50% of staff, and 45% of community members reported that they "almost never" think about violence at Cedar Cliff. While we are pleased that our students and stakeholders aren't plagued with worry, we are cognizant that Cedarville is not immune from threats of violence, so the District has continued to keep an internal spotlight on safety.

In February, the District is partnering with the Greene County SWAT team to conduct an assessment of the building. The SWAT team will identify problem areas and take pictures to prepare for a worst case scenario that we hope never occurs.

You might have noticed that we recently installed door entry systems at each main entry. Once these are brought fully online, they will provide an extra layer of security at our entry points. Visitors will press a button to



verbalize the reason for their visit, and secretaries will see a live video feed of the visitor,

before they are admitted into the building. These systems were partially funded by a safety grant the district was awarded by the Attorney General's office.

## Students of the Month

Each month MS/HS staff select a student of the month at each grade level who embodies the Tribe Trait being emphasized that month.

Character development is as important to us as academic achievement, so we are extremely proud of the following students:

### November Tribe Trait – Gratefulness

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Luke Eli Pitstick
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Kaitlyn Corry
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Josie Foerch
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Avery Taylor
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Abby Conover
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – Sophia Lopez
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – George Landon, III

### December Tribe Trait – Generosity

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Gavin Masser
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – William Landon
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Chardonnay Evans
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Braden Cope
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Katelyn Reed
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – Chloe Miller
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Aurora Liston

## Staff Spotlight



Julie Robbins (“Miss Julie” to the students) has worked at Cedar Cliff for over 20 years. On paper her job is as the district’s day custodian – and she does an excellent job – but anyone who spends any amount of time in the building during the school year

knows Miss Julie goes well beyond this role to enrich the lives and school experience of our students.

Student Emma Black shared, “[Miss Julie] is really encouraging to people and does really fun activities for people.” The fun activity Miss Julie is most known for are her elaborate

themed lunch tables for students who win the PBIS reward drawing, by far the most popular PBIS reward. “Oh, those are very cool,” commented student Hadley Hawkins, “[students] think it is very cool how she does that.” Students who win the drawing choose a



theme and Miss Julie does the rest, creating a personalized experience for the student and his or her friends to enjoy a special lunch together. Commenting on his own Halloween-themed lunch table, student Emerson Kibler said “She puts a lot of hard work into the tables [...] it was very special to me.”



Beyond the themed lunch tables, Miss Julie mentors groups of elementary and middle school students, and she speaks to high school students in health class about suicide from a painful personal experience that she has decided to leverage as a tool to reach students. Said Superintendent Brian Masser, “I have worked in four districts over the past twenty years and have never seen a custodian do more for students than Julie Robbins!”

## Weather Decisions Analysis

From a white Thanksgiving to snow accumulations and frigid temperatures to start the new year, I think we would all agree that winter came out swinging this year! To date, the District has delayed four times and closed three times. These decisions are always the subject of conversation and fun banter. To illustrate the many factors involved in this decision-making, I thought it might be helpful to share the thought analysis on a couple of recent weather events.

**1/6-7/25 Closures** – The snow was forecast to arrive overnight, making it impossible to clear in time for school on 1/6. Despite over 16 hours of work on the lot and walks, we were unable to bring them to an acceptable level for school on 1/7 due to ongoing snowfall throughout the day. The same was true for most roads in the area.

**1/8/25 Delay** – We potentially could have gone on time, but because we were coming off the first major snowfall of the year, we thought it would be safer for buses and student-drivers to have light to see road edges and slick spots. Also, many sidewalks were not clear, so the light would allow cars to see our student walkers when they were forced onto streets.

**1/11/25 Activities** – Even though road conditions were not perfect at the time we had to make a decision, we did not cancel our Saturday afternoon/evening games. Unlike school, extracurricular activities are not compulsory, so our tolerance for weather is a bit higher. Parents can always choose to keep their students home or transport them.

**1/15/25 Delay** – We were one of just two districts in Greene County to delay (or close). Two factors, coupled together, drove this decision: 1) At our regular start time, the wind chill would have been -13 degrees, which is on the line of being too cold for walkers and bus riders. 2) Cedarville had a fair amount of unexpected snow the night before that most other area districts did not have. A two-hour delay brought the wind chill up to 0 degrees

and allowed time to clean up and/or see residual snow on the roads/lots/walks. In speaking with township road crews, they were confident the roads would be in good shape once the salt took effect.

**1/21/25 Delay** – Districts in other counties closed due to temperature; however, districts in Greene County applied a more granular analysis, believing a delay to be more appropriate. The temperature/wind chill never dipped below a level of concern and was warmer than 1/15/25 when most districts neither closed nor delayed. But, because we were coming off an extremely cold long weekend, there was concern about buses starting, building heating coming up to temperature, and potential drifting on country roads from the snow squall the night before. All of these were concerns that could be resolved over the course of a two-hour delay.

**1/22/25 Closure** – This closure was 100% determined by forecasted wind chills. The District utilizes the Wind Chill Chart published by the National Weather Service, and at the time bus riders would have been standing at bus stops and walking to school, the forecasted wind chill of -20 degrees would have been significantly below what is advised. We closed because a two-hour delay would not have provided enough time for the wind chill to move into a safe level. We were able to announce this decision early based upon the degree of certainty of the NWS briefing communicated to districts by the Greene County Emergency Management Agency.

While not exhaustive, hopefully these brief explanations help illustrate the diverse factors involved in our decision-making. To be clear, the focus is always on what is an acceptable level of safety for buses, student-drivers, and student-walkers. Unfortunately, it is still winter, and short of canceling school every day, we must accept some level of risk. Because there isn't a perfect formula for these decisions, we almost always consult with other districts to compare their analysis with our own, which is why you often see districts delay or cancel in clusters.

## Quick Recall – OHC Champions

For the fifth consecutive year, the Cedarville High School Quick Recall team won the OHC Championship, its eighth title in the past nine years in the academic trivia competition! The team finished the season 18-0 and went undefeated in the tournament! Congratulations to the Quick Recall team and Coach Kim Shaw on another impressive season!



Varsity: Tristan Berkheiser, Austin Bigham, James Brooks, Isaiah DeWitt, George Landon, Mark Landon, Sophia Lopez, Emma Minor

JV: Abby Conover, Owen Crosby, Josh Duncan, Mack Foerch, Stewart Kroh, Clayton Smith, Asher Stewart, Avery Taylor, Elisabeth Thomas

## Coding Championship

In December, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students competed in Cedar Cliff's annual coding competition. The following students competed in the final round of the competition:



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – Paxton Wall, Cora Mahan, Emma Black, Logan Selsor

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team – Cici Lloyd, Sadie Staley, Urban Sandlin, Jonah Sharrett



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – Jack Hines, Kelsi Jones, Eeve Phipps, Delaney Spracklen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team – Lamiah Culbertson, Carson Hatert, Ana Schulte, Ellianna Cochrell



## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our winners and runners-up in the CES and CMS spelling bees!



CES Winner Maria Lopez and CES Runner-up Ellie Statt



CMS Runner-up Reaiya Jayaseelan and CMS Winner Avery Walker

## Sights and Sounds of Christmas



Cedar Cliff music students treat the community to an impressive Christmas concert



CHS students perform at Little Town of Lights



Kindergarten students make gingerbread houses with parents/grandparents

## School Board Appreciation

January is designated as “School Board Appreciation Month.” Our board members help us by developing governing policies for the district, future planning and goal oversight, as well as serving as the liaison for the community.

If you see them, please take a moment and thank the following Cedar Cliff Board Members for their dedication, time commitment, and support for the district.

- Brittney Gillaugh, President
- Maria Waymire, Vice-President
- Charlene Campbell, Member
- Christi Frizzell, Member
- Seth Howard, Member

## Sidewalk Saturdays

As a community partner, Cedar Cliff appreciates the work Revitalize Cedarville is doing to celebrate and enhance the community we love.

You are invited to visit downtown Cedarville on Saturday, February 1, from 5-7 PM for the February Sidewalk Saturday event. The February Sidewalk Saturday will feature Winter Fun and Games planned by CHS graduate Elizabeth Dunham! With Main Street closed between Subway and the bike path, there's lots of room to enjoy food trucks, local vendors, music with a live DJ, shopping, and downtown dining. It's another night of community, fun, and wintery favorites you won't want to miss. Bring your friends, your family, and your warmest smile!



**Sidewalk Saturdays**  
FEBRUARY 1 | 5-7 P.M.

**THINGS TO DO!**

- SHOPPING AT DOWNTOWN SHOPS AND LOCAL VENDORS
- WINTER FUN AND GAMES
- DOWNTOWN DINING
- FREE HAYRIDES
- LIVE DJ

**PLACES TO EAT!**

- ALL YOUR DOWNTOWN FAVORITES (BEANS-N-CREAM, CHURCH ST. COOKIES, COLONIAL PIZZA, LOLA'S, ORION, AND SUBWAY)
- FOOD TRUCKS



*Brought to you by Revitalize Cedarville*

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Note:** Always visit the athletics webpage for the most up-to-date sports schedule as game date/times sometimes change or need to be rescheduled.

- <https://cedarvilleindians.com/>

### January 25, 2025

- 10:00 AM – Girls' MS Basketball vs. Greenon
- 10:00 AM – Boys' MS Basketball @ Greenon
- 12/1:30/3 PM – Boys' HS Basketball vs. Triad
- 6/7:30 PM – Girls' HS Basketball vs. Greenon

### January 28, 2025

- 5:30 PM – Boys' MS Basketball vs. Mechanicsburg
- 5:30 PM – Girls' MS Basketball @ Mechanicsburg

### January 27, 2025

- 6/7:30 PM – Girls' HS Basketball @ West Liberty-Salem

### January 29, 2025

- 6/7:30 PM – Girls' HS Basketball @ Shawnee

### January 30, 2025

- 5:30 PM – Boys' MS Basketball vs. Greeneview

### January 31, 2025

- 6/7:30 PM – Boys' HS Basketball @ Greenon

### February 1, 2025

- HS Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 2/3:30 PM – Girls' HS Basketball @ Southeastern

### February 3, 2025

- 6/7:30 PM – Girls' HS Basketball vs. Blanchester

### February 4, 2025

- 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Blood Drive
- 6/7:30 PM – Boys' HS Basketball vs. West Jefferson

### February 7, 2025

- 1:00 PM – Early Dismissal
- 5/6/7:30 PM – Boys' HS Basketball vs. Madison-Plains

**February 8, 2025**

- 12/1:30 PM – Girls’ HS Basketball @ Kenton Ridge
- 7-8:30 PM – PTO Daddy Daughter Dance @ CedarLand
- 8:00 PM – HS Winter Formal

**February 10, 2025**

- 5:30 PM – Music Boosters Meeting
- 6:00 PM – PTO Meeting
- 7:00 PM – Athletic Boosters Meeting

**February 11, 2025**

- 4:00 PM – Board of Education Special Meeting – Financial Planning Work Session
- 6/7:30 PM – Boys’ HS Basketball vs. Fairfield

**February 13, 2025**

- 3:15-6:45 PM – K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences

**February 14, 2025**

- 9:00 AM – NHS Induction
- 6/7:30 PM – Boys’ HS Basketball @ Catholic Central

**February 15, 2025**

- 7:30 PM – Jazz Band @ Opera House w/CU

**February 17-21, 2025**

- FFA Week

**February 17, 2025**

- President’s Day – No School

**February 18, 2025**

- 6:00 PM – Board of Education Meeting

**February 20, 2025**

- 3:15-6:45 PM – K-12 P/T Conferences
- HS Ensembles Winter Concert

**February 27 – March 1, 2025**

- High School Musical

**March 10, 2025**

- 5:30 PM – Music Boosters Meeting
- 6:00 PM – PTO Meeting
- 7:00 PM – Athletic Boosters Meeting

**March 13, 2025**

- 6:00 PM – FFA Banquet

**March 14, 2025**

- End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- 1:00 PM – Early Dismissal

**March 14-15, 2025**

- OMEA District Contest for Choralation

**March 15, 2025**

- Red and White Auction

**March 18, 2025**

- 6:00 PM – Board of Education Meeting

**March 20, 2025**

- ES Spring Music Concert

**March 24-28, 2025**

- No School – Spring Break

**April 1, 2025**

- 5:00 PM – Varsity Softball @ Greenon

**April 2, 2025**

- 5:00 PM – Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. National Trail

**April 4, 2025**

- 5:00 PM – Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. National Trail

**April 4-5, 2025**

- Middle School Theater Production

**Public Notices**

Required public notices can be located on the district website at:

- <https://www.cedarcliffschools.net/public-notice.html>

If you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter, feel free to forward the information. We will also have print copies of the newsletter available at the Board office and Beans-n-Cream if someone would like a paper copy. You can also sign-up to receive the newsletter electronically from the Cedar Cliff Website at: <http://www.cedarcliffschools.net/>