



ROAR!

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

CFCSD Dates To Remember:

- May 21 **High School Graduation**
7:00pm, Blossom Music Center
- May 24 **Last Day of School!**
All Schools
- June 4 **Summer Sessions Begin**
All Schools

Need more info? Check out cfalls.org

A Special Section Dedicated to Black Tiger Headlines & Achievements

May 2019

Cole Pastorius: R.A. Horn Award Recipient

Each year, just one student from each of the 16 State Support Team (SST) regions throughout Ohio is recognized with the prestigious R.A. Horn Award. This award recognizes students' remarkable performance and this year's winner from the SST 8 region is **Black Tiger**, Cole Pastorius! The SST 8 region covers school districts that serve Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties.

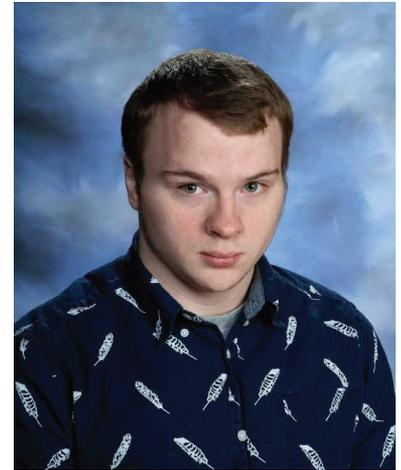
Students with disabilities age 3 to 22 who are enrolled in a school program may be nominated by a teacher or administrator to be recognized for their outstanding achievements in only one of the following categories:

- Academics
- Arts
- Athletics
- Community Service
- Employment
- Extracurricular Activities
- Self-Management

Cole, who is in the 12th-grade, was nominated by CFHS Intervention Specialist Steve McIntosh, and according to McIntosh, "Cole has become a 'Renaissance Man' over the past four years." McIntosh nominated Cole under the category of Extracurricular Activities, but stated that it was "extremely difficult to identify just one area of achievement." Over the past four years, Cole has demonstrated a determination and desire to improve his academics. Improvements in his reading fluency and comprehension as well as his functional math skills have opened up opportunities for Cole to explore a variety of electives offered at CFHS. Cole was instrumental in the expansion of the Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm that donated over 500 pounds of fresh produce to Good Neighbors last year. He was responsible for maintaining the garden, harvesting the vegetables, and then packing them for delivery on a weekly basis. He also volunteered at Good Neighbors throughout the year. When Cole is not helping with the garden or volunteering his time, you can often find him practicing as a member of the CFHS wrestling

team where he earned his varsity letter during his senior year!

When not in the classroom, weight room, or on the wrestling mat, Cole is often out in the community developing his job training skills through numerous community-based job development programs in Cuyahoga Falls. Cole has completed volunteer vocational training at The First Christian Church, The Summit County ESC, Sheraton Hotel, Goodwill, and the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium. While he often gets to these vocational training opportunities via school bus, his preferred method of transportation is riding the Metro. Cole's independence is truly inspiring and a model for all students.



CFHS Student Cole Pastorius earns the R.A. Horn Award.

Cole plans to socially graduate this May to pursue further vocational training before he exits from services. He will then pursue independent employment and plans to earn enough money, hopefully, to share an apartment with some roommates. "It has been an honor to witness all of Cole's growth these last four years, and we are all very excited for his future," said McIntosh.

Cole's achievements will be recognized at a special awards luncheon that will be held on June 11, 2019 at the Villa Milano Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Congratulations Cole! We are proud to call you a **Black Tiger!**

Well-Deserved Recognition

As the 2018-19 school year draws to a close, many members of the Black Tiger Family are receiving well-deserved recognition. On May 7, the CFCSD recognized 16 individuals who are retiring from the District. Below is a list of those individuals including their years of service:

- Nancy Barber – 30 years
- Richard Boso – 40 years
- Cummins Brown – 28 years
- Ronald Bunner – 39 years
- Lynn Hanly – 13 years
- Melinda Maughiman – 25 years
- Debra McNair – 15 years
- Janna Burns Nowicki – 33 years
- Norma O'Brien – 21 years
- Vera Petrak – 13 years
- Kimberly Rawson – 30 years
- Michael Redmond – 30 years
- Paul Ronald – 23 years
- Adam Roxburgh – 38 years
- Carol Szilagyi – 5 years
- Mary Wilson – 30 years

Thank you for all of your years of service to the kids of Cuyahoga Falls! You will forever be a Black Tiger!

Also recognized that evening were four Star Award recipients. Nominated by their peers, these individuals have made an impact through their contributions to our students in meeting the objectives of the District's mission and vision.

- Katherine Bloom - Nominated by Chef Bill Bailey
Support Personnel (OAPSE)
- David Tucker - Nominated by Julie Hall
Custodial/Maintenance/Bus Garage (SEIU1)
- Christine Shaw - Nominated by Jim Marras
Administration/Exempt Staff
- Nancy Barber - Nominated by Jackie Mishler
Certified Staff (CFEA)

Congratulations to all!

Grant Funding Helps Create Opportunities!

In a previous edition of the ROAR!, we talked about just some of the grant opportunities that our teachers and staff were applying for to create amazing opportunities for our students. We are pleased to announce that many of these grants were awarded! Just between the *GAR Foundation*, the *Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association*, and the *GPD Foundation*, almost \$100,000 was awarded to our teachers and staff! Below are some of the projects that these different organizations were able to help fund:

GAR Foundation

Bolich & Roberts MS - \$10,000
"Exploring Our World (Not) Around Us"

CFHS - \$14,990
"Enrolled & Employed ELLs: Access to Career Tech Success for English Language Learners in Summit County"

CFHS - \$9,990
"The Renaissance Coalition Phase 2"

CFHS - \$9,740
"Social Media #1440: Modern Medieval Technology in the Digital Age"

CFHS - \$15,000
"Tiger Time News: Celebrating and Disseminating Excellence in Northeast Ohio Youth"

DeWitt Elementary - \$15,000
"Get in the ZONE! A Discovery of Strengths, Science, and Self-Confidence!"

Roberts MS - \$10,000
"Digging for Knowledge – Amanda Bonds"

CFSF&AA

CFHS - \$500
"Interpretive Signage for Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm"

CFHS - \$500
"Artists in Residence for a Cultural Celebration Program"

Richardson Elementary - \$500
"Building Tiny Tiger Phonics Skills"

CFHS - \$500
"Tiger Time News Longevity & Implementation"

Preston Elementary - \$500
"Learning With Light"

Richardson Elementary - \$500
"As the Garden Grows"

GPD Foundation

CFHS - \$1,582
"Interpretive Signage for Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm"

CFHS - \$2,000
"Chromebooks for ID/MD/AU Functional Learning"

CFHS - \$2,000
"Incorporate Orff Instruments Into the Adaptive Learning Curriculum"

District - \$2,500
"Helping English Learners Excel"

Thank you to all of the amazing organizations that help make these opportunities possible for the students of the CFCSD!

Remembering the Past Brings Pride to the Future

Special Profile Section:

In the CFCSD, one of the top priorities is to strengthen Black Tiger Pride throughout the District. With PBIS, Top Tigers, and Friends of Education initiatives, to name just a few, we believe this Pride can spread community-wide.

Over the years, the CFSFAA has done a lot of great things for the CFCSD. One of those things is recognizing our Distinguished Alumni with an annual reception. The first recognition of ten Distinguished Alumni was announced in 1985. Since that time, 120 alumni have been honored.



**David "Rusty" Higgins,
Class of 1967**

For over 40 years, Higgins has been a professional saxophonist, arranger, composer, and session musician based out of Los Angeles, California. As a member of the Bob Florence Limited Edition, He won a Grammy Award in 2000 for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for *Serendipity 18*.

After graduating from CFHS in 1967, Higgins went to Kent State University to pursue a major in Bassoon Performance. After which he traveled with many different bands for five years before moving to Los Angeles, where he has served as a woodwind doubler (saxophone, clarinet, flute) for 39 years. Throughout his professional career, Higgins has performed with Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Aretha Franklin, Ralph Carmichael, Les Brown, and Toni Tennille. Some of his more contemporary collaborations include Michael Buble, Stevie Wonder, and Avenged Sevenfold.

Through the years, Higgins has conducted master classes, clinics, and jazz workshops at high schools throughout California and Ohio, Kent State University, and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He has also been teaching saxophone and a course in woodwind techniques at Azusa Pacific University since 2002 and directs the Azusa Pacific Jazz Ensemble No. 2. Higgins owns and manages his own music store in California called Long Beach Woodwinds.

Roberts Middle School: Creating "Genius Time"



After learning about Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Google's *20% Time*, Roberts Social Studies teacher Todd Hartong decided to pilot a program in his 4th-period class which, due to the lunch schedule, has an extra 20 minutes built into each day. The *20% Time* is a concept that while on the job, or in the classroom in this case, students work on "side-projects" that would benefit the school or community.

The *20% Time* concept along with PBL allow students to explore some of their own interests in an attempt to create something, experience something, or influence something in their school or community. Students were basically given a blank canvas with very few guidelines and/or restrictions. They had to complete a journal along the way and could check in with Hartong during the extended class throughout the year.

There were no grades tied to the projects; it was simply an interest-based pursuit of the students for the sake of learning and experiencing something beyond our 7th-grade standards. That said, students had to connect their projects to academic standards and to 21st-century skills while also engaging in work with an "expert" in the field that they were interested in. The direction students took with this *Genius Time* varied greatly from an experience in the CFHS cosmetology department to collecting clothes for Good Neighbors; writing a novel to building a bookshelf; zoology to virtual reality; video editing and 3D design to auto mechanics and auto body work; building and flying a drone to building a website while learning coding. "It was cool to watch the process unfold, and since it was a pilot, students were able to provide me with great feedback that will help us improve this experience next year and then perhaps offer this PBL as an elective in future years." said Hartong.

5th Annual BOFT Golf Outing

On July 29, The Building Our Future Together levy committee is hosting their 5th annual golf outing fundraiser at Silver Lake Country Club. Registration for the four-person, 18-hole scramble starts at 8:00am with a shotgun start at 9:00am. The cost is \$380 per foursome and includes a box lunch and steak dinner. Various sponsorship levels are available. If you are interested in golfing, becoming a sponsor, or making a financial or door-prize donation, please contact Joe Bagatti at 216-313-7071, or joebagatti@yahoo.com.