

ROAR!

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS



A special section dedicated to Black Tiger headlines and achievements | May 2022

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NAMES DR. ANDREA CELICO AS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT



After a thorough search and interview process conducted by the Board of Education, the Cuyahoga Falls City School District is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Andrea Celico as the new superintendent effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Guided by the district's mission, the search began with a visioning exercise used to determine the characteristics the school board and district were looking for in their next leader.

"Fortunately throughout this process, we found that we were looking for, almost universally, the same qualities in our district's leader," said Board of Education President Anthony Gomez. "We received 26 applications and interviewed eight uniquely qualified candidates before deciding on four finalists who went through the final round of interviews."

Dr. Celico's experience and background stood out with her passion for student success, skillful and resilient leadership and forward-thinking.

Dr. Celico has an extensive background in education, earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education at John Carroll University and her master's in educational administration from Cleveland State University. Additionally, she earned a doctorate in urban education from Cleveland State. She served as superintendent for Bedford City Schools from August 2015 to January 2022 and prior to that served as the assistant superintendent of educational services in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Dr. Celico also spent 17 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent in the Euclid City School District. Before accepting her role as Cuyahoga Falls City School District superintendent, she was a consultant to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

"Dr. Celico stood out not only to the Board of Education but also to all three of the groups that interviewed her, which included parents, staff and community members," said Gomez. "We enthusiastically welcome her as the soon-to-be leader of our Black Tiger Family."

Dr. Celico is ready to roar as a Black Tiger. "I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Falls School District," said Dr. Celico. "I am excited to begin this new adventure in such an amazing community. I want to thank the Board of Education, the staff, and community for their warm welcome, support and confidence. It already feels like home."



Recently, the Board of Education hosted a meet-and-greet for Dr. Celico, where she spoke of her excitement and gratitude to lead the district and revealed her plan for her first 100 days.

BOE PRESIDENT GOMEZ RECEIVES STAR AWARD



Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education President Anthony Gomez was recently honored with the Star Award for training.

Gomez earned points for this award from professional development events and activities delivered by the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and other groups and associations. The training award requires 200 points earned over a three-year period.

The OSBA created the STAR Award program in 2018 to recognize the different paths board members take for self-improvement to help them better lead their districts. Gomez was recognized at the spring regional conference.

Congratulations, Anthony, on this impressive achievement! We're so appreciative of the tireless work you do as our Board of Education president and are grateful to have you representing our district.

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NO NEW MONEY – RENEWAL LEVY ON THE BALLOT

A renewal levy for the Cuyahoga Falls City School District will be on the upcoming May 3 ballot. This levy was originally passed on November 5, 2002. This is not a new tax!

This levy supports the CFCSD commitment to educational excellence, focuses on equity and access for all students and ensures ongoing funding for essential services. Examples include, but are not limited to, security, technology, curriculum resources, and special education.

Passage of this levy will allow our district to continue to meet the needs of every student, every day. For a resident with a property value of \$100,000, the levy costs \$124.20 per year or \$10.35 per month.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

It's that time of year again! Inter-district enrollment and kindergarten registration are now open!

If you live outside the Cuyahoga Falls City School District and your student is currently enrolled or wishes to be approved to register, please complete and submit an inter-district enrollment application. Students from any other school district in the state may apply and enroll in the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. Families must submit one application for each student. Enrollment closes on May 31, so don't delay! You can access the inter-district enrollment application at <https://forms.gle/rkL29bu4jFiDdCj6A>.

For kindergarten registration, we encourage parents to enroll their children by June 1, if possible, to help the district plan accordingly for teachers and classes. You can find registration and orientation resources for families at <https://sites.google.com/cftigers.org/kinder/home>.

RICHARDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES GRANT FOR VETERAN MEMORIAL GARDEN

Richardson Elementary School is the recipient of a GPD Employees' Foundation grant. Titled, "Richardson Will Never Forget – Remembering Our Heroes Through Literacy, Gardening and Love," Richardson Elementary aims to honor and remember veterans through two on-site memorial gardens and community partnerships.

Honoring those who have served is something particularly close to the staff and students of Richardson Elementary as a Purple Star-designated school.

Beyond the two memorial gardens at Richardson, students will collaborate with the Western Reserve National Cemetery to plant gardens at the cemetery, and partner with the City of Cuyahoga Falls to "Adopt-A-Spot" in the community. Working with the city, the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary to plant and care for these spaces for years to come, these gardens will leave a profound impact on our greater community.

"Our school community is dedicated to supporting every student, every day, by giving them every opportunity and educating the whole child, both academically and socially," said Hall. "Our project will help impart important lessons upon our students that go beyond the classroom, while also teaching them about the many contributions of our veterans and giving them the opportunity to build something meaningful together."

Embedded throughout the learning process are social-emotional lessons that teach appreciation, kindness and love while teaching students gardening and self-sustainability. Ultimately, this project will result in several gardens being planted in the greater Northeast Ohio area and provide students with additional opportunities for learning inside and outside the classroom.

SILVER LAKE ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND UPDATE

In May of 2021, students at the Silver Lake Elementary School gathered with architects, teachers and district administrators to design a new playground for their school as part of the capital improvement program.

To get feedback from students on what they'd most like to see in a new playground design, architects held a collaborative activity where students gathered to map solutions to help decide on playground equipment.

Students were first surveyed on their favorite games at recess to provide insight into the activities they most enjoy. Next, they were asked about their favorite playground equipment. Finally, they were challenged to think like designers and develop their own playground designs, which they presented to their peers.

This fun, interactive brainstorming session helped architects develop a plan to deliver a playground that fits the district's needs, the community and the children who will be using and enjoying it the most.

The new playground is now fully installed. Funded, in part, by the Permanent Improvement Fund, along with emergency levy dollars, the new playground is open and accessible to the community.





MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SUCCEED AT ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Congratulations are in order for the Cuyahoga Falls competitors who took home first place overall in the NEOtech Robotics Competition!

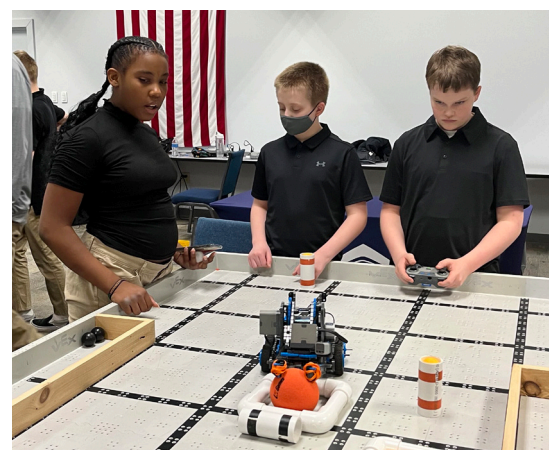
The competition, held as part of the NEOtech Technology Conference, included two events; “Bot Ball” and “Maze.”

Competing schools included Tallmadge, Streetsboro and Cuyahoga Falls, with Tallmadge taking first place in the Bot Ball competition, earning five points, and Streetsboro taking second and third, earning four points.

Cuyahoga Falls brought their A-game when it came time for the Maze competition, with Bolich Middle School eighth grader Ariana Moneskey-Jones taking first place to earn five points and Roberts Middle School sixth grader Martin Smith scoring second place, earning three points.

Other participants from Bolich included seventh graders Desmond Crabtree, Cameron Durfee and Tyler Eisentraut, who competed in a modified Bot Ball competition, as well as sixth grader Ariana Ruggles, who competed in the Maze competition. Additional participants from Roberts included sixth graders Joseph Kesler and Brady Burns, who competed in the modified Bot Ball competition, and Olivia Freeman, Zoe Morehart and Bailey Sparks, who competed in the Maze competition.

We’re so proud of all the students who competed in this year’s NEOtech Robotics Competition! Not only did they display sportsmanship and hard work, but they also positively represented our district and showed how tech-savvy and creative Cuyahoga Falls students are!



CFHS STUDENTS COMPETE IN AUTOMOTIVE COMPETITION

Students from the senior auto tech class recently competed in Hudson’s Skills USA Automotive Competition. Participants were asked to do various tasks at five different workstations, including wheel alignment, tire mounting and balancing, engine measurements, serpentine belt replacement, and online service information look-up. There were a total of nine teams made up of two-three students. Cuyahoga Falls High School students included Chris Fox, Maggie Shaddix, Logan Baker and Dominick Czetli, and Kyle Jacobs participated from Stow.

Team one earned 206 points out of 218, securing a second-place win, and team two earned 198 points. Overall, CFHS took third place, an impressive showing! Congratulations to these hardworking students on their achievements!

CUYAHOGA FALLS THIRD GRADERS EXPLORE STEAM THROUGH DANCE, MUSIC AND JOY

Our 400 third graders came together to perform this year’s ArtSparks show, “Imagine That!”

The theme for the program was all about STEAM and the many incredible ideas that come through exploration in this area. Participants hopped on the STEAM engine to explore these ideas through dance, music and joy and were thrilled to perform in front of a full audience.

“The third graders were positively bubbling over with excitement before the event and it was wonderful to see each and every child shine on the big stage,” said Erica Piper, ArtSparks artistic director.

The ArtSparks program was founded on the belief that the arts play a vital role in fostering the creativity and self-confidence necessary to become productive citizens. Through the program, children are encouraged to develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that carries over into every aspect of their lives.

ArtSparks is open to every third grader in the district and consists of 30 weekly classes led by two teaching artists and a musician who lead participants in an exploration of a core academic subject through fast-paced dance lessons, culminating in a live show.

The Cuyahoga Falls School District is proud to partner with ArtSparks and supports its mission of challenging students of all ages and abilities to discover new heights of individual excellence through focused attention, creative exploration and a sense of community. We’re so grateful our students have this unique opportunity to express themselves and connect with other students in a fun and engaging way!



CFSD'S WEBSITE IS GETTING A NEW LOOK!

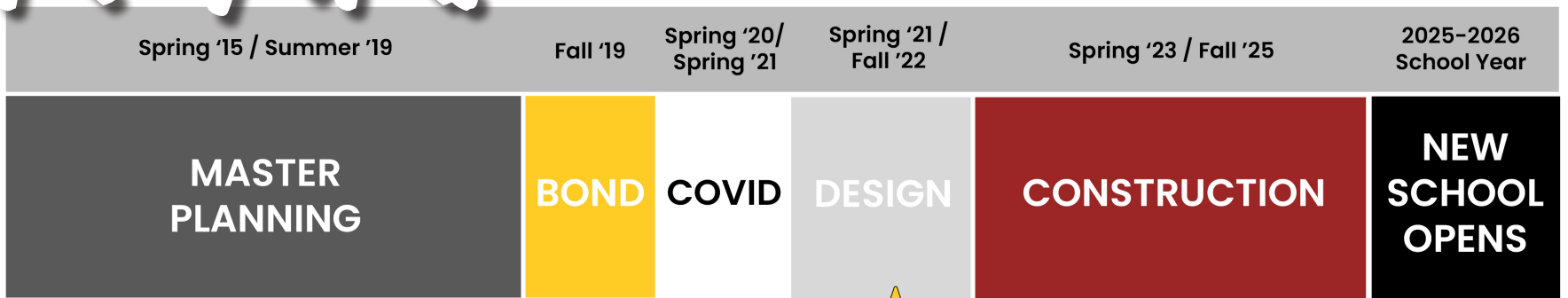
We are excited to announce that a new website for the Cuyahoga Falls School District is currently under construction and will be launching this summer!

Throughout this school year, we reviewed, audited and evaluated communications for the district and buildings to understand how our community, families and employees utilize and receive district communications.

For the redesign, we are working to create a clean, uncluttered website design that provides a user-friendly experience and makes it possible to communicate with our stakeholders more effectively. We’re so excited to share the final results with you in the next few months!

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★ We Are Here

PROGRESS ON DESIGN OF THE NEW 6-12 CAMPUS

The design team from ThenDesign Architecture, staff and administrators from the District have collectively spent hundreds of hours collaborating on plans for the new school. With an extensive round of staff engagement completed the last week of March, the team will spend the rest of April and May completing the “Design Development” phase in the building project.

“We are through about 40% of the design process now,” commented Scott Alleman, project manager for the new facility. “Throughout April and May, we’re really going to be putting our heads down and finalizing documents as design development is completed.”

During “Design Development” (DD), the initial drawings from Schematic Design are refined. Additional details on the mechanical systems are added, the building envelope is streamlined, and more cost saving measures are put in place. Scott continues, “Architecture is an iterative process, and sometimes we redraw the building several times to address challenges and find the best solutions to issues.” Having a completed set of DD documents will better inform the budget and construction timeline for the project. DD documents will be submitted on May 16th.

At this stage of DD, designers are incorporating feedback from the staff gleaned from engagement sessions.

While each of these sessions is different, they usually include reviewing specific sections of the building plan with educators. The group talks about the flow of the spaces, room arrangement, furniture and future needs.

Below are two small examples where feedback provided was incorporated into the building plan.

1. Initially, space dedicated to the health clinic was in one location, near the 13th Street entrance. After conversations with health staff, the space was rearranged and divided into two smaller health clinics near each entrance. Doing so allows one to primarily serve the middle school and the other the high school, while also allowing for easier parent pickup.
2. In early discussions, prep rooms for the science classrooms were necessary for the 10th -12th graders. After further discussions with science teachers, they identified that freshman science classes would also benefit from having dedicated prep rooms. These were then incorporated into the new building, so educators across the high school have access to these spaces.

These small examples are representative of the hundreds of changes made across the entire building.

Additionally, in March, the geotechnical analysis of the site was completed. This was an important step, as it allowed the design and construction team to understand better the soil composition of the ground, how the foundation of the building will sit and whether soil stabilization is needed to hold up the weight of the new facility.

Also, the first round of tree removal from Newberry Park is complete and allows contractors to prepare the site for the future installation of the building pad. Within Cuyahoga Falls, there are ordinances that dictate trees cannot be cut down between April and October in order to protect habitats of Indiana bats. Early this year, the design team worked with the city to acquire a permit to take down some trees near Newberry Park in advance of site work that will likely happen this year. Any future work would take place after October.



Looking forward to May, an additional staff engagement centered on reviewing classroom furniture is planned. The Cuyahoga Falls Media Center will be reconfigured as a “mock classroom” using the proposed new furniture for the building. This way, educators can get a sense of how their new spaces will be laid out.

Finally, the team continues to pursue the “three paths” to solidify the project budget. While current market conditions are still challenging, progress has been made on incorporating further adjustments to the building plan, improving its overall efficiency. The District also continues to explore funding mechanisms to solidify plans for the auditorium’s construction.

We are hopeful that as the project continues, we can report more on this topic in our next community engagement in the fall. We look forward to seeing you there!

