

ROAR



Recognizing Outstanding Academic Results

Black Tiger News

October 2022

Greetings Black Tiger Community!

I am excited to write to you in the first of four editions of our ROAR publication. In order to ensure that we reach all of our stakeholders, we have chosen to mail the newsletters to our residents. My name is Andrea Celico and I am the new, proud Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. I began my career in 1996 as a fifth grade teacher in Euclid, where I also served as assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent. I spent 17 years in Euclid prior to moving to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District as assistant superintendent. Prior to coming to Cuyahoga Falls, I served as superintendent of Bedford City Schools and as a consultant in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

It brings me great joy to have the opportunity to serve our students, staff, and families. I am fortunate to enter the district at such an exciting time! I am looking forward to leading the district through the remaining portion of the construction process for the new 6-12 campus. I am appreciative of our voters who showed their confidence in our schools by investing in the students and staff of the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools. A new campus is symbolic of our city's commitment to educational excellence for every child in Cuyahoga Falls and marks the beginning of a new era in how we educate children in our community.

Access to state of the art technology and classroom resources, along with project- and problem-based teaching and learning will prepare our students for a stronger high school and college or career than ever before. This is a place where our children will have the tools to realize their dreams and potential, and the focus will be on enhancing their education through rich experiences and innovative hands-on and minds-on activities. Our new campus will change the way in which we educate children and will make Cuyahoga Falls more appealing for families for decades to come. Thank you to all of our stakeholders who will make our children's dream of attending beautiful, newly constructed, safe buildings a reality. Follow me on Twitter at @CFSupt.



Dr. Celico invites the community to hear a presentation about her first 100 days as Superintendent. Join us on Thursday, November 17 for refreshments, student performances, and learn about Dr. Celico's vision for the future of the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. Enjoy the sounds of Cuyahoga Falls High School's Goldtones starting at 6:30 P.M. followed by the meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the high school auditorium.



Andrea Celico, Ph.D.
Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- 2** Board of Education meeting
- 7** Conferences
No School for students
- 8** Election Day/PD Day
No school for students
- 16** Board of Education meeting
- 18** Early Release Day
- 24-25**
Thanksgiving Break
No School for students

December

- 7** Board of Education meeting
- 9** Early Release Day
- 21-Jan 3**
Winter Break
No School for students

January

- 4** School resumes
- 13** Early Release Day
- 16** MLK Day-No school



6-12 Campus Construction



Cuyahoga Falls' new 6-12 campus project has reached an exciting milestone in our construction! The district hosted an evening Groundbreaking Celebration at Laybourne Track and Field Complex on September 27, 2022. The event featured speakers from local and state governments, the Board of Education, and school district staff and students. In addition, students from the Black Tiger Marching Band, A Cappella Choir, M&M's, Children's Choir, and the ArtSparks TNT and XD Dancers provided special performances throughout the evening. The celebration concluded with a fireworks display sponsored by Hammond Construction and ThenDesign Architecture (TDA). Significant activity has already begun on the site with the demolition of Laybourne Field press box, concession stand and Newberry Elementary School.

The district and our construction manager, Hammond Construction, have developed a detailed site logistics plan for all phases of the building project. Hammond is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for students and staff throughout the building process. Hammond's safety plan includes proactive measures to segregate construction activities from district operations with both fencing and signage.

The purpose of an early site package is to prepare the building area for construction of the new school. This involves installing stormwater controls, including silt fence and catch basin protection to maintain drainage on site. Contractors removed select trees and graded the soil where the future campus footprint will be constructed. Heavy machinery is being used to strip the topsoil and grade the land. Some of the topsoil will be stockpiled on site for later use in the final grading, and the remainder will be permanently removed. Construction fencing is being installed around the perimeter of the work site for safety and security reasons.

Newberry Elementary School has been abated and is in the process of being demolished. Many community members have expressed an interest in retaining souvenir bricks from the building. Hammond Construction has provided a pickup area next to construction trailer for community members to take a brick from the 1956 building. An early site package allows the project to get a "head-start" on the building construction. The site will be graded and ready to go so contractors can hit the ground running to begin building construction in early spring after the winter weather has passed.

TDA has completed the design development submission, which was presented to the Board of Education on October 5th for approval. For the remainder of the year, the design team will develop the construction documents (blueprints) – the final stage of the design process. During this time, the architect, construction manager, and consultants will work through the technical aspects of the project to develop detailed documents that will later be used for bidding by subcontractors in early 2023.

Finally, the district will host a community-wide meeting in the High School auditorium at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 26th. TDA architects will unveil the final design and rendered images of the new 6-12 campus, sharing interior and exterior views of the building. This day also marks the 100th birthday of the original Cuyahoga Falls High School building. We will honor and recognize the district's rich history of education over the last 100 years. Please join us for this special evening to celebrate Cuyahoga Falls' past, present, and future for our students and community.



No New Money - Emergency Levy on the Ballot

Cuyahoga Falls City School District will seek renewal of the \$3,600,000 emergency levy on the November 8th ballot. This levy was originally passed in November of 2017 and generates six percent of the district's general revenue. This will not create additional taxes for residents. The funds generated from this levy have been used for a number of capital improvements such as roof repairs, new buses, technology, repairing parking lots, improving safety and security, and equipment for the custodial and maintenance departments. Passage of this levy will allow our district to provide central air conditioning in the elementary schools, continue capital improvements to buildings, and provide quality curricular resources for the classroom. Collection for this levy will cease on December 31, 2022, if it is not renewed. Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Don't forget to vote!

Richardson Elementary

Richardson Elementary School is proud to have received a "Purple Star" designation from the Ohio Department of Education. This ranking is attributed to "the major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military." It is important to the Richardson community that students learn about patriotism and sacrifice. Over the course of the upcoming school year, students will be participating in a variety of learning activities that have been sponsored by grant funding through the GPD Foundation and ServeOhio.



The theme this year is "We Will Never Forget!" All Richardson students will receive a grade level appropriate book that teaches about the importance of veterans and their work. This book will be read-aloud to students and they will then engage in writing about their reading. In art, students will be participating in projects directly linked to their learning. Students will display their writing and art masterpieces in the hallway during their upcoming Veterans' Day celebration. Students, staff, and the community will also be designing and planting a Veterans' tribute garden on the school grounds. As part of the Veteran's Day festivities, students will be doing a service project to create care packages for veterans and active duty personnel. These are just a few ways Richardson Elementary School "Will Never Forget."



Student safety remains a top priority for Cuyahoga Falls Schools. The Stay Safe, Speak Up anonymous reporting system allows students and guardians to report concerns which may affect the peace of mind of students or jeopardize the safety of people or school facilities. Concerns may include, but are not limited to, bullying, abuse, suicide, suspicious behavior, vandalism, fighting, and weapons. When a report is made, school officials are notified by email. An immediate threat to safety activates our urgent phone tree, and officials are contacted until someone is reached.

Anonymous reports can be made by phone at 1-866-547-8362 or online by going to www.cfalls.org and clicking on the Stay Safe, Speak Up button or by scanning the QR code.



Fresh Farm Garden Party

Although the weather on Tuesday, September 6, was a bit dreary, the 3rd annual CFHS Fresh Farm Garden Party was alive and kicking. With the Pep Band opening the festivities, over 100 guests filtered in through a maze of corn stalks, pepper plants, and sweet potato vines on the way to the food tent to try a sample of appetizers prepared by Chef Bill Bailey and the students of CFHS' Urban Agriculture classes. The ingredients that were used came from the school's garden including tomatillo salsa with chips, grilled crostini with fresh basil pesto and tomatoes, sautéed edamame with everything bagel seasoning, and grilled sweet potato planks with tzatziki sauce. The purpose of the CFHS Fresh Farm Garden party is to share with the community the amazing things students at the high school are doing. In addition to the Pep Band, students from art classes set up easels to paint, using the garden as inspiration. Other students from the Urban Agriculture class led parents and community members on tours. Guests were even encouraged to harvest their own vegetables as a "Thank You" for supporting the cause of helping the community. Started by teachers, Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Newlon in 2018, the CFHS Fresh Farm has donated over 8,000 lbs of fresh vegetables to our neighbors in need.



Price Elementary



The 2022-23 school year is off to an amazing start at Price Elementary School. During the month of September, the transportation team visited the kindergarten through second-grade classes to review bus safety and provide an opportunity for all students to explore a real bus. Fifth graders are also participating in two community programs. The initiative, *No More Bullying!* by the Summit County Humane Society includes monthly lessons focusing on kinder interactions with each other, complete with visits from their companion dog, Pigpen. Fifth graders are participating in the *Not Me, I'm Drug-Free* program by the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department. Police Chief Jack Davis and School Resource Officer Ted Davis met with students for the initial presentation of a 4 part series. The campaign is designed to educate Cuyahoga Falls elementary school students about the dangers of using drugs and alcohol through a fun incentive program that spurs discussion and encourages peers to help each other make good decisions when faced with potential use of drugs. Finally, on September 15th, Price hosted a special night for their multilingual families. Students enjoyed playing games, making crafts, and sampling foods from various local restaurants while parents were able to receive assistance in completing online forms and signing up for building and district services. The University of Akron partnered with the school through the NE Ohio ACHIEVE grant to provide interpreters and a presentation on literacy at home for Price families.

DeWitt Elementary



DeWitt Elementary is home to a Life Skills room that was funded by the GAR Foundation Educator Initiative Grant. This room houses a complete working kitchen, as well as a washer and dryer. The Life Skills room is used by all grades and incorporates cross-curricular lessons using math, literacy, and vocational skills. On September 30, the fifth graders worked with Chef Bill Bailey to learn how to make homemade dressings. Students from the CFHS Fresh Farm program joined the fifth graders as mentors and worked alongside them while they made veggie salad, fruit salad, and dressings. The salads also incorporated the carrots grown in the garden at DeWitt, as well as ingredients donated by parents. The DeWitt garden was also funded through a GAR Foundation EIG grant. The entire fifth grade class enjoyed their healthy feast at the end of the day.



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