

# ROAR!

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A special section dedicated to Black Tiger headlines and achievements | October 2021

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### Unveiling the 6-12 Campus Schematic Design

The new 6-12 campus schematic design is the culmination of months of community, staff and student feedback sessions. The initial event with these stakeholders, Educational Visioning, took place in May and identified key design points for the new building, including flexible and collaborative spaces, improved traffic circulations, integrated outdoor learning spaces, easily identifiable entrances, and integrated athletics facilities for maximized building usage.

Beyond the Educational Visioning, the district is participating in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide an additional \$33.2 million in project funds to add to the \$80.6 million funded by the district through a 5.33-mill, 36-year bond issue approved by the community as an aspect of the 2019 tax levy.

For the Cuyahoga Falls 6-12 Campus, the district is using the High-Performance Learning Environment POR (which is based on Educational Visioning and academic feedback) as a guide. Using this POR allows designers more freedom to create collaborative, student-centered spaces alongside core academic areas. Participation in this program creates a set of guidelines in the form of a Program of Requirements (POR) that must be included in the building design to ensure educational needs are met.

With POR requirements in mind, alongside the abundance of community and educator feedback, the ThenDesign Architecture (TDA) team has developed the initial schematic design for the 6-12 Campus. This collaborative effort between the district, TDA, OFCC and Hammond Construction will allow for the exploration of building materials, colors and textures and an opportunity for closer examination of the building project's cost breakdown.

We thank all of those who have made this moment possible, and hope you will celebrate this momentous occasion with us!

Dr. T.M. Nichols

Superintendent/CEO  
Cuyahoga Falls City Schools

**“Cuyahoga Falls City Schools is gearing up for the initial unveiling of the 6-12 campus schematic design. I hope you will join us at this community event on October 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in Cuyahoga Falls High School Auditorium.”**



## ISSUE 32 | NOVEMBER 2, NO NEW MONEY

Cuyahoga Falls City School District will seek a 9.97 mill levy renewal on the November 2, 2021, ballot. This renewal will not create additional taxes for residents.

This levy was initially approved in February of 1991 and renewed every five years thereafter until it was replaced in May of 2011, and renewed in 2016. Without this renewal, the current levy collections will end on December 31, 2021. The funds produced since the last renewal in 2016 represent 12% of the district's general revenue - a significant portion of the district's operational budget.

If the renewal is not passed, the district would face drastic cuts requiring a reduction in staff along with other budget cuts to make up the deficit.

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### TREASURER'S UPDATE

#### Bond Savings Reduce Amount Paid by Property Owners

In 2019 the Cuyahoga Falls community passed a 9.83-mill tax issue that included a 5.33-mill, 36-year bond issue for the construction of the brand new 6-12 campus. This bond would generate \$80.6 million representing the locally funded portion of the building, with the state accounting for \$33.2 million. Totaling the project cost at \$113.8 million.

The initial tax rates for property owners were based on estimated numbers at the time of the levy, which predicted homeowners with a home value of \$100,000 would pay \$186.55 annually toward this bond issue.



**“ This spring (May 2021), when the bonds were sold and the final rates were set, it was determined that taxpayers would save 36.5% on the total amount paid over the terms of the bond. Which means, a homeowner with an appraised value of \$100,000 would pay annually \$162.75 versus the initially expected \$186.55.**

There are a couple factors that played into bond savings including the increase in tax valuation for the district and a lower interest rate than initially expected.

In 2020, Summit County performed a reappraisal of real property that in turn increased the district’s valuation by 13.76% and lowered the total millage of the bond. The school district had also expected to pay an interest rate of 4.5%; however, the rate was set at an average of 2.72%.

Another factor in the bond savings is from the proceeds collected in the 2020 tax year. Those proceeds are kept in a separate bond retirement fund that’s sole purpose is to pay back the bond debt. Additionally, the district received \$5,147,135 in additional proceeds from the sale of the bonds. These two amounts combined will allow for higher initial payments on the principal amount.

School funding, taxes and finance can get confusing, but we are happy to report this positive cost savings to our community!

Kristy Stoicoiu  
Treasurer, CFO

### Comparison: 2019 vs. 2021

BALLOT MILLAGE CALCULATION	
2019 TAX VALUATION	\$ 770,662,690
INTEREST RATE	4.50%
YEARS	36
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	
TOTAL PRINCIPAL	\$ 80,610,000
TOTAL INTEREST	\$ 67,107,825
TOTAL TAXPAYER COST	\$ 147,717,825
TOTAL MILLAGE EACH YEAR	5.330
TOTAL COST FOR \$100,000 HOME VALUE FOR 36 YEARS	\$ 6,529.25

BALLOT MILLAGE CALCULATION	
2021 TAX VALUATION*	\$ 878,076,980
INTEREST RATE	2.72%
YEARS	35
<i>* Tax Valuation Increases with Historical Trends each Year</i>	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	
TOTAL PRINCIPAL (BOND ISSUE)	\$ 80,610,000
TOTAL INTEREST	\$ 46,544,123
TOTAL TAXPAYER COST	\$ 127,154,123
TOTAL MILLAGE EACH YEAR	VARIES
TOTAL COST FOR \$100,000 HOME VALUE FOR 35 YEARS	\$ 4,142.95

Total savings over the term of the bonds for a home value of \$100,000 is \$2,386.30.  
An overall savings of 36.5%!

### BECOME A SUBSTITUTE!

Cuyahoga Falls City School District has substitute opportunities available in various departments, including:

Substitute Teacher, Substitute Aide, Substitute Cleaner, Substitute Secretary, Substitute Food Service Assistants and Monitors, Substitute Bus Drivers and Monitors

Rachel Wixey & Associates is our Substitute Management provider. Please contact them at 419-725-9499 for questions about open positions.

Apply online now!

Visit [www.rachelwixey.com](http://www.rachelwixey.com).

Substitute Teacher  
\$100.00 per day

Substitute Bus Driver  
\$16.50 per hour

Substitute Cleaner  
\$11.00 per hour

Substitute Food Service Assistants and Monitors  
\$10.00 per hour

Substitute Monitor (bus and playground)  
\$10.00 per hour

Substitute Paraprofessional, Secretary  
\$10.25 per hour



# WELCOME TO THE BLACK TIGER FAMILY!

Help us welcome our newest staff members to Cuyahoga Falls City School District

**Samir Alhadid** | Vocal Music Teacher

**Kathryn Ashbay** | English Language Arts Teacher

**Chelsea Ayers-Morris** | Latin

**Rose Bentley** | Health/PE Teacher

**Nathaniel Bracy** | Intervention Specialist

**Peter Geiss** | Industrial Technology Teacher

**Danielle Hansford** | Intervention Specialist - Autism

**Matthew Kelly** | HS Math Teacher

**Glynis Palmisano** | Medical Office & Business Management Teacher

**Kevin Pask** | Intervention Specialist

**Lauren Spape** | HS Math Teacher

**Jakob Wells** | Intervention Specialist

**Metisse Smith** | Intervention Specialist

**Adam Berger** | Intervention Specialist

**Amelia Golec** | Art Teacher

**Michelle Perrow** | School Counselor

**Kyle Spreitzer** | School Counselor (Bolich/Roberts MS)

**Amy Cruse** | Director of Curriculum & Instruction

**Jennifer Skala** | DeWitt Elementary Principal

**Andrew Kendall** | Intern Psychologist

**Anne Williams** | Speech Language Pathologist

**Alyssa Hicks** | School Social Worker (6-12)

**Sierra Oden** | School Social Worker (K-5)

**Monica Richardson** | Fourth Grade Teacher

**Brian Kiser** | First Grade Teacher

**Anny Couk** | Title One Tutor

**Julie Haluch** | Elementary Literacy Specialist

**Rebecca Luketich** | First Grade Teacher

**Amanda Kratz Heller** | Title One Tutor

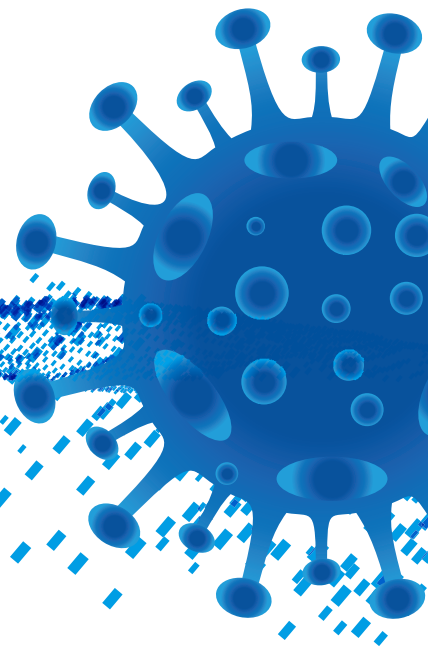
**Nina Robinson** | Art Teacher

**Lisa Tecco** | Fifth Grade Teacher

**Landon Trainor** | Title One Tutor

**Michael Dodson** | Project Search Coordinator (Six District Compact)

## UPDATE ON COVID-19



With the 2021-2022 school year in full swing, we must congratulate and thank everyone for what is turning out to be another successful year for the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. Our students, staff and families have done a wonderful job of adapting to the revised COVID-19 protocols that have been put in place to keep our students in our buildings.

Unfortunately, even with low daily case rates, the district was still seeing the effects of large quarantines on in-person learning. Because of this, we implemented a mask mandate beginning Sept. 7, requiring all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask when in our buildings. Based on the quarantine guidance from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), mask requirements drastically reduce the number of students and staff required to quarantine, resulting in more time for in-person education.

Along with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health and Summit County Public Health, the district strongly encourages vaccination for those students and staff who are eligible and in good health. Masking and vaccination have been proven as effective layers of protection against the spread of COVID-19 and will be our best tools in preventing quarantine and in keeping students in school buildings for in-person instruction.

In addition to encouraging social distancing and hand washing, our district is employing other measures to help reduce the effects of COVID-19 on our students and staff. For example, the district has upgraded all univents in the district to improve air quality. Specifically, all univents have been equipped with bi-polar air ionization systems that have shown remarkable effectiveness in fighting airborne and surface-level disease.

Our planning for this school year was centered on providing in-person education, five days a week, and we remain committed to that goal. We've always known we would have to be flexible and prepared should any changes occur. We are dedicated to our students and their well-being, and we remain steadfast in providing the safest and most productive learning environment possible.

We are grateful for your continued support and encourage everyone to continue showing grace, kindness and respect as we adapt to ongoing challenges. The only way through this is together, and we as a district have proven that the success of our students is paramount to the success of our community.

We will continue to update you all as more information becomes available.

## #GOBLACKTIGERS!

### CURRICULUM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

#### Supporting Student Wellness and Success

Cuyahoga Falls City Schools remains committed to supporting the whole child by providing a range of social and emotional resources for students, families and faculty. The increased stress and disruption brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to support factors beyond the traditional educational environment in order to promote success for all learners.

Our district provides a continuum of student supports that demonstrate a comprehensive approach to meeting our students' and families' needs that includes:

- Addition of two district school social workers in August 2021 to provide supplemental mental health support and connections to resources as well as working with school staff to help remove barriers to regular school attendance.
- Implementation of a K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Program designed to provide equitable opportunities to all students and to help students develop a desire for learning and the capacity to overcome real-world challenges in order to be successful citizens.
- Collaboration with Red Oak Behavioral Health to provide clinical mental health services in each of our nine buildings.
- Partnership with the Ben Curtis Family Foundation to provide additional food resources to our families. Birdie Bags are distributed monthly and include non-perishable food and toiletries.

We believe in supporting the whole child to meet their academic, social-emotional, physical and safety needs. For additional information, including parent resources, please visit our school social work website at [tinyurl.com/FallsSSW](https://tinyurl.com/FallsSSW).

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### October

- 8: No school for staff and students
- 11: Conversations with the Superintendent, 6:00 p.m. at CFHS
- 15: End of the first quarter
- 15: K-12 2-hour early release
- 19: Unveiling Schematic Design, 6:00 p.m. in CFHS Auditorium
- 21: Evening Conferences K-12
- 26: Evening Conferences K-5

#### November

- 1: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 2: No school for students - District PD Day and voting in buildings
- 25-26: Thanksgiving Break

#### December

- 1: End of 2nd quarter
- 17: Records Day - No school for students
- 20-31: Winter Break

### ATTENTION TIGER FANS!

#### Athletic tickets available exclusively online

Cuyahoga Falls City School district is happy to announce HomeTown Ticketing as the official digital ticketing provider for school events. New this year, no cash sales for tickets will be sold at any of our athletic events in order to provide touchless redemption at the ticket gate.

**NO CASH TICKET SALES ALL ticket purchases and season passes for athletic events MUST be purchased online.** To purchase your tickets, scan the QR code below or visit [cfallathletics.org](https://cfallathletics.org).

