



ROAR!

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

CFCSD Dates To Remember:

- Dec 9 *Winter Band Concert*
& 10 CFHS Auditorium, 7:30pm
- Dec 20 *Winter Break - No School*
All Students
- Jan 6 *School Resumes*
All Students

Need more info? Check out cfalls.org

A Special Section Dedicated to Black Tiger Headlines & Achievements

Early December 2019

Teachers Working Hard, Creating Opportunities!

At the November 6, 2019 BOE meeting, the Board recognized teachers who received grants during the spring of 2019 for a total of \$96,446.10. The *Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association (CFSF&AA)* generously awarded six grants up to \$500 each. Recipients of these grants were Ashlynn Schindler for the continuation of CFHS' *Tiger Time News*, Jennifer Culver to fund Artists in Residence for "*A Cultural Celebration*" Program, and Steve McIntosh to add interpretive signage for the *Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm*. Tara Gemmell and Robin Worthington from Preston received funding for *Learning With Light*. Richardson teachers Janet Rhodes, Jen Gall, and Miranda Filon received a grant for *Building Tiny Tiger Phonics Skills*, and Stephanie Petit Received funding for *As the Garden Grows*.

The *GAR Foundation* was also extremely generous this past spring and funded seven different Educator Initiative Grants for our teachers and students. Alex Oris received \$10,000 for Bolich and Roberts to "*Explore Our World (NOT) Around Us*." Another \$10,000 was granted to Amanda Bonds of Roberts to help her students in "*Digging for Knowledge*." DeWitt received funding for the third year in a row of \$15,000 for "*Get in the ZONE! A Discovery of Strengths, Science, and Self-confidence!*" and is led by Heidi Short, Sarah Suboticki, Joan Pinkerton, Catherine Perrow, and Kat Skoff. CFHS teachers Holly Bloom, Jennifer Schulman, and Randall Gregory were awarded \$9,900 for the "*Renaissance Coalition Phase 2*," and Ashlynn Schindler and Katelynn Ferrara were again awarded \$15,000 for

"*Tiger Time News: Disseminating Excellence in Northeast Ohio Youth*." A new high school grant-writing team composed of Courtney Marcucci, Melody Barrett, Kevin Vargyas, Ashlynn Schindler, and John Lipnos garnered \$14,990 for "*Enrolled and Employed ELLs: Access to Career Tech Success for English Learners in Summit County*." The final team to receive a GAR grant this spring was Claire Harry, Jennifer Schulman, Katherine Karnoupakis, and Ashlynn Schindler, who received \$9,740 for "*Social Media #1440: Modern Medieval Technology in the Digital Age*."

The *GPD Foundation* also granted funds to three of our CFHS educators. Steve McIntosh received \$1,582 towards the *Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm Learning Garden*, and Kathleen Davison received \$2,000 to purchase *Chromebooks* for the functional program. Lastly, Jennifer Culver received \$2,000 to incorporate Orff instruments into the adaptive music curriculum.

Other individual grants included a *Soap Box Derby* grant awarded to Keith Nelman of Preston who received \$2,676 as well as workbooks and supplies for a derby racetrack. Jennifer Culver received \$500 from the *Mockingbird Foundation* that she used to help fund the cultural celebration at CFHS.

The CFCSD is extremely grateful for the time that these teachers, and others, put into writing grants to help make our students' learning experiences even better. We are proud of their work!

2019-20 Fall Sports Awards

On November 18, CFHS recognized it's fall sports athletes. Not just for their accomplishments on the field, court, course or track, but also their academic achievements! There are 145 CFHS student-athletes that have maintained a 3.5 GPA or higher during the 2019-20 school year! (Football - 21, Cheerleading - 16, Cross-Country - 24, Golf - 3, Soccer - 52, Tennis - 16, and Volleyball - 13)

There are a lot of people in the background that go into helping make us proud of our Black Tigers. Parents, teachers, coaches, and a variety of organizations like the *Grid-Iron Club*, *Cuyahoga Falls Alumni Soccer Association*, and the *Cuyahoga Falls Athletic Booster Club* to name a few. CF Athletic Director, Kenny Johnson said, "I would like to highlight the Cuyahoga Falls Athletic Booster Club and the great work that they do for the young men and women who represent the Black Tigers in and out of the classroom. The Booster Club donates time and money each year and helps provide the extra things that make the students' experience special."

At the end of the 2019-20 school year, our fall athletics programs will lose 76 senior student-athletes. With the foundation that they have been given, we are confident they will go on to proudly represent the Black Tiger Family! Congratulations to all of our Black Tiger athletes!



CFHS Media Specialist Receives Well-Deserved Recognition!



Media Specialist, Ms. Ellen Allerton has been recognized by the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA) as the Rosen Publishing's Ohio School Librarian of the Month for the month of November!

The Ohio School Librarian of the Month Award recognizes OELMA members who design, develop, and implement collaborative lessons and/or programming to promote student learning. As a recipient of this award, Ms. Allerton will have the opportunity to select and receive a free set of books from Rosen Publishing for the library.

Established in 1950, the Rosen Publishing Group offers engaging print and digital books on a wide range of topics that are aligned with the curriculum. Rosen is also known for databases and interactive e-books.

Allerton's collaborative ideas will become part of OELMA's Bank of Best Practices to be shared with educators across the state. She will also be recognized at the Annual OELMA Conference in October of 2020, in Dublin, Ohio.

Congratulations Ms. Allerton!

CFCSD: Working Hard to “Teach Better”!



Senior Tony Sondles and junior Gavin Hawley interview Author Tara Martin at Teach Better 19.

On November 8th and 9th at the Summit County Education Service Center, teachers and presenters from 23 states from across the country came together for the first ever *Teach Better Conference* put on by the *Teach Better Team* of Jeff Gargas, Chad Ostrowski, Rae Hughart, and Tiffany Ott. The *Teach Better Conference* was all about learning from one another, developing meaningful relationships with other educators that can help you, and being the best version of yourself by improving every single day as an educator. The Cuyahoga Falls City School District was proudly represented by teachers in attendance, students experiencing some authentic training, and as featured speakers. In attendance were teachers from throughout the District: Katelyn Eriksen, Pam Nervo, Michelle Hummel, Christine Teetor, Thomas Williams, Molly May, Tiffany Poole, Joe Nowak, and Alex Oris. Accompanying Mrs. Eriksen and Mr. Nowak were students from their respective digital media and broadcasting classes where they recorded interviews with and presentations of some of the conference’s top speakers. After the students edit the interviews, they plan on sharing what they recorded back to the *Teach Better Team* so they can use them to document, reflect on, and publish conference materials. Finally, as well as attending the conference, Mr. Oris, the Middle School’s Technology Integration Specialist, spoke to attendees about how they can “*Develop Creators, Not Consumers*” in their classrooms.

This conference was different than most teaching conferences, where attendees simply learn about a lot of new pedagogical and instructional strategies and try to apply them in their own classrooms. At *Teach Better 19*, attendees also left with a sense of connectedness to those they learned from and attended with, as well as a renewed energy and excitement for teaching. Many of the presenters weren’t just great educators, they were selected because they also shared an inspiring and engaging message. The attendees all agreed, that at *Teach Better 19* they learned from one another, developed meaningful relationships with other educators, and were motivated to be the best version of themselves as an educator.

MFP: Next Steps

It has been a whirlwind last couple of weeks or so of meetings with our banker, bond counsel, pre-bond architect, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), etc.

We know our community is eager to know what happens next. While it is somewhat complicated, here are the next steps:

- 1) Summit County will begin tax collection January 1, 2020 on the full 9.83 mill amount (5.33 bond, 0.5 PI, and 4.0 operating);
- 2) Board resolution for debt-issuance once we have clarity from OFCC on the release of funds which by all indications will be July at the earliest;
- 3) We will engage the services of a Municipal Bond Advisor who will work on our behalf to obtain the most favorable interest rates;

- 4) We will establish a new credit rating with Moody’s and/or Standard & Poor’s;
- 5) We will meet with the Underwriter for pricing;
- 6) We revise the Notice of Conditional Acceptance (NOCA) with OFCC which is then sent to the Controlling Board for release of funds that will probably take place between May and June 2020;
- 7) We enter into a Project Agreement with OFCC after Controlling Board action;
- 8) The BOE and OFCC engage in a process of selecting an architect which can start no sooner than 90 days in advance of the release of funds;
- 9) The BOE and OFCC engage in a process of selecting a construction manager which generally lags the selection of an architect by two to three weeks;
- 10) The BOE makes a decision on Owner’s Representation.

As you can see, we are in a waiting pattern at the mercy of OFCC for now. For the record, we would have been in the same process regardless of when we secured local funding. It is simply the process that we must follow using state funds. Unfortunately, we will have no additional information regarding the release of funds until March 2020.

We will update you as frequently as we have new information. When the process above is complete, then we enter the design phase that will include a lot of community engagement.

Cuyahoga Falls Schools: Veterans Day Tributes

Below is a brief summary of the different ways that our schools paid tribute to our military families and community members for Veteran’s Day this year.

CFHS Industrial Teacher and Veteran, Russ Hofer has taken students to the ceremonies held in downtown CF every year since 2003. Before the students go downtown, they have the chance to hear from local veterans about their time in service and what it meant for them.

At **Bolich**, students spent their Advisory period on Thursday writing letters to our veterans. On Monday and Tuesday, students signed banners in the cafeteria and placed tokens of gratitude and honor for our veterans on the banners.

Roberts had a Veterans Day Assembly for the whole school that involved a video of two veterans who are on the staff. In addition, there was a display case full of military items/pictures/stories of veterans who are family members of Roberts staff and students.

At **DeWitt**, each class included projects and conversations about the significance of Veterans Day. One 3rd-grade class created an informational flipbook.

Lincoln held its annual Veterans Day program in the Gymnasium to honor community service members. Military guests were invited to stay for a brief social time following the morning’s program with their student(s).

At **Preston**, invitations were sent to all Preston families. Personal invitations were also delivered to the local VFW and Eagles. Twenty veterans and family members were welcomed to the school that morning for a special program in their honor. Each grade level created their own way to say thank you to our veterans.

At **Price**, our teachers worked on activities with their classes. Mrs. Walker’s 1st-grade class had written cards thanking the Veterans for their service, and they were sent to the VA hospital in Cleveland. There is also a student who’s father is currently serving in the Marines, and a card was sent to him as well.

Silver Lake’s Veterans Day activity involved the ceremonial display of pennants around the building decorated by students and they provided pictures honoring the vets in their life. In addition, Silver Lake students partnered with the USO of Northern Ohio to collect items all month to create meal baskets for military families in need this Thanksgiving.

Richardson held a “Socktober Drive” during the month of October. The school community collected 2,916 pairs of socks. All of the adult socks collected were donated to the *Akron VA Clinic* and the children’s socks were donated to *Good Neighbors*. Richardson also hosted a Veterans Day program to honor Veterans and military personnel. During this event, 2nd-graders sang patriotic songs, and we heard from Bryan Bowman, Director of the *SAM (Serving Area Military) Center*. He spoke on the power of decisions and having a positive mindset.