



# ROAR!

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

### CFCSD Dates To Remember:

- Dec 20 *Winter Break - No School*  
All Students
- Jan 6 *School Resumes*  
All Students
- Jan 25 *Black Tiger Pride Culture Fair*  
Bolich Gym, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Need more info? Check out [cfalls.org](http://cfalls.org)

*A Special Section Dedicated to Black Tiger Headlines & Achievements*

*Late December 2019*

## DeWitt Recognition Earned!

Earlier this month, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released the recognitions for school performance across the state. Of the thousands of schools, a very small percentage is acknowledged. Our very own DeWitt Elementary School was the only school in Summit County to be recognized as a *High Progress School of Honor*. The criteria to earn this achievement is very challenging. We are beyond proud of the collective effort it took to achieve this honor, and we didn't even know we were in the running. We work hard for every student every day without the desire for such recognition. Our families, staff, teachers, and students are extremely dedicated to the school community. We know that together, we can achieve great things for students. We believe that we are building the school district of our dreams without barriers or excuses. CFCSD Superintendent and CEO, Dr. Todd Nichols said, "A special shout-out to our teammates at DeWitt Elementary! Your hard work and dedication is to be commended."

According to the ODE, the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria recognized 63 districts, 436 schools and 12 Career-Technical Planning Districts for achieving high performance, outstanding progress, and momentum for students across Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Education is recognizing 72 schools that have a substantial proportion of economically disadvantaged students (40 percent or more) for reaching high academic achievement and progress with the

Schools of Promise and Schools of Honor awards.

The Schools of Honor initiative builds on the Schools of Promise program, recognizing schools that exceed Schools of Promise standards.

To be named a High Performing School of Honor, 90 percent or more of all students must score Proficient or higher in reading and math on statewide assessments over the last five years, along with several other requirements.

To become a High Progress School of Honor, conditions for a high school include increases in graduation rate over the past five years that meet or exceed the 90th percentile of statewide gains in graduation.

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria, "Across the state, there is increased student exposure to poverty and social stressors." He continued, "These schools are succeeding in meeting the needs of the whole child, and helping students take full advantage of educational opportunities. Congratulations to the students, teachers, and administrators at these schools for the impressive success we celebrate with these awards."

Congratulations to the entire DeWitt Family! The District is very proud of all of your hard work!



## Price Elementary: Introducing "Atticus the Library Dragon"!

If you have visited Price Elementary recently, you may have noticed a new resident in the library. A big welcome to "Atticus the Library Dragon"!

Atticus is the brain-child of Athena Brown. Brown is a Price mother, member of the PTO, Price library volunteer, and sits on the board for the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center (CVAC). In an attempt to get her six-year-old son to read more than non-fiction books, Brown decided to write her own book and make Atticus the main character. As life would have it, the book did not (yet) get completed, but when the opportunity came to paint a mural in the library, Brown was more than happy to bring him to life! "I love the library and

the students of Price and was happy to bring some joy through art," she said.

The project came about when an old wooden piece that had been hanging on the wall was due to come down. So Brown spoke to John Musat, Principal of Price and Media Specialist Tina Lindy and asked about painting the mural to fill the vacated space, and they happily agreed as long as the mural was of an original character.

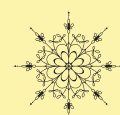
To cover the cost of the paint and supplies to complete the mural, Brown presented the project to the CVAC's Board and asked if they would consider a sponsorship, and they agreed! According to Brown, "The CVAC is looking to get more



Next time you are in Price Elementary, stop in and say "hello" to Atticus the Library Dragon!

involved in community activities and felt like this was a great way to be a part of a cool project."

Price and the CFCSD is fortunate to have such amazing parents like Athena Brown making a positive impact on our schools and kids. Thank you Athena!



## Happy Holidays From Your Black Tiger Family!

There's never been a better time to become involved in your local schools. Go to [cfalls.org](http://cfalls.org) and learn how you can help. **Go Black Tigers!**

## Middle Schoolers Attend Math & Science Conference



Students participate in one of the interactive sessions during the 2019 Diane Burbick Math & Science Conference.

experiences. The conference also featured interactive sessions with professional women who discussed their careers in environmental science, medicine, nutrition, marketing/consulting, and forensics. A key mission of this conference is to encourage the girls to continue to take challenging math and science courses in high school.

Along with the students, the gifted coordinator and one high school counselor from each District also attend. The counselors have a one hour breakout session with the parents to go over information pertaining to the high school and opportunities for their students. The counselors address; scheduling, clubs/sports/activities, College Credit Plus and Advanced Placement courses, PSAT, ACT, graduation requirements, college, scholarships, and careers among other topics. "This annual conference is always a wonderful event and the parents usually have a lot of great questions," said high school counselor Vickie Davis.

According to the District's Curriculum, and Gifted Coordinator, Rachael Seifert, "It is quite an impressive way to have our young women be immersed into a professional setting at Akron General, meet with strong, accomplished women, and to be able to see the future that they cannot only dream, but they can attain."

## Classroom, Community, Course and Court: Chelsea Huffman is Making It Happen!

As you have probably already heard, senior guard/forward for the Lady Black Tigers basketball team, Chelsea Huffman, has reached a milestone few in Black Tiger history have reached; she is the third Lady Black Tiger in the history of the basketball program to reach 1,000 points. As of this writing, she passed Connie Ralston ('93) who had 1,047, and is currently second on the list with 1,070 points. The leading scorer in the history of the program is Kerrie Reaves ('91). Reaves ultimately went on to play at Marquette University.

Here are the top five scorers:

- Kerrie Reaves - 1,171 points
- Chelsea Huffman - 1,070 points
- Connie Ralston - 1,047 points
- Annie Plouse - 878 points
- Denise Miller - 876 points

With quite a few games remaining in the 2019-20 season, Huffman has a great opportunity to move to the top of this distinguished list!

Huffman also ran Cross-Country for the Black Tigers for all of her four years at CFHS.

What you may not know about Huffman is that off the court, and in the classroom, she is a scholar athlete, meaning her GPA is 3.5 or higher!

Besides basketball and cross-country, Chelsea has

Recently, fourteen 8th-grade students from Bolich and Roberts spent their Saturday morning at Akron Children's Hospital and attended the 2019 Diane Burbick Math and Science Conference for Middle School Girls. They listened to the keynote speaker, Courtney Blashka, a Community Forrester at Holden Forest & Garden, discuss her career and

experiences. The conference also featured interactive sessions with professional women who discussed their careers in environmental science, medicine, nutrition, marketing/consulting, and forensics. A key mission of this conference is to encourage the girls to continue to take challenging math and science courses in high school.

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been a member of DECA and participated in several community based initiatives, including raking leaves for the elderly and veterans. She also helped coach youth basketball teams, summer camps, and private skill-training. Huffman says, "I have mentored countless young athletes. I truly love to see the kids develop and become great athletes and people."

After graduation, Huffman will continue her



Photo Credit: Forbes Image

Senior Chelsea Huffman, on her way to two of her over 1,000 career points!

## The Future of the Black Tiger Music Program is "Sounding" Bright!



Bolich Middle Schoolers on stage, prepare for their performance Monday night at CFHS.

During the final week before the holiday break, students throughout the District gathered and got to show off their musical talents.

On Monday, Bolich and, on Tuesday, Roberts band members gathered at the CF High School auditorium and delighted family and friends with their holiday performance.

The week was kicked off by the Bolich 6th graders, then progressed to the 7th graders, a combined 7th- and 8th-grade jazz band performance. The evening was capped off by the 8th-grade band performance. Parents were very impressed with the growth and the higher degree of difficulty that the students were able to perform as the students progress through the music program.

With the strong direction from all of our music educators, prepare to continue to be amazed by what our kids can accomplish!

academic and basketball career as an Arrow at Division II Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. Ursuline is approximately ten miles east of Cleveland and is a part of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC).

While at Ursuline, Huffman plans to study business. "After graduation, I will get my teaching certification, and my dream job would be to teach and hopefully also coach at CFHS," she says.

"I'm extremely excited to play for such a great school and coaching staff," says Huffman. "(Ursuline's) Coach Sword has made me feel so comfortable with her and the program. I've been able to make some new friends from the current basketball team and other incoming recruits from the 2020 class." The up-tempo style of game Ursuline wants to play fits well with Huffman's.

Chelsea is excited to join her older sister Kayla who runs cross-country and track also for Ursuline.

Congratulations Chelsea! We look forward to following your success story after CFHS (and hopefully back at CFHS)!