



ROAR!

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

CFCSD Dates To Remember:

- Jan 21 *Substitute Teacher Job Fair*
CF Natatorium, 4:00am - 6:00pm
- Jan 25 *Black Tiger Pride Culture Fair*
Bolich Gym, 11:00am - 2:00pm
- Jan 27 *Freshman Orientation*
CFHS, 6:30am - 7:30pm

Need more info? Check out cfalls.org

A Special Section Dedicated to Black Tiger Headlines & Achievements

Late January 2020

Community Talking Points: Effects of EdChoice Voucher Program

Ohio has a very aggressive school voucher program (known as the EdChoice Scholarship [Voucher] Program) that provides public tax dollars to pay tuition for students attending private schools.

Because of a number of changes to Ohio law over the past decade, more and more vouchers are being granted every year. The following is information that parents and community members need to know about vouchers and your school district:

- Ohio's EdChoice voucher program started out as a way to provide an alternative education choice for students whose local public school was considered by the state to be a "failing school." However, the program has expanded to include students from public schools that are doing a great job. In fact, 47.4% of buildings on the current list received overall grades of "A," "B," or "C."

Fact: Ohio went from fewer than 300 school buildings being deemed eligible for vouchers in the 2018-2019 school year to more than 1,200 school buildings for the 2020-2021 school year. That's a 300% increase in two years.

- The EdChoice voucher program has two parts:
 - Students whose family income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level can obtain a state-paid voucher to go to a private school regardless of how their public school performs.
 - Students whose public school is considered to be a "failing school" by the state, can take a voucher that the school district pays for.

Fact: The voucher amount for elementary school vouchers is \$4,650 per student and high school vouchers are \$6,000 per student.

- Local property tax dollars fund district-paid vouchers.
 - The state may provide some portion of the

cost of the voucher, but districts must make up the difference from the proceeds from property tax levies.

- In some cases, the district receives no state aid to pay for the vouchers, so property taxes cover the full cost.

Fact: Cuyahoga Falls High School, Lincoln, Preston, Price, and Richardson Elementaries have been identified as EdChoice Schools under new legislation. Over a four (4) year period of time it is estimated that the cost of the EdChoice expansion could cost the district \$15,285,750 of tax payer funds.

Other factors to consider:

- A growing number of students who have never been enrolled in a public school (the students were already attending a private school) are qualifying for district-paid vouchers, yet the school district pays.
- Once a student obtains a voucher, they can continue to receive vouchers throughout their education (K-12th grade), even if the school district's report card improves. This is a cost of more than \$65,000 over the student's academic career.
- According to data collected by the Ohio Department of Education and also a study performed by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, voucher students in private schools performed worse than their public counterparts in reading and math.
- Private schools can pick and choose which students they will accept. Public schools accept all students.
- Private school students do not have to take the same required state tests as their public school counterparts, even though they are using public funds.

Broken Record!



Milestone reached! On January 11, Chelsea Huffman broke the career scoring record held by Kerrie Reaves of 1,171. Coming into Saturday's game Chelsea's point total was 1,163. But after a 15-point, 8-assist effort that helped the Lady Black Tigers to a victory over conference rival North Royalton, she also earned the new all-time scoring record of 1,178 points!

Congratulations Chelsea!

Substitutes Needed!

CFCSD invites you to attend a recruitment event for Substitute Teachers.

Meet with District personnel and interview for substitute positions, and while you are there, ask about the bonus program!

The event takes place on January 21 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Natatorium. Interested individuals can apply at www.rachelwixey.com, or contact chelsea@rachelwixey.com for more information.

2nd Annual Black Tiger Pride Culture Fair



On Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 11:00am to 2:00pm, the CFCSD will be hosting its 2nd Annual Black Tiger Pride Culture Fair. This event will be held in the Bolich Middle School Gymnasium located at 2630 13th Street.

This is a FREE family event to learn about the cultures in our community. Guests are invited to sample cultural foods from local restaurants, participate in games and craft making, and enjoy musical performances put on by students from the CFCSD.

If you are interested in participating or performing, contact Courtney Lewis at cf_lewisc@cfalls.org or 330-926-3808 ext. 503843

Freshman Orientation Scheduled

For 8th-grade families, Cuyahoga Falls High School would like to welcome the class of 2024 to our Freshman Orientation evening on January 27, 2020 at CFHS from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Both students and parents or guardians should attend if possible, as they will have an opportunity to learn about all that our high school has to offer. We hope the information provided will help students begin to understand their scheduling needs for the 2020-2021 school year. Please join us for this important night!

Lincoln Elementary: Inspiring Future Leaders



If you have traveled past Lincoln recently, you may have noticed something very cool! Every day the staff of Lincoln chooses two students to feature on the marquee. Additionally, they take a photo of each student next to their name and their future career and send it home with them. To see the photos visit Lincoln's twitter @CFallsLincoln. "We believe this

simple exercise encourages parents to have conversations with their children about the importance of setting goals, having a career plan, and remaining committed to their education," says Lincoln Principal Kevin Vargyas.

Lincoln is looking for classroom guest speakers. The school is committed to identifying businesses and individuals that are friends of education and then bringing them into our classrooms to provide students with direct knowledge about their careers. If you are interested in being a guest speaker, please reach out to Mr. Vargyas at cf_vargyask@cfalls.org.

Bolich and Roberts Middle School: Exploring Their World (Not) Around Them!



Bolich and Roberts 8th-graders learning about plate tectonics and volcanoes.

As we wrote about in a previous edition of the ROAR!, many of our educators are creating unique learning opportunities for many of our students. One of the Educator Initiative Grants (EIG) from the *GAR Foundation* supported an initiative called "*Exploring Our World (Not) Around Us*" with \$10,000. It allows students to take virtual field trips to see and explore places in our world that are not around us, including historical places, national landmarks, and desolate locations. Being there to see it, rather than just reading or hearing about it, has engaged our students to actively learn and think critically about what they see. "Just in

the last few weeks, we have taken 7th-graders to Ancient Rome, shown 8th-graders how plate tectonics impact volcanoes, explored the inner workings of cells with high school biology students, looked at how migraines affect the brain in health classes, and visited Spain with the high school Spanish classes," said Alex Oris, Technology Integration Specialist for the CFCSD. In the real world, this can apply to the earthquakes that are currently impacting the people of Puerto Rico. The next step, is to have students learn how to create their own virtual reality tours, focusing on our schools and community.

As a part of the EIG, the middle-schoolers and our educators were provided a Google Expeditions kit that contains:

- 30 Moto p30 Note Android Student Devices
- 30 DSCVR headsets
- TP Link 5GHZ Router
- Teacher Android Tablet
- Three 10-port charging device
- 30 Selfie Sticks
- 360 degree Ricoh Theta camera
- Pelican storage case
- Professional Development

CFHS Teacher Brings New Film Fest to NE Ohio



Reserve Hospital, Audio Technica, and ArtsNow.

Jawbone Film Festival is a new film festival open to all High School students in Northeast Ohio. Students will submit films and segments in seven different categories for consideration beginning in January. Categories will include Documentary, Broadcast News Segment, Cinematic, Promotional/Marketing, Animation, Junior submissions (Middle School), and Your City Through Another Lens.

Final category winners will be submitted to the Greater Cleveland Film Commission to promote cities throughout NE Ohio to visiting film producers scouting locations. Submissions will be closed on March 15th. Finalists will be reviewed and selected by local industry professionals. Submissions will be screened beginning in April at multiple community locations so students have the opportunity to see their work viewed in a professional context. The final award ceremony will be hosted at the Front Street Pavilion on April 23rd abutting the annual Art Walk. Prizes will be given for each category in the form of a \$250 scholarship, plus audio equipment generously donated by Audio Technica.

For more information, go to jawbonefilmfest.com. (Site will be live by the end of January)

If you, or if you know someone that may be interested in sponsorship opportunities or in being a judge, please contact Ashlynn Schindler at cf_schindlera@cfalls.org.

Jawbone Film Festival is one of the first of its kind in the region and seeks to celebrate the creativity and ingenuity exhibited daily by our students. *Jawbone Film Festival* is generously supported by the *GAR Foundation*, *Western*

Kindness Matters at Preston Elementary



Social media can be a great thing when used correctly. "One of my staff members shared a Facebook post with me in November. The idea was to have your family put a specific item in a box each day in December and then on Christmas Eve deliver the boxes to a family in need." said Preston Elementary Principal Tammy Brown.

From that post, the *14 Days of Giving at Preston* was born! All 267 Preston students received the Preston Giving Tree paper which outlined what item to bring each day, if they were able. December 2nd was the first day and students brought in 34 boxes of cereal. The second day, 45 jars of peanut butter were donated. Over the remaining days, 92 cans of beans, 84 packages of pasta and, by the end of the 14 days, students brought in over 842 items to help families in need. The collected food items were delivered to our local *Good Neighbors* to help families in need from the Cuyahoga Falls area. The Preston staff is amazed and proud of our students!

Brown continued, "At Preston our motto is *Kindness Matters* each and every day! We want to help out students make the world a brighter place and by bringing kindness and giving as a way to always act towards others, our students are going to change the world!"

CFHS Career Night

The career night event is a great opportunity for our businesses to meet the local Cuyahoga Falls high school students and let them see firsthand the many opportunities for careers that are in Cuyahoga Falls and Northeast Ohio. Students will be speaking directly with local professionals about their businesses and what they offer as a career choice.

This event is required for all sophomore students but all high school students are welcome to attend.

This year's Career Night will be held Tuesday, February 4th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.