



FALL 2025

NEWSLETTER

As the vibrant colors of fall begin to appear, I want to share my excitement for what promises to be an extraordinary season for the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. This fall is a time of both incredible celebration and necessary conversation, and I want to invite you to be a part of it all.

We are thrilled to celebrate the opening of our beautiful new preschool, a state-of-the-art learning center designed to give our youngest learners the very best start. At the same time, we continue to make amazing progress on our new 6-12 campus, a facility that is quickly becoming the centerpiece of our vision for a world-class education. The excitement for its January 2026 opening is truly contagious. I encourage you to join us in these celebrations by staying connected to our district's website and social media channels for updates and events.

And while the school community is anxious to open its doors to a new and exciting world, this fall has not been immune to a number of difficult conversations. We are facing challenging decisions, including the closure of an elementary school and important fiscal discussions that will shape our future. Numerous board meetings were held to discuss school closure information and the data needed to inform the board's decision. The decision to close Preston Elementary School was made at the board meeting on September 24. We understand that this closure is deeply personal and emotional, as our schools are cherished hubs of our community. Our promise to our families and students is to provide the best education possible at every one of our schools.

In order to do that, I am pleased to introduce you to our new 4-year strategic plan that can be found on our website. Our three goal areas include:



**Culture
of
Caring**

The Cuyahoga Falls City School District is committed to fostering a Culture of Caring for all members of the Black Tiger Family. We believe that meeting the fundamental needs of individuals is essential for personal growth and success. Our goal is to prioritize and address these needs, from basic to advanced, ensuring that every student, staff member, and community member is supported in their journey. By focusing on the unique needs of our District population, we aim to create an environment where all individuals can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.



**Facilitating
Our
Financial
Future**

As the hub of our community, we will manage operational resources with financial transparency and responsibility to provide a safe, cost-effective environment that enriches student success and promotes positive growth while fostering strong partnerships.



**Steering
To
Student
Success**

We envision a future where all students are empowered to reach their full potential as lifelong learners and global citizens through personalized and innovative educational experiences that prepare students for employment, enlistment, and enrollment success.



Andrea Celico, Ph.D.
Superintendent

X: @CFSupt

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 08 Board of Education Meeting
- 10 No School
- 21 PK-12 Evening Conferences
- 22 Board of Education Meeting

November

- 02 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 04 No School-Election Day
- 12 Board of Education Meeting
- 19 Board of Education Meeting
- 26-28 No School-Holiday Break

December

- 06 Ribbon Cutting of 6-12 Campus
- 10 Board of Education Meeting
- 19 No School-Records Day
- 22-Jan 2 Winter Break (K-5)
- 22-Jan 6 Winter Break (6-8)
- 22-Jan 7 Winter Break (9-12)

If you are interested in learning more about the strategic plan, please consider watching a short video that can be found on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code. If you want to be a part of one of the three committees, please email my assistant, Mr. Christopher Jones at cf_jonesc@cftigers.org or call the board office at 330-926-3800.



CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

cfalls.org

6-12 Campus Update

This fall has been a season of both reflection and anticipation for the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. On September 12, we honored the proud 85-year legacy of Clifford Stadium during our final Homecoming and last football game at the historic site. Earl Clifford's granddaughter, Marlene Clifford-Shoemaker, and her family joined District officials on the field during halftime during a special presentation. Just days later, our student-athletes and marching band began a new chapter as Lambert Stadium officially opened, giving our soccer teams, football team, and marching band the exciting opportunity to take the field before the end of their fall seasons.



Clifford-Shoemaker Family



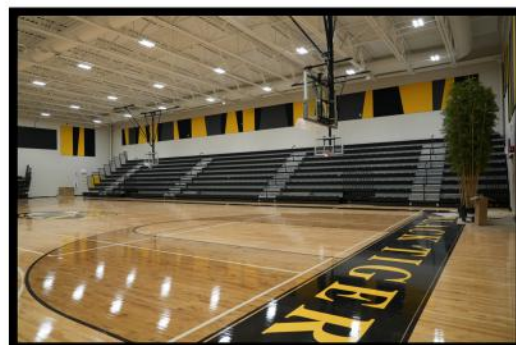
Performing Arts Center

Inside the new 6-12 campus, progress continues at an impressive pace. Classroom furniture is being delivered and assembled, bleacher seating is being installed in both the high school and middle school gyms, and the Performing Arts Center has undergone a dramatic transformation. Over the summer, acoustical panels were mounted, stage rigging was completed, and installation is underway for advanced lighting and sound technology. Seating for 1,400 is also being installed, bringing the auditorium closer to completion.

Other key features of the campus are also taking shape. The planetarium dome is now in place, kitchen equipment has been set up, and finishing touches in classrooms and landscaping are well underway.

Behind the scenes, District administrators spent the summer carefully planning the mid-year transition to the new campus, with a focus on minimizing educational disruption for our students.

With each milestone, excitement grows as we prepare to open a state-of-the-art campus that will support the learning, growth, and success of our students for generations to come.



CFHS Competition Gym

Save the Dates!



Cuyahoga Falls Preschool Opens

On September 2, the District officially opened Cuyahoga Falls Preschool for the 2025–26 school year. Enrollment has surpassed 100 students, reflecting the continued growth and demand for early learning opportunities in the community. The preschool program utilizes the Frog Street curriculum, which is designed to support the development of foundational academic, social, and emotional skills that prepare students for long-term success. Families will be engaged as partners throughout the year as the youngest learners begin their educational journey.

Enrolling Preschool Peers

Our preschool program is seeking typically developing preschoolers to serve as peer role models for our 2025-26 inclusive preschool program.

- Ages 3+ by August 1
- Cuyahoga Falls residents
- Fully potty-trained
- Strong social & communication skills

Tuition: \$1,500 (modified scale available)

Visit the preschool website at cfalls.org/preschool_home to learn more.



Tiger TAILgate

The District kicked off Homecoming weekend with a fun-filled Tiger TAILgate on Friday, September 12. The evening began with an energetic parade led by CFHS cheerleaders and the marching band, setting the stage for a night of excitement.

Families from across the district enjoyed games, face painting, snacks, and a variety of activities on a beautiful Friday evening. The event was a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to come together, celebrate school spirit, and create lasting memories before the last Homecoming game at Clifford Stadium.

Music Program Earns National Recognition

CFCSD has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for their outstanding support and commitment to music education for the eighth year in a row. Now in its 26th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the District answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.





Board of Education
405 Tallmadge Rd.
Suite 2201
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221



Proud BCME District



Supporting Military Families

Issue 52 Renewal Levy: What You Need to Know

The Cuyahoga Falls City School District has an existing operating levy of 9.97 mills on the November 4, 2025, ballot. This renewal levy, generating 11% of the district's annual budget, will not increase taxes. Instead, it will continue the existing \$7,375,000 levy that the community originally approved in 1991. This levy was most recently renewed in 2021 and is set to expire on December 31, 2025. The homeowner of a \$100,000 home has been paying \$217.80 per year before state reimbursements.

What are the tax implications of renewing this levy?

- A renewal levy= NO NEW TAXES
- Any new levy passed before November 2013 is eligible for a tax credit up to 12.5% from the state. The state gives homeowners a break by sharing in the responsibility for the levy. If there were an interruption to the collection of taxes, the state would no longer be responsible for the tax credits, and that burden would then be shifted to the local taxpayer.
- Since this levy was originally passed in 1991, renewing it ensures that homeowners keep that tax credit permanently.

What is this money used for?

- Maintain current programming
- Continue safety and security initiatives
- Provide resources for direct classroom instruction
- Provide support services, including counselors, medical assistants, social workers, etc.
- Provide resources for well-rounded curricular and extracurricular programs
- Provide transportation to students
- Maintain daily operating expenses, including utilities, supplies, purchased services, etc.

What is the District Doing to Manage Costs?

Major cost-saving initiatives that have been implemented include:

- Reducing staff proportionately with student enrollment
- Closing an elementary school
- Selling building sites owned by the District
- Reducing the budget by 10% in every department
- Considering the future of open enrollment
- Reducing District staff through attrition



Kristy Stoicoiu,
Treasurer

Do Increased Property Values Affect Tax Revenue?

Although property values in the district have continued to increase in recent years, it is important to note that increases in property values have very little effect on tax revenue for the district. House Bill 920 reduces effective millage on voted tax levies so that as property values increase, essentially no increase in revenue is realized by school districts. As revenues remain flat, the renewal levy is critical to the district's budget.

Despite these cost-saving efforts, state law does not allow school funding measures to account for inflation, so as costs increase, the revenue stays at the same level. The District has not requested new operating funds from the community in **six years**, whereas the typical cycle for school districts is **three to five years**.

The Cuyahoga Falls City School District is dedicated to maintaining efficient and financially sound operations. We recognize the trust taxpayers place in us to manage public funds wisely, and we remain committed to using those dollars responsibly while continuing to provide high-quality educational programs and opportunities essential to student success.

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cfalls.org