

ROAR



Every Student, Every Day, Every Opportunity!

Black Tiger News

Spring 2025

Greetings,

As we approach midterm of the fourth quarter and the sunny days of spring, I would like to share some exciting updates and express my gratitude for your continued support of the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. There are so many positive things happening in our district, and I'm thrilled to highlight them.

First and foremost, I'm delighted to report that the construction of our new state-of-the-art 6-12 grade campus is progressing and remains on schedule. This project represents a significant investment in the future of our students and our community, and it will provide an exceptional learning environment for generations to come. We have been communicating updates to our families and staff and we will continue to do so as we move closer to the opening. The planning process for this monumental undertaking has been extensive, spanning many months, and I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work.

I am happy to announce that we are working with ThenDesign Architecture to produce a video series that will provide a behind-the-scenes look inside our new campus and is narrated by our district and school staff. We will be releasing the series in April and May and will post the videos on our district YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@cuyahogafallscityschools.



In addition to the exciting progress on the new campus, we are also committed to fiscal responsibility and have been actively pursuing cost-saving measures across the district. We understand the importance of utilizing taxpayer dollars wisely, and we are constantly evaluating our operations to identify efficiencies without compromising the quality of education we provide to our students. This commitment to financial prudence will allow us to continue investing in the programs and resources that benefit our students the most.

As we look forward to the final weeks of the school year, I want to thank our students, teachers, staff, and families for their resilience and support. It has been another remarkable year, filled with growth, learning, and excitement. I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our students and the efforts of our educators.

I wish you all a wonderful spring season filled with joy, warmth, and exciting opportunities.



Andrea Celico, Ph.D.

Superintendent

X: @CFSupt

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 04 Early Release Day
- 09 Board of Education Meeting
- 10-13 CFHS Musical
- 18 No School
- 21 No School
- 23 Board of Education Meeting
- 24 All City Art Walk

May

- 14 Board of Education Meeting
- 20 Commencement
- 26 No School-Memorial Day
- 28 Board of Education Meeting
- Last Day of School
- Early Release

June

- 11 Board of Education Meeting
- 19 Offices Closed
- 25 Board of Education Meeting

6-12 CAMPUS UPDATE



New Stadium Taking Shape

The construction team is wrapping up the installation of bleachers in the new stadium, bringing us one step closer to game day. This summer, crews will install the field turf, setting the stage for future Black Tiger victories. As we look ahead, we're also taking time to honor the legacy of Clifford Stadium, where generations of athletes and fans have created lasting memories. Plans are underway for a special celebration this fall at Clifford Stadium. We will share the details in our summer ROAR newsletter as well as on our website and social media channels.

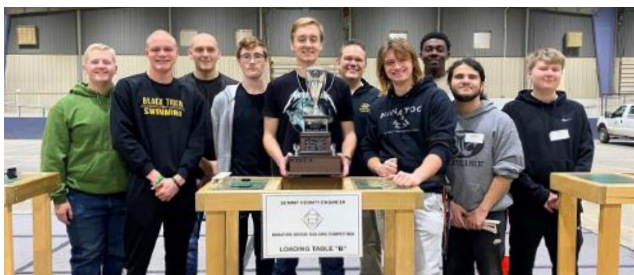
Make an Impact at the New Campus!

We are offering exciting opportunities for individuals, businesses, and community partners to leave a lasting impact through campus naming rights. From classrooms and athletic facilities to gathering spaces and performance areas, there are a variety of sponsorship options available. These naming opportunities not only provide a unique way to be part of our district's future but also support educational excellence for generations to come.

Scan the QR code to view the opportunities available. Contact Christine Stewart at cf_stewart@cftigers.org or (330) 926-3800 ext. 502004 if you are interested in learning more.



<https://tinyurl.com/22roqluq>



CFHS Students Earn Top Honors: Summit Co. Engineering Competition

Nine CFHS students showcased their engineering skills at the 24th Annual Miniature Bridge Building Competition, making history with a sweep of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

1st place: Sean Bradley, Kieran Work & Ben LaFleur

2nd place: DeAyre Dortch, Tyler Eberling & Logan Powell

3rd place: Levent Kaynarca, Wyatt Ulbricht & Alex Wentz



Bolich Students Nominated for OMLA Breakfast of Champions

Bolich Middle School eighth graders Alana Schumacher and Grace Sackett were nominated for the Ohio Middle Level Association (OMLA) Breakfast of Champions. This prestigious recognition honors Northeast Ohio's top student leaders for their character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Nominated by school counselor Ms. Shelby Friedel, Alana and Grace exemplify what it means to lead with excellence.



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

In February, fourth graders at Preston Elementary had a special visit from Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, who joined them in making valentines for veterans. Congresswoman Sykes shared the importance of giving back to those who have served our country. She also spoke about her role in the House of Representatives, inspiring young minds with her dedication to public service and leadership. Joining the event were Superintendent Andrea Celico, Board of Education members President Alecia Coco, Vice President Anthony Gomez, Carrie Schaefer, and A.J. Harris. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about civic engagement while spreading kindness to veterans.



TIGER TAPESTRIES EXPO

The Tiger Tapestries Expo brought together students, families, and community members for a vibrant community celebration in March. The event featured interactive exhibits from our community partners, performances, and cultural showcases that highlighted the many identities and stories woven into the Cuyahoga Falls community.



Attendees had the opportunity to meet with organizations who provide support for families, including academic enrichment, multilingual resources, safety and wellness information, all while enjoying ethnic cuisine and creative performances. The expo embodied the spirit of unity, demonstrating how each unique thread contributes to the rich tapestry of our schools and city.

EXCITING EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE! <<<

Starting in September, the district will fully operate a half-day preschool program at Schnee Learning Center. As the district transitions the preschool program from the Summit ESC consortium, this addition marks a significant step in enhancing and personalizing early childhood education opportunities by providing young learners with a strong foundation for future success in the district.

Additionally, registration is now open for kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year! Families interested in enrolling their child in preschool or kindergarten can find all the necessary details and registration information by visiting www.cfalls.org.





Board of Education
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Proud BCME District



Supporting Military Families

ENSURING FINANCIAL STABILITY: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES & OUR FUTURE

As we navigate the financial future of our district, it is critical to understand the challenges ahead and the proactive steps we are taking to maintain financial stability. Below is an overview of key financial updates, including projected budget needs, cost-saving measures, and potential funding solutions.

Key Financial Challenges & Projections

Enrollment has declined by 24% over the past decade, significantly impacting district funding. According to the November 2024 forecast, the district must either increase revenue by 13% or reduce expenditures by \$8.16 million by FY2029 to balance the budget. The November 2024 forecast shows a projected deficit for the district beginning in year three (FY2027). Ohio law requires school districts forecasting deficits within the first three years of the forecast to submit a financial recovery plan to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW).

Expenditure Reductions

- Staff Reductions: Administrative, teaching, and support positions will be eliminated to reduce expenditures.
- Budget Cuts: 10% reduction in supplies, purchased services, and capital expenses (e.g., building repairs, vehicles, technology) in FY2026.
- Reduce and/or delay major expenditures, including roof repairs, district vehicles, technology upgrades, and textbook adoptions.

Cost-Saving Strategies & Options

The district is exploring the cost savings of closing an elementary school due to declines in enrollment, selling the high school (Appraisal - \$2.3M) and Roberts Middle School (Appraisal - \$1.3M), and exploring levy options to address funding gaps.

State Budget Impact (FY2026-FY2027)

State legislators are currently preparing the state budget for the next biennium (FY2026-FY2027), which will determine the future of the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP). Implementing the FSFP represents a movement toward equitable and adequate funding for Ohio's schools. While the Governor's proposal includes the final phase-in of FSFP, it does not include updates to base costs, which adjust for inflation, potentially leading to funding losses.

Additionally, the Governor's proposed budget calls for a reduction of "guarantee funding," significantly impacting the district. Cuyahoga Falls receives guarantee funding, which ensures that we do not receive LESS state funding than we received in FY2020. This serves as a financial safety net, preventing drastic funding cuts in a short period. Under the Governor's budget, Cuyahoga Falls City School District is projected to lose nearly \$950,000 in state aid over two years—about a 6% decrease. If these funds are lost, additional spending reductions beyond those already planned would be necessary.

Next Steps

- The Board of Education approved the Written Plan at the February 26, 2025, board meeting.
 - The plan was subsequently approved by ODEW.
- Continued analysis of cost-saving measures.
- Potential community discussions on levy proposals and an elementary school closure.
- Monitoring student enrollment trends to adjust staffing levels accordingly.
- It is vital that legislators hear from you about why the Fair School Funding Plan is important to support programs and services for our students!

To view the entire financial recovery plan presentation, scan this QR code or visit the Treasurer's website.



cfalls.org/treasurer



Kristy Stoiciu,
Treasurer

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