



SUMMER 2026

NEWSLETTER

MILESTONE MOMENTS: REFLECTING ON THE 2025–26 SCHOOL YEAR

Looking back on the 2025–26 school year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our families, staff, and community members for another remarkable year. It was a year filled with tremendous accomplishments, but also one that presented unique challenges. Through it all, our collective resilience, commitment, and focus on students enabled us to navigate obstacles and celebrate extraordinary milestones together.

Beyond academics, our students have shone brightly. We had several student-athletes compete at the state level, and our visual and performing arts programs received numerous regional awards and recognitions. Most importantly, our graduation rate continues to improve, a true testament to the hard work of our educators and students.

When we look back on this year, the list of what we accomplished together is nothing short of staggering. Here is our list of milestone moments:

- 1. A New Beginning for Our Youngest Black Tigers:** We successfully opened a district-run preschool program, ensuring our students have a high-quality foundation from day one.
- 2. The Great Merger:** We moved three schools—Bolich, Roberts, and the High School—into one state-of-the-art 6–12 Campus, creating a unified secondary experience for our community.
- 3. Fiscal Stewardship:** To protect our long-term financial future, we made the difficult but necessary decision to repurpose Preston Elementary and consolidate our overall footprint by closing and selling the Schnee building. Preston will transition to Preston Learning Center, which will house the Preschool, Black Tiger Family Center, a new memorabilia museum, and Schnee Learning Center.
- 4. Preserving Our Resources:** Though a very emotional decision, we ended Open Enrollment to ensure our local tax dollars and classroom spaces are dedicated primarily to the residents of Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake.
- 5. Community Trust:** Our community overwhelmingly passed our renewal levy to sustain our vital educational programs and dedicated staff.
- 6. Strategic Vision:** We officially launched our new Strategic Plan, centering our daily work on a *Culture of Caring*, *Facilitating Our Financial Future*, and *Steering to Student Achievement*.
- 7. The "Portrait":** We are in the process of finalizing the "Portrait of a Black Tiger," defining the exact competencies and skills we want our graduates to carry into the world.

Looking Ahead

Our schools are strengthened by the support and insight of our community partners. If you represent a business or organization and would like to help shape opportunities for students through our Business Alliance Council, we invite you to join us. The council meets monthly during the school year with district leaders to provide feedback and foster partnerships that extend learning beyond the classroom. For more information about joining for the 2026-27 school year, please contact Chris Jones at cf_jonesc@cftigers.org.



Andrea Celico, Ph.D.
Superintendent

CALENDAR

July

- 03 Offices Closed - Holiday
- 08 Board of Education Meeting

August

- 05 Board of Education Meeting
- 17 First Staff Day Back
- 6-12 Open House 4-6 p.m.
- 18 K-5 Open House 5-7 p.m.
- 19 First Day of School 1-12
- 20 PreK Open House 5-7 p.m.
- 21 First Day of School KDG
- 24 First Day of School Preschool
- 26 Board of Education Meeting

September

- 07 No School-Holiday
- 09 Board of Education Meeting
- 23 Board of Education Meeting



CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

cfalls.org

THE MOMENTUM CONTINUES

In our spring edition of The ROAR, we shared many of the outstanding accomplishments that made the 2025–26 school year so memorable. Since that publication was mailed, our students, staff, and schools have continued to earn impressive honors and recognitions. We are proud to highlight these additional achievements and celebrate the continued excellence taking place across the Cuyahoga Falls City School District.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
State Power of the Pen Champion

- Riley Kennedy

Youth Speak Out Poetry Contest Finalist

- Christina Chettri

Ohio’s 13th District Congressional Art Competition Winner

- Mayya Sharma

State Qualifiers for High School Track

- Ethan Johnson
- Violet Gray

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

- Named one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education for the ninth consecutive year by NAMM.
- DeWitt Elementary School named as a Class of 2026 Purple Star School
- CF Preschool earned a Gold Rating in the Ohio Step Up to Quality program
- CF Treasurer’s Department received Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction

STAFF AWARDED \$177,230 IN GRANTS
American Endowment Foundation

- CFHS Fresh Farm Garden awarded \$100,000

GAR Foundation

- 6 teacher teams awarded a total of \$52,980

Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association

- 24 teacher teams awarded a total of \$24,250



BLACK TIGER FAMILY CENTER SUPPLY DRIVE

Cuyahoga Falls City School District is hosting our annual supply drive to replenish our Black Tiger Family Center. Since opening its doors in September 2024, the Black Tiger Family Center has made a meaningful impact on families throughout our community. Designed to meet the basic needs of our students and their households, the Center is operated by our school social workers and is available to any family, regardless of income status. Over the summer, the Center will be relocated from Schnee to the Preston Learning Center.

To keep this momentum going, we are hosting a Supply Drive from **July 27 to August 10**.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Body wash
- Bar soap
- Hand soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- All-purpose cleaner
- Dish soap
- Deodorant
- Tissues
- Body lotion

If you prefer to donate online, scan the QR code or visit the website.



Website:
t.ly/A5lhN

Drop-off Locations:

-  **Silver Lake Village Hall**
2961 Kent Rd., Silver Lake
-  **CF Elks Lodge**
2555 State Rd.
-  **Cuyahoga Falls Library**
2015 3rd St.
-  **Riverfront YMCA**
544 Broad Blvd.
-  **Young’s Screenprinting**
1245 Munroe Falls Ave.

A special thank you to our community partners for hosting a drop-off site for our drive!

Class of
2026

FACTS



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT. BUILDING FUTURES.



259
GRADUATES



19

CUM LAUDE
GPA: 3.4 - 3.599



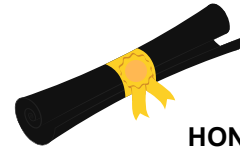
50

**MAGNA
CUM LAUDE**
GPA: 3.6 - 3.999



42

**SUMMA
CUM LAUDE**
GPA: 4.0 and above



51

HONORS DIPLOMAS

- 22 Academic Honors
- 3 Arts Honors
- 26 CTE Honors



51

**STUDENTS
EARNING CTE
CAREER
PASSPORTS**



3

**MILITARY
ENLISTMENTS**



**SCHOLARSHIPS
EARNED BY SENIORS**

\$165,000



Scholarships awarded to **67** seniors through the Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association



\$703,967

College award letter scholarships



\$46,000

Third party scholarships



**OVERALL TOTAL
\$914,967**

GRADUATE SEALS EARNED

TOTAL SEALS EARNED = 1,090



184

Citizenship



31

College Ready



75

Community Service



75

Fine and Performing Arts



50

Honors



49

Industry-Recognized



3

Military



118

OhioMeansJobs



179

Science



181

Student Engagement



145

Technology



UNIVERSITIES

OUR GRADUATES WILL BE ATTENDING

- Baldwin Wallace University
- Bluffton University
- Bowling Green State University
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Defiance College
- Hiram College
- Howard University
- Kent State University at Geauga
- Kent State University at Kent
- Kent State University at Stark
- Kent State University at Trumbull
- Kent State University at Tuscarawas
- Lane Community College
- Minnesota State University Moorhead
- Ohio University
- The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute
- Rhodes College
- Stark State College
- The Ohio State University
- University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati
- Washington and Jefferson College
- West Virginia University



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OHIO'S EXPANDING VOUCHER PROGRAM AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ohio's private school voucher programs, often referred to as EdChoice, have changed dramatically over the past several years. What began as a program designed to support a limited number of students now provides state-funded tuition assistance to nearly every Ohio family, regardless of whether a student has ever attended a public school.

Today, more than 166,000 Ohio students participate in voucher programs. Following the state's expansion of eligibility in 2023, *most new voucher recipients were already enrolled in private schools*. At the same time, voucher amounts have increased to as much as \$6,166 for K-8 students and \$8,408 for high school students.



Kristy Stoiciu,
Treasurer

As participation has grown, so has state spending. Ohio's investment in voucher programs increased from \$394 million in FY2020 to more than **\$1 billion** in FY2025. Meanwhile, the Fair School Funding Plan was never fully implemented, leaving many public school districts across the state facing financial challenges as costs continue to rise.

For the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, current projections indicate the district will receive the minimum level of state funding allowed under Ohio's funding formula by FY2028, approximately \$882 per student. Meanwhile, a voucher used by a resident student can be worth up to \$8,408, nearly ten times the amount the state provides directly to the district for a public school student. This creates a growing gap between the state funding provided to public schools and the funding available through private school vouchers.

With 595 out of 611 Ohio school districts facing deficits, the current state funding model simply isn't sustainable for communities like ours. Strong public schools remain essential to our community. They support student success, strengthen property values, and contribute to the economic vitality of Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake.

VOUCHER PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- 166,000+ Ohio students use vouchers today
- Up to \$6,166 for K-8 students
- Up to \$8,408 for high school students
- Ohio voucher spending exceeded \$1 billion in FY2025
- 595 of Ohio's 611 districts project budget deficits

VOUCHER FUNDING

- FY2020: \$394 million
- FY2023: \$610 million
- FY2025: \$1.095 billion

Ohio is committing nearly **\$2.5 billion** to voucher programs over the next two years.

As conversations continue at the state level regarding school funding, it is important for our community to stay informed and engaged in discussions that affect local public education. It takes only a few minutes to contact your state leaders.

- Find your State Representative: www.ohiohouse.gov
- Find your State Senator: www.ohiosenate.gov

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Cuyahoga Falls City Schools



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@cuyahogafallscityschools

cfalls.org