Dear Community Members,

Thank you for reading about the great things happening in Center Grove schools. This school year is off to a great start! We have had a successful first nine weeks of class and are ready for two weeks of Fall Break. When we return, we invite you to join us on October 25 at 6:30 p.m. for a Community Forum on School Start Times in the CGHS Auditorium. We will discuss the feasibility of a change to the start times of our schools. More information on the research behind the discussion is available at centergrove.k12.in.us/starttimes.

I hope our staff, students, and families enjoy the Fall Break!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rich Arkanoff
Superintendent

Danielle Myers

Center Grove High School Teacher Named International STEM Fellow

Center Grove High School science teacher Danielle Myers has been selected as a 2016 International STEM Fellow. She will travel to Hangzhou, China in October with eleven other Indiana STEM Fellows who were selected last spring.

The statewide program was created cooperatively by the Chinese Education Connection and the Indiana Department of Education.

"Once the immediate wave of excitement passed, I was simply blown away by the honor," said Myers. "I am looking forward to learning more about their culture and traditions, and I look forward to seeing their curriculum design. I am sure to gain a wealth of knowledge and experience from this opportunity, which I can bring back to my home state to further improve our own STEM initiatives."

(STEM Fellow—Continued on page 3)

Eight CGHS Students Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Eight Center Grove High School students are semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship program.

- Sydney Castellanos
- Peter Golder
- Megan Libke
- Max Newport
- Emily Simon
- Aaron Thielmeyer
- Sarah Varney
- Akul Vijayvargiya

The National Merit Scholarship Committee NMSC selects approximately 16,000 finalists from across the country to compete for National Merit Scholarship Awards. Students are recognized based on their PSAT scores. To become a finalist, the student and their high school must submit a detailed application and provide information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and honors and awards received.

Finalists will be selected in the spring.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

FALL 2016
CGHS Marching Band Places First at Avon Invitational

The Center Grove High School Marching Band took first place at the Avon High School Invitational on Saturday, September 24, 2016. The band also won caption awards for Music, General Effect, Auxiliary (guard), and Percussion. The band is directed by Kevin Schuessler, Joe Lapka, and Josh Torres.

NFHS Names Jameson McLaughlin Indiana Soccer Coach of the Year

The National Federation of High School (NFHS) Coaches Association has selected Jameson McLaughlin, head coach of the Center Grove High School (CGHS) Boys Varsity Soccer Team, as the 2016 Indiana Soccer Coach of the Year. McLaughlin led the CGHS Boys Varsity Soccer team to a state championship in 2015, his first year as head coach. The NFHS Coaches Association is the official national coaches association of the National Federation of State High School Associations. The NFHS recognizes coaches in the top 10 girls sports and the top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers), as well as a Spirit award.

"So many high school head coaches dream of one day arriving at the precipice of a State Championship event," said Jon Zwitt, CGHS athletic director. "It was absolutely amazing for the CG Athletic Department and the CG community for our "rookie" head coach to be on that summit in 2015. Jameson is a quality individual and an excellent mentor for our soccer players."

McLaughlin will serve as the Indiana nominee for the 2016 NFHS Sectional Awards. The National Soccer Coach of the Year will be chosen from among the Sectional Award winners in January.

Scott Knapp Earns NIAAA Recognition

Center Grove High School Assistant Athletic Director Scott Knapp has been recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) as a Certified Athletic Administrator.

To earn this distinction, Mr. Knapp has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process (NIAAA—Continued on page 4)
Assistant Superintendent Retires; Replacements Named

Mrs. Sally Hacker, Center Grove Community School Corporation Assistant Superintendent, retired October 1, 2016. Mrs. Hacker started her career in Center Grove 35 years ago as a teacher. She served as a middle school principal and Human Resources Director before being named Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. In that role, Mrs. Hacker oversaw Human Resources, Curriculum and Special Education.

"Since my first day, Mrs. Hacker has been critical to me as a valuable member of our leadership team," said Dr. Rich Arkanoff, superintendent. "Sally's care and commitment to the staff and students of Center Grove is beyond compare. She will be deeply missed and impossible to replace!"

Dr. Jack Parker was named Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning for Center Grove. He has served as the Director of Teaching and Learning since April 2015.

"I am deeply appreciative of the opportunities that Center Grove has provided to me and my family over the course of 28 years," said Parker. "I am eager to continue supporting and serving our wonderful teachers and administrators as we work together to provide exceptional educational experiences to all of our students."

Dr. Parker earned a Master's degree in Education Administration from Butler University and a PhD in Education Administration from Indiana State University. In his 28 years as an educator, he has served as a band director, assistant principal and principal at Center Grove Middle School Central (CGMSC).

Dr. Parker has also served as Associate Director of the Indiana Principal Leadership Academy at the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). During his tenure as principal, CGMSC was nominated by the IDOE for a National Blue Ribbon Award. Dr. Parker was also named Middle School Principal of the Year in 2009 and 2013 by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Mrs. Nora Hoover has assumed Mrs. Hacker's Human Resources duties as Executive Director of Human Resources.

Mrs. Hoover has served as the Assistant Director of Secondary Curriculum for Center Grove since July 2015. Before moving into that role, she was Principal of Center Grove Middle School Central for two years and Assistant Principal for nine years.

(STEM Fellow—Cont’d. from page 1)

Educators were selected for their excellence in the STEM fields. During their travel, they will present lessons in selected Chinese schools, observe STEM classes, and conduct presentations at an international STEM conference in Hangzhou. This conference is being sponsored by the Zhejiang Department of Education in cooperation with the Chinese Education Connection. Zhejiang is Indiana’s sister state in China.

(NIAAA—Cont’d. from page 2)

included a thorough evaluation of the candidate’s educational background, experience and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination. The recognition puts Knapp among an elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

The NIAAA is a national professional organization consisting of all 50 state athletic administrator associations and more than 10,000 individual members. It is dedicated to promoting the professional growth of high school athletic administrators and preserving the educational nature of interscholastic athletics.
Center Grove to Study Start Time Change

This Fall, Center Grove will study the feasibility of a change to school start times for elementary and secondary students. This discussion was precipitated by a 2014 recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that middle and high schools begin classes no earlier than 8:30 a.m. for the sake of sleep, health, and learning. The AAP recommendation cites a number of factors including biological changes for the sleep issues in adolescents.

A School Start Time (SST) study committee made up of teachers, staff, and parents will provide input and make a recommendation to the School Board regarding a possible start time change.

The $10 million addition will add 59,500 square feet of space to CGHS without increasing the tax rate for White River Township residents. The addition will serve a wide range of needs of the school’s nearly 2,500 students and help alleviate the lack of gym and indoor practice/gathering.
Center Grove Dedicates New Bleachers, Press Box

Center Grove Community Schools dedicated new bleachers and a press box at the Center Grove High School (CGHS) Football Stadium on Friday, August 19, 2016.

Center Grove honored Ray Skillman Automotive for the generous donation to pay for the cost of the new home and visitor bleachers and Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Ann Skillman for their personal donation to pay for the new press box at the stadium.

"The generosity of Ray Skillman Automotive and Mr. & Mrs. Skillman has allowed us to increase and upgrade the seating available in our football stadium and build a new press box that will more than serve the needs of our coaches, staff, and guests for many years to come," said Dr. Rich Arkanoff, superintendent.

The stadium’s old bleachers, which were originally installed 40 years ago, were closed in February and torn down in March after two structural engineers reported they failed load tests and lacked structural integrity. The new bleachers are secure structures that increase the seating capacity of the home bleachers by 1,033 seats and of the visitor bleachers by 840 seats for a total seating capacity of 5,886.

"We sincerely appreciate the support Ray Skillman has provided to our district through sponsorships of our stadium, our student athletes, and our arts programs," said Adam Norman, board president. "These new bleachers will be enjoyed for many years by parents, fans, and community members who fill our stands to cheer on our students as they compete and perform in athletic and band events."

(CGHS Project—Cont’d. from page 4)

The project included upgraded finishes for all classrooms and offices throughout the building, along with larger updates including:

- Relocation of Main Office to directly adjacent to Main Entrance
- Addition of secure vestibule at Main Entrance
- Addition of secure vestibule at West (Hall of Excellence) Entrance
- Renovation of Media Center
- Creation of student commons through center of building
- Renovation of Science Labs
- Expansion of two stairwells
- ADA restroom upgrades throughout the building

The last phase of the project is the new Music wing on the northeast corner of the school building. The new space will add 12,798 square feet on two levels. It is expected to be completed by the end of January 2017. All phases of this project are fully funded without increasing tax rates for White River Township residents. Get more information at centergrove.k12.in.us/constructionproject.

(Activity Center—Cont’d. from page 4)

The project included:

- Space for additional athletic and band programs
- Expansion of the original weight room to 7,500 square feet
- Addition of a new multi-purpose floor
- Renovation of the Media Center
- Creation of a student commons
- Renovation of the Science Labs
- Expansion of two stairwells
- ADA restroom upgrades throughout the building

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"I have appreciated Center Grove’s emphasis on professional growth, communication skills, and visionary leadership during my twelve years as an administrator," said Mrs. Hoover. "I am excited about the opportunity to continue the high quality of service in this department and am committed to ensuring exceptional educational and occupational experiences at Center Grove."

Mrs. Shannon Carroll-Frey has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning for Center Grove. She is currently the principal of Center Grove Elementary School (CGES).

"I am incredibly excited about this position," said Carroll-Frey. "Having the opportunity to move into a district-level leadership position and stay in Center Grove was something I never thought would be a reality. No other opportunity could have swayed me to leave my CGES family."

Mrs. Carroll-Frey holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education/General Science and a Master's degree in Education Administration, both from Butler University. She spent 24 years in education, including seven years as an adjunct professor at Butler University. Before becoming principal at CGES, Mrs. Carroll-Frey spent four years as the principal of Arlington Heights Elementary, following seven years as assistant principal at Jackson Creek Middle School, both in Monroe County. She also served as the academic assistant principal at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

Dr. Jim Halik, a retired superintendent, will serve as interim principal of Center Grove Elementary during the search for and transition to a new principal for Center Grove Elementary.

During his 40 year career, Dr. Halik also worked as a principal and teacher in several school districts, including New Palestine, Perry Township, Franklin, and Center Grove as a middle school principal.

The search for a new CGES principal is already underway. Staff and parents will be included in the hiring process.

More than 600 Juniors Volunteer on Day of Caring

On Tuesday, September 13, more than 600 CGHS juniors fanned out to 45 locations throughout Johnson County and southern Marion County for their 19th annual Day of Caring. They participated in service projects ranging from painting to yard work to cleaning. The successful day was coordinated by CGHS teacher Adam Gaff.

"We REALLY, REALLY appreciate the work of the CG students today during their Day of Caring," said Angie Balsely, executive direct of Johnson County Special Services. "They were able to do what would have taken us days or cost us $100's of dollars to do. What great hard-working kids."

CGHS teacher Brent Shultz says it's good to have the kids out in the community. "It allows our STAR kids to have some unity. They're all sweaty and working hard. It's really a great day."

Many of the outreach projects are organized by the United Way of Johnson County.