

A publication designed to keep an open line of communication with the community.



Superintendent's Report



Superintendent Terry Olszewski with Graduates from the Class of 2019

Dear Garfield Heights City Schools Community,

The close of the 2018-2019 School Year came on Friday, May 24, 2019, as students and staff celebrated the completion of yet another successful year of learning and achievement. At all grade levels, students were encouraged by their teachers and aides

to continue growing and stretching toward their upper limits of educational achievement. At the elementary level, each building principal bid farewell to 5th graders who will be entering Middle School next year with encouragement and promise. Mr. Sauer asked his departing 8th graders, who are headed to the High School, to remember to always come back to the building to visit. At the high school level, the graduating seniors from the Class of 2019 departed the Garfield Heights City Schools in strong fashion, as they attained a highly noteworthy milestone in the District's history.

The graduating Class of 2019 earned a combined \$6.8 million in scholarships, grants and awards from various colleges, universities and other academic institutions...making this the highest total of post-secondary dollars earned by any graduating Class in the history of the High School. Congratulations to each and every member of the Class of 2019, for making your performance in academics, co-curriculars and student leadership so meaningful and noticeable... that others would offer our students so much money in scholarships, awards and grants. Class of 2019, I have said it before, and I will say it again, you have taken advantage of the opportunities made available to you by the Garfield Heights City Schools. You have chosen to capitalize on these opportunities and make them valuable for you and your future. Congratulations on your initiative and hard work. On behalf of everyone in this District... You have made all of us... **BULLDOG PROUD!** As has become customary, the following is an excerpt from my remarks at Commencement this past May 23rd which shares my well wishes to the GHHS Class of 2019.

"...The members of the Class of 2019 understand that when opportunities are passionately and successfully pursued... more opportunities await them on the horizon. The dedicated Board of Education and staff members are devoted to creating and providing academic, co-curricular, community volunteer, leadership, student-to-student and civic opportunities... because we know... one day... and that day is TODAY... you will leave the halls of the Garfield Heights City Schools, and go out into the real world, and you must identify and pursue opportunities. But while you leave our halls, you never leave our family. As our proud alumni know, once you become a Bulldog, you will forever be a Bulldog... and sometimes in life... it takes a Bulldog to succeed. In our school district, a Bulldog is more than a mascot, it's a mindset. It's more than a logo...it's a lifestyle... it's not just an animal... it's an attitude. An attitude of Bulldog pride..."

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, see you in August, and as always...

GO BULLDOGS!

Terry Olszewski

Your Proud Superintendent



Romie Graham with Students of Promise at Commencement!

Commencement 2019:

Garfield Heights City Schools Hosts Class of 2019 Commencement Ceremony

The One Hundred Eleventh Commencement Ceremony of the Garfield Heights City Schools was hosted on May 23, 2019, at Cleveland Music Hall as the Class of 2019 officially graduated. Approximately 285 graduating seniors participated in the annual event, sharing a great deal of emotion while demonstrating their own respective Bulldog Pride. Graduates entered the stage to the temperate beat of Mr. Pope's High School Symphonic Band, senior Brianna Schillero led the audience in the Star Spangled Banner and Alma Mater and then joined a handful of classmate vocalists to perform *We Won't Stop Dreaming* to firmly establish the tone for the evening. A number of valuable remarks were made, including from Superintendent Terry Olszewski, who reminded the graduates that they will always be a Bulldog, and that our school symbol is more than an animal, it's an attitude, it's more than a mascot, it's a mindset. Valedictorian Cory Baczkowski spoke about the future and all the possibilities that remain ahead for the Class of 2019, while Salutatorian Jeremiah Ukwela led the audience in a brief trip down memory lane. Board President Gary Wolske encouraged seniors to be heroes, while High School Principal Tammy Hager culminated the ceremony by presenting the Class of 2019 to the audience and community. In all, the Class of 2019 Commencement Ceremony was a wonderful evening of celebration. Congratulations to our Bulldog graduates!



VARIOUS HONORS AND ACCOLADES OF THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS CLASS OF 2019

Below are the names of the members of the Class of 2019 that went above and beyond the call of duty to earn an Honors Diploma.

Cory Baczkowski
Ethan Boufford
Ja'Cobia Burns
Markayla Burns
Alexis Croff
Thomas Croff, Jr.
Josiah Harmon
Anthony Iacano, Jr.
Evan Jasterbowski
Yousef Jerbin
Matthew Kowalewski

Stephanie Martinez
Julianne McKee
Rob Nahine
Cameron Rawlins
Melissa Skatzes
Jeremiah Ukwela
Jesse Wheeler



Technical
Honors
Diploma

Lanaysha Banks
Lauren Bland
Tianna Graham
Tajjian Jackson
Tori Patterson
Raquel Schuttenberg
Starr Sloan
Jasmine Trowbridge
Jesse Wheeler



WAY TO GO, BULLDOGS!

#GHCSpride

Fresh Food Market Will Continue Over Summer Months

Through a special partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and the hard work of many student and adult volunteers, the Fresh Food Market initiative was a major success this past school year. Hosted on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Middle School Cafeteria, the Fresh Food Market provides our community with produce and healthy foods for no charge. Throughout the year thousands of families in our community have been served with literally tons upon tons of useful foods, snacks, grains and fresh fruit or vegetables. Fortunately, the opportunity will continue over the summer months and will extend into next year as well. See below for the summer Fresh Food Market days and times at the Middle School Cafeteria. Remember, the markets begin at 3:30 p.m. and lasts until the final pieces of fresh foods are distributed.

- Wednesday, June 12, 2019
- Wednesday, July 10, 2019
- Wednesday, August 14, 2019
- Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Thank you to everyone who has made this endeavor so successful.

Go Bulldogs!



The Fresh Food Market is helping to serve families of students in Garfield Heights with produce and other healthy snacks.

2018-2019 School Year Comes to a Close

The final official day of the 2018-2019 School Year was held on Friday, May 24, 2019, and students of all ages celebrated the completion of another successful school year. A variety of clap-off ceremonies were held for the oldest students at the respective buildings, including the elementary schools and the Middle School. Despite the departure of 5th graders at William Foster, Elmwood and Maple Leaf as well as the 8th graders at the Middle School, the prevailing sentiment among principals and teachers was encouragement to these individuals for their next step on the Bulldog educational journey. Games, activities, sidewalk chalk and other fun events commemorated the final day of the school year. Have a safe and enjoyable summer of 2019.



Students at William Foster and Elmwood Elementary School on the final day of the 2018-2019 School Year

Summer May Be Here But Meaningful Activity Continues at the Building



Incoming kindergarten students are learning through Kinderbound at Maple Leaf this summer!

Despite the summer months, the Garfield Heights City Schools is still providing meaningful and educational activities at Maple Leaf Elementary School for kids to learn, achieve and grow. Kinderbound is underway, a highly valuable preparatory program for those students who will be entering Kindergarten in our District next year. As students enrolled in the Kinderbound curriculum, our youngest students have the chance to learn basic social skills, become exposed to some learning material and have the chance to learn about the flow of the normal school day. Parents of past students in the program have hailed Kinderbound as a success. Safety Town is also underway with the help of the City of Garfield Heights. Safety Town is a program where students learn about traditional safety measures, proper pedestrian and biking protocols, water and swimming safety and other potential hazards. Both programs make Maple Leaf a very busy environment, during the months of June and July.



Safety lessons of various types, including bike safety, are being taught during Safety Town at Maple Leaf Elementary School as well!



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District Spotlight:

Valedictorian Cory Baczkowski and Salutatorian Jeremiah Ukwela



Cory graduated with a 4.365 Grade Point Average and amassed more than \$190,000 in total scholarships on his own. Jeremiah graduated with a 4.33 Grade Point Average and will be attending Case Western Reserve University in the fall.

This edition's District Spotlight shines brightly on two of the Class of 2019's best and brightest individual achievers, our Valedictorian Cory Baczkowski and Salutatorian Jeremiah Ukwela. These two individuals stand out among a record breaking class, which in total, amassed an impressive \$6.8 million in total scholarships, awards and grants, making this total the highest any graduating class has ever received in the history of our School District. Without question, colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions have taken note of the high achievement of the students in the Garfield Heights Class of 2019... who have gone above and beyond to seek out opportunities, passionately pursue them and essentially make the world their own. Earning this historic amount of money places the Class of 2019 in the elite ranks of all preceding Garfield Heights graduating classes. To stand out in this particular group of high achievers is special, and this edition will share with the community a bit more about Cory and Jeremiah.

Our Salutatorian this year, Jeremiah Ukwela, has amassed a strong resume of accomplishments. Jeremiah graduates with a 4.33 grade point average and plans to become a Biomedical Engineer by attending Case Western Reserve University in the fall where he has been awarded nearly \$45,000 in scholarships and grants. He earned even more scholarships from other prestigious institutions throughout the State of Ohio as well. He was a member of the Marching Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band during his tenure as a Bulldog, along with being involved with National Honor Society and serving 2 years as Vice President for Student Council. He enjoys computer programming and is self-taught in the science of coding. Congratulations, Jeremiah, on all of these extraordinary accomplishments.

The Valedictorian, Cory Baczkowski, is an impressive individual with a long list of accolades, honors and awards. In total, Cory alone has earned \$190,304 in total scholarships from an assortment of colleges including Heidelberg, the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Kent State, the College of Wooster, Miami University and Case Western Reserve University. He finishes his High School career with a 4.365 Grade Point Average, and will participate in an innovative "3-2 program," where he will spend 3 years at Heidelberg University to receive his bachelor's degree in mathematics and then go onto Case Western Reserve University to receive a bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering. He will then return to Heidelberg for one year to complete his Master's degree in business... at no cost to him! He was involved with National Honor Society and Student Council during his time at the High School as well.

The GHCS congratulates these two individuals on their momentous academic achievements. You are truly BULLDOGS!

#GHCSpride



The GHCS Class of 2019 Valedictorian Cory Baczkowski and Salutatorian Jeremiah Ukwela with Principal Tammy Hager.