Cole Pastorius: R.A. Horn Award Recipient

Each year, just one student from each of the 16 State Support Team (SST) regions throughout Ohio is recognized with the prestigious R.A. Horn Award. This award recognizes students’ remarkable performance and this year’s winner from the SST 8 region is Black Tiger, Cole Pastorius! The SST 8 region covers school districts that serve Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties.

Students with disabilities age 3 to 22 who are enrolled in a school program may be nominated by a teacher or administrator to be recognized for their outstanding achievements in only one of the following categories:

- Academics
- Employment
- Arts
- Extracurricular Activities
- Athletics
- Self-Management
- Community Service

Cole, who is in the 12th-grade, was nominated by CFHS Intervention Specialist Steve McIntosh, and according to McIntosh, “Cole has become a ‘Renaissance Man’ over the past four years.” McIntosh nominated Cole under the category of Extracurricular Activities, but stated that it was “extremely difficult to identify just one area of achievement.” Over the past four years, Cole has demonstrated a determination and desire to improve his academics. Improvements in his reading fluency and comprehension as well as his functional math skills have opened up opportunities for Cole to explore a variety of electives offered at CFHS. Cole was instrumental in the expansion of the Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm that donated over 500 pounds of fresh produce to Good Neighbors last year. He was responsible for maintaining the garden, harvesting the vegetables, and then packing them for delivery on a weekly basis. He also volunteered at Good Neighbors throughout the year. When Cole is not helping with the garden or volunteering his time, you can often find him practicing as a member of the CFHS wrestling team where he earned his varsity letter during his senior year!

When not in the classroom, weight room, or on the wrestling mat, Cole is often out in the community developing his job training skills through numerous community-based job development programs in Cuyahoga Falls. Cole has completed volunteer vocational training at The First Christian Church, The Summit County ESC, Sheraton Hotel, Goodwill, and the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium. While he often gets to these vocational training opportunities via school bus, his preferred method of transportation is riding the Metro. Cole’s independence is truly inspiring and a model for all students.

Cole plans to socially graduate this May to pursue further vocational training before he exits from services. He will then pursue independent employment and plans to earn enough money, hopefully, to share an apartment with some roommates. “It has been an honor to witness all of Cole’s growth these last four years, and we are all very excited for his future,” said McIntosh.

Cole’s achievements will be recognized at a special awards luncheon that will be held on June 11, 2019 at the Villa Milano Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Congratulations Cole! We are proud to call you a Black Tiger!

Well-Deserved Recognition

As the 2018-19 school year draws to a close, many members of the Black Tiger Family are receiving well-deserved recognition. On May 7, the CFCSD recognized 16 individuals who are retiring from the District. Below is a list of those individuals including their years of service:

- Nancy Barber – 30 years
- Richard Boso – 40 years
- Cummins Brown – 28 years
- Ronald Burner – 39 years
- Lynn Hanly – 13 years
- Melinda Maughiman – 25 years
- Debra McNair – 15 years
- Janna Burns Nowicki – 33 years
- Norma O’Brien – 21 years
- Vera Petrak – 13 years
- Kimberly Rawson – 30 years
- Michael Redmond – 30 years
- Paul Ronald – 23 years
- Adam Roxburgh – 38 years
- Carol Szlagy – 5 years
- Mary Wilson – 30 years

Thank you for all of your years of service to the kids of Cuyahoga Falls! You will forever be a Black Tiger!

Also recognized that evening were four Star Award recipients. Nominated by their peers, these individuals have made an impact through their contributions to our students in meeting the objectives of the District’s mission and vision.

- Katherine Bloom - Nominated by Chef Bill Bailey
- David Tucker - Nominated by Julie Hall
- Christine Shaw - Nominated by Jim Marras
- Nancy Barber - Nominated by Jackie Mishler

Congratulations to all!
Grant Funding Helps Create Opportunities!
In a previous edition of the ROAR!, we talked about just some of the grant opportunities that our teachers and staff were applying for to create amazing opportunities for our students. We are pleased to announce that many of these grants were awarded! Just between the GAR Foundation, the Cuyahoga Falls Schools Foundation & Alumni Association, and the GPD Foundation, almost $100,000 was awarded to our teachers and staff! Below are some of the projects that these different organizations were able to help fund:

GAR Foundation
Bolich & Roberts MS - $10,000
“Exploring Our World (Not) Around Us”

CFHS - $14,990
“Enrolled & Employed ELLs: Access to Career Tech Success for English Language Learners in Summit County”

CFHS - $9,990
“The Renaissance Coalition Phase 2”

CFHS - $9,740
“Social Media #1440: Modern Medieval Technology in the Digital Age”

CFHS - $15,000
“Tiger Time News: Celebrating and Disseminating Excellence in Northeast Ohio Youth”

DeWitt Elementary - $15,000
“Get in the ZONE! A Discovery of Strengths, Science, and Self-Confidence!”

Roberts MS - $10,000
“Digging for Knowledge – Amanda Bonds”

CFS&AA
CFHS - $500
“Interpretive Signage for Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm”

GPD Foundation
CFHS - $1,582
“Interpretive Signage for Cuyahoga Falls Fresh Farm”

CFHS - $2,000
“Chromebooks for ID/MD/AU Functional Learning”

CFHS - $2,000
“Incorporate Orff Instruments Into the Adaptive Learning Curriculum”

District - $2,500
“Helping English Learners Excel”

Thank you to all of the amazing organizations that help make these opportunities possible for the students of the CFCSD!

Remembering the Past Brings Pride to the Future
Special Profile Section:
In the CFCSD, one of the top priorities is to strengthen Black Tiger Pride throughout the District. With PBIS, Top Tigers, and Friends of Education initiatives, to name just a few, we believe this Pride can spread community-wide.

Over the years, the CFS&AA has done a lot of great things for the CFCSD. One of those things is recognizing our Distinguished Alumni with an annual reception. The first recognition of ten Distinguished Alumni was announced in 1985. Since that time, 120 alumni have been honored.

David “Rusty” Higgins, Class of 1967
For over 40 years, Higgins has been a professional saxophonist, arranger, composer, and session musician based out of Los Angeles, California. As a member of the Bob Florence Limited Edition, He won a Grammy Award in 2000 for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for Serendipity 18.

After graduating from CFHS in 1967, Higgins went to Kent State University to pursue a major in Bassoon Performance. After which he traveled with many different bands for five years before moving to Los Angeles, where he has served as a woodwind doubler (saxophone, clarinet, flute) for 39 years. Throughout his professional career, Higgins has performed with Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Aretha Franklin, Ralph Carmichael, Les Brown, and Toni Tennille. Some of his more contemporary collaborations include Michael Buble, Stevie Wonder, and Avenged Sevenfold.

Through the years, Higgins has conducted master classes, clinics, and jazz workshops at high schools throughout California and Ohio, Kent State University, and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He has also been teaching saxophone and a course in woodwind techniques at Azusa Pacific University since 2002 and directs the Azusa Pacific Jazz Ensemble No. 2. Higgins owns and manages his own music store in California called Long Beach Woodwinds.

There’s never been a better time to become involved in your local schools. Go to cfalls.org and learn how you can help. Go Black Tigers!