



E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

March 2022

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

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News from the Nurse:

Hello families,

Below you will find an overview of our updated COVID-19 protocols.

-Positive cases:

-Symptoms: stay home and isolate for 5 days since symptoms began. Can return on day 6 as long as symptoms have resolved and a mask is worn for an additional 5 days in all school settings. If the student is still showing symptoms on day 6, he/she will need to continue to isolate until symptoms are gone OR through day 10.

-No symptoms: stay home and isolate for 5 days since test date. Can return on day 6 but will need to wear a mask for an additional 5 days in all school settings.

-Close contacts with no symptoms (of a household positive case):

-Unvaccinated: quarantine for 5 days since last exposure to the positive case. Can return on day 6. PCR test is recommended on day 5 of quarantine but not required. Mask must be worn for an additional 5 days in all school settings.

-Vaccinated: no quarantine. PCR test is recommended on day 5 since last exposed to the positive case but not required. Mask must be worn for 10 days in all school settings.

-Close contacts with symptoms (of a household positive case):

-Unvaccinated: quarantine for 5 days since last exposure to the positive case. Test (PCR only) and receive a negative result prior to returning. Symptoms have resolved. Mask worn for an additional 5 days in all school settings. If the student is not going to be tested, they must isolate for 10 days since symptom onset.

-Vaccinated: Test (PCR only) and receive a negative result prior to returning. Symptoms have resolved. Mask worn for 10 days since last exposure to the positive case in all school settings. If the student is not going to be tested, they must isolate for 10 days since symptom onset.

-Symptomatic students:

-Test (PCR only): receive a negative result prior to returning. Symptoms have resolved.

-Rapid/at home/no test: isolate for 10 days since symptom onset. Symptoms have resolved.

Unvaccinated siblings to the symptomatic student should quarantine for 5 days since last exposure.

-Masks:

-4K-5th grade: masks will be required for 10 days (for the impacted classroom ONLY) if there are two or more positive cases within the same classroom.

-6th grade-12th grade: masks will be required for 10 days (for the entire building) if there are more than 2% of the population that has tested positive at the same time.

-Contact tracing will no longer be conducted at school. Families will still be notified if there is a positive case within the building.

-Masks are optional unless the criteria listed above has been met.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation, understanding and flexibility. Please do not hesitate to contact me at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Brittany Bayer, MSN, RN



Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Spotlight on the Music Program

After a two year hiatus, Columbus music students participated in Solo & Ensemble competition February 26th in Lake Mills. Teachers in both band and choir classes heavily encouraged students to participate. Some might wonder: what does Solo & Ensemble have to do with curriculum and classes that students take? The Department of Public Instruction released new music academic standards in November 2017. In the academic standards, there are a few performance indicators that have direct connection with what students need to do in Solo and Ensemble competition.

- MP2.P22.m: Perform collaboratively, as a part of an ensemble, demonstrating well-developed ensemble skills
- MP2.P.31.h: Perform solos and in small ensembles, interacting with peers employing performance techniques which enhance the performance.

While either of these performance indicators can be demonstrated in class, in concerts, etc., Solo & Ensemble gives students a unique opportunity to not only perform, but to receive outside critique to enhance their skills, along with an opportunity to watch others perform.

Columbus students did fantastic! Under the instruction of Samuel Clemmons (vocal music), Jacob Hammer (instrumental music), and Tim Meinholz (instrumental music), these were the results.

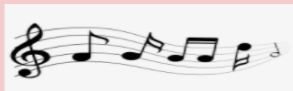
Vocal Music (1 or *1 rating)
150 student performers in 52 total events

Columbus Middle School

- 7 students with a 1 rating (Class B- medium class of music)
- 12 student with a 1 rating (Class C- easiest class of music)

Columbus High School

- 48 students with a *1 rating (Class A- hardest class of music)
- (These students are going to STATE in April. Congratulations!)**
- 29 students with a 1 rating (Class A- hardest class of music)
- 15 students with a 1 rating (Class B- medium class of music)
- 1 student with a 1 rating (Class C- easiest class of music)



Instrumental Music
96 student performers in 41 total events

(1 or *1 rating)



Columbus Middle School

- 3 students with a 1 rating (Class B- medium class of music)
- 18 students with a 1 rating (Class C- easiest class of music)

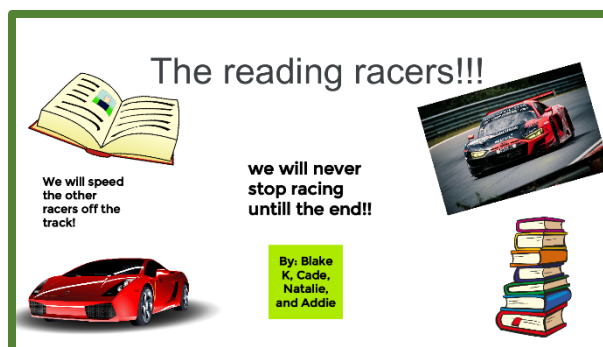
Columbus High School

- 39 students with a *1 rating (Class A- hardest class of music)
- (These students are going to STATE in April. Congratulations!)**
- 11 students with a 1 rating (Class A- hardest class of music)

Battle of the Books 2022

Columbus Intermediate School held their first ever Battle of the Books, a program run through the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association. We had three elementary level battle teams (grades 4-6) participate, with the highest scoring team moving on to the statewide battle. The Battle of the Books has 3 divisions - Elementary, Middle, and Senior - each with 20 books selected by school librarians around the state. The program begins in October and culminates in February with the statewide battle competition. The battle list for next year is released on June 1, 2022, and the books will be available in eBook and Audiobook format over the summer as well as through the public library so that interested students can get a head start on reading the battle books!

This year's schoolwide winner is The Reading Racers. They scored the highest in our practice battle and moved on to compete in the state competition on February 23, 2022





Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

Are you ready for the 2022-23 school year?

I know it is hard to think about it already, but for budgeting purposes we are beginning to plan for the 2022-23 school year! Our kindergarten and 4k virtual information sessions can be found on the website or simply click [here](#) for the kindergarten information. If you haven't already, here is a [school on intent form](#) to help us know your kindergarten plans. We also have information regarding 4k for the 2022-23 school year. Here is the [4k Virtual Orientation Video](#) and [2022-23 4k Registration Form](#). If you have any questions regarding the enrollment process please feel free to contact me at bhellpap@columbus.k12.wi.us

Music, Art and Physical Education

Click [here](#) to see a newsletter from our specials teachers at the elementary school.

Here are more pictures to inspire the amazing work of our specials teachers.



Columbus Middle School, Cori Denk, Principal

Spring is right around the corner! I can't believe that we start the last quarter of the school year on March 10th.

Pre Arranged Absences

If a student has a known absence coming up, we ask that you call into the office to let us know ahead of time. This allows our teachers proper notification so that they can prepare work for a student, and discuss with them strategies on how to make up any missing work.

Forward Testing:

State testing season is approaching. We will start our testing after we return from break. Look for an Infinite Campus blast to come in the next few weeks with when those dates are.

During the Month of March we will be focusing on Fairness. During Cardinal Time students will be focusing on lessons that revolve around being fair. Teaching students what fair looks like for all students and reminding them fairness means treating people according to their needs. This does not always mean it will be equal.



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Staff Shout Out...

The staff team of Sam Clemmons, Toni McGee, and Tim Meinholz deserve a huge shout out for all the work they are putting in to produce the CHS spring musical, *The Sound of Music*. The time and energy required to oversee a production like this is tremendous. A huge thank you to the group of parents/community members involved as well. It truly is a team effort.

Show Times:

- Friday, March 11 at 7:00 PM - Doors open at 6:30 PM
- Saturday, March 12 at 7:00 PM - Doors open at 6:30 PM
- Sunday, March 13 at 1:00 PM - Doors open at 12:30 PM

Ticket Sales:

- Tickets are being sold at the CHS main office from February 21 through March 10, as well as at the door on days of the show.
 - Adult - \$15
 - Student/Senior Citizen - \$10
 - 5 or under - Free

Graduation...

Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Specific details are still being developed by staff and students. More information to follow soon!

Winter Formal...

We hosted a very successful winter formal on February 19th! Students had a great time dancing to the music provided by DJ Duff!

Polar Plunge...

In just 45 days, the students of CHS Project Unify raised \$34,514 for the Special Olympics WI Polar Plunge! 25 students and 7 teachers braved the 8 degree weather and the 35 degree water on Saturday, February 19th. Because CHS is a Unified Champion School that promotes inclusion and opportunity for individuals with disabilities, Special Olympics WI is giving CHS a rebate of 25% of our donation total! With the rebate, CHS Project Unify will provide a grant open to all staff in the Columbus School District to make their classrooms, teams, organizations, and environments more inclusive for all students. Additionally, CHS Project Unify sponsors two Live Unified Scholarships of \$500 each for graduating seniors pursuing a career working with individuals with disabilities. We are incredibly proud of our students and their efforts and incredibly grateful to our community for their generosity!

Athletics/Activities Message...

Solo and Ensemble...

Columbus participated in the Solo and Ensemble competition in Lake Mills. For band, 34 events encompassing the vast majority of the programs at CHS qualified for the State Solo and Ensemble competition. For choir they had the following results:

The students at CHS received the following ratings:

- In Class A (hardest class of music)

48 students with a *1 rating (going to State in April)

29 students with a 1 rating

5 students with a 2 rating

1 student with a critique only (no rating)

- In Class B (medium class of music)

15 students with a 1 rating

1 student with a 2 rating

- In Class C (easiest class of music)

1 student with a 1 rating

Congratulations to all that competed and good skill at state to those qualifiers.

Girls Basketball...

The girls basketball team pulled off two of the state's biggest upsets on their way to being Regional Champions!!! They beat the 4 seed and 1 seed. The team also had four players earn all-conference recognition. Mikenna B. earned first team all-conference. Alyse H. and Emma P. earned second team all-conference. Jaiden D. earned honorable mention all-conference. Congratulations to these players and the rest of the team for their great accomplishment this season. They have represented the school and community with great skills and accomplishments.

Link to Activities Calendar: <https://www.capitolnorthconference.org/public/genie/522/school/1/>

Events held on the high school main basketball court/stage are live streamed on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqfJDNzRTD-Yc8T45DyjjA>

Spring Sports..

The spring sport start dates are listed below:

Track and Field: March 7

Softball: March 14

Baseball: Pitchers and Catchers March 14

Entire Team: March 21

Girls Soccer: March 21

Golf: March 28

Thank you for your continued support!

Jon Rouse
CHS Principal

Jay Freerking
CHS Assistant Principal
6-12 Activities Director



FFA Update

American Degrees Due March 8, 2022: Columbus FFA members that would like to receive their American FFA Degree can apply up to 4 National Conventions after they graduate. This year Columbus FFA has 3 members applying, however any graduates from the past three years that have not received their American Degree and would like to can contact Mrs. Crook.

National FFA Week was celebrated Feb. 19-25 FFA members celebrated with activities to promote FFA and agriculture.

Monday- America Dress Day and the hallway will be decorated and a timeline of agricultural technology were on display. Sunshine Basket for staff in the teacher's lounge.

Tuesday-Snow Day

Wednesday- Camo and Boot and Truck Day, Random Acts of Kindness popcorn for staff and pretzels for lunch servers and custodial staff and Pie and Ice Cream Social After School for Staff

Thursday- FFA Colors Day- Blue and Gold FFA t-shirts and Random Acts of Kindness delivered chocolate chip cookies and brownies to Police, Fire, and Public Works. and Chili Lunch at Elementary and Middle School with FFA placemats.

Friday- Flannel Dress Day and drive your tractor to school!

Food Service News, Irene Pawlisch, Director of Food Service



Heritage Day

This month we are celebrating Irish Heritage. In the 19th century Wisconsin saw a large number of Irish families immigrating from the Emerald Isle. In 1850, the Irish made up 15% of Milwaukee's population, many living in the Third Ward. We are making an Irish Coddle March 17th. Layers of crisp bacon, onion, potatoes, and sausage are simmered in a broth to make a stew of sorts. Chef Irene will be making scratch baking soda



bread to sop up the juices in the stew. To make the milk sour, Chef Irene will add a touch of lemon juice to the milk before mixing in baking soda, salt, and flour.



Milwaukee's Irish Fest

Breakfast Updates

We continue to have issues with obtaining certain breakfast items. We are still offering a variety of options in creative ways. The older students are being offered more daily choices. Many of our options are not listed on the menu and the older students are liking the "surprise" options in addition to the menu option. The new breakfast serving plan is going smoothly at the k-2 building. Students are happily coming to their designated stations before going to the classroom to choose a choice of fruit, juice, milk, and main option daily.

We are starting a daily hot and cold breakfast option at the High School. We are limiting one hot option per student and any extra entrée purchases may be the cold option. Our goal is to reduce food waste while increasing the number of daily options.

New Cold Options on the Lunch Menu

In the new spaces we will have the ability to start serving a hot and cold option daily. We are introducing new cold options on the lunch menu to allow students a taste this year. The younger grades are great at taking salads when offered on the vegetable bar which is why we choose and entrée salad as one of our new cold options. These have been well liked in other area districts. We are excited to now be offering them in Columbus.



Sample photo of a crispy chicken entrée salad

COLUMBUS/FALL RIVER FOOD PANTRY

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We have enough to help everyone.

For those in need of food during the month of March, please contact Faith Lutheran Church at 920-623-3610 to schedule an appointment.

Si Ud. necesita ayuda con la comida, favor de llamar al 920-287-8122 y pida Marcos para programar una cita. Thank you to all of our donors for your support.

We are currently well stocked and financially solid. Call Colleen @ 920-210-6266 with any questions.

Business Office Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

February in the Business Office is all about Federal Funding. The month ends in the culmination of the Federal Funding Conference where business managers discuss what to expect from programs that districts can fund using money from the Federal government.

Some of the big federal programs include:

- Title Grants
 - There are many different type of Title grants, but they focus on addressing different areas of need (such as closing achievement gaps between different socioeconomic status groups, supporting staff professional development, and improving school conditions for student learning)
- The Individual with Disabilities Education Act Grant
 - This provides funding for instructional programs, services, and materials to children with disabilities
- ESSER Funds
 - These are the series of stimulus packages passed by the Federal Government throughout the COVID 19 pandemic to help schools safely reopen and sustain the safe operations of the district and address the impacts of the pandemic on student learning and wellbeing.
- Food Service

- Districts are reimbursed through a variety of programs on the state and federal level. Currently, all meals for students are free because the costs are reimbursed by the federal government.

These programs vary in the dollar amounts available. The non-stimulus amounts generally account for anywhere from 2-5% of the budget, which doesn't seem like a lot, but All of these dollars are essential in what they allow the Columbus School District to do. In February, districts start looking ahead to next year to determine how these dollars will be allocated and spent.

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

March is here and Spring is just around the corner. Wow this year is flying by. The freeze thaw cycle this time of year can create slippery conditions where you least expect it. If you are visiting any of the facilities, please be cautious of these conditions.

At CES, construction continues to progress. The second floor is nearing completion and crews will move to the first floor this month. The kitchen hood exhaust has been installed and resinous flooring completed. The gym roof is now installed and drying the interior space has become the priority. Once the humidity is low enough, the wood flooring install can begin.

At CHS, the new weight/fitness room has progressed very quickly. The projected opening of that space is the first week of March. The focus will then turn to the library and music areas. These spaces will take us into the summer, when the next focus will become the CTE area. Exciting times are ahead.

Good luck to all of our tournament teams and individuals. Go Cards!

Technology Corner, Michael Ziegler, Technology Coach



In our schools we primarily use Google Workspace for Education and the tools to communicate, collaborate and create along with others. The skills students build while using these tools pay big dividends for their future careers and the job needs. One way students and parents can build these skills outside of school is through [Google's Applied Digital Skills](#). Here is a [guide for guardians](#) to get started. Activities and lessons include a wide variety of engaging things from scavenger hunts and taking tours of Italy in Google Arts & Culture to making art with Google Sheets. In the spirit of promoting digital safety there are also lessons on creating and safeguarding passwords and understanding your digital footprint. Each lesson has the instructions and videos that allow for student paced learning and is perfect for days or afternoons when you might be stuck inside

Calendar / Upcoming Events

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9 End of Quarter Late Start	10	11
14 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	15	16	17	18 Early Release
21	22	23	24	25
<div>No School March 21 through March 25. Classes resume, Monday March 28</div> <div>SPRING BREAK!</div>				
28 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	29	30	31	

April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6 Late start	7	8
11 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	12	13	14	15 No School
18	19	20	21	22
25 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	26	27	28	29

Contact Information www.columbus.k12.wi.us **Phone Number: 920.623.5950**

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