

School Board

Members

President – Kevin White
VP – Cindy Damm
Clerk – Mike O'Brien
Treasurer – Joe Conlin
Mary Arnold
Bill Braun
Julia Hoffman

Board of Education Calendar of Events

May

9 Board Meeting
10 Retreat
23 Retreat

June

13 Board Meeting
27 Tentative Retreat
or Additional
Meeting

July

11 Board Meeting
25 Board Meeting

August

8 Board Meeting
15 Retreat
22 Board Meeting

Free Breakfast & Free Lunch Summer Program for Columbus Children 18 & Under

Weekdays June 6 to August 19
Columbus Middle School
Breakfast served 8-8:30 AM
Lunch served 11:30 – Noon

When summer school is in session, meals will also be served at the Columbus Elementary School.

For more information, please call Brenda Maier, Food Service Director, at 920-623-5950.

FREE is Good!

**The next newsletter
will be distributed in
August.**

Fifth Graders Prepare for Disasters

STEP Program Teaches Kids How to Assemble Emergency Kits

Nearly 110 5th graders at Columbus Middle School learned how to be prepared to respond in the event of a disaster or emergency. The students participated in the STEP, or Student Tools for Emergency Planning, program for the first time. The statewide program teaches 5th graders how to be prepared for various emergencies and disasters, including tornadoes, flooding, and storms. The program also showed students how to put together an emergency kit and develop emergency plans with their families.



At the event, the 5th graders assembled their STEP emergency bags with items donated by local businesses. The Middle School received donations including pencils, pens, toilet paper, water, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and first aid kits. The students also heard from officials from Wisconsin Emergency Management, Columbus Emergency Management, and AT&T, as well as Fire Chief Randy Koehn and State Representative John Jagler, about actions they can take to be prepared in an emergency or disaster situation.

All students participating in the program received an emergency kit to take home, which includes a flashlight. Fifth Grade teacher Leann Vande Hei applied for the STEP grant for CMS students.



Last Day of School is Friday, May 27!

Students Participate in Community Service Day

Spring time is always a busy time of year at school, but for the past several years, Columbus High School students have helped the community with projects for a half day in April. This year's Community Service Day was held on April 29th. There were students who helped get the Columbus Area Aquatic Center ready for the summer, a group went out to Astico Park to help clean the grounds for the camping and picnic season, Project Unify took a group of student to Kindred Kids for some spring cleaning and a group even floated the Crawfish River in order to clean up garbage. There were also groups of students who made hats for infants, trees were planted at the soccer field, the pep band played at some of the nursing homes in the community, a cancer walk where students raised money for cancer research was also very successful, a group did some spring cleaning at one of the local cemeteries, and a group even did some maintenance and ground-keeping at the track. The students really enjoyed getting out into the community and helping where help was needed.

Graduating the Class of 2016

The seniors are ready! Graduation is just around the corner and seniors are finishing up their classes to meet graduation requirements. The graduation ceremony is on **May 29th at 2 PM** in the **Columbus High School** gymnasium. Doors will open at 12 noon and seating is general admission on a first come, first served basis.

The senior class chose Jamie Hutt, Jamie Moran, and Bruce Zahn as their guest readers and student speakers are Adam Sydow, Caralea Grant, and Roman Mullen. The high school's band and chorus will perform, which will be the senior member's final high school performances. Graduation is one of the district's shining moments of the school year and we look forward to seeing everyone at the graduation ceremony.



CES Wax Museum Comes to Life in 3rd Grade

The Columbus Elementary Students just finished their biography projects. In this unit they researched a famous person, learned to collect evidence, created a timeline, wrote a biography, became the person and presented it in a "Wax Museum". Some of the famous people included: Benjamin Franklin, Rosa Parks, Labron James, and Sacajawea. Each student created a poster celebrating the important events in their person's life.

When asking the staff of the benefits of this unit, 3rd grade teacher Andy Peterson said, "it really works on all the skills like researching, hands on learning, writing, speaking and listening" From start to finish the biography wax museum unit is a truly comprehensive approach to education. "We also noticed that our students were excited and energized about

the idea of becoming their character. It helped them become more engaged in their research", states Christine Adams, 3rd grade teacher.

The final project of children becoming their character truly showed the research and learning that happens on a daily basis at CES.



Columbus Education Endowment Grant Winner – Jahliah Henderson, CHS

Since receiving the generous grant from the Columbus Education Endowment, students with special needs have been incredibly busy on their new iPads! We have taken full advantage of the technology offered through iPads daily, using apps to increase our math, language, social, and functional skills.

Each day in our academic lessons, we use iPads to reference the internet, look up unfamiliar words in our readings, or use the calculator. Students have the opportunity to use the iPads at liberty when learning. A wide variety of apps supplement our learning. One of our favorites is "coin math," which has us pick out items from a simulated store and present the correct amount of money to pay. In our Lifeskills class, we use the iPads to help us foster independence. Some students use the iPad to express needs and/or wants and speak with teachers and classmates. We also program the calendar app on the iPads so that if students have questions about the schedule, they can reference it on their own.

Perhaps the most successful use of the iPads in our room is video modeling. Video modeling is incredibly influential and has allowed the students to flourish socially and functionally across all environments. For cooking, students use the iPad app "All Recipes" to find recipes that they would like to make. Then, they create a grocery list on the "Notes" app and take the iPads to the store, check off their list electronically, and use any online saved coupons. Students reference video steps while they are cooking. This is helpful with those learners who cannot read recipes. Students who have never cooked before are making simple meals! Parents report an increase in productivity in the kitchen at home, too. Furthermore, instead of writing social stories, community events, social etiquette, and positive behaviors are recorded, to help students visualize what to expect and how to act.



We have only touched the surface of the world of technology through iPads. Thank you to the Columbus Education Endowment program for providing the funds to help my students increase their social, functional, and academic success.

Disability Awareness

On Wednesday, April 20th, the UW-Whitewater Wheelchair Basketball team visited and gave two presentations in the gymnasium to raise awareness and display great athleticism. The Project Unify team has a theme this year of 'Disability Awareness'. They extend this theme from last year which was "Spread the Word to End the Word". Many students were offered a chance to participate in a game of wheelchair basketball with the team.

From the physical strength of using a wheelchair, to the amazing perspective of playing a competition while sitting, awareness was raised and hearts were filled. To experience a moment from someone else's perspective is a great opportunity.

The Columbus Middle School students and staff were honored by the UW-Whitewater's visit. The Entire CMS Project Unify team and their supervisors (*Holly Knudtson and Katie Buonincontro*) organized the event.



May, 2016

Message from Superintendent

Where did the year go? It seems as though just a few short weeks ago, I accepted my new responsibilities as superintendent of Columbus Schools for the 2015-16 school year. And now, we are entering into the last month of school. These last days are sure to be busy for staff, students and families with the many year-end events during the school day and in the evenings.

The newsletter this month contains articles highlighting staff and student activities throughout the year that embody the mission of Columbus School District to empower every student to be community, career and college ready.

The 2015-16 school year has provided students with an education in literacy, mathematics, science, history, life skills, citizenship, employability skills and giving back to our community. We are living our mission at Columbus Schools.

We wish all our families a safe and memorable summer.

Go Cards!

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this issue

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Summer School Programs – Enroll Now!

We are so excited to offer you a new and improved summer school program this year. There are many new courses offered and many courses that kids loved last year are being repeated. Due to the longer list of courses in our catalog (approximately 75 total), please be sure you are doing your best to choose courses that are just right for your student.

With two sessions (one in June and one in July) and four sections for each session (8:30, 9:30, 10:30, and 12:00), there is a lot to consider. The registration process will be computerized this year as well. To register online for your child(ren), please enter **your parent portal** in **Infinite Campus** and look for **Summer School Registration**. If you have any questions about your log-in, please seek assistance with our technology team at 920.623.5950. You can access Infinite Campus from the parent page at <http://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/parents/>. If you are having problems registering online, please come in to District Office and we can help you. High School summer school programs may have different dates and times; please refer to course catalog.

Please note, **class sizes are limited** so the sign up will be a first come, first served enrollment. Sign up early for summer school to enroll your child! For dates of summer school sessions, please see page 4 of this newsletter.

Some of your students will be invited to an **Invitation Course** due to their skill level in a particular subject area. There will be a letter that may arrive at your home asking you, as their parent and guardian, to enroll your child in a reading, writing, or mathematics section. Though these classes will focus on standards and skills from the school year, the teachers take great pride on being creative and fun during the summer to review the needed skill work. With the opportunity to enroll in four sections, your child can be in an Invitation Course and you can select an Elective Class or two to balance out their day.

In addition, we are excited to offer summer meals to all students for free. All kids that are 18 or under are invited to eat at school for breakfast (8:00-8:30 AM) and at lunch (11:30-noon) at no charge. During summer school, meals will be served at both Columbus Elementary and Columbus Middle School. Please call Brenda Maier at ext. 3291 for details.

Learning Today, *Leading Tomorrow*

Upcoming Events

May, 2016

- 3 Heroin in Our Hometown – CMS – 6 – 8 PM
- 4 Color Columbus Run – 1:30 – 3:30 PM
- 4 Parent Conferences at CHS – 5 – 8 PM
- 9 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 10 School Board Retreat – Superintendent's Office – 6:30 PM
- 11 Late Start students K-8 – Bike/Walk to School Day;
Grades 9 & 10 begin at 7:50; Grades 11 & 12 start at 10:45 due to testing
- 19 Pedal Day (bike event) – 5 – 7 PM in CES/CMS Parking Lot
- 21 Pedal Days Bike Rodeo – 9 AM – Noon in CES/CMS Parking Lot
- 23 School Board Retreat – Superintendent's Office – 6:30 PM
- 27 End of Quarter, Early Release (classes dismiss at 12:30 PM)
- 29 **Graduation – 2 PM** – Columbus High School



June, 2016

- 13 - 30 Summer School – First Three Week Session Begins

July, 2016

- 11 – 28 Summer School – Second Three Week Session Begins



Britta Hesselberg, Autism Essay Winner

Mission

Columbus School District empowers students to be community, career, and college ready.

