

School Board

Members

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

VOTE

SPRING ELECTION
TUESDAY
APRIL 5, 2016



Board of Education Calendar of Events

March

14 Board Meeting
21 Retreat
28 Board Meeting
(return to City Hall)

April

5 Spring Election
6 Strategic Plan
Meeting 4-8
11 Board Meeting
(Liz last meeting)
25 Board Meeting /
Reorganization

May

9 Board Meeting
23 Board Retreat

June

13 Board Meeting



Safety & Security

Within Our Schools



The district has a safety and security plan within each of our buildings. The safety and security plan was created with police, fire, and county involvement. The plan includes many different situations-including fire, armed intruder, and lock down procedures. The district has made a commitment to student safety within the past few years. That is evident by increased camera presence in our buildings, developing a comprehensive crisis plan, and having locks and buzzers at all of the entrances to our schools.

During the February in-service, the school district collaborated with the local police and fire to run scenarios with all staff members. The scenarios included real life simulations of what to do if there was an active shooter within one of our buildings.

The district continues to go over plans and procedures with staff. Staff will continue to practice many different situations so that we are as prepared as possible. We do not practice situations with students as a deliberate move on a recommendation by FEMA. It is important for all students to know that there is a plan and our district is ready to take action if needed (let's hope that we never do).



Teaching to the Needs of All Students

As a school district, our main goal is to teach and meet the needs of every child that walks into our building. This is a difficult task but one that we work hard to accomplish every day.

Columbus School District is dedicated to meeting the individual needs of every student. We have many programs to address student needs such as: Project Unify, choice between Columbus Elementary School and Discovery Charter School, AP (Advanced Placement) classes, WCATY (Wisconsin Council for Academically Talented Youth) an online work / spring academy, and technology integration and classes. This is in addition to the student services team that supports many students on a daily basis.

However, it is the work of every teacher in our individual classrooms that truly makes a difference for our kids. So, during our February in-service days, many different presenters focused on how we can continue to meet our students' needs. Topics included: mental health needs in schools, importance of sensory and movement breaks for students, vocabulary instruction for all students but specifically for students who are English learners, poverty, creating welcoming and safe school environments for students that are LGBTQ+ youth, and inclusive practices for all students. The in-service served as an example of personal and professional growth to benefit all students. The conversations included some strategies for teachers; however, more professional development is planned for the future. While, the conversations are just starting, allowing every student to feel safe in learning environments will continue to be a focus for the district.

Changing Needs within our Schools

The needs of Columbus School District are ever changing and change on a regular basis. In particular, this year the district has just under 30% of students that qualify for free/reduced lunch and over 20 students that are considered homeless.

In addition to meeting the needs of children in a learning environment we are also committed to supporting students who are in need of clothing and food. The district has received a grant from the US Department of Education to serve breakfast and lunch to any student for free during the summer months. This is for all youth 18 and under regardless of enrollment into our district. We also have many closets full of school supplies and extra clothing for students that need supports.

The February in-service, focused on biases for students that are living in poverty and how we can support students within our classrooms. The goal is to organize classrooms to support all students and not have students be at a disadvantage due to economic conditions.



If you have any questions or if we can help support you in any way please contact anyone on our student services team:

- ☐ Brian Johnson, Director
- ☐ Kate Wiersma, School Psychologist CES/DCS
- ☐ JaNae Teer, School Psychologist CMS/CHS
- ☐ Cori Denk, School Counselor CMS
- ☐ Tammy Leis, School Counselor CHS
- ☐ Jacque Pittz, School Counselor CHS
- ☐ Mary Hughes, District School Nurse

Community Engagement

Donuts For Dads

Our 2nd graders celebrated Donuts for Dad's on February 24th. Dads, uncles, grandpas, moms and friends joined the second grade students to share memories of school, learning experiences, and showcase their reading skills.

Thank you to all the families who arranged to attend this event. The students were very proud to have you there.



Shopko Give Back to Schools Campaign

Thank you Columbus residents and Columbus Shopko Hometown for your support during the "Give Back to Schools" Campaign! Columbus School District received \$1,750. Superintendent Annette Deuman received the check from Shopko Manager Dave on February 29th.

March, 2016

Message from Superintendent

Columbus School District is fortunate to have a community who understands the need for professional development days for our staff. The research in education continually contributes to best practices for teachers and it is our responsibility to be sure we incorporate these best practices in our classrooms.

Four years ago, I was told that I needed to have a cervical disectomy. Basically, the surgeon removed two discs and fused three vertebrae together. As I did some research on the internet for the procedure I was to undergo (*I will never do that again*), I found several images of tools that have been used in this procedure throughout the years. I was very thankful my surgeon was a life-long learner and was using the latest technology and methods. The scar I have is minimal and truly not recognizable and the procedure was a success.

I tell this story because this newsletter translate the same type of learning and best practices for educators. We work every day as life-long learners to make sure every student is successful!

Go Cards!
ANNETTE DEUMAN



Meeting the Needs of All Our Learners

Like students, educators never stop learning. Learning comes in many different forms and educators are constantly seeking ways to advance student learning and have personal growth. This year, the Columbus School District has put a strong emphasis on learning opportunities. This has been evident with book reviews, strategic conference planning, and using late start days to examine student data.

This school year, the professional development days have been 100% focused on student learning and ways to increase opportunities for all students. Columbus Middle School has done a book review using 'Mindset.' The emphasis of the book is on how we can learn to fulfill our potential and how our mindsets can shift from a fixed to growth mindset. During the February late starts, educators examined data specifically looking at any 'gaps' that exist for our students. Each school looked at their individual data and proficiency levels in reading and mathematics for all students and then broke up the data looking at how students with disabilities, English language learners, students who qualify for free and/or reduced lunch, male/female, and grade levels are all performing. The Columbus School District puts an emphasis on the needs of every student.

With the data in mind, the district had two professional development days in February. They were used to specifically give strategies to address the needs of all students and address any gaps that persist in our data. This month's newsletter, will focus on how Columbus School District is seeking to meet the needs of every single learner within our classroom. We do this by creating a safe and secure school and meeting the needs of all learners. We can accomplish this with hard work, dedication, and continued professional growth and learning.

Columbus School District is dedicated to student growth from reaching the most advanced learners to our struggling students.



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Upcoming Events

March, 2016

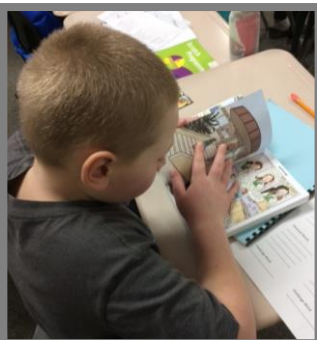
- 1 ACT Testing for all Juniors
- 2 ACT Work Keys Testing for all Juniors
- 2 Late Start Day; classes begin at 10 AM
- 10 CMS Art Night, 8-10 PM
- 14 Board Meeting – Columbus High School Library 7 PM
- 16 Late Start Day; classes begin at 10 AM
- 17 PTO Carnival
- 21 Board Retreat – Superintendent's Office
- 23 End of Quarter; Early Release – classes dismiss at 12:30
- 24, 25, 28 No School – Spring Break
- 28 Board Meeting – Columbus City Hall – 7 PM

April, 2016

- 11 Board Meeting – Columbus City Hall – 7 PM

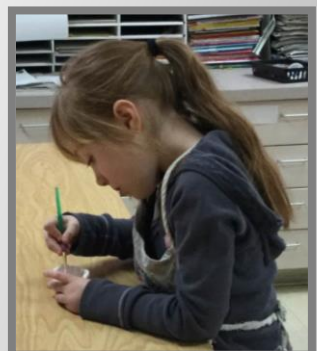
CHS Athletic Events for Freshmen, Junior Varsity, & Varsity athletes can be found at www.columbus.k12.wi.us (link on right side of page.)

GO CARDINALS!



Mission

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



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow