



COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT
 200 West School Street
 Columbus, Wisconsin 53925
 920.623.5950
www.columbus.k12.wi.us

Non-Profit
 Organization
 US POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 61
 Columbus, WI 53925

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Upcoming Events

October, 2018

- 8 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 8 **Annual Meeting** – City Hall Council Chambers – 8 PM
- 9 [Launching Forward](#) Together Meeting – CHS – 6:30 PM
- 10 Late Start – Classes begin at 10 AM
- 15 Parent Conferences for K-Grade 8; 11 AM – 7 PM; NO SCHOOL
- 21 DCS Soup Social at 11 AM – 1 PM
- 21 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 22 Late Start – Classes begin at 10 AM
- 24 Annual Title I Parent Meeting – 6:30 PM; CMS cafeteria
- 29

November, 2018

- 1 CHS Choir Concert at 7 PM
- 2 Early Release – Classes Dismiss at 12:30 PM
- 2 No School – In-Service Day
- 5 [Launching Forward](#) Together Meeting – CHS – 6:30 PM
- 5 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 12 [Launching Forward](#) Together Meeting – CHS – 6:30 PM
- 19 Early Release – Classes Dismiss at 12:30 PM
- 21 No School – Thanksgiving!
- 22 No School – Thanksgiving Break
- 23 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM



Title I Annual Parent Meeting
 for Columbus Elementary,
 Discovery Charter, Columbus
 Intermediate & Columbus
 Middles Schools will be held on
October 29th from 6:30 – 7:30
 PM in the middle school
 cafeteria.

Agenda: Title 1 Policy, School
 Involvement in Title I, and the
 Parents' right to be involved.



Columbus Community Learning Services

has been using Peachjar for the last year. Peachjar is an e-flyer program, the e-flyers are sent directly to parents' email inboxes as well as posted on our school websites for easy access. All flyers may be accessed by clicking on the Peachjar link on our school's website or you may sign-up to receive emails from Peachjar.

Columbus Community Learning Services uses Peachjar to share information about our entire community. All groups in the Columbus Community are welcome to send information out through this program. Send a PDF document to Cori Denk at cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us If your organization is outside of Columbus you can upload your flyer for a small fee.

www.columbus.k12.wi.us

920-623-5950

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 West School Street | Columbus, Wisconsin 53925 | 920.623.5950 | www.columbus.k12.wi.us



NEWSLETTER

October, 2018

ISSUE 30

Newsletter Format Changes

The Columbus School District will be changing the format for the District newsletter beginning with the November issue. The newsletter will continue to be published, in an extended format, but will be sent electronically each month. The newsletter will automatically be sent to parents of students in the District. If you would like to sign up for the digital copy to be emailed directly to your inbox, please go to the www.columbus.k12.wi.us/newsletters and follow the directions. In addition, the newsletters will continue to be posted on the district website. Printed copies will be distributed throughout the community (Senior Center, Columbus Library, and Julie's Java).



Agriculture students are checking soil pH in the lab and showing off their edible soil profile.



Homecoming Week was September 24-28th

Columbus High School students celebrated **Superhero Day** on Monday, September 24th. What Superhero would you be?



Middle School agriculture students made jelly! Some didn't like it.

Learning Today; LEADING TOMORROW

Discovery Charter School

Harvest Soup Social

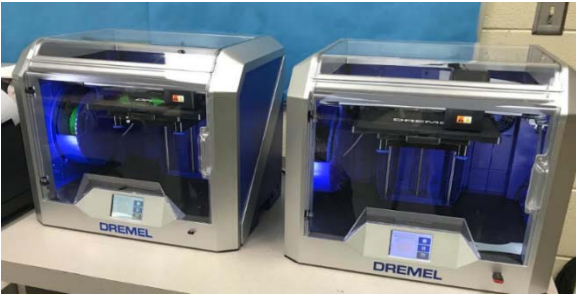
Join us for lunch on Sunday, October 21st from 1:00 to 1:00 at CES and help support DCS!

Come to the Columbus Elementary School gym between 1:00 am and 1:00 pm to enjoy a menu prepared using fresh produce from the Discovery Charter School garden!

All in the community are welcome!

Menu: Tomato Vegetable or Creamy Potato Corn Soups, Sweetbreads, Berry Desserts. * Vegan and allergen-free options will be available! * * Take-out will also be available! *

At the door cost: 4 and under FREE, 5-12 years \$3, 13 and up \$6. Take Out Cost: 2 lb. soup \$8, 1 lb. soup \$5, Desserts \$1/pc, Oils Plate of 6 pc. \$5.



CES Counselor Welcomes New Students

Mrs. Wilson, the new

anxiety of being new to a school. She met with all the new students at CES/DCS and has taken the time to learn more about them. Mrs. Wilson has created a bulletin board that incorporates a picture of the new students and some of their interests. It is great to see the students who are new to the district get welcomed in this way!

WELCOME!

Discovery Charter School is Seeking Governance Council Members

We are currently looking for community and parent members to join the Discovery Charter School (DCS) Governance Council. What is DCS? The Discovery Charter School is a tuition free, public charter school within the Columbus Elementary School that provides an experience-filled opportunity for children in grades K-3 who have a natural interest in science and nature. If you are within the Columbus School District and would like to be more actively involved in the direction of your public elementary charter school, please consider applying.

Please complete and return the DCS Council application which can be found on the DCS website www.discoverycharter.net and return to Mrs. Hellpap, CES/DCS Principal.

If you have questions please feel free to reach out to Principal, Mrs. Hellpap or Stacy Swanberg-Thom, DCS Governance Council President, DCS@columbus.k12.wi.us.

STEAM Update

Students in the Columbus High School Aerospace Engineering class are making and designing rocket parts. September, 2018

What does the acronym STEAM mean? In Columbus, we define STEAM as Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture/Arts, and Mathematics.

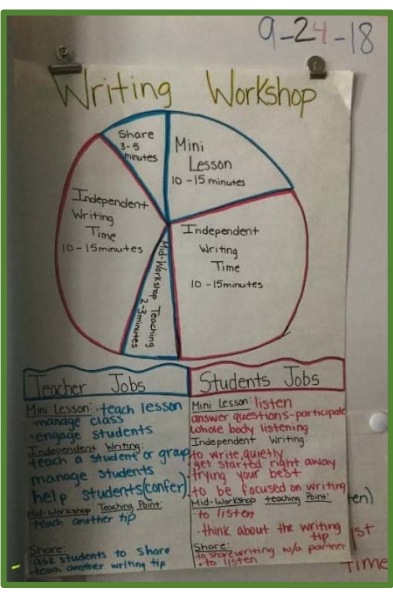


CES & DCS Students are Embarking on Units of Study

September 24th was the first day to launch Read and Writing Units of Study.

Our teachers have been working diligently to prepare for a smooth startup of this curriculum. The academic rigor of this curriculum is exciting to watch unfold as we see kindergarteners writing and reading!

Check out this anchor chart created about workshop expectations! Our students and teachers are working really hard!



Meet



Mabel & Rasheed

These darling stuffed animals help our kindergarten and first grade students learn more about phonics. The Units of Study Phonics curriculum was recently released from publication at the end of the 2018 summer. Our staff have been working hard to roll out this new program to our students.

Mabel and Rasheed help the students study words, letter sounds, names and much more.

Ask your child what those crazy critters are up to in their classroom! It's wonderful to see the engagement in our students.

OCTOBER 6 – 12 is FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

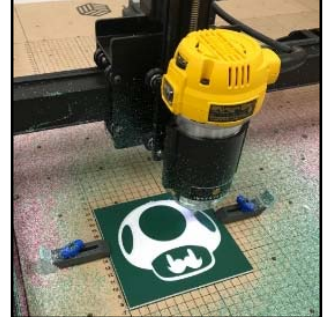


Columbus High School

Students in Graphics class are learning how to use new software to layout a design. They are using a web-based design software to digitally layout what they want their design to look like.

After they complete their design layout, they use the X-Carve CNC machine (CNC = computer numeric control) to have their design carved out of a two color tile.

The student carved tiles will become a wall feature in the room to display their projects.



Columbus Intermediate & Middle Schools

The State of Wisconsin honors 21 special observance days as part of state statutes governing general school operations. On our daily announcements we talk about the observance day to teach the students about our state history and honor the occasion. This month, we have recognized several days, but we made a particular focus on September 26 to recognize Bullying Awareness Day. The day fit in well with our Homecoming week activities as we celebrated community pride, respect, and sportsmanship.

Again this year, Columbus Intermediate School and Columbus Middle School are embracing the three concepts of being Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. Within these three concepts of student behaviors are examples of how not to be a bully and to be kind. This week we also produced a video to feature students and to remind students of the ways to be leaders. It can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7I3PC-hyok>. It is also posted on the Columbus School District Facebook page.

Preparing students for life requires that they feel safe, but also balanced. Another focus for our school this year is to have a monthly theme which focuses in on activities, discussions, and articles that support social and emotional growth. Some examples include respect, self-control, cooperation, patience, perseverance, friendship, sportsmanship, citizenship, and goal setting. By taking time to develop social and emotional skills, it is our hope that problem behaviors will decrease, while balanced, engaged behaviors increase. Our staff will continue to develop activities for the whole child to promote positive behaviors which lead to student success. As Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build the youth for our future."

Homecoming 2018 at Columbus High School was a huge success. The Student Council and their advisors, Marlin Hensler and Bruce Zahn, did an excellent job organizing all of the activities.

Students participated in the dress up days throughout the week. Students painted spirit boards at each grade level. The gym was rocking during the Power Buff volleyball game (male staff vs. male senior students). Students cheered for the seniors, and occasionally the staff as the games were very competitive, but also quite fun. The seniors won in three sets to take the Power Buff trophy.

Friday was the annual lip sync contest, with grade level groups of students putting on lip syncs/dance for the entire student body. The lip syncs were very creative and entertaining. As the lip syncs concluded, the entire high school went out to the football field for the annual Powder Puff football game between the female staff and the senior girls. As in years past, the game was highly contested as the senior girls ended up winning the game 8-6.

To round out the competitions for the week, the tug-of-war between classes was the finale. The freshmen boys started out by competing against the juniors and the sophomore boys competed against the seniors. Placing first was the junior boys, followed by the sophomores, seniors and then freshmen. The girls, not to be outdone, locked into their tug-of-war battle as well with the seniors coming out victorious, followed by the juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

After the competitions were complete, the parade line-up began and the parade made its way down South Ludington Street to Dickason Blvd. Both the middle school and high school marching bands performed along with team and class floats. The Homecoming representatives waved to the crowd on the streets. To wrap up an exciting Homecoming week, the dance was held on Saturday night. Students danced and had a wonderful time.



Seniors ready for action!



The staff try to find a way to overcome their competition.



Cross Country Team during Parade.



School Spirit!



Power Buff Competition gets fierce.



Columbus Intermediate & Middle School Students participated in a Homecoming Assembly on Friday, September 28th.



Tug-of-war between classes. And the winner is...



Lip sync competition is about to begin!



Spirit Board art during homecoming week.



Ag float



The Parade

Wisconsin School Board Week



The Wisconsin Association of School Boards has set October 7-13 as Wisconsin School Board Week as a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our communities. Columbus School District is joining all public school districts across the state to celebrate Wisconsin School Board Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Columbus and its children.

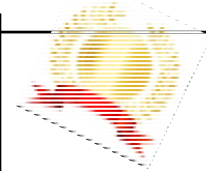
"It takes strong schools to build a strong community, and these men and women devote countless hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level," Superintendent Annette Deuman said. "They make the tough decisions every month and spend many hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide the kind of accountability our citizens expect."

Deuman said the key work of school boards is to raise student achievement by:

- Creating a vision for what the community wants the school district to be and for making student achievement the top priority;
- Establishing standards for what students will be expected to learn and be able to do;
- Ensuring progress is measured to be sure the district's goals are achieved and students are learning at expected levels;
- Being accountable for their decisions and actions by continually tracking and reporting results;
- Creating a safe, orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach;
- Forming partnerships with others in the community to solve common problems; and
- Focusing attention on the need for continuous improvement by questioning, refining and revising issues related to student achievement.

"School board members give Columbus citizens a voice in education decision making. Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation in October, their contribution is a year-round commitment." The board members serving our district are as follows: President Cindy Damm, Vice President Mike O'Brien, Clerk Mary Arnold, Treasurer Bill Braun, Kelly Crombie, Julie Hajewski, and Barb Hesselberg.

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICE TO
EDUCATION!



Safety & Security Update - Visitor Management System

The District is pleased to announce that we will begin using the Raptor Visitor Management System in all of our schools to strengthen our program of campus safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times, and the Raptor system will allow us to do that. The Raptor system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID such as a Driver's License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have a US government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system.

The Raptor system will check to ensure that registered sexual offenders are not entering our school campuses without our knowledge. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.

The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor visitor management system allows us to quickly identify those that may present a danger to our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and your support in enhancing the school safety protocols in our district.

Round One of the Department of Justice Safety & Security Grant Awards are being completed. Fencing at the Intermediate/Middle Schools & Columbus Elementary/Discovery Charter Schools has been installed.



SAFETY & SECURITY
GRANT



OCTOBER 14TH IS COLUMBUS DAY.



Counseling Services Available



Aspen Family Counseling is now serving our school district on referrals for outpatient mental health and alcohol and drug related counseling needs. They are a state certified clinic with a central office in Portage and offer us a few clinic hours out of the week. Services they provide, but are not limited to, include the diagnosis and treatment of depression and anxiety (*including suicidal thoughts/behaviors*), family issues, anger management, abuse/neglect, loss and grief, use of substances, parent/child conflict, attention deficits, divorce in families, school motivation issues, childhood and adolescent disorders, and other clinically appropriate referrals.

Though there may be overlap with services provide by school guidance counselors, usually clinical referrals are reveal a higher level of symptoms than a school counselor referral. Please note that services are NOT ONLY available to students and their families but to school staff and families as well.

The services in the school are TOTALLY DEPENDENT on referrals from staff. The referrals NEED to sustain the steady continuation of clinic hours in order for Aspen staff to travel to the school. To refer someone for Aspen's services, you may discuss your concerns with a school counselor who can refer, or you can call Aspen Family Counseling at (608)742-5020 to set up an appointment. Aspen is in network with most insurance providers. <http://www.aspenfamilycounseling.com>

Mathematical Practices Shift in Columbus School District

The mission of Columbus School District is to empower students to be community, career, and college ready. To achieve this mission, the district continuously reviews curriculum and instructional practices for student growth and improvement.

Recently, grades K-5 parents should have received information regarding ConnectEd, the online math portal for the curriculum used at these grade levels. From this portal, parents may access Home Links (in English and Spanish), reference books, online games, and videos that review all the daily concepts taught to students in the classroom.

Grades 6-12 students and parents may have noticed math instruction and learning this year has a different look and feel. In order to help more students meet or exceed career and college ready benchmarks, grades 6-12 staff participated in summer professional development and are in the process of revising and implementing a rich, rigorous curriculum.

Staff learned how to conduct an effective math workshop for students which includes teaching mathematical standards and practices through a variety of strategies. Students learn information differently; the goal is to give all students access to learning. Students engage in learning using problems that have real-life applications. Instead of learning in isolation, students spend more time problem-solving in groups or pairs.

A few additional events happening during the 2018-19 school year - Grades 6-12 math staff will continue to work with math consultants on strategies for the classroom. A district team will review curriculum materials and use a textbook selection process to determine any textbook change needed. Parents will receive an opportunity to preview potential options and provide feedback to the selection committee before any decisions are made. Please watch for more information in the coming months on how this process with work.

Here are a few links to websites that may be useful for extra math practices and learning games at home:
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/parents/parent-links/> <https://www.mobymax.com/curriculum/math>

Your child's success is important to us. The district is committed to providing all students with strong curriculum and instruction.