E- NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2018

Columbus School District

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

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Launching A New Legacy Update

District residents have volunteered numerous hours of their time to serve on the ***Launching A New Legacy*** Study Groups. There are seven separate Study Groups: Athletics & Co-Curricular; Community Campus & Partnerships; Communications & Outreach; Curriculum & Instruction; Facility Infrastructure/Energy Efficiency; Performing Arts; Safety, and Security & Wellbeing.

The volunteers first met on July 16th. There are a total of 59 active members. Since that meeting, the Study Groups have continued to meet at the Columbus High School on a regular basis. There were two meetings in August, one in September, one in October, and two in November.

The last meeting will be held on Monday, November 19th. After the Study Groups prepare their final recommendations, the information will be presented to the Board of Education, tentatively on December 10th at a regularly scheduled School Board meeting.

The amount of work that the Study Groups have undertaken is considerable. We look forward to hearing their recommendations and look ahead to the continued Launching of A New Legacy for our schools and community.

Superintendent Annette Deuman



Launch Study Group Members are attending one of seven scheduled meetings.

Columbus Elementary School

Principal Beth Hellpap
Dean of Students Karin Westlake

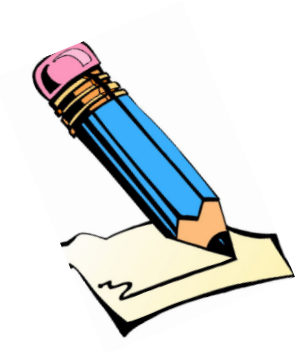
CES Kindergarten Writing Celebration

During the month of October, the CES kindergarteners worked very hard to prepare their writing to share with their loved ones. The classrooms were filled with families taking time to listen and learn while the students shared their writing and reading.









Discovery Charter School

The Discovery Charter School Soup Social Event was a hit! We served over 100 hungry participants yummy soup made with the very vegetables planted, grown and harvested by the DCS students and staff. A big thanks to all involved to make this event possible.



CES/DCS Literacy Night



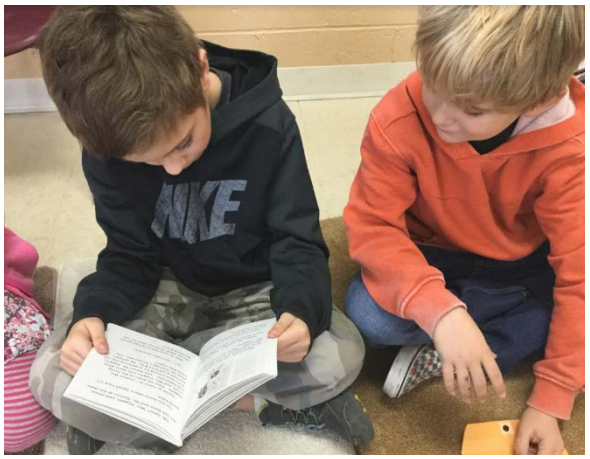
In an effort to support family engagement, learning opportunities and a love of reading; The CES/DCS staff planned the annual Literacy Night for November 8th. This year's theme was "Books Come Alive" Students and families enjoyed, the book tasting, puppet making, book creation, sight word bingo and even a local celebrity reader, Officer Kelly Towne making an appearance to read her favorite children's story. The grand finale was



a readers' theater performed by the staff in conjunction with a portion of the CHS Forensics Team. This event was a huge success thanks to all the work behind the scenes and parent participation.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

CES/DCS Teachers Embark on Reading and Writing Workshop



Ever wonder how reading and writing is taught? It is pretty remarkable to see the growth in young readers from year to year. All that work doesn't happen magically! It is a combination of support at home and explicitly taught strategies from highly qualified educators. Reading and writing workshop follows the same format everyday. It begins with a mini lesson given by the teacher that explicitly teaches a strategy for improvement. Then the students are sent off to work independently or with a partner. Meanwhile the teacher is able to support students in a small group or individual basis working on their specific goals. The workshop ends with a sharing time with the students and teacher. For more information regarding reading and writing workshop, visit this site www.unitsofstudy.com



"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."

– Louis L'Amour

Columbus Intermediate School

Principal Loren Glasbrenner
Assistant Principal Cori Denk

Columbus Intermediate School was created during the summer of 2018. Paperwork was filed with the State to create the new school. The grade alignment for the school is Grades 3-5. The Columbus Intermediate School is located at 400 S. Dickason Blvd. and shares the building with Columbus Middle School.



Walking Across Wisconsin

In 2007, the National Geographic Society first offered rentals of their giant traveling maps of continents to schools throughout the United States. These really giant maps, averaging about 25 feet by 35 feet, "tour" for several weeks each year with a Map Ambassador going from school to school and sharing the geography of that continent with lucky students, teachers, parents and community members.



Most recently, again with the assistance of National Geographic, the Wisconsin Geographic Alliance is excited to announce the travel of the first ever Giant Traveling Map of Wisconsin! This map, which is 17 x 21 feet, recently came to Columbus Intermediate School and provided students the opportunity to explore our state by walking across our entire state while doing geography-related activities.

It may seem amazing, but students walked from Peshtigo to Waukesha with their peers in an hour.

Counseling Grades 3-5:

In 3rd and 4th grade we will begin working on Conflict Resolution using Kelso's Choice curriculum. We will be learning the difference between big and small problems and what to do when we face those problems. We will learn to tell an adult for big problems, and we will learn 8 different ways to handle small problems on our own without the help of an adult. We will be using role-playing activities to help learn these ways and practice using them with confidence.

In 5th grade, we will continue to learn about Digital Citizenship and how to be and stay safe online and using our technological devices.



Good Morning Columbus!

The 5th grade class of Mrs. Robyn Ehrke was recently featured on a morning news program welcoming the day and greeting Columbus with a hearty "Good Morning!" Mrs. Ehrke was contacted by a local reporter and was excited to have her students filmed on our new gymnasium floor. The reporter commented on the great behavior of the students and the cool features of our newly refurbished gym. He filmed the segment from the balcony so that Charlie Cardinal's image in the wood, as well as in person, could be featured.

The Community Learning Services received financial donations for the **Giving Back Community Night** from the following:



- Lions Club
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Matt Faust from Edward Jones
- Robert Groh
- Columbus Associates

In addition, members of the Columbus/Fall River Rotary Club are donating their time the event.

Columbus Middle School

Principal Loren Glasbrenner
Assistant Principal Cori Denk



Leadership Summit

Members from the Columbus Middle School Student Council and the Columbus Middle School Unified Champions recently visited the University of Wisconsin – Madison to attend the Fall Leadership Summit sponsored by WASC *(the Wisconsin Association of School Councils)*. The conference held on Tuesday 11/6, featured breakout sessions for students to learn about potential leadership opportunities, but also feature a keynote speaker, Scott Backovich – noted motivational speaker who talks to students about meeting their full potential.

Music, Music, Music



Mr. Emery's 6th and 7th/8th grade choirs recently performed at the Columbus Chorale Collage. Each group performed two songs separately, but also joined in a finale that included all school choirs from grades 6-12.

The song featured at the finale was "O Sifuni Mungo" words and music by Marty McCall, David Maddox, and Mmunga Mwenebu-Iongo, and Asukulu 'Yunu Mukalay. The Swahili song, with lyrics originally written in 1225 in a canticle by St Francis of Assisi, was performed by all students in the traditional language. Students not only learned some new language features, but focused on how to perform as a large group with many voices create one cohesive affect. The choirs and their director were celebrated after the song with a standing ovation.

Counseling Grades 6-8:

6th grade will be learning more about Digital Citizenship and how to be and stay safe online. We will also be getting an introduction to Academic & Career Planning and what that means and will look like throughout their MS/HS Careers.

In 7th and 8th grade we reviewed our bullying and harassment topics to make sure we knew what those meant. We also had a lesson on Suicide Prevention. We will be going forward with our Academic and Career Planning lessons as well as lessons on Social-Emotional Learning topics.

Food, Forests and Wildlife:



The 6th grade students focused on Wisconsin wildlife and learned about how animals are classified and the food chains and food webs in the ecosystems of these animals. Each student selected on Wisconsin wildlife animal to research and created a wildlife card that they shared with the class. The students finished the quarter with an FFA unit. They made an FFA emblem in class and received an FFA emblem pin from Mrs. Crook. They also learned about the FFA jacket and the symbols of the FFA officers. They enjoyed participating in team building and leadership skill development the last couple of days.

Columbus Area Endowment Grant



The Columbus Middle School and Columbus Intermediate School Literacy Team proudly received a grant from the Columbus Area Endowment this past week at their annual event. Ms. Angela Weimer was present to accept this award from Mr. Alan Strohschein. The grant will be used to purchase age and culturally appropriate materials for classroom libraries so that all children have access to great books. Our staff feels incredibly thankful to have support from our community in order to insure that all children have access to great materials.

From the School Nurse

A healthy school environment requires the cooperation and effort of us all working together. During this time of year, we tend to see a higher incidence of strep throat, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. The health office would like to remind everyone that they can help to protect themselves and their families from many of these airborne illnesses. Follow the Habits for Good Health listed below recommended by the Center for Disease Control.



Habits for Good Health

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—throw the tissue away after you use it. If you do not have a tissue, cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow. For more information, watch the video@ www.coughsafe.com.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol based hand cleaner.
- Stay away as much as you can from people who are sick.
- If you or your child gets the flu, stay home from work or school. Do not go near other people so that you don't make them sick too.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.
- Dress for the weather. Come to school dressed for the winter. Wear layers of loose fitting clothing. Wear mittens and gloves. Wear a hat. Remember, the air that is trapped inside your clothing, warmed by your body heat, is the best protection from the cold.

Mary Hughes, RN, School Nurse

Columbus High School

Principal Jake Ekern
Dean of Students Terri Schumacher

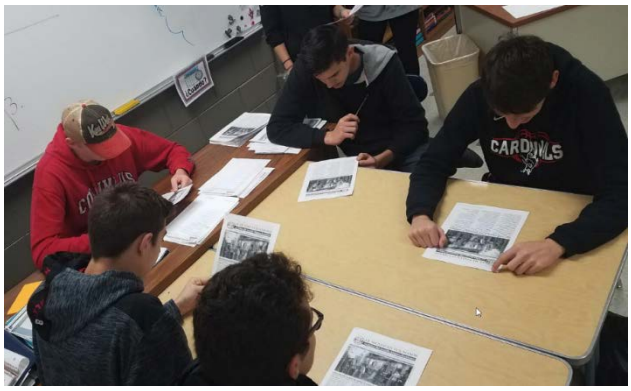
World Language/Spanish:



Students from Spanish 1 are reading several current events articles in Spanish. In their groups, they have to find facts to share with the rest of the class. Cognates *(words that look, sound and mean the same in English and Spanish)* help them understand the articles.



Some articles they read about were a new school in rural Guatemala, the popularity of indigenous cinema and illegal immigrants crossing from Morroco into Spain. This is a great way to get the students familiar with reading and ready to read our novel coming up in the spring.



Math Department News:



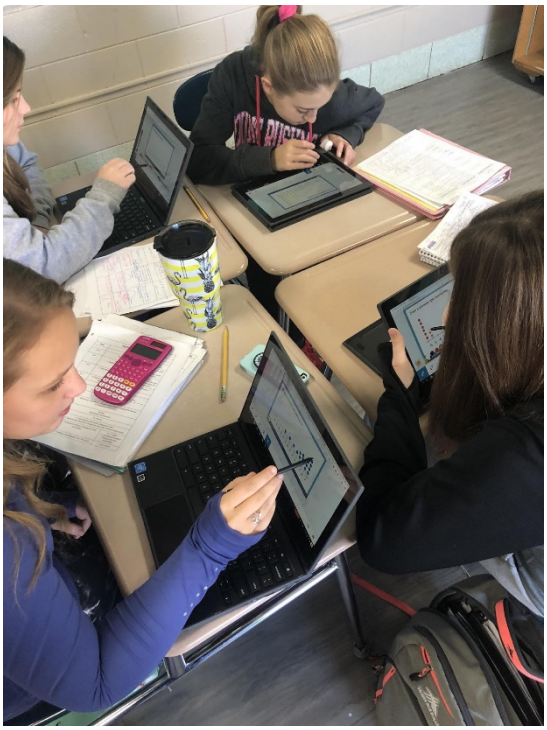
Columbus High School welcomed Kristine Westphal to the Math Department this year. Kristine is a May 2018 graduate of Marian University, where she received her Bachelor's Degrees in Math and Secondary Education. In December, she will also receive her Master's Degree in Educational Technology. Currently, Kristine is teaching Algebra 1, Advanced Algebra, and Statistics. When she isn't teaching, Kristine can be found at Badger Volleyball matches and Brewer Games. We are glad she joined the Math Department at CHS, and she is doing an awesome job!

The math department is in the process of adopting a new curriculum for Algebra 1 and Geometry this year. This curriculum is called EngageNY, a project by the New York State Department of Education using Eureka Math. EngageNY is a curriculum that facilitates lessons in



which the students are allowed to discover new ideas and use previous knowledge to formulate their understanding of new concepts. With this new curriculum comes changes in the way lessons are structured and presented.

Within the new Algebra 1 and Geometry curriculums students are expected to attend to the Common Core Wisconsin State Standards for Mathematical Practice in Action. These standards are in place to ensure that students follow good math practices such as: making sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, constructing viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, and modeling with mathematics.



In order to aid students with their own learning, students are placed in cooperative groups where they use each other as resources. Within each cooperative group, each student has a role of either Facilitator, Resource Manager, Task Manager, or Recorder/Reporter. The facilitator's job is to make sure everyone knows what to do and understands a concept before moving on as a group. The resource manager determines what supplies and tools their team needs for an activity or lesson and gets them. The task manager's job is to keep the team talking about math and posing questions to the whole group to check mathematical reasoning. The recorder/reporter must share team data with the class and make sure their team agrees on how to display and share their work.

Our math teachers are now facilitating instruction where students rely on each other and use other resources available to explore math concepts and skills. What would have been a long lecture in previous years' Algebra and Geometry classes is now turned into a mini-lecture or activity that introduces a new idea, concept, or skill. This is followed by structured work time in which the students work together to practice and understand the concept while using online and teacher-provided resources.

Our teachers implement Depth of Knowledge questioning in which teachers pose questions to students that progress from simple recall of information to questions that promote strategic thinking and require students to think of a concept's application in the real world. Our teachers' motto is, "Don't say anything a student could say." This means that if our teachers can extract an explanation from a student, then they should do this through questioning. Through proper questioning, students' thoughts are directed toward constructing their own understanding of concepts, as opposed to simply observing how the teacher performs a skill and copying the teacher's steps. With these questioning strategies in place, students are more engaged and interactive with the learning process and understand lessons more thoroughly.





As with any changes, everyone from the teachers, to the students, and even parents who are trying to help their kids at home have experienced some growing pains. Our math teachers at CHS are adapting to and adopting this new way of teaching within the curriculum. This hasn't been simple for the teachers or their students, but as the school year has progressed, everyone has become more accustomed to these changes. While this discovery based learning might be frustrating at times, it is more engaging and enjoyable for students who get to take ownership of their learning and be part of a rewarding classroom community.

Columbus School District Staff Service Awards

During American Education Week, November 12 - 16, 2018, the Columbus School Board recognizes all school staff for their years of service with a framed "C" and pins representing years of service to the District. The following staff received their service awards during presentations at the buildings on the 12th, 13th and 14th of November:



Ten Years: Tania Black, Brooke Jacobson, Tammy Leis, Karen Schrader

Fifteen Years: Peggy First, Cindy Groth, Ben Schambow

Twenty Years: Marlin Hensler, Kathy Schoenherr, Suzy Zahn

Thirty Years: Jackie Beilfuss

Makerspaces Come to the Columbus School District

What is a Makerspace?



Makerspaces have been recognized in the K-12 and higher education Horizon reports since 2015 as an area for growth in technology and innovation. "Makerspaces champion the process of experimentation and iteration; students design and build, making continuous improvements to prototypes as they learn what works...and what does not" (NMC/CoSn Horizon Report 2017). These areas provide opportunities for learners to explore, tinker, create, and discover through hands-on activities. These spaces include a combination of technology (3d printers, robotics, computer programs) with hands-on tools (hammers, cardboard, scissors, etc). Beyond the technology and tools, the makerspace provides opportunities for learners to work on creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication in a self-directed and peer-to-peer activities. Many schools around the world are transforming libraries and classrooms into spaces that provide access to tools and equipment to create and design.

Columbus' makerspaces aim to provide a learning environment that creates new experiences to challenge learners to solve meaningful problems in their lives, schools, and communities. This year marks the beginning of our makerspace journey within the district. Each building in the district has a designated space that offers learners the opportunity for hands-on learning and creation. Last spring, our makerspace team worked on creating the mission, vision, strategy and indicators for success for these new spaces. Our goal is to develop spaces that grow with the learners. Link to Makerspace Vision Statement



High School Makerspace

This year also marks the start of our high school Maker Club. The club meets every other week during I/E block and works on different maker challenges. One of the first goals of the club is to design and create the high school makerspace. We have brainstormed different types of activities/spaces that would be high interest areas for making. Which is leading to the creation of the following areas within the high school library: video/image production, coding, robotics, audio production and product development. Our project leads are working hard through the design process and are currently reviewing materials needed for each space. Over the winter months, we will start to see a transformation of our high school library space as elements of the makerspaces are incorporated within the current library. Redesigning the space will provide a rich environment for learning through text and hands on experiences. All students are welcome to join the Maker Club by signing up during I/E block.

Links to Resources

Horizon Report 2017: http://bit.ly/2RGEJum
District Makerspace Mission and Vision Statement: http://bit.ly/2DrvdbC



The Columbus School Board voted to approve the School District Budget at the October 22nd Board meeting. The official numbers from the State were not available until October 15th. The motion at the meeting was to adopt the 2018-2019 budget and tax levy including $5,753,372 for general operations, $943,968 for non-referendum debt and $120,000 for community services totaling $6,817,340. There is a decrease in the tax levy for the 2018-2019 school year.

The District Annual meeting was held at 8 PM on Monday, October 8th at the City Hall. Former Board member Liz O'Donnell was elected chairperson of the meeting. There were seven resolutions that were passed by District residents. The resolutions authorized the board to:

1. Charge student fees
2. Operate a food service program
3. Approve salaries and expenses for school board
4. Engage legal counsel if needed
5. Allow Board to set 2019 annual meeting
6. Provide a transportation program
7. Adopt a tax levy.

School Board Meeting Schedule

- Monday, November 12, 2018 7 PM at City Hall
- Wednesday, November 14, 2018 – Closed Session – District Office 6:30 PM
- Monday, November 26, 2018 7 PM at City Hall
- Monday, December 10, 2018 7 PM at City Hall

School Board Members

President Cindy Damm Vice President Mike O'Brien
Clerk Mary Arnold Treasurer Bill Braun
Kelly Crombie Julie Hajewski Barb Hesselberg

School Board Webpage

https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/domain/30 Policies, agendas, minutes are all posted on our website. Look around!

Community Learning Update

Community Back to School Night

Sponsored by Columbus Community Learning Services and School Nursing Services

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

At Columbus Middle School



Do you find that your family is in need of winter clothing, socks, mittens, books, or haircuts?

If so, please come to our Community Giving Back Night. There will be barbers, hairstylists, winter clothing, socks, mittens and books free to any and all community members!

- Please make sure hair is washed and clean before coming in for a haircut.
- **Local service groups have donated funds so that children can come and pick out two small gifts for someone.**
- Clothing supplies are limited to donations that are received

December, 11th from 4-7 PM

Columbus Middle School

For more information on this event, Please go to the Columbus School District Website under Community Learning Services or Columbus Community Learning Services Facebook page. You may also contact Cori Denk at cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us or 920-350-0370.

Showcasing Success



At the second Board meeting of each month, the Superintendent provides opportunities for the Board to recognize successes or achievement of students, staff, or community stakeholders who have met Board Ends.

So far this school year, the following groups have been showcased at school board meetings:

- **August:** Unified Champions – Youth Leadership Experience in Seattle Washington
- **September:** Revisioning of Student Library Spaces – Sharon Egan, Library/Media Specialist
- **October:** CHS Marching Band for this year's competitive season



Columbus FFA

The Columbus FFA raised $831 from their pumpkin sales and donated the funds to the Columbus Community Hospital for their new mammogram machine. The Columbus FFA would like to thank the Columbus Community Garden and Olivet Church for letting us use their garden space. A special thank you to Sara Hanna for letting us join the Pink Out fundraiser. A big thank you to Ameripac for purchasing 80 pumpkins for their employees! A heart felt thank you to everyone in the community that supported the FFA members and purchased pumpkins from them this fall. This project helped demonstrate for the students the power of a community and the support they can provide. The FFA members are already planning to grow an even bigger pumpkin crop for next year!

Calendar / Upcoming Events

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 ◦ School Board Meeting 7 PM, CHS Library	**13**	**14** ◦ Board Retreat/Closed Session 6:30 PM District Office	**15** ◦ Autism & ADHD Presentation 5:30 – 7 PM CMS Library	**16**
19 ◦ FFA Open House & Pot Luck 7-9 PM @ CHS	**20**	**21** ◦ Early Release; classes dismiss at 12:30	**22** ◦ NO SCHOOL – Happy Thanksgiving!	**23** ◦ NO SCHOOL 
26 ◦ School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	**4**	**5** ◦ Late Start, classes begin at 10 AM ◦ CHS Parent Conferences 5-8 PM	**6**	**7**
10 ◦ School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	**11** ◦ Community Giving Back Night 4-7 PM @ CMS	**12**	**13** ◦ CIS Title I Math Night 6:30 PM	**14**
17 ◦ CMS Title I Math Night 6:30 PM	**18** ◦ CHS Winter Concert @ 7 PM	**19**	**20**	**21** ◦ Early Release; classes dismiss at 12:30 PM

Technology Update

BrightBtyes Survey

Our School District has partnered with BrightBytes - an educational research organization - to explore our use of technology for learning.

We invite parents to answer a few questions about your technology use. It should take less than 10 minutes to complete on any device with internet access. Follow **one** of these links to participate:

Please complete **one survey per parent.**

If you are a parent of a student at **Columbus Elementary**: http://www.BByt.es/8C38P
If you are a parent of a student at **Discovery Charter**: http://www.BByt.es/BV4FP
If you are a parent of an **Intermediate** or **Middle School** student: http://www.BByt.es/N899P
If you are a parent of a **High School** student: http://www.BByt.es/JP6ZP

Tell us about your technology use! If you have any questions about District technology, please contact me at 920.623.5950 or cbembenek@columbus.k12.wi.us

Chet Bembenek, Technology Manager

Columbus Data Improves in Key Areas

Student Proficiency Grows in Targeted Areas

Columbus School District showed growth is several key areas based on 2017-18 state assessment data. The trend in student proficiency had been down. In 2015, the District completed an Equity Audit and identified three priority areas: literacy, math, and co-serving for students.

Since 2016, staff who provide services such as special education, literacy intervention, and other pupil services, have provided integrated services in the classrooms as much as appropriate in order to provide students with an inclusive model that meets the needs of individual students and encourages deeper collaboration with the classroom teacher.

To address literacy needs, in 2017, the district systemically changed the writing curriculum and provided staff with ongoing professional development and coaching to support them in the implementation. In 2018, the reading and phonics curriculum changed as well, and staff continue to receive ongoing professional development, coaching and support.

These efforts have led to immediate results in student performance. On the Forward Exam, taken by grade 3-8 students, student achievement rose from 42.2% in 2016-17 to 51.1% in 2017-18, an 8.9% increase. At the high school level, proficiency for grade 11 students on the ACT rose from 41.0% to 45.0%. Every cohort of students who received study through the Units of Study resource in 2017-18 showed an increase in proficiency on a state assessment between 7.7-15.8%.

In English Language Arts, demographic subgroups of students also demonstrated increased proficiency from 2016-17 to 2017-18. On the Forward Exam, proficiency of students who have disabilities increased 3.9%. Proficiency of students who are economically disadvantaged rose 10.4%;

students who are English Language Learners proficiency improved 5.4%. Improvement of students of different race and ethnicities ranged from 8.3-17.9%.

In math, overall student proficiency is above state average on the Forward, ACT Aspire, and ACT assessments. Students in some subgroups also showed growth between 2016-17 and 2018-19: students with disabilities (0.6%), students who are economically disadvantaged (3.0%), English Language Learners (19.3%), and students who are Hispanic (22%).

To improve performance in math, in 2018, grades 6-12 math staff have been receiving ongoing professional development and coaching support to assist in implementation of stronger mathematical teaching practices, while simultaneously reviewing curriculum for future upgrade. Grades K-5 staff have been focusing on the literacy changes but will also receive intensive training and ongoing coaching support beginning in summer 2019. Support for literacy and co-serving through professional development, collaboration, and planning will remain for staff going forward.

By focusing on literacy, all students will grow into avid readers and writers. By improving math curriculum and practice, students will develop into creative problem solvers and critical thinkers. Co-serving and inclusive practices allows all students access to learning at high levels.

Contact Information



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Phone Number: **920.623.5950**

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