

E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

DECEMBER, 2018

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

Staff Service Awards

The Columbus School Board recognized staff members that have served the District for ten years or more during American Education Week in November. Staff members were recognized by School Board Members in front of their peers at each of the three buildings.

There were a total of 11 Service Awards distributed. Varsity letters were presented to four employees that have served **10 years**: Tania Black (*District Office*), Brooke Jacobson (*CES*), Tammy Leis (*CHS*), and Karen Schrader (*Transition*).

15 Year pins were presented to: Peggy First (*DCS*), Cindy Groth (*CHS*), and Ben Schambow (*CMS*)

20 Year pins were presented to: Marlin Hensler (*CHS*), Kathy Schoenherr (*CHS*), and Suzy Zahn (*CIS*).

One **30 Year** pin was presented to Jackie Beilfuss (*CES*).

to all our staff for their daily efforts for student growth and improvement as well as their own journey of professional development. Columbus School District is All In!

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Left to Right: Columbus Middle School - Board member Julie Hajewski, Board member Mike O'Brien, Ben Schambow, Tania Black, Suzy Zahn, and Board member Kelly Crombie.



Brooke Jacobson is receiving her ten-year award from Board President Cindy Damm

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Left to Right: Columbus High School - Cindy Groth, Board Member Mary Arnold, Board President Cindy Damm, Tammy Leis, Board Member Bill Braun, and Marlin Hensler.



Left to Right: Columbus Elementary and Discovery Charter Schools Jackie Beilfuss, Board Member Barb Hesselberg, Board Member Mary Arnold, Peggy First, and Board President Cindy Damm.

Congratulations and a sincere thank you for your years of service to the students, parents, and community of the Columbus School District.



Columbus Elementary School & Discovery Charter School

Principal Beth Hellpap
Dean of Students Karin Westlake

CES/DCS Students Share What They Are Thankful For!



On Friday November 23rd the CES/DCS students participated in an assembly of sharing, singing and fun. The students were asked by their classroom teacher "what they were thankful for" and wrote their ideas on a turkey feather. Then a classroom representative came forward and read the things they were thankful for to the school. Once the students were done sharing, the feathers were put on "Tom" to create a beautiful turkey! Some common themes that our students were thankful for were: Family, Teachers, Food, and Pets!



Thankful

Project Unify is Coming to CES/DCS

Linda Trentin and Natalie Beilfuss are the new co-advisors to lead Project Unified in the elementary school. Columbus High School has been nationally known for their Project Unify team that incorporates inclusive practices for all students. CES/DCS is excited to bring this effort to explicitly teach inclusiveness to our students.



For more information about Project Unify visit this [website](#). If you are interested in getting your CES/DCS child involved in Project Unify click [here](#)!

DCS Students Embark on Recycling and Composting Efforts

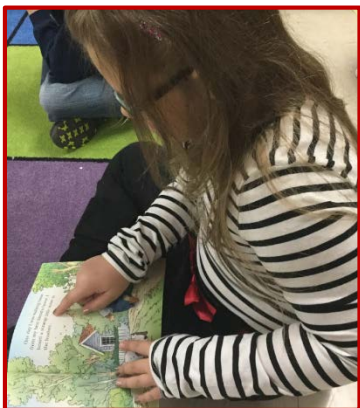
Ms. Zietlow and Mrs. Winters have started a small but mighty crew to begin composting and recycling efforts at the Elementary School. Students have joined Mrs. Hellpap in morning meeting to educate the whole school about the importance of recycling and what we can recycle here at school. This "Green Team" will lead the school by educating, modeling and implementing recycling and composting items every day during breakfast and lunch. The students in the 3rd grade DCS classes have also made sure all the garbage and recycling bins are properly labeled in the building.



CES/DCS

CES/DCS is looking for Community Volunteers to Mentor Children

For over 10 years, CES/DCS has had a mentoring program to support our students. These mentors have been high school students, teachers, administrators, support staff and community members. These mentors spend 15-30 minutes, once a week with a student. They pick an activity the child is interested in, for example, playing board games, basketball or arts and crafts. If you are interested in being a mentor you will need to contact Mrs. Hellpap (Principal) and she will have you fill out a background check and support the mentors with additional training.



TOP SECRET Agency Comes to 1st Grade

First graders are working on Units of Study Phonics and have become a part of the "secret agency" of word detectives. They studied the "case of the silent 'e'" and many more tricky words. The "Top Secret Agency" was found calling the students during their phonics lessons with new cases to solve throughout the unit. The students enjoyed being word detectives!

From the School Nurse

It's hard to believe winter is around the corner, but our first snow has fallen, so it's time to start preparing. There are a lot of fun things to do outside in winter. However, it is important to consider safety.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided us with some helpful winter health and safety tips:



Outdoor Winter Activities

Ice skating, skiing and sledding are great ways to get exercise on a cold winter day. Remember, children should be supervised with these activities.

Safety Tips:

- # It is safer to sled feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first.
- # Sled on slopes that are not too steep and are free of obstructions like trees or fences.
- # Skate only on approved surfaces.
- # Skate in one direction with the crowd.
- # Never skate alone.
- # Do not chew gum or eat candy while doing these activities.
- # Wear a helmet when skiing.
- # Stay away from crowded areas.



Other winter concerns:

Nosebleeds

If your child suffers from winter nosebleeds it may be from the dry air. Try using a cold air humidifier in the child's room at night. Saline nose drops or petroleum jelly may help too. If severe, consult your pediatrician.

Hypothermia/Frostbite

When it is cold outside, remember to set a reasonable time limit on outdoor play and have children come inside periodically to warm up. Dressing in layers is best.

Dress Warm and Stay Well!

Mary Hughes, RN, School Nurse

Student Services Department

ACCESS Testing Begins

Beginning on December 4th students identified as English Language Learners (ELL) will be taking the ACCESS test. This assessment is a computer-based, adaptive test that responds to student performance and may be administered in group or individual settings.



This assessment is given annually to students in Grades 1-12. It tests students' language in four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing. It is important to help your child prepare for this assessment by making sure they get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast each morning. It is also very important that your child attend school on the testing days so they don't miss the testing session. Regular attendance is important. If you have questions about the ACCESS assessment or the testing schedule please contact Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services at lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us.

Columbus Intermediate School

CIS/CMS PE/Wellness

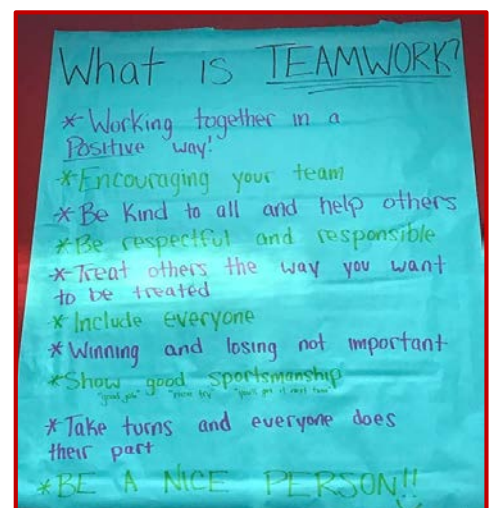
At CIS and CMS there is a word of the month that teachers discuss with their students during their Cardinal Times. The word for the month of November was *Teamwork/ Cooperation*. Both of these words are relevant in day-to-day life, but very important in team games played in Physical Education. With this being said, I thought this presented itself to be a great opportunity to really try and incorporate the word they discuss every day, into my classroom – Wellness.

We started the month with each class sharing what they thought teamwork and cooperation meant to them. I then put



together a list of the most commonly said answers and made a poster to hang up in the wellness room. This stands as a daily reminder to follow those expectations... especially since they came from them – the students!

Throughout the month, the CIS students have been introduced to all sorts of team building activities, with the main premise of the activities being all about working together in a positive way. Students were responsible for working alongside their classmates in order to build hula huts and complete challenges such as crawling through them and/or singing the ABC's around the hut. Some groups were successful in working with another group in order to build a double decker hula hut. Other team activities included a rock/paper/scissor challenge. This challenge was fast pace and allowed the students to cheer on their teammates while challenging another team. The hope is that students are able to make connections between things they do and learn about in their classroom, as well as activities we do in wellness/physical education. By referencing the word of the month in multiple settings, that is a start!



3rd Grade Muffin Mysteries



In our third grade classrooms students were excited to solve a mystery with a reward of eating the evidence. Students used skills learned during a Units of Study Reading unit to look at and solve the mystery.

The mystery of the day was to investigate who was taking the muffins! In the end, they all were guilty!

We also thank parents for their muffin donations and for continuing to support Columbus Intermediate teachers and students in their new classrooms.



Principal Loren Glasbrenner
Assistant Principal Cori Denk

Columbus Middle School

PLTW (*Project Lead The Way*) Class Sparks Engagement

Middle school is a time of exploration, a time when students are figuring out what they're passionate about today and how that relates to who they'll become tomorrow. During this transitional time, Project Lead the Way empowers students to lead their own discovery.

Students in Mr Benisch's sixth grade Project Lead the Way class recently participated in an Instant Design Challenge to create an optimal solution to a given problem and apply what they learned to understand the importance of using the Design Process.



The problem they needed to solve was to create a device using only the materials provided to protect a Pringles potato chip from a drop off the gym balcony. Students worked in small groups and followed each of the 6 steps of the Design Process to solve the problem and then reflected after each step was completed. The challenge was a fun hands-on project that boosted classroom engagement and excitement, drove collaboration, and inspired many "aha moments".



Columbus High School

Good Things Happening!

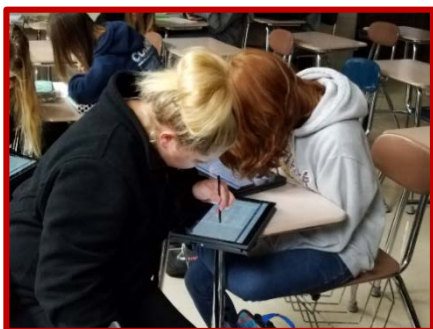
The Cardinal (yearbook) staff created the Senior Wall in the CHS lobby. The wall helps seniors proof their senior portraits for the yearbook, encourages students to submit photos if they haven't already, and has been a longstanding tradition at CHS. One senior student commented during passing, "It is so crazy that it is our year to be on the wall." Students always gather around the wall after it goes up to check out students' portraits.



Showcasing Success

At the second Board meeting in November, the Columbus High School Yearbook staff was recognized for receiving the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award. Advisor Jolene Schwoerer and students Corinna Larson and Addie Vick presented information at the November 26th Board meeting about the criteria for the award. This is the third year in a row that the Yearbook staff has received this award. Congratulations!





English II students Elizabeth Glese and Chelsea Rogers annotate their reading assignment using the new laptops provided at the beginning of the school year.

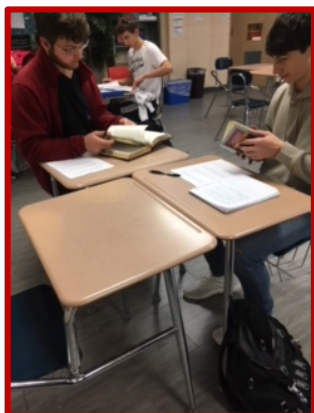
Department News: Columbus High School English Department

Welcome, Mrs. Bechard!

Columbus High School welcomes our newest English teacher to our school. Jessie Bechard comes to Columbus with previous English teaching experience in Cottage Grove and Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Jessie is teaching English I, Creative Writing, Sports Lit, and Science Fiction. When she isn't teaching, she's usually reading, cooking, doing yoga, or trying (in vain) to fix something that broke in her new house. We are super excited to have Mrs. Bechard in our English department and in our CHS family!

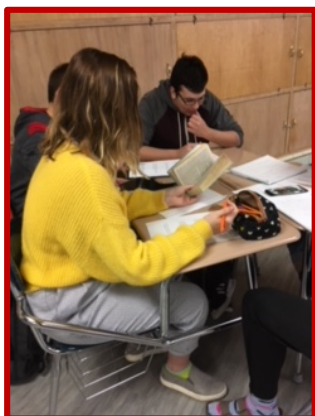
In **English I**, students are using a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to explore identity. They are currently in a "Love & Identity" unit, which uses Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, as well as some short stories, to think about questions like, "How does love shape us?" Throughout the unit, students are discussing in small groups, and they will write a thesis-driven essay to demonstrate their learning.

In **Sports Literature**, students are working on an argumentative podcast on a topic of their choice. They will research both sides of their topic, develop a specific and nuanced claim, write their speaking points, and record themselves. They are also finishing up a choice book, and soon they will work on a variety of project options to show their deep thinking about the book!

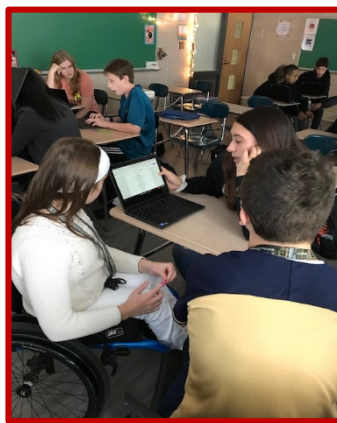


English Gets a Curriculum Facelift at CHS

English is getting a makeover -- that's right! As a department, we're very excited to share with you the work that we've been doing these past couple of years. After surveying our students, discussing among ourselves, and with parents and administration, we've decided to take our 21st century learner into the 21st century! We've researched the skills, the methodology, and the interests to best prepare our students for college, career, and beyond.



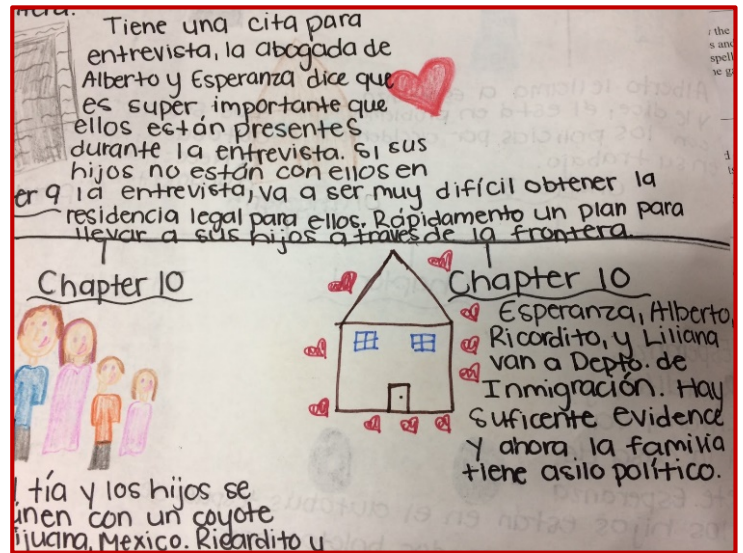
Major Authors students Frank Roelke, Evan Anderson, Hayden Ott, Ashtin Hemling, Teagan Herschleb, and Liam Thelen discuss concepts of irony in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.



Students in English I brought in examples of love song lyrics, then worked in groups to identify examples of figurative language within them. This is part of a larger unit on Love & Identity, which examines questions like, "How does love shape us?" and "Can we maintain our individual identity while in a relationship?" through a variety of texts, including Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

Columbus High School Spanish Department

The Columbus School District offers Spanish as a foreign language for grades 6-12. Students get right into using the language by studying useful, everyday vocabulary to talk about their likes and dislikes, school and food, and then begin reading short books as a class. Some books are true stories with deeper themes covering historical events (for example, the Guatemalan Civil War, the Spanish Civil War) while others are light-hearted and entertaining reads (a boy whose parents have gone on vacation-what could go wrong?!). By the end of Spanish 2, students are able to understand and communicate in situations involving their own interests, hobbies and childhood, while in Spanish 3 students really blossom to incorporate skills in discussing international travel, unexpected problems and also personal health. Students are able to continue their studies through AP Spanish 5. With incorporating novels into the curriculum, we've really seen students acquire more skills in reading and writing at the lower levels and truly retain that knowledge into continuing classes where their speaking abilities take center stage. All levels strive to incorporate culture and modern topics so as to better connect students with the world around them. Current events articles and class discussions are a main staple during the week, so if you have a student in Spanish class, feel free to ask them what they've been up to! It's always encouraged that class ideas be taken home. Language learning isn't all about the grammar!



In conjunction with Spanish classes, CHS has the Global Education Achievement Certificate (GEAC) club where students can, after fulfilling requirements in courses, completing a service learning project and attending culturally focused activities, receive the seal of Global Scholar on their transcripts and earn the Global Scholar Certification. The GEAC is a program of DPI and a wonderful opportunity for foreign language students to give back while also cushioning their resumes.

In closing, both Profes Markle and Parchem are excited to continue growing Columbus School District's Spanish language program and look forward to continued student success both in the classroom and in each student's lives as they take those cultural lessons learned out into the world. To our students: We are so proud of what you've achieved and appreciate your effort and curiosity you bring to class each day. Hasta luego, un abrazo y...¡Pura Vida



School Board

UPDATE

Spring Election

Election papers are available in the District Office during regular work hours.

Incumbents Mary Arnold and Mike O'Brien's terms will expire in April. If they are not running for another three-year term, they must complete non-

candidacy papers by December 21st. People interested in running for school Board must file their Declarations of Candidacy and Campaign Registration Statement by 5 PM on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Qualities of a School Board Member (wasb.org)

There are many qualifications and qualities that experienced school board members have indicated are important to school board membership. These include:

- # A commitment to the belief that all children of the school district are entitled to have available to them a beneficial educational program.
- # An open mind and readiness to learn.
- # A willingness to attend seminars and workshops which can help them make intelligent decisions in school affairs. [The first WASB event for newly elected school board members are the New School Board Member Gatherings held in late April in 15 regions throughout the state to briefly review school board member responsibilities and introduce the new members to the services and information provided by the WASB.]
- # A vision and an ability to understand changes in our society.
- # The ability to act with other school board members to advance the best interests of the school district.
- # The capability to articulate the philosophy and goals of the school and to listen carefully to the criticisms offered by people with differing views.
- # A willingness to invest the hours that will be necessary to faithfully discharge their duties.
- # Freedom from conflict with any other interest.

School Board Meeting Schedule

- r Monday, **December 10, 2018** 6:30 PM at City Hall
The [Launching Forward Study Groups](#) will be presenting their recommendations.
- r Wednesday, **December 12, 2018** [Retreat & Closed Session](#) 6:30 PM at District Office
The School Board will be reviewing the Launching Forward Study Group Recommendations during the Retreat. The Closed Session is to confer with legal counsel.
- r Monday, **January 14, 2019** 7 PM at City Hall

Community Learning Update

The Columbus Community Learning Services (CLS) is a bridge between the Community and Schools. CLS offers programs and activities for students, parents, guardians, and community members. These programs are driven by the needs of our community, parents and our students. We will bring the community into our schools and give our students the opportunities that enrich their learning.



For young kids:

- Early Learning Institute which lets you bring your 2-5-year-olds in for a developmental screener by professionals.
- Maker project will bring hands-on activities to children ages 2-7 and their families

For students in grades K-2:

- Young Athletes
- Piano Lessons
- Chess Club
- Tae Kwon Do
- Art Club

For students in grades 3-8:

- Running Club
- After School Care for Students in Grades 4-8 - Community Learning Center
- Art Club
- Lego League (4th grade only)
- Weight Room (5th-8th grade)
- Tae Kwon Do
- Maker's Project
- Chess Club
- Piano Lessons (3rd-5th)

For students in grades 9-12:

- Running Club
- Art Club
- Tae Kwon Do
- SOFit--Learn how to incorporate exercise and wellness into your daily life without a gym membership or equipment! This is a partnership with the Special Olympics
- Chess Club
- Ice Fishing Club



Adults and ALL Community Members:

- Autism Presentations
- Yoga Flow
- Tae Kwon Do
- Healthy Relationships Presentation
- Better Brain Health Presentation
- Personal Finance Presentation
- Self-Care Presentation
- Anxiety and Depression Presentation
- And much more to come!



Please contact Cori Denk--Director of Community Learning for more information: cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us or 920-350-0370



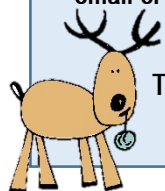
Winter Break

- r Classes will dismiss at **12:30 PM** on Friday, **December 21st**.
- r There is no school the week of December 24th.
- r There is no school on December 31st and January 1st.
- r Students return to school on Wednesday, **January 2, 2019!**

Emergency (Weather) Closings How You'll Be Notified

We will use our electronic messaging system to call, email, and text families about the change in the school schedule.

Our goal is to reach as many families as possible as soon as possible. We call all phones listed for parents and guardians of our students to ensure we reach someone from each household. It may seem redundant to call home, cell, and work phones, but we must make sure parents receive this important information. We cannot just send it via email or text as we may not reach all families.



Thank you! Stay safe!

The Columbus School District is seeking a **full time, second shift Custodian** at Columbus High School.

Qualifications:

- # Demonstrates aptitude/competence for assigned responsibilities.
- # Ability to work with staff, students, and supervisor.
- # Wisconsin Driver's license and proof of insurance.
- # Ability to work alone in buildings and outdoors.

Reports to Facilities Manager and Building Principal
Coordinates with Building Staff

General Functions: *Clean and care for buildings and facilities in order to ensure they are maintained in a safe and healthy manner.*

Apply online at WECAN Wisconsin Education Career Access Network. Vacancy ID 44712 for this position. \$15.84/hour, plus benefits.

The Columbus School District is also seeking substitute custodians and food service workers for remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. Rate of pay for substitute work is \$12/hour.

Custodian Substitutes
Begin after 3:30 P.M.

Food Service Substitutes
Hours vary.

Application forms are available www.columbus.k12.wi.us
(Employment Opportunities).

Criminal background checks will be completed on all potential employees. Columbus School District is an equal opportunity employer.

District Policies & Regulations

The Columbus School District has two types of policies. The first type are District Policies and Regulations. These policies are more administrative in nature. The District Policies and Regulations are posted on our [website](#).

The second type are policies that the Board of Education governs by. These policies consist of Ends, Executive Limitations, Board/Superintendent Relations, and Governance Process Policies. The Board of Education Policies are also posted on our [website](#).

Technology Update



[eSchool news article](#)

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.

Makerspaces in Columbus School District

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](#)

Links to Resources

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

Community Giving Back Night

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 – 4 to 7 PM

Columbus Middle School

If your family is in need of winter clothing, socks, mittens, books, or haircuts, come to the **Community Giving Back Night**.

There will be barbers, hairstylists, winter clothing, socks, mittens, and books – FREE to any and all community members. Just make sure that your hair is washing and clean before coming in for a haircut.

Local service groups have donated funds so children can come and “shop” for two small gifts for someone special.

Clothing is available but is limited to donations that have been received.



Food Service Update

Why School Breakfast? It Takes a Team

There are several reasons why students do not eat breakfast:

- 🍏 No time in the morning
- 🍏 Not hungry or do not feel like eating first thing in the morning
- 🍏 No food at home

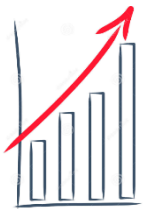


If students come to school on an empty stomach, how can they learn anything? It's nearly impossible when hungry. Consider this: if your family ate dinner at 6 o'clock last night and your child skipped breakfast this morning, he or she could go up to 18 hours straight without food. Think back to the last time you were famished. How did you feel? How well did you focus? How did you behave? Being optimally nourished throughout the day is vital to one's behavior and ability to learn.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, children who eat breakfast are more focused, perform better at school, and are healthier overall compared with those who do not eat breakfast. Current research suggests that there is nearly a letter grade difference between children skip breakfast and children who eat breakfast daily. Additionally, behavior and emotional problems are less prevalent among children who consume breakfast according to an article in the Journal of Pediatrics.

The Columbus School District Food Services Team has implemented some non-traditional breakfast models to aid in the academic success of all of our students.

- 🍏 Breakfast is served in the classroom at CES at the start of the day
- 🍏 Breakfast is available at CIS/CMS from 7:30 until 7:50 am each day. The students are welcome to eat the Grab-n-Go breakfast in the cafeteria or to take the breakfast to their classrooms
- 🍏 CHS also has a Grab-n-Go breakfast available between 1st and 2nd block each for the students to consume in the classroom



Columbus has experienced **an increase of over 9000 breakfast served** over the first 3 months of the current school year compared to the first 3 months of the 17-18 school year. The breakfast includes a healthy entrée, fruit, juice, and milk. The cost is \$1.70 per breakfast. The School Breakfast Program (SBP) is a federally-assisted program that operates in public schools. Any child may purchase a meal regardless of household income. Breakfasts are available for families on the free/reduced meals program. Free and reduced meal applications are available on the district website, food pantry, and also at the public library. Feel free to contact Kim Stadler at the District Office should you have any questions on the application process.

The Food Service Team is committed to the academic success of all of our students. We would love to see that each child begins the day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast—at home or at school.

Breakfast Information – At A Glance

A hot breakfast served at all schools three days a week and a full menu of nutritious items the other 2 days.

Elementary School – A breakfast cart will be moving from classroom to classroom right at the start of the school day and students will be permitted to eat breakfast in their classrooms.

Middle School- Breakfast available in the cafeteria starting at 7:30 am and foods will be available for 'grab-n-go' up until the second bell so that students can take breakfast items to their classrooms to eat.

High School – Breakfast will be available in a 'grab-n-go' between 1st and 2nd periods.

Curriculum & Instruction

Several district content teams have been working on curriculum work over the last several weeks. The Grades 9-12 English, K-12 music, 6-12 science, and K-12 physical education/health teams have started a review process of standards and curriculum that will ultimately lead to revisions of and/or development of a new scope and sequence in those content areas. This work will be completed by the end of the school year. Over the next month, K-5 science, K-5 social studies, 6-12 social studies, and 9-12 business teams will also begin their curriculum work.

The Columbus School District follows a curriculum renewal and design cycle, reviews district priorities, and examines changes at the state level to academic standards and/or the law.

Last school year, the Wisconsin Department of Instruction (DPI) created a schedule in which the academic standards for each content area is reviewed every 6.5 years. Once the DPI adopts new standards, districts have three years to fully implement them into their curriculum.

Last school year, DPI released new standards for science, music, social studies, and environmental education (embedded into various subjects). This school year, standards for world language, personal financial literacy, and art will be reviewed by DPI for possible revision.

Title I Notification

Columbus Elementary School (CES), Columbus Intermediate School (CIS) and Columbus Middle School (CMS) receive federal Title I dollars, which means that based on low income enrollment, those schools receive federal dollars to help support literacy and math programming. The district has a few policies that address Title I specifically.

District policy **2261.01- Parent Participation in Title I Programs** outlines the district parent and family engagement policy. In accordance with this policy, an annual Title I parent meeting was held on October 29, 2018, at Columbus Middle School. This meeting was for CES, CIS, and CMS parents. One of the most important factors of this policy is family engagement. This is the district's Family Engagement Plan discussed at the annual parent meeting. As parents, these steps are taken by the district to help keep you informed and connected with information regarding your child's curriculum, child's progress, and the school's progress.

2018-2019 Family Engagement Plan

✓	October 2018- Math resource links sent via District Newsletter
	✓ October 15, 2018 and February 4, 2019- Information on curriculum/parental resources (Parent Teacher Conferences)
✓	October 2018- ASCD School Improvement survey sent out to all parents for feedback
✓	October 29, 2018- Annual Parent Meeting
	✓ Fall 2018, Winter 2019, and Spring 2019- Student performance on district assessment sent home to families with information regarding student proficiency
✓	Late November/early December 2018-School performance profiles will be on the School Report Cards which will be sent home with students. School data performance is also available at https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/
	Spring 2019- Revision to School/District Needs Assessments, including family engagement plan
	Summer 2019- Student performance on state assessment sent home to families with information regarding student proficiency
	Evening parent engagement events throughout the school year (If your child attends one of the Title I schools, please watch for further details from the school principal closer to an event.)

	Literacy*	Math*	Preparing for Summer*
Columbus Elementary School	✓ November 8	January 17	TBD
Columbus Intermediate School	March 4	December 3	April 29
Columbus Middle School	April 23	December 17	April 29

Additionally, district policy 2261.02-Parents' Right to Know outlines a parent's right to request, and the district will provide qualification information on their student's classroom teachers.

Business Office Update

Columbus School District Improves its Financial Stability and Receives Upgraded Credit Rating

In July 2017, the school business office laid out a goal to improve the financial stability of the Columbus School District for the primary purpose of ensuring the district's short-term and long-term ability to deliver excellent education to all students as outlined in the mission statement and Launching a New Legacy strategic plan. The office identified benchmarks to evaluate their progress towards these goals including:

1. Create and implement new purchasing and contract agreement processes that guarantee the district is receiving the highest quality goods and services at the lowest cost. (Benchmark met in 2017-2018)
2. Increase the fund balance to avoid excess short-term borrowing, have assets to cover unforeseen expenditure needs and potentially improve the District's credit rating. (Benchmark met June 30, 2018 in the audited 2017-2018 statement)
3. Reduce the District's reliance on short-term borrowing (or manage cash flow to reduce our need to borrow money for operating expenses) because the interest cost of borrowing is high and our need to borrow negatively impacts our credit rating. (Benchmark currently being met. As of November 30, 2018 we have not borrowed this year and do not have immediate plans to)
4. Improve the budgeting process to create a budget that is 1) accurate and controllable and 2) funds buildings based on the needs of their students with a weighted allocation. (Benchmark met October 22, 2018 with the 2018-2019 budget adoption)
5. Improve the District's credit rating for two purposes: 1) serve as an indicator to the taxpayers that the District is financially responsible and 2) provide significant cost savings for any future borrowings or bond sales. The District's credit rating was downgraded in 2012 from Aa3 to A1 because of a low fund balance and negative cash position resulting in short-term borrowing. (Benchmark met November 7, 2018 with an upgrade to the credit rating)



[Moody's Corporation](#) credit rating agency evaluated these benchmarks and found the progress of the Columbus School District was worthy of an upgrade in its credit rating from A1 to **Aa3** in November 2018. This is excellent news for the District and its taxpayers. Because of the hard work and determination of every staff person in the District, there has been a significant growth of financial stability enabling at a whole new level the District to pursue its mission of empowering students to be community, career, and college ready.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Start, classes begin at 10 AM CHS Parent Conferences 5-8 PM 	6	7
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Giving Back Night 4-7 PM @ CMS 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Retreat & Closed Session 6:30 PM, District Office 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIS Title I Math Night 6:30 PM CMS Winter Concert 	14
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS Title I Math Night 6:30 PM 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHS Winter Concert @ 7 PM 	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Release; classes dismiss at 12:30 PM
24 NO SCHOOL	25	26	27	28

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec 31 	1 NO SCHOOL	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes Resume 	3	4
7	8	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	11
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall 	15	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Quarter 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No School – Teacher Workday
21	22	23	24	25
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall 	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Start, classes begin at 10 AM 	31	



Contact Information

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