



E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

October, 2019

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

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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.

In addition, information will be posted on the front page of the district's website and the district's **Facebook** page. The latest school closure or delay announcements will also be broadcast on local radio stations **WBEV 1430AM / WXRO 95X FM** or WTTN 1580AM and WIBA-Z104 or Madison TV Channels WISC 3, WMTV 15, or WKOW 27; We will attempt to contact as many of these stations as possible. Most television stations also post school closings on their individual websites.

If you feel the weather conditions pose an undue risk for your child, you are encouraged to use your own judgment in deciding whether or not to send your child to school.



Wisconsin School Board Week October 6-12



The Wisconsin Association of School Boards has designated Oct. 6-12 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,” Annette Deuman said. “They make the tough decisions every month and spend many hours reviewing 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 monitoring 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 the 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 members serving our district are as follows: Bill Braun, Kelly Crombie, Cindy Damm, Julie Hajewski, Julia Hoffman, Keith Loppnow, and Mike O’Brien.

SAFESCHOOLS ALERT

Columbus School District is committed to the safety and security of our students and staff. Safety is one of our district's top priorities and to help safeguard our school community, we've taken an important step that we want to share with you.

Our district is now using SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting service that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration five different ways:

1. App: Search for "SafeSchools Alert" in the App Store to download for free
2. Phone: 920.821.1334
3. Text: Text your tip to 920.821.1334
4. Email: 1839@alert1.us
5. Web: <http://1839.alert1.us>

You and your child can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, threats of violence, or any safety issue you're concerned about through SafeSchools Alert. When you submit a tip, be sure to use our district's identification code: **1839** in your communication.

Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about our district is immediately logged in the system and our administration is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. Tips may also be submitted anonymously if you prefer.

Together, using SafeSchools Alert, we can make our district a safer place to work and learn!

If you have questions about this program please contact Lisa Blochwitz at lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us or Chet Bembenek at cbembenek@columbus.k12.wi.us.

Thanks in advance for your support!!

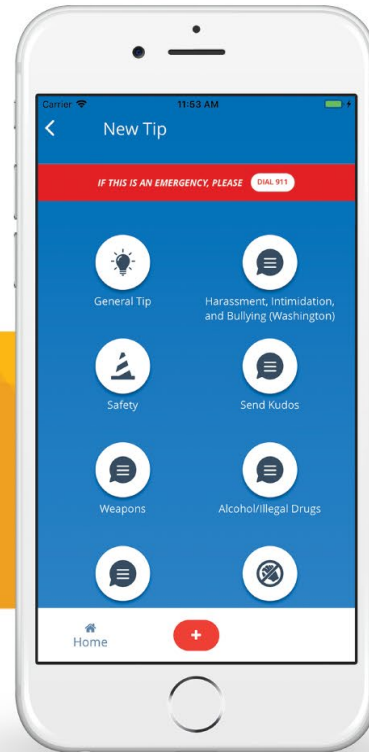


Columbus School District

Report It

SafeSchools Alert is our district's tip reporting service. If you have information about a threat to our safety, do your part and report it! And remember, you can remain anonymous.

SUBMIT USING OUR APP



FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 911

EASY WAYS TO REPORT



Visit the website
<http://1839.alert1.us>



Email your Tip to
1839@alert1.us



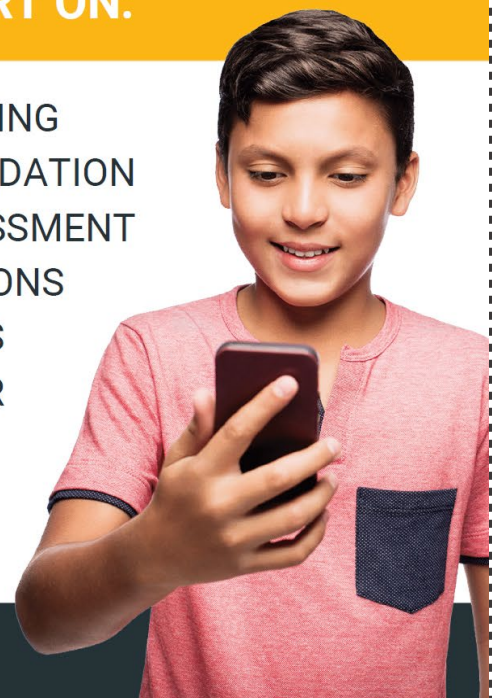
Call to report your tip
920.821.1334



Text your Tip to
920.821.1334

REPORT ON:

- BULLYING
- INTIMIDATION
- HARASSMENT
- WEAPONS
- DRUGS
- OTHER



Our District Code is: 1839

All tips submitted are taken seriously and will be acted upon. Please be responsible with your submissions.

Message from the Principal,

9-2-18

Writing Workshop

Teacher Jobs	Students Jobs
<p>the lesson teach lesson</p> <p>manage class</p> <p>manage students</p> <p>Independent Writing</p> <p>teach a student or a group</p> <p>manage students</p> <p>help students/teacher</p> <p>10-15 minutes Teaching time</p> <p>teach another tip</p>	<p>Mini Lesson: listen</p> <p>answer questions - participate</p> <p>whole body listening</p> <p>Independent Writing</p> <p>to write quietly</p> <p>get started right away</p> <p>finish your work</p> <p>to be focused on writing</p> <p>10-15 minutes teaching time</p> <p>to finish</p> <p>think about the writing tip</p> <p>share</p> <p>to be listening with partners</p> <p>10-15 minutes</p>

Time

4. Have a mindful body.
(bodies are calm, quiet, ready to learn)

CES/DCS had a 95% parent/conference attendance rate. This is very assuring as family engagement is a high priority and component in student success. Thank you to the families who actively participated in conferences. Attached is a [link](#) to give feedback about parent conferences. If you haven't done so already, please fill out the survey so we can improve your conference experiences.

was a great opportunity to teach our young students that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Perseverance and Anti-bullying Presentation

The PTO sponsored an assembly far better than we have ever seen. Jline Dance Crew came to CES/DCS on September 29th to present their dance moves, music and message about never giving up, being kind and standing up for what is right. This high energy performance was highly engaging with sing-along opportunities, dancing and clapping. The students learned from the dancers that everyone will be faced with tough times but how we respond will be what counts.

This event wouldn't have been made possible without the financial support of the Columbus PTO. Thanks to all who have made donations to make an event like this possible.



DCS Harvest is in Full Swing

The DCS students are busy learning about the fruits of their labor. Harvest season is among us and the DCS students are learning about how their tiny seeds from last year have produced great things! Students with the help of teachers and volunteers made soups, applesauce, breads and more! This seed to table process is at the very heart of what DCS is all about. Thank you to all the volunteers for your help!



CES 2nd grade student excited about getting a photo opportunity with Charlie Cardinal

CHS Football players help lead the All School Morning Meeting, reinforcing our school expectations and Cardinal Pride!

Mrs. Hellpap
CES/DCS Principal



Columbus Intermediate School/Middle School

The Weatherman Visits Columbus Intermediate Grade 3 Students



On Friday, October 4th, the 3rd graders at Columbus Intermediate School were treated to a presentation on weather by "Weatherman Patrick", the fiancé of Ms. Jessica Poh, a new teacher at CIS. Patrick is working on his Masters Degree in meteorology.

We learned about different types of clouds, how weather 'moves' from west to east, and how weather forecasts are made. The students especially enjoyed learning about weather balloons and asked some excellent questions about how the balloons work and how different weather patterns affect the balloons. The students also enjoyed the fact that they could correctly answer many of Weatherman Patrick's questions about the different types of clouds.

We greatly appreciated Weatherman Patrick spending some of his day off with us and wish him the best as he continues in his studies of weather!



Running away with our hearts



Isaiah is no typical runner. He is not going to stop and complain when there is a steep hill; he is not going to complain to his teammates or coaches about the length of a practice. He is just going to run. And, he is going to run with friends. Friends that help to provide him access to the extra-curricular team by meeting his needs as a middle school student with specialized needs.

Isaiah came to Columbus Middle School as a 6th grade student last year with a great spirit and some challenges. However, he has faced many of those challenges head on, with the help of his guardians Corey and Jon and his special education team. Isaiah has a joyful spirit and positive outlook.

When his physical education teachers noticed his ability to run during class, it was shared with his special education team and shared with his family. Quickly, he was signed up for cross country and the team embraced what it would take to provide him access. He runs with staff and friends, whether it is practice or at a competition. His times have improved and Isaiah has grown as an athlete. But, his team has grown more.



The Columbus Middle School team has grown and recognized that all teammates have promise and that all students can “run their best” even if it takes a team of supporters.





Kindness Retreat for CIS 5th grade students

The Kindness retreat was enjoyed by our 5th grade staff and students on September 25th at Fireman's Park pavilion. The retreat started with community-building activities that connected the students together on the purpose of the day. Camp staff then shared original music and personal stories with humor and heart that will inspire and challenge your educators.

Throughout the day, students met in small groups to deepen connections and deepen their understanding of the purpose - kindness.

Students then had an opportunity to reflect on what motivates them to be a good friend through kindness and to share how they are going to stay focused on their purpose throughout the year.

Message from the principal - A quick MLSS Q and A - words to a parent...

Dear parent,

I really appreciate the questions and seeking clarification from me. I also want to thank you for your patience as our teachers continue our learning in the MLSS (Multi-Leveled Systems of Support) processes.

So, what is MLSS? MLSS is a state initiative to help all learners. As stated on dpi.wi.gov/rti, “For Wisconsin schools and districts, implementing an equitable multi-level system of support means providing equitable services, practices, and resources to every learner based upon responsiveness to effective instruction and intervention. In this system, high quality instruction, strategic use of data, and collaboration interact within a continuum of supports to facilitate learner success.” In a nutshell, it has teachers providing ‘just-right’ instruction for the right group, at the right time, with the right instructional strategies, pace and approach.

What exactly is Cardinal Time? You asked about Cardinal Time; it is a small chunk of time (20 minutes or 30 minutes - depending on the age of your student) used to respond to individual student needs. Cardinal Time is not simply a study hall period; it is time in the student's day to receive intervention, instruction and support that leads to increased achievement.

So, how do you respond? There are three tiers/ways to respond:

Within tier 1, all students receive high-quality instruction within the classroom that is differentiated to meet students where they are at. Students who demonstrate that they need something different or additional, based on their achievement data and performance on grade-level standards, may move into tier 2.

Tier 2: Within tier 2, students continue to receive their regular instruction within the classroom, but also receive additional support to address academic challenges. For example, this might look like participation in a computer-based learning program during Cardinal Time that provides the student with instruction and practice in, say, reading comprehension strategies or specific math skills. Students work through these computer-based programs with the oversight and support of their Cardinal Time teacher.

Tier 3: Tier 3 is the most intensive level of support for students who continue to have trouble reaching grade-level learning standards. Tier 3 interventions may be provided to a small group of students or even one-on-one, targeting specific skills and using individualized instruction. Tier 3 intervention groups commonly occur during Cardinal Time, or during a part of the student's day that does not interfere with core instruction.

Who decides which students go where and then what? The students in all groups are discussed quarterly by a team with data presented. The team includes teachers, instructional coaches, the school psychologist, and administrators. We analyze data such as ACT Aspire scores, Fountas & Pinnell running records, end-of-unit tests and other curriculum measures.

The team also discusses with the student the greater context of interventions: that is, the student's achievement data (not just ACT Aspire testing, but math unit tests with teacher input.) Staff talk through how students could use a "boost" to help them with their skills. For example, by working in ALEKS(a mathematics intervention) for a number of weeks, they are getting extra instruction and practice with the math skills that are a bit of a struggle for them.

Then teachers get together again to look at how the student has improved over the weeks, we'll talk about "exiting" them from the intervention if it seems they've improved on those skills they were having a hard time with before. All of the interventions are intended to help, not be a punishment! All students are working on things they need help with during Cardinal Time, and the intervention is just one of the tools used to help those students with math or literacy

How will I know if my student needs help or is getting additional instruction during Cardinal Time? There is a general letter from the team to inform you (as parents or guardians) if your student has been identified as needing additional instruction or support at the tier 2 or 3 level. The purpose of the letter is to inform -- but it can be vague as it goes to multiple families. If you have any questions, we hope that you seek us out for clarity.

So, again what will my student doing? The goal is to provide your student with extra help to fill a gap that has been identified. There is no extra homework, but does require them to work. I must also reiterate that Cardinal Time is not intended to be 'free time' or 'downtime'. We do have to meet the needs of over 500 students, so it looks different for almost everyone. Please check out the information on DPI for more questions:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/rti/pdf/rti-emplss-framework.pdf>

Please let me know if you have any other questions - I will do my best to answer. I hope this helps.

Mr. G.

Columbus High School

Homecoming 2019



While the weather didn't quite cooperate, CHS has a great week of Homecoming!

Dress up days, Staff vs Student Volleyball and Dodgeball, Tug-of-War, and of course the Lip Sync contest. It was a fun week for the school!



Fall Student Activities

Our sports teams are in the final stretch of their seasons. We are really proud of our Cross-Country, Football, Tennis, and Volleyball Teams! Our Marching Band continues to do well at competitions, and State Competition is Saturday, October 19, in Whitewater.

Virtual Welding



We recently had visitors from MPTC who brought with them their Virtual Welder. Mr. Schroeder set this visit up for his Welding Class. This technology comes from Lincoln Electrics. Virtual Welding prepares students to experience welding prior to using the actual tools and materials. MPTC has this tool at several campuses.

Math Information Night-November 6

We will be having an informational night for parents regarding our new CPM Math Curriculum. We will be sharing with parents resources for supporting high schoolers in math at home, and then introduce our new CPM Program.

Community Learning Update



Kickball Tuesday



Kickball Thursday

We are so excited to be partnering with two new Yoga instructors. We will be offering two Yoga classes offered through Community Learning Services.

- On Mondays from 6:00-7:00 pm Mary Benisch will be hosting a Mindful Slow Flow class for adults. These will be held at Columbus Middle School in Room in 186.
- On Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm Kelly Spies will be hosting a Baptiste Power Yoga for teens and adults. These will be held at Columbus Middle School in Room 186.

On Tuesday, October 22nd Columbus Middle School will be hosting a STEM Family Night for any family that has a 6th-8th grade student. It runs from 5:30-8:30pm. Sign up is required so please contact Cori Denk if you are interested. cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us

On Thursday, October 17th Community Learning Services will be hosting Wendy Babcock for a 45 minute presentation on the Bucket Brigade. She will discuss statistics regarding on-line bullying, was to prevent it and what the Kindness Bucket Brigade is. Check her out on [WKOW](http://WKOW.com)

On Thursday starting on October 24th and running for eight weeks. We will be hosting an ESL for Native Spanish Speakers. To help them basic academic terms, practice basic language practices and conversational language. It will run from 6:00-7:00pm at the Columbus Middle School LMC.

CLS Offerings

Running Club is offered for students in grades 3rd-12th on Mondays from 3:30-4:30. It runs the entire year. The cost is \$10.00.

Chess Club is starting on October 22nd from 3:20-4:15. This is for students in grades 2nd-8th grade. It will be in Ms. Stovall's room (186) at CIS. The cost is \$10.00.

Spanish Club is starting on October 21st from 3:30-4:30. This is for students in grades K-4th grade that want to learn Spanish. It will be in the Columbus Elementary School Library. It runs for 8 weeks.

Piano Lessons is starting on October 21st. The times will vary depending on what level the student is at. It will run for eight weeks and cost \$80.00 at Columbus Elementary School Music room.

New Curriculum Website Released

On October 12, Columbus School District published a new website for curriculum documentation and support. This website is available on the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment link on the district website as well as at this link:

<https://sites.google.com/students.columbus.k12.wi.us/curriculum-and-design/home>



Curriculum is fluid and continually being updated. This website will be updated throughout the year, so be sure to check back for new updates! We didn't want the "construction" of the site occurring periodically to hold us back from sharing information currently ready for viewing.

The goal of this website is to give students and families a better understanding of what is taught in our classrooms.

In addition to curriculum, you can expect to find links to information on the district's curriculum renewal and design process, past content area school board reports, and Department of Public Instruction content pages and standards.

Curriculum Pilots Underway in Select Math and Science Classrooms

Columbus School District is reviewing all math textbooks and other math curricular materials for the 2020-21 school year. In order to make the best possible decisions for our students, the district is conducting pilots of likely curriculums in 2019-20 in volunteer classrooms.

Under current Wisconsin Statute, school boards must approve the adoption of textbooks. Columbus School District will take an adoption recommendation to the Board in January 2020; some teachers will be piloting the potential new curricular resources throughout the 2019-20 school year. Students and parents in the pilot classrooms will be asked for feedback before final recommendation decisions are made.

All math curriculums being piloted in 2019-20 are fully "green-lighted" by EdReports and compliment the instructional professional development in math workshops and standards of mathematical practice teachers have engaged in.

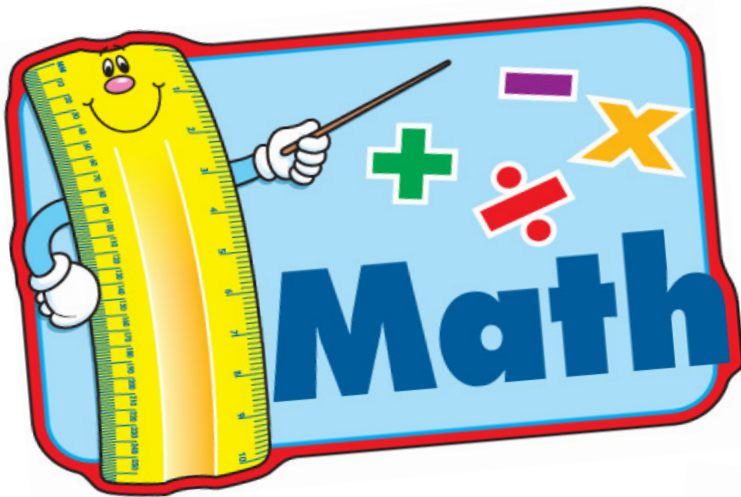
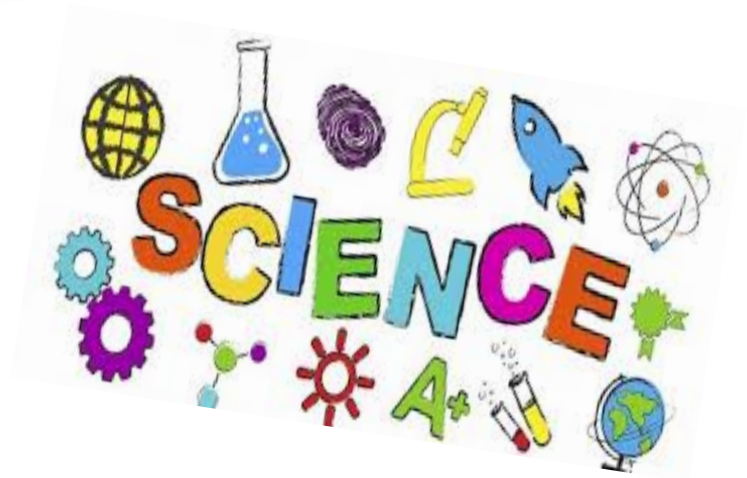
Please click [here](#) for information on pilot math grade levels, descriptions, and websites for pilot curriculum companies and links to the full EdReports.

Family engagement events will be held for elementary, middle, and high school to both provide parents with information on how to best support their child in math at home, as well as to introduce the curriculums currently being piloted and potentially adopted for next school year.

- The K-5 parent math night will begin with a session for parents on how to use ConnectEd, the online portal that supports Everyday Mathematics, the current curriculum in all K-5 classrooms not piloting Bridges. The second half of the presentation will introduce Bridges, a highly rated math curriculum currently being piloted in DCS Grade 1 and CIS Grade 3.
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- The 6-8 parent math night will begin with a session for parents on strategies for supporting middle school students in mathematics. The second half of the presentation will introduce Carnegie Mathematics, a highly rated math curriculum currently being piloted in Grade 7. Parents of students currently in Grade 5 may wish to consider attending.
- The 9-12 parent math night will introduce CPM, a highly rated math curriculum currently being piloted in Algebra and Geometry. Parents of students currently in Grade 8 may wish to consider attending.

Pilots of curricular units are also underway for select units in some K-8 science classrooms. In 2018-19, the curriculum renewal and design process identified some key areas for Columbus School District to improve science instruction. Based on teacher feedback, several classrooms are piloting units of a few key appropriate science curricular resources. None of these curriculums involve textbook adoption, but feedback from students, teachers, and parents (to the extent possible) will be sought. Information on pilots of science curricular materials may be found [here](#).



Upcoming Curriculum and Instruction Family Engagement Opportunities

- **October 21-** Annual Title I Parent Meeting. 6:30pm in the Columbus Middle School Cafeteria. Parents of students in CES, CIS, and/or CMS (Title I schools) are invited.
- **October 30-** K-5 Parent Math Night. 6:30 at Columbus Middle School. Parents will learn how to use the Connect Ed portal which is part of the current Everyday Mathematics curriculum and then be introduced to Bridges Math curriculum, which is currently being piloted in DCS Grade 1 and CIS Grade 3 with consideration for adoption for K-5 beginning next school year. Additional opportunity for the presentation on Bridges will be Nov. 21 during the CES/DCS family math night.
- **November 4-** Grades 6-8 Parent Math Night. 6:30 at Columbus Middle School. Parents will learn strategies about supporting middle schoolers in math at home and then be introduced Carnegie Math curriculum, which is currently being piloted in Grade 7 with consideration for adoption for grades 6-8 beginning next school year.
- **November 6-** Grades 9-12 Parent Math Night. 6:00 at Columbus High School. Parents will learn a few tips about supporting high schoolers in math at home and then be introduced to CPM curriculum, which is currently being piloted in Algebra and Geometry with consideration for adoption with additional rollout in the high school math sequence beginning next school year.
- **November 20-** District and School Report Card Presentation. 6:30pm in the Columbus Middle School Library. *This date/time is contingent upon DPI publicly releasing report cards on their tentative November 12 release date.*
- **Nov. 21-** CES/DCS Math Night 5:30-7. During this family event, there will be a portion of time for a parent presentation introducing Bridges Math curriculum, which is currently being piloted in DCS Grade 1 and CIS Grade 3 with consideration for adoption for K-5 beginning next school year. The Bridges presentation previously will have occurred on October 30 at CMS.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	30
7 ° K-8 Conferences - No School	8	9	10	11 ° K-8 Conferences - No School
14 ° School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall ° MS Picture Retakes	15	16 ° Early Release, 1:15 PM ° HS Parent Conf, 5-8 PM	17 °CLS – Wendy Babcok presentation, 6:30 PM	18
21 ° Title I Parent Mtg, CMS Cafeteria 6:30 PM	22	23	24	25
28	29	30 °K-5 Parent Math Night CMS, 6:30 PM	31	

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 ° Grades 6-8 Parent Math Night, CMS, 6:30 PM	5	6 ° Grades 9-12 CPM Math Night, CHS, 6:00 PM	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20 ° District/School Report Card Presentation, CMS Library, 6:30 PM	21 ° CES/DCS Math Night 5:30-7:00 PM	22
25	26	27	28	29

Facilities Update

October 2nd was National Custodial Appreciation Day. Columbus employs eight full time custodians and four part-time custodians. The custodial staff is a very dedicated group that works hard every day to maintain district facilities. Their hard work shows and is very much appreciated. If you see a custodian, thank them for all they do.

Contact Information www.columbus.k12.wi.us Phone Number: 920.623.5950

Superintendent:	Annette Deuman	<i>adeuman@columbus.k12.wi.us</i>
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Director of Special Education:	Lisa Blochwitz	<i>lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us</i>
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Becky Schmidt	<i>bschmidt@columbus.k12.wi.us</i>
Technology Manager:	Chet Bembenek	<i>cbembenek@columbus.k12.wi.us</i>
Facilities Manager:	Troy Marshall	<i>tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us</i>
Food Service Director:	Laura Austin	<i>laustin@columbus.k12.wi.us</i>