E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

January, 2020

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

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School Board Approves Referendum Resolutions

Columbus, Wis. – The Columbus School Board adopts referendum resolutions for the April 7, 2020 election authorizing general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $ 30 million.

"The Board's adoption of the referendum resolutions is the culmination of months of effort by many community members, parents, and staff," says Cindy Damm, Board President. "Three years ago, the Board and Superintendent Deuman embarked on a process that was grounded in providing the community numerous opportunities to provide input about the future vision of the District and our facilities. We are thankful that so many people took time to share their opinions and be a part of the process."

The resolutions adopted by the Columbus School Board authorizes general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $30,000,000.00 at the spring election on April 7, 2020. A Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) proposed a final recommendation to the School Board in December based on feedback received in a district-wide survey and multiple meetings by the CFAC. The $30 million recommendation includes: construction of additions and renovations at the Elementary School and the High School; capital maintenance and infrastructure improvements at all district buildings; acquisition of land; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

Facilitated by Bray Architects, the CFAC reviewed the priorities and potential support as perceived by the likely voters (through the recent School Perceptions survey). The CFAC and the School Board are aware of the tax impact a potential referendum of this size could have on the residents. "We were very pleased with the response rate of the survey (about 24%), which showed great support from our residents for a potential referendum between $25 and $35 million. With this $30 million proposal, we address the priorities as identified in the facilities audit and in the community survey," Damm stated.

Over the next few months, the District will be providing multiple opportunities to learn more about the referendum. The School Board will be meeting with their linkage partners during the months of February and March, while the District will provide informational sessions with Bray and CD Smith Construction to discuss the concepts for the additions and renovations proposed at each of the district's buildings.

Open Enrollment

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/open-enrollment/pdf/oe-brochure-2020-21.pdf

You may apply for **open enrollment** from **February 3-April 30, 2020**

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend a school district other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts.

Who may participate in open enrollment?

Pupils in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.

Open enrollment for prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2020-21 school year is from February 3-April 30, 2020. **The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2020. *Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.***

Parents may apply online at https://dpi.wi.gov/oe.

Can I apply to a virtual charter school under open enrollment?

A pupil may only open enroll to an online/virtual school if: (1) the school has been created as a virtual charter school that meets the requirements of the charter school law [Wis. Stats. 118.40 (8)] or (2) the pupil is required to physically attend school in the nonresident school district every day that school is in session. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools:

- A virtual charter school is not homeschooling. Pupils attending virtual charter schools are public school pupils.
- You must know the nonresident school district in which the virtual charter school is located. If you have any questions about this, call the virtual charter school.
- You must know your resident school district in order to apply.
- A list of virtual charter schools may be found at https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/virtual-charter-schools.

Can an application be rejected?

Yes. Nonresident school districts may deny an application if regular or special education ***space is not available*** for the pupil; ***special education or related services*** are not available; or if the pupil has been ***referred for a special education evaluation*** but has not yet been evaluated. Nonresident school districts may also deny an application if the pupil has been ***expelled*** during the current or preceding two years for certain violent conduct or if the pupil was ***habitually truant*** from the nonresident school district during any semester in the current or previous school year.

If there are more applications than spaces, pupils must be selected randomly, after giving preference to pupils already attending school in the nonresident school district and siblings of currently-attending pupils.

Some school districts establish waiting lists to fill unused spaces, but others do not.

Can a resident district prevent a pupil from leaving?

Yes, in limited circumstances. A resident district can deny a pupil's application for an invalid application (early or late application or missing information), ineligibility due to age (too young or too old), or if the resident district does not offer the same type of prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, or early childhood program as the nonresident district or the pupil is not eligible for the program in the resident district. These are also reasons that a nonresident district can deny an application.

Can parents appeal if an application is denied?

Parents whose applications are denied may appeal to the DPI within 30 days of the denial. State law requires the DPI to uphold the school district's decision unless DPI finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. The DPI's decision may be appealed to circuit court.

Must pupils reapply every year?

Once a pupil is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that:

- The nonresident district may require a pupil to reapply one time—at the beginning of middle school, junior high or high school.
- A pupil may be returned to the resident school district if the special education required in a new or revised IEP is not available in the nonresident district or there is no space.
- A pupil who has become habitually truant in the nonresident district may be returned to the resident district.

Is there a cost for parents to participate in the open enrollment program?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled pupils may be charged the same fees as resident pupils.

INSCRIPCIÓN ABIERTA (Open Enrollment)
Interdistrital de Tiempo Completo
De las Escuelas Públicas de Wisconsin

(Información para los padres de familia)

AÑO ESCOLAR 2020-21

¿Qué es el programa inscripción abierta de las escuelas públicas?

El programa interdistrital de inscripción abierta de las escuelas públicas de Wisconsin permite que los padres de familia envíen una solicitud para que sus niños asistan a un distrito escolar vecino, fuera del cual residen. Las solicitudes se pueden entregar a un máximo de tres distritos escolares no residentes.

¿Quién puede participar?

Los estudiantes de kínder para niños de 5 años hasta el 12º grado pueden enviar una solicitud para participar en el programa inscripción abierta.

El programa de inscripción abierta está limitado para los niños de pre kínder, kínder para niños de 4 años y niños en programas de educación temprana. Los padres de familia interesados deben llamar al administrador del distrito escolar correspondiente para averiguar si sus niños en edad preescolar califican para el programa de inscripción abierta.

Poverty in America

January is Poverty in America month. As educators, we work very hard to recognize the needs of students and be responsive to meeting those needs. We know that students can't be good learners if their basic needs are not being met. The number of students accessing our school breakfast and lunch programs have risen dramatically. Through our Community Learning Services, we are able to provide students with winter gear such as hats, mittens, jackets and snow pants. The work we do to try to meet these basic needs are paying off. According to the Wisconsin Poverty Measure, about 10% of children in Wisconsin were in poverty in 2017, which is down from 12% in 2016. Gains in market income through increased employment and earnings has helped drive down child poverty. Income and safety net programs have offset family expenses and reduced the child poverty rate by almost 4%. We ask families to continue to support the students in the Columbus School District who have basic needs needing to be met by donating clothing, school supplies and monetary donations to assist in offsetting negative lunch balances. Let's see that percentage of students in poverty drop even more!

Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School

Message from the Principal,

Tis' the season to be….BUSY! As December went by in a whirlwind of excitement, January always brings an intriguing time of growth. This is the time of year that we really notice growth with our students. January is a time where students show progress being made in academic subjects. January also concludes the first semester, which offers a time to reassess our students in the district summative assessment called MAPS. Measures of Academic Progress is a test given three times a year to show student growth. Your child's MAP results will be shared with you in parent teacher conferences on February 3rd. Wondering what you can do at home to support? One way is to create academic routines in the home. Here are some examples:

*Establish a nightly reading routine
*Singing alphabet songs in the car (you can find a lot online or ask your child's teacher)
*Practice counting by odd or even while getting dressed (see how fast they can go)

As many of you may remember, "cramming" for a test rarely worked out in your favor, however, creating everyday meaning and establishing routines will allow test takers of any age the ability to recall information with ease. I am excited to share with you your child's growth!

Kindergarten students celebrate their writing!

From a child's standpoint, sharing their writing is just as important as sharing a creation of artwork. To the students, they work SO hard on their writing to improve, add details, edit and publish. That is why our kindergarten team invites special people into the classroom to showcase their writing. Pictured here is Mrs. First's kindergarten class having a writing celebration for parents. The students read their writing to their special guest and celebrate their accomplishments!

Columbus Elementary 4k students sing for a packed room of guests in their December Concert.

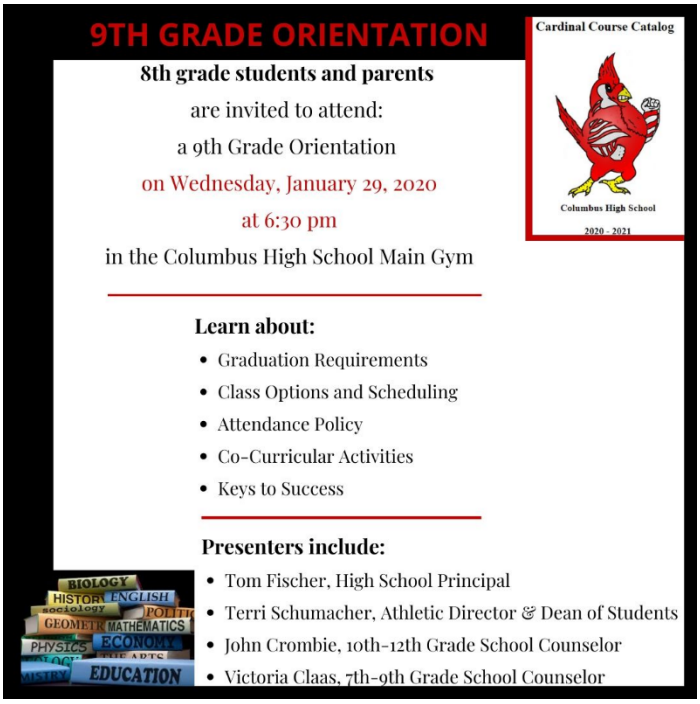
CARES Assembly
On Monday January 6th, students met in the CES gym to kick off CARES. CARES stands for Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control. Each day of the week, the students focus on one of the character traits and learn how to use them in their day. CARES has been the core set of values at CES/DCS for many years and will continue to be an important teaching point for years to come.

Columbus Intermediate School/Middle School

Notes from the principal…

8th Grade transition to 9th Grade- Informational Night

Each year CHS holds an informational night for upcoming 8th graders and their parents. This year's orientation will be held January 29th. See below for details:



Aspire Interim Testing

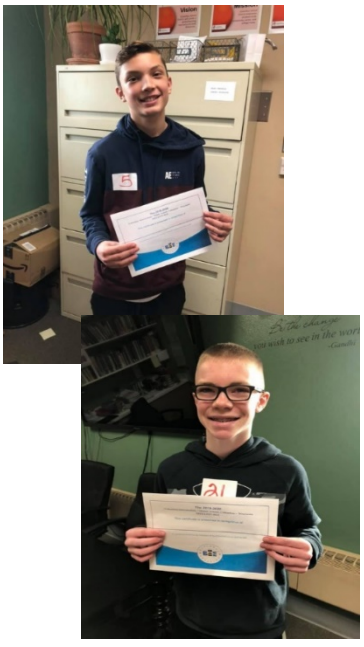
January brings our second round of Aspire Interim Testing. Our students take this assessment in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Aspire assesses English, Reading, Science, and Math for our 9th and 10th Graders. Testing three times a year allows us to see academic growth in the areas listed above, and it also allows us to implement interventions as needed based on the Aspire Interim Data.

Project Unify Continues to Inspire Students to Develop Kindness for All

December's Project Unify CIS night was full of fun winter festivities! The middle school and intermediate school students decorated cookies with sprinkles and frosting, made ornaments to take home, and also prepared and presented a festive dance routine. As always, the middle school Project Unify members lead the activities for the younger students so they could do their part in making the school more inclusive.

Scripps Spelling Bee - 2019-2020

The All-school Scripps Spelling Bee was held on December 20th at Columbus Intermediate and Middle Schools. Each classroom in grades 3 to 5 had a classroom spelling bee to get a classroom finalist and alternate. Congratulations to all of the students above.



To qualify for the Scripps Spelling Bee, which is a national competition, a speller must win a classroom, local, regional, and state competition. Our regional spelling bee covers the school district that are allocated to our CESA system in Wisconsin.

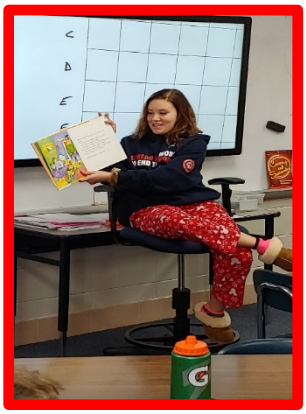
Most school and regional bees (known to Scripps as local spelling bees) use the official study booklet. The booklet is published by Merriam-Webster in association with the National Spelling Bee. It contains 1,155 words, divided primarily by language of origin, along with exercises and activities in each section. Most bees whose winners advance to regional-level competition use the School Pronouncer's Guide, which contains a collection of Spell It! Words as well as "surprise words" not listed in the study guide.

Student Name/finalist	Student Name/alternate
Giovanni Lopez	Ariana Stark
Liam Riese	Gavin Schluter
Claire White	Trey Thomas
Keashawn Brown	Gavin Price
Xavier Rynders	Zachary Hole
Chloe Saxe	Jordyn McNicol
Xavier Santiago	Finnley Deminsky
Aubrey Uebelacker	Dexter Agnew
Abbi Fox	Sami Decker
Caden Noe	Grace Felten
James Lambert	Jayden Sadowski
Paxton Culbert	Grayson Firkus
Eagan Golomski	Isaac Moorad
Jack Towne	Karlee Nack
Gabryella Sadowski	Tyler Barnes
Seamus Lane	
Jamie Damm	Luke Kahl
TJ Langley	Braysen Blair
Kaleb Sime	Billy Larson
Eshton Turner	Maicy Engel
Otto Andler	Ethan Koehler
Devon McCormick	Ella Paradzikovic
Cambell Thom	Ayden Price
Evan Crouthamel	Logan Anderson

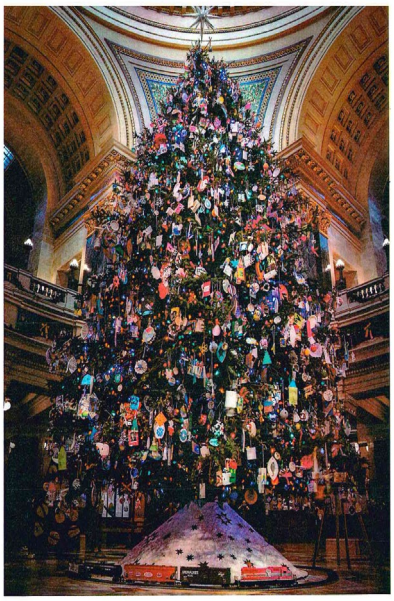
Columbus Intermediate School and Columbus Middle School Annual Read-In Celebration

On the final school day, prior to winter break, there is a great tradition to honor literacy in our schools. Classrooms schedule an hour (or so) of quiet reading time and schedule guest readers as well. Often holiday stories are shared by our guest readers that visit the classrooms. And as a special treat, students wear comfy clothes and bring books from home to quietly enjoy.

Kids and staff look forward to sharing this time together prior to taking their holiday recess (and it keeps the students focused on a day that is full of anticipation.)



Mr. Pearson was our guest reader! He read the students a poem and then they wrote their own endings.



Tony Evers
Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Columbus Middle School
400 Dickason Blvd
Columbus, WI 53925

Dear students of Columbus Middle School,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped us decorate the 2019 Capitol Holiday Tree by making handmade ornaments this year. As you know, our theme this year is "Celebrate Science" and boy, am I impressed with what we received from all of you.

From periodic table elements to rockets to butterflies and fish, your ornaments are truly a celebration of science in our state and a testament to how the diverse field of science affects us every day. As a former science teacher, I could not be more proud of the thought, effort, and creativity that all of you put into making ornaments this season, and I am excited for all of the visitors who will come to the Capitol this month who will have the chance to enjoy your creative ornaments and to see what science means to students across our state.

This great tradition of having students create decorations for our tree in the Capitol each year is a critical reminder and symbol of how important our kids, educators, and education are to our state. The 2019 Capitol Holiday Tree will be on display throughout the month of December, so I hope you will be able to visit us here at the Capitol to see your ornaments on display. Thank you again for all of your good work in making our Capitol Holiday Tree one of the best ones yet.

All my best as you finish the rest of the semester and happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Tony Evers
Governor

Columbus High School

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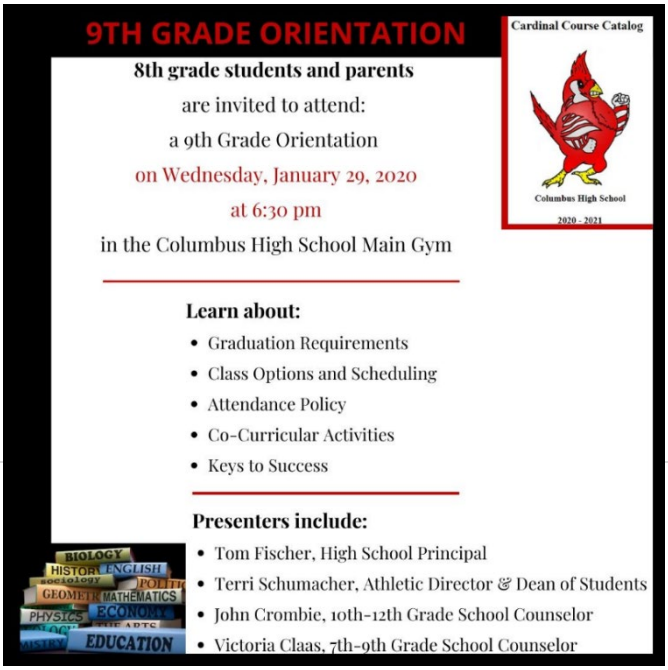

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Student Activities in Action

December Wrestling Match

Holiday Music to close out the last day of school before break!

FFA News

CHS Teacher Recognized Nationally!

Columbus agriscience teacher and FFA advisor Glenda Crook receives an outstanding service citation award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators Convention in Anaheim, California Dec. 6.

Community Learning Update

CLS Family Opportunities

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.

CLS Offerings

We are currently just sent out the spring sign-up sheet for many classes.

Chess Club Grades 2-5
Art Club Grades K-3 (DCS)
Art Club Grades 4-8
Kickball Grades 2-5
Piano Lesson Grades 2-5
American Sign Language All Ages
Running Club is available all year

Please look at our website for all the links for the permission slips https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/Page/321

Running Club

Fall Chess Club

Curriculum News

High School Parental Feedback Requested for Perkins Needs Assessment

Even though it is January, planning has begun for the 2020-21 school year. Throughout the spring months, as part of this planning, you may be asked for parent feedback on needs assessments for federal grants the district receives.

One of the grants that benefits our high school students in particular is the Carl Perkins grant This grant helps supplement opportunities for students in Career and Technical Education areas like agriculture, business, and technology education & engineering. Currently, the district is working with the CESA 5 consortium on fulfilling new requirements in federal legislation for this grant.

If you are the parent or guardian of a high school student, please consider filling out this brief feedback form on your student's high school participation in Career and Technical Education at http://bit.ly/2MNDKIS. Parental feedback is part of the needs assessment process. Parent, student, and staff feedback on the needs assessment will determine how the district is eligible to spend Perkins funding for next school year.

Winter Benchmark Assessment Time

In order to track student growth in order to make informed educational decisions for students, the district collects benchmark assessment data in the fall, winter, and spring. Each school sets their own specific schedule within the following windows. Please watch for specific communication from your child's school or teacher for more details. Individual student reports will be shared with parent(s)/guardian(s) after an assessment is given either at conferences, by mail, or sent home with students.

Date(s)	Assessment	Grade Level(s)
January 2-24	Winter MAP Window	Grades K-2
January 2 - January 24	Optional PALS window	Grades 4K
January 6-10	ACT Aspire Reading/Math	Grades 3-10
January 13-17	Fountas and Pinnell	1,2,5
January 13-17	ACT Aspire Science/English	Grades 3-10
January 21-24	Fountas and Pinnell	3,4
January 27-31	Fountas and Pinnell	K

Calendar / Upcoming Events

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Holiday Break	2 Classes resume	3
6 ◦	7	8	9	10
13 ◦ School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM , City Hall	14	15 ◦HS Parent /Teacher Conf. 5:00-8:00 PM	16	17
20 ◦No School	21	22	23	24
27 ◦School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	28	29	30	31

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 ºCMS Parent Conf, 11:00-7:00 PM	4	5	6	7
10 ◦School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	11	12	13	14
17 ◦In-Service, No School	18	19	20	21
24 ◦School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	25	26	27	28

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

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Technology Manager:	Chet Bembenek	*cbembenek@columbus.k12.wi.us*
Facilities Manager:	Troy Marshall	*tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us*
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