




E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

June 2021

Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

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**APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM**

*Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.*


QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
Annette Deuman, Superintendent
referendum@columbus.k12.wi.us
920.350.0365

bray
architects

C.D SMITH
CONSTRUCTION

May 2021

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



Elementary School Foundation

WHAT'S NEW?


- Construction is well underway at the elementary school. Work has begun with the new addition, on the north end of the site.
- Site mobilization has begun at the high school. Demolition will commence after the end of the school year.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- At the elementary school, site clearing is complete. Foundations are being poured for the new addition, and an underground storm water detention system has been installed.
- At the high school, bleacher boards were removed in the gymnasium. These will be saved for reinstallation as accent materials in select areas. New bleachers will be installed in the gym as part of the referendum project.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- At the elementary school, foundation work and installation of underground utilities will continue into June. Construction of concrete block walls will follow.
- Work at the high school will begin with demolition in the toilet rooms near the gymnasium. Additional asbestos abatement will be required in select areas.



Elementary School Storm Water Detention System

#CommunityLed



APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM

Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.

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May 2021

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

- Construction will be completed in phases at the elementary, middle, and high schools beginning this April and continuing until August 2022.

Elementary School
Column Footing



Elementary School
Foundation +
Insulation





Thank you Enerpac for your donation to the Columbus School District. This money will certainly go to good use as it will offset some of the costs for hotspots this year!

News from the Nurse, Brittany Bayer, RN

Hello families,

I can't believe the 2020-2021 school year has come to an end. What a year it has been! I know this year hasn't always been easy but I wanted to say how much I appreciate all of your support, cooperation, and understanding and how proud I am of all of our students. While we don't know what next year will look like, I am confident that we will continue to navigate the situation to the best of our ability and make it a great 2021-2022 school year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us

Thank you,
Brittany Bayer, RN



Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Summertime for Curriculum & Instruction

This summer, the district will be preparing for the start of the 2021-22 school year. The kids may be on break, but there are key dates you will want to keep in mind.

- June 2 from 6-7 pm JEDI Virtual School Parent/Family Information Meeting (click [this link](#) to join)
- June 4 End of Year Parent/Guardian Survey Closes
- June 14-July 1 Summer School Session 1 (June 7- July 2 for Cardinal Conditioning)

- July 12- July 30 Summer School Session 2
- July 1- August 5 Online registration for the 2021-22 school year ([click here](#) for more info)
- July 16th Deadline to sign up for [JEDI Virtual School](#) (contact your child's principal to enroll)
- Late July/Early August Individual Score Reports from State Assessment results sent to families
- August 19 from 4-6pm Open House/Orientation Nights at the Schools
- August 23 1st Day of School

If you have ever wondered what happens in a school district in the summertime, this is a brief list of *some* of things that will be happening with curriculum and instruction over the summer.

- Return to Instruction 2.0 Committee
- Equity Audit and Equity Continuous Improvement Planning
- 2021-22 Assessment Calendar
- 2020-22 Professional Development Plan
- New Staff Induction (4 days) for New Hires
- Literacy and Math professional learning for staff new to the curriculum
- Social Studies Curriculum Writing Camp
- August Staff In-service
- Updates, ordering, and just general prep to make sure all the things that students and teachers will need are ready to go come August 23rd

End of Year Parent/Guardian Survey

The 2020-21 school year is certainly one for the history books, but we made it. As we look towards the 2021-22 school year, we want your feedback to help us prepare, plan, and be our partner in providing your child(ren) with the best education possible. Your feedback will be used by the district to form a Family Engagement plan for the upcoming school year and as part of each school's needs assessment which is part of our continuous improvement process.

Please complete one survey for each school in which you had at least one child enrolled during the 2020-21 school year. This survey will be open through **June 4th**.

- [CES Parents/Guardians](#)
- [DCS Parents/Guardians](#)
- [CIS Parents/Guardians](#)
- [CMS Parents/Guardians](#)
- [CHS Parents/Guardians](#)

JEDI Virtual School

For any families who are considering virtual instruction for next school year, here are a few of the key details that you will need to know:

- **July 16th** is the Columbus School District deadline to sign up full-time for JEDI Virtual School for the fall. Because of the work and orientation meetings that are required, this is a hard deadline and families are encouraged to let the district know if they intend to enroll in JEDI as soon as possible. Families must contact their child's principal to initiate the registration process.
- Students who want virtual instruction next year are committed to it for a full semester/trimester. There cannot be any switching back to the brick and mortar school in the middle of the term. Families will have the option to switch back to in-person or continue with all virtual at the semester/trimester.

- JEDI Virtual School is a charter school. Students who enroll in it will follow the JEDI Virtual School calendar, not the regular Columbus School District calendar.
- Students who enroll in JEDI Virtual School through Columbus School District are CSD students. As such, they are eligible for all services of the district (student services, co-curriculars, IT, etc.)
- This is the [Columbus JEDI Full-time Enrollment Approval Form](#). There will be a meeting with the school and family in which this approval form will be discussed and signed before approval is granted to enroll in JEDI through Columbus.
- [JEDI Virtual School Student/Family Handbook](#)
- [JEDI Elementary \(4K-5\) Course Guide](#)
- [JEDI Middle School Course Guide](#)
- [JEDI High School Course Guide](#)

There is a parent/guardian JEDI Virtual School information meeting **June 2 from 6-7pm**. Families who are considering enrollment in virtual instruction for next year are highly encouraged to attend. Please [click here](#) to join the virtual meeting.



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Columbus School District is Hiring!

The Columbus Special Education Department is looking to fill some employment vacancies for the 2021-2022 school year. The District is seeking a Full time Physical Therapist. This position would be shared with the Monona Grove School District. The therapist would be in Columbus ½ time and Cottage Grove ½ time. The District is also seeking Educational Support Professionals to support special education students in the middle school and high school. This position is an hourly position and follows the student calendar. This is a great opportunity for someone who is looking to be home when their children are home from school. Finally, the District is looking for two cross categorical teacher positions. These positions are currently located in the middle school and high school. Candidates who have strong behavior management skills are preferred. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact [Lisa Blochwitz @lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us](mailto:Lisa.Blochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us).

Summer Food Pantry Contacts

The Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry is serving Thursdays from 4:00pm-6:45pm by appointment. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact the following:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June: | Olivet Congregational UCC
Darlene Crombie- 920-623-5140 |
| July: | Columbus Community Church of the Nazarene
Chris and Teresa Baker- 920-623-5235 |
| August: | Wisconsin Academy
Diane Morauske- 920-484-3129 |

Looking for a career change?

Columbus Special Education Department is looking for people who are passionate about working with students with disabilities. If you have a bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming a special education teacher, the Columbus School District will assist you in getting your special education license. The District partners with

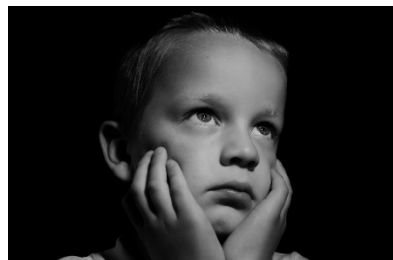
CESA 6's RITE program. This is a program that offers people with bachelor's degrees the opportunity to take classes in order to obtain their cross categorical teaching license. The RITE program offers three different tracks; a one year program, a 1.5 year program or a 2.0 program. Eligible candidates are able to pick what program best fits their needs. While in the program, the District will provide an emergency license to allow for the opportunity to teach while obtaining the license. Please contact [Lisa Blochwitz](mailto:lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us) at lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us for more information.



Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

Message from the Principal

The year is winding down and students are eager to start the summer. But what happens when students don't know what to expect after school lets out? Have you seen increased anxiety, moodiness or unseen behaviors? Sound familiar? These are all common feelings and with the everyday routine of school removed from their schedule our children find themselves in many different situations and places. Summer School can offer some support but the fact is change is hard. It is hard for adults and children, so as a school we make adjustments to our teaching to help support the transition to the end of the year. K-5 is doing "step up" days where they virtually meet a grade level teacher in the next grade so that students can ask questions. We go back and redo beginning of the year routines; we share daily kindness quotes to the students (3-5) in morning meetings; we promote positive behaviors with "positive phone calls home;" and we try our best to not celebrate "countdowns" to the last day of school as they often lead to more anxiety. So remember, as many students are running out of school the last day excited to be done, we do see others who are sad or worried about what their next meal will look like or who will be the safe adult watching them until the fall. It truly takes a community to raise our children. Thanks to all the community resources who are available to keep our kids safe over the summer!



Our students were excited to cheer on the 2021 graduates during the "Grad Walk" on Friday the 28th!





Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal

The school year is ending in just a few short days. While this year has been difficult, we have had many learning opportunities for our students and staff. We will continue to learn and grow and make plans this summer for the 2021-22 school year. We are excited to hopefully go back to some sort of normal this next year.



Choir and Band Concert: Thank you to Mr. Hammer and Mr. Clemmons for thinking outside of the box when it came to showcasing our students. They videotaped our amazing students and their performances in both choir and band. They compiled a video and sent it to families. Thank you for all your hard work, staff and students.



Physical Education Classes: As many of you have noticed we have construction going on at CES. Our PE classes have normally used the green space at CES to run and do our fitness testing. But since we are unable to do so, we have been taking the kids to Kiwanis Park for many of their PE classes. You know how May weather can be unpredictable....Here's what kids look like when they get caught in a rain shower! Thanks to Ms. Brunlieb for making it fun!!



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

We, at Columbus High School, are thankful for a positive end to the school year! Although we have been faced with many difficulties throughout the year, our students and staff have continued to persevere through these difficulties. We have so much to be proud of...and so much to look forward to!

End of the year highlights:

- We hosted an outdoor prom for juniors and seniors. The weather was beautiful and the kids had a great time!
- National Honor Society Induction: We inducted eight new members to our NHS group.
- Spring Music Showcase: We were able to show off our talented music students with an outdoor concert.
- Graduation: We celebrated our graduating seniors with an outdoor graduation ceremony.
- Countless other successes, firsts, and memories!

Continue to emphasize...

We'd love it if you continued to emphasize at home the following:

- Constantly Learning
 - Summer is an excellent time to reflect, relax, and enjoy the beautiful Wisconsin summer. It's also an excellent time to continue to learn and grow as individuals. We'd love it if everyone took the time to truly learn and be curious about something you otherwise wouldn't have the time to do!

Spring Sports Go Into June

Even as the school year wraps up, WIAA athletics are still in season. State competitions for the following WIAA athletics are listed below, with their tournaments preceding them.

Baseball: June 29-30 and July 1

Girls Soccer: June 24-26

Golf: June 18-19

Softball: June 28-30

Track and Field: June 24-26

We wish everyone a fantastic summer! We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Jon Rouse
CHS Principal
jrouse@columbus.k12.wi.us

Joe Schneider
9-12 Assistant Principal
6-12 Activities Director
jschneider@columbus.k12.wi.us

Food Service News, Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

Summer Meals: Starting Monday, June 14th through Friday, July 1st AND from Monday, July 12th through Friday, July 30th Columbus School District along with the USDA Summer Food Service Program will be offering FREE Breakfast and Lunch to ALL children up to age 18 (through age 21 for those with special needs), Monday through Friday each week. Children DO NOT need to be enrolled in Summer School classes.

Breakfast will be available from 8:00 - 8:30 am at both the Columbus Elementary School and at the Intermediate/Middle School. Lunch will also be available at both schools from 11:30 am - noon.

This program is for any household regardless of income or need. The purpose is to make sure that all children are fed.

Food Service Meal Accounts: Please make sure that all student meal accounts are current for the end of the school year. Payments can be made online through Infinite Campus or by contacting the Business Office at 920.623.5950 X3165

School Year 2021-2022: The USDA has announced that meals will again be available at NO CHARGE for the 2021-2022 school year. Specifics are still being worked out. PLEASE remember to still fill out Free & Reduced paperwork in August as this information is used in many different fee reductions within our schools.

As always, thank you for allowing us to feed your children. Have a safe and fun summer!

Feel free to contact Laura Austin at Laustin@columbus.k12.wi.us or 920.623.5950 X2190

COLUMBUS/FALL RIVER FOOD PANTRY

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We have enough to help everyone.

For those in need of food during the month of June, please contact Olivet Church at 920-623-5140 to schedule an appointment.

Si Ud. necesita ayuda con la comida, favor de llamar al 920-287-8122 y pida Marcos para programar una cita.

Thank you for all the donations! We are currently well stocked and financially solid. Call Colleen @ 920-210-6266 with any questions.

SUMMER FOOD SUMMER FUN!



Healthy meals for kids and teens. **FREE!**

No need to sign up or apply—just show up and enjoy!

Location and Time(s) of Meals:

Columbus Elementary School and Columbus Middle School—

June 14th- July 1st and July 12th – July 30th, 2021

Breakfast from 8:00 – 8:30

Lunch from 11:30 - Noon

Contact:

Laura Austin 920-623-5950 Extension 2190

More Info:

wisummerfood.org or call 211

Text: 'food' to 877-877 for meals near you.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Summer Food Service Program
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

FFA Update



Important Dates:

July 5-8- State FFA Convention, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
TBD – Officer retreat (2 nights and 3 days)

FAIR UPDATES: I have been emailing out fair updates and reminders. Please check your emails!

State FFA Convention: July 5-8 The Wisconsin FFA will be holding an in-person convention at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. Columbus FFA will have 3 proficiency state finalists, 5 state degree recipients, and 1 Creed speaker so far!

State Convention Decorations: Columbus FFA will be making the decorations for the State FFA Convention. We will have set dates and times so read your emails to find out where and when it will take place. You are all invited to help! It is a glittery good time!

Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

While the school year is winding down, things in the Business Office are just picking up. The Business Office's busiest time of the year is right as the kids leave for the summer. Our auditor from Wipfli in Madison will be stopping in throughout the month of June to begin the district's annual audit. The district has been lucky to work with Wipfli starting last year. Our audit is to ensure the district is recording transactions according to state and federal standards. The auditors also help prepare financial statements.

Additionally, the process of switching over school years is a lengthy process. I won't bore you with all the details of closing things out for one year and opening them for another in Skyward, but the summers fly by with preparing for the next year.

The last big thing the Business Office will be keeping its eyes on this summer is the state budget. This plays a big piece in the district's budget. There isn't much new coming from Madison regarding the budget, but come July and August, we expect news to start picking up.

Have a great summer everyone!

Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services

Lots of things to do for the summer leading into construction!

There has been a lot of behind the scenes movement as we've cleaned out areas of work toward providing our students and staff the best solutions we have to offer.

Inventory Update

We have had some power outages in a few of our buildings recently. Our team worked quickly to restore IT to students and staff. When these happen our focus shifts to infrastructure restoration and then to the more localized equipment. For example power strips and sound cubes in the ES/DCS have fuses that were compromised during the power outages/spikes. We are working on things to get to those asap.

We will be updating our inventory and keeping a close eye on the challenges facing schools' abilities to purchase new technology in the wake of a global shortage. With the aid of libraries and staff we are moving quickly to update our inventory counts and do a quick assessment of each device to ensure we have devices for our students and staff during the summer and coming back in the fall.

Returning to in person instruction demonstrated how daily use and transit can take its toll on all of our district's equipment. The sooner we send them off for repair the sooner we ensure we meet the needs for our future students.

Thank you to all of the staff who stepped up to learning about technology and to those teachers around the community who opened their personal learning to an entirely new environment. Thank you for your patience and ingenuity as we continue to forge ahead.

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

Summer break is right around the corner and that means that the construction projects will really start to take off. As you have probably noticed, the CES project is moving at a fast pace. CD Smith has begun to pour footings and columns. Utility crews have begun work on storm water lines. The plumbers have also been busy with rough in work. Electricians have been on site preparing existing areas for tying in the new building.

The CHS project superintendent has mobilized and is setting up their job trailer. Demolition work will start with electrical lines being eliminated between the restrooms that are in the lobby. Students from our CTE program, with direction from Mr. Dworak and Mr. Schroeder, have removed bleacher boards from the main gym. These boards will be reused in some areas of the new construction. Their hard work is greatly appreciated. On June 7th, crews will start demolition of the lower arch area out front. This area is to become our new cafeteria.

CMS restroom demolition will start on June 4th. CD Smith will begin removing partitions and fixtures, in preparation for abatement work.

All of this will take place alongside summer school sessions, so please be aware of construction traffic when dropping off and picking up students. Also, please remember to follow all traffic signs around the facilities. This is a very exciting time. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. Changes that happen while kids are on break will be exciting for them to see when school resumes in August.

Troy Marshall
Facilities Manager

Calendar / Upcoming Events

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 End of Trimester/ End of Quarter	4
7	8	9	10	11
14 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	29	30		

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

Superintendent:	Annette Deuman	adeuman@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Business Services:	Nathan Knitt	nknitt@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Special Education:	Lisa Blochwitz	lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Becky Schmidt	bschmidt@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Technology Services:	Daniel Parizo	dparizo@columbus.k12.wi.us
Facilities Manager:	Troy Marshall	tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us
Food Service Director:	Laura Austin	laustin@columbus.k12.wi.us

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