



E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

October 2021

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

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News from the Nurse:

Hello families,

Here is a reminder of our COVID-19 protocols for this school year:

-Students who are showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must stay home from school. They may return to school by doing one of the following:

-Remain out of school for 10 days since symptoms started

-Get tested and receive a negative result. The student should remain out of school while waiting for the results, even if they are feeling better

-Receive an alternative diagnosis from a physician. Documentation should be provided to the school

-Students who are identified as close contacts can return to school using one of our quarantine options:

-7-day option: Get tested on day 5 since they were last in contact with the positive case, continue to quarantine through day 7 and can return on day 8 with a negative test

*At this time, we are only accepting PCR tests to confirm that the student has tested negative

-10-day option: Remain out of school for 10 days since they were last in contact with the positive case and return on day 11, as long as they are symptom free

-Students who are fully vaccinated, meaning that it has been two weeks since their final dose, OR those who have had a recent COVID-19 infection (within the last 90 days), do not have to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact, as long as they remain without symptoms. If symptoms develop, please keep them home and update the school.

-Please update the school immediately if your child tests positive for COVID-19. This allows us to initiate our contact tracing processes, if needed, as soon as possible. A positive student can return to school once they meet all of the following criteria:

-10 days since symptoms started

-No fever in 24-hours without the use of medication

-Improvement in symptoms

-If you are notified that your child has tested positive after school hours, or on the weekend, please email Brittany Bayer, the district nurse, at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us AND Carol Schmal, district nurse consultant, at cschmal@columbus.k12.wi.us. Carol was recently hired to assist in contact tracing for the school district and will be working at night and on the weekends to help ensure that this process is being completed in a timely manner.

-If your child is identified as a close contact to someone at school, please wait for the close contact letter that will be sent to you via email by the building principal before taking any action. This letter contains a lot of important information, including testing and return dates.

-FREE COVID-19 testing is now available to students and their immediate fam. This service is available Monday through Friday. Location and times are:

-Door #2 of Columbus Middle School on W. School St. from 8:00 am to 11:30 am

-Door #10 of Columbus Elementary school on Fuller St. from 12:15 pm to 2:45 pm

-Pre-registration is required. This can be done by going to following website:

<https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/en-US/>

-Remember that masks are required and more effective in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 if worn correctly. Ensure that your child as a well-fitting mask and remind them to wear it over their mouth and nose at all times. If you can, send an extra mask to school along with your child.

Other reminders include:

-Continue to send a water bottle to school for your child. The bottle-filling station is the only part of the water fountain that students have access to at this time.

-PLEASE make sure that your student(s) are up-to-date on their immunizations. Check with their primary care provider to verify that they are not behind on any vaccinations. If they are, make an appointment as soon as you can to get them caught up and submit any new immunization information to your child's school office. To claim a personal, religious, or medical exemption, please contact Brittany Bayer, the district nurse, at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us or the office/health assistant at your student(s) school. You will be provided with a form that needs to be completed in order to claim this exemption.

Thank you all for your continued support, patience, and understanding. It is greatly appreciated!

Brittany Bayer, RN



APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM

Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Annette Deuman, Superintendent
referendum@columbus.k12.wi.us
920.350.0365



C.D. SMITH
CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Exterior walls of the new addition at the Elementary School.



WHAT'S NEW

- Phase 1 work at the high school is wrapping up with the start of the school year in full swing. Students can now enjoy renovated spaces, including the student lounge, the library, and the music rooms. Phase 2 at the high school is underway, which includes construction of the new cafeteria space.
- Construction continues on the new addition at the elementary school. The exterior of the addition is almost complete, and finish materials like brick are starting to be applied. In addition, the enclosed courtyard is nearing completion.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Elementary School

- Structural steel construction for the new addition is now complete.
- Roof construction has begun on the new addition, including the installation of roof joists and roof deck.
- In the new cafeteria construction of concrete learning stairs has begun.
- Installation of exterior face brick at the new addition is continuing.
- Concrete sidewalks are poured in the courtyard around the new outdoor classroom. Courtyard grading and topsoil are the next step and will be completed before the new addition encloses the courtyard.

Middle School

- The toilet room remodeling is complete.

High School

- Phase 1 of construction is now complete and ready for use by students and staff.
- Interior concrete slabs have been poured in the Phase 2 construction areas. In addition, structural concrete masonry walls are complete, and structural steel columns and beams have been erected.
- Roof decking at the west portion of the new cafeteria addition is nearly complete. Installation of roof joists is continuing in other areas.
- The new glulam arch has arrived on site. It was designed to match the existing arches in the building.
- The new bleachers in the gymnasium have been installed, and the gym mezzanine handrails were modified with steel cable to meet safety codes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Elementary School

- Exterior metal stud framing will begin to enclose the new addition.
- Interior metal stud partitions will shape the interior spaces.

High School

- The next phase of construction will include the new cafeteria addition.



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C.D. SMITH
CONSTRUCTION

October 2021

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

- Construction will complete in phases at the elementary, middle, and high schools by August 2022.

Outdoor class-
room space at
the Elementary
School.



New cafeteria
addition at the
High School.





Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Title I Annual Parent Meeting and Family Engagement Plan

“Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA/ESEA) is a federal funding program designed to close achievement gaps and ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The largest part of the Title I program, Part A allocates funding to districts and other local educational agencies (LEAs) according to a formula based on numbers/percentages of children from low-income families. LEAs distribute much of the funding directly to individual public schools and use the rest to support other efforts within the LEA that benefit students needing additional academic support.

*Many schools receiving Part A funding operate **Schoolwide Programs**, implementing overall school improvements to ensure that systems, practices, and programs are effectively aligned to reduce gaps and support every student’s achievement. Other schools use their Part A funds to operate **Targeted Assistance Programs**, which provide services to a subgroup of identified students.” (DPI Title I website).*

Columbus Elementary School and Columbus Intermediate School are Title I Schoolwide Program sites. Discovery Charter School, Columbus Middle School and Columbus High School **did not** qualify to receive any Title I funds/services. St. Jerome’s receives a limited amount of Title 1 Targeted Assistance services from Columbus School District based on their eligibility.

One component that is required with a Title I program is development and evaluation of the parental and family engagement plan. On the End of Year Parent/Guardian Feedback Survey last June, families were asked about various components that were considered in the development of the [2021-22 Family Engagement Plan](#).

Another component required of all Title I programs is the annual parent meeting. All parents and guardians of students who attend Columbus Elementary School and Columbus Intermediate School are encouraged to attend.

At this meeting, the following will be explained:

- Parents’ right to be involved
- Review of 2021-22 Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- Review of School-Parent Compact
- Brief explanation of curriculum, forms of academic assessment, and proficiency levels expected

The annual Title 1 Parent Meeting will be held on Monday, November 1 at 6:00 pm via Google Meet. Link will be provided closer to the meeting date.

Finally, if parents of students at Columbus Elementary School and Columbus Intermediate School have not already received this, in the coming weeks, please be on the lookout for a school-parent compact that outlines the responsibilities of the school, staff, parents, and the student for academic improvement. We ask that you review the compact with your child, sign, and return to the school.



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

October is Bullying Prevention Month - What is Bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious lasting problems. In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include: 1) An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people. 2) Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

There are three types of bullying:

1. Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes: Teasing, Name-calling, Inappropriate sexual comments, Taunting, Threatening to cause harm
2. Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes: Leaving someone out on purpose, Telling other children not to be friends with someone, Spreading rumors about someone, Embarrassing someone in public
3. Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes: Hitting/kicking/pinching, Spitting, Tripping/pushing, Taking or breaking someone's things, Making mean or rude hand gestures

Kids who know what bullying is can better identify it. They can talk about bullying if it happens to them or others. Kids need to know ways to safely stand up to bullying and how to get help.

- Encourage kids to talk to a trusted adult if they are bullied or see others being bullied. Encourage the child to report incidents of bullying if it happens.
- Talk about how to stand up to bullying. Give tips, like using humor and saying "stop" directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions don't work, like walking away
- Talk about strategies for staying safe, such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.
- Urge them to help kids who are bullied by showing kindness or getting help.

Information taken from [stopbullying.gov](https://www.stopbullying.gov). A federal government website managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>.

Dr. Joe Conlin and the Conlin Family Foundation Matching Grant Challenge - Dr. Joe Conlin and the Conlin Family Foundation donated \$5,000 to the Columbus School District to help support the Student Services department in the area of student mental health and mental wellness screening. At the time of the grant, Joe also issued a matching grant of an additional \$5,000, challenging the community to contribute to the programming for all students as well. If you are interested in helping reach this match goal, please contact, Lisa Blochwitz, Student Services Director at 920-623-5950. Dr Joe and his family have been long-time supporters of the District and we thank them for their support and donations.



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

Message from the Principal,

Our students are finishing up our assessment called MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) . In this online assessment, students from kindergarten-5th grade are given questions in both math and literacy to find their level of understanding. In return MAPS gives the teaching staff, parents and administration reports to better understand the students' strengths and areas of growth. This standardized assessment is given 3 times a year and is often used to determine if students are making their goals for the year. We all know it "takes a village" to support a child, so what can this "village" do? Well I am glad you asked! First off, knowing the individual goal is the first step. Each student will get a growth goal to work towards and try to accomplish by the spring MAPS assessment. One way to help is getting books in kids' hands! And it is more about engaging kids in books rather than the quantity of books kids read. In the past local businesses like Columbus Nutrition and organizations like the PTO help put distribute engaging books to kids' homes! These little steps can change a reader's mindset and make reading pleasurable rather than a chore. If you are interested in learning more about ways to help, contact me at bhellpap@columbus.k12.wi.us

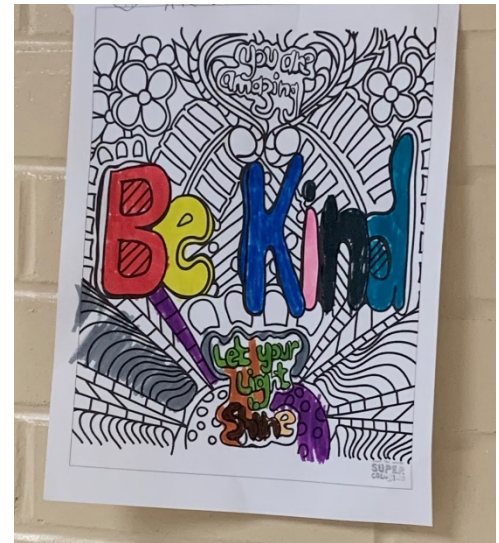
Beth Hellpap
K-5 Principal

Our students are loving the art projects! So are the lucky people who get to see all the art displayed in the schools!





CES/DCS students brighten up the hallways with positive messages colored in art class!



1st graders are enjoying using the roller racers in physical education class!



Columbus Middle School, Cori Denk, Principal

Happy October! We have finished up our MAP testing and will be working on setting academic goals with our students. Students are in the groove of school and finding their way and now that we have gotten our routines down we are going to get into the business of learning. We have had lots of success coming back fully in person but one thing we are working with students on is respecting others and their differences. Please help us with teaching our kids to accept everyone.

Bullying Prevention Month

October is Bullying Prevention Month. Mrs. Claas will be going into classrooms to focus and raise awareness of the issue of bullying. We will also be spending the month focusing on Respect during Cardinal Time. This is a time where teachers will be covering social and emotional learning and teach specific expectations and strategies for students.

Boys Basketball

Will be starting this month please have your child listen for announcements on when sign-up will be along with practices.

End of Quarter is October 22nd

If your child is failing for the quarter, staff will communicate that information before the quarter ends.



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

After the first month behind us, we are definitely starting to settle into our routines. As a school community we are having frequent conversations about respect and responsibility. We want all students to feel a sense of belonging at CHS. In order for that to happen, we all must respect ourselves, each other, and our building. We all must be responsible for our actions and our learning. It is only through working together, both adults and students, that CHS will become a place everyone is proud to call *their* school.

Homecoming Update...

As was previously communicated, Homecoming activities at school will be the week of October 11-15, with the dance taking place on October 23. Below are the events planned for that week. It is going to be a fun week!

Spirit Days include:

Monday -- All American Monday

Tuesday -- Tourist Tuesday

Wednesday -- Dress like a.... 9th -- 90's, 10th --- 60's, 11th -- colonial/80's, 12th -- senior citizens, staff -- Gen Z

Thursday -- Class colors / t-shirts (9th --neon, 10th -- maroon, 11th - Purple, 12th - Pink, Staff - -- grey

Friday -- School Spirit -- Dress in Cardinal Gear --red and white day

Cardinal Olympics (everything will be held outside on the football field EXCEPT the Powerbuff VB, which will be held in the main gym at CHS)

Monday -- Opening Ceremony

Tuesday -- Musical Chairs and Giant Jenga

Wednesday -- Senior Powerbuff --Volleyball -- senior boys vs Staff men

Thursday -- Tug of War

Friday -- Tic Tac Toe, Dodgeball (class competition w/girls -- 9th vs 11th, 10th vs 12th, and winners play) Lip Sync, Parade at 2:45

Staff Shout Out...

Mr. Meinholz is our instrumental music and marching band teacher. As you can imagine, it has been difficult for his program the last two years. Nevertheless, his students continue to excel, despite the challenges they

have faced. Just this weekend they took first place in the Greendale Invitational! Congratulations to the Marching Cardinals! We are very proud of your accomplishments!

Continue to emphasize...

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

- We are still seeing some vandalism to our restrooms. Please reinforce the expectation that we must respect our environment. Our community has made a large commitment to our staff and students and we must take care of this building.
- If students are struggling with classwork, it is important that they reach out to their teachers for support. There is still lots of time left in the trimester, but the longer they wait, the more difficult it becomes to catch up.
- Mask etiquette
 - While eating/drinking are acceptable times to have masks down, as soon as those activities are completed the expectation is that they go back on.

Athletics/Activities Message

Girls Tennis has finished their season at their subsectional competition. Congratulations to those athletes, coaches, and volunteers for a successful season. We look forward to seeing them come back next season.

Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball start their post season tournaments the week of October 18. The district's Facebook page will be updated with those schedules. Also, the following link will take you to a calendar of events held at the district including athletics: [Capitol Conference Calendar](#)

It is great to see the fans coming and supporting our Cardinal athletics. As a friendly reminder to our fans and student section, we want to cheer for our Columbus Cardinals respectfully and not to cheer negatively against the other team.

Marching Band has their state finals competition scheduled for October 16, 2021. Their competition performance is scheduled for 3:15 pm at Perkins Stadium, UW-Whitewater. The Music Boosters have purchased a student fan bus. If your student is interested in going to this state event to support the marching band please see Mr. Meinholz or Mr. Freerking for rules and ticketing information.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jon Rouse
CHS Principal

Jay Freerking
CHS Assistant Principal/6-12 Activities Director

FFA Update



FFA Meeting: The October FFA meeting will be held on Oct. 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the Ag room. The meeting will include a pumpkin decorating contest so bring your best pumpkin!

Committee Meetings: The next committee meeting will be held during Cardinal Connect on Friday, Oct. 22 in the Ag room

FFA Homecoming Float: Homecoming is postponed until October 15. Float building will resume the week of Oct. 11th. The FFA members have adjusting their plans and preparing to build a great float.

SLEEP HYGIENE

When Columbus School District students took the Dane County Youth Assessment in the 2020-21 school year, we found that even in our youngest grades, at least half of students are going to bed later than 11 p.m. and having trouble learning because of feeling tired!

SLEEP NEEDS PER 24 HOURS

- 3-5 years old: 10-13 hours (naps included)
- 6-12 years old: 9-12 hours
- 13-18 years old: 8-10 hours
- 18+ years old: 7+ hours



SLEEP QUALITY

- Consistent routine - even on the weekends!
- Peaceful, comfortable room without electronic devices
- Exercise throughout the day

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Good sleep supports your

- **physical health:** healing, immune responses, feelings of fullness and energy, puberty
- **mental health:** feelings of well-being, controlling emotions, coping
- **learning:** making responsible decisions, paying attention, being creative
- **safety:** avoiding risky and impulsive behaviors



CDC, "[How Much Sleep Do I Need?](#)"
NIH, "[Sleep Deprivation and Deficiency](#)."

School Nutrition

There have been some exciting changes happening at the elementary school this month. We are introduced a modified salad bar!

We have been doing a modified salad bar at the Middle School since the start of school. A modified salad bar has fruits and vegetables in individual containers. Students only touch the container they intend to take. This allows us to use the "Offer vs. Serve" food service model. This approach has shown us an increase in vegetable consumption at the Middle School. We would like to bring that success to the Elementary students.

An offer vs. serve food service model allows students to select foods they intend to eat. This approach reduces food waste and cost. At the same time it allows us to offer a greater variety of food choices in a single day. We can now offer "variety cups" containing several items that make it an adventure to eat a little bit of everything. It just looks more appetizing! When the food looks more tasty it easier to meet the USDA standard of a half cup fruit and/or vegetable with every lunch.



Some lessons you can reinforce at home:

Take what you will eat.

Take what you touch.

Be brave and try something new.



Going from limited choices and adults serving everything to being able to make their food selections did slow down the lines the first few days and we are already seeing the students choosing more vegetables. By month end the line speed will be quicker as the new offer vs. serve approach becomes a habit.

Irene Pawlisch, Columbus Food Service Director

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 October, please contact St. Jerome Catholic Church at 920-623-3753 ext. 242 for information and 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.

Call Colleen @ 920-210-6266 with any questions.

Business Office Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

October is a crazy time in the Business Office! The annual meeting is on October 11. To highlight what goes on in the Business Office and how it affects others, please see the below schedule:

- Early October: Property Valuations are sent to districts from the Department of Revenue.
 - These valuations are the denominator of the mill rate calculation (more on that below)
- October 11: Annual Meeting, where electors approve of the proposed tax levies
- October 15: Aid is certified by the state
- October 25: School Board votes to certify the levy that was voted on at the Annual Meeting
- November 5: Tax Levies info is submitted to the Department of Public Instruction

In school finance, there are a few final things to note:

1. The first is all schools are bound by a revenue limit. The revenue limit to schools is what a salary cap is to the NFL. There is only so much money we can bring in from property taxes and state aid. The revenue limit is directly correlated with the number of kids in our buildings. More kids = higher revenue limit.
2. State aid is correlated with property value per kid in the district. The lower this number, the more money a district receives from the state and the less it is able to levy in property taxes. This is relative to the entire state. Let's pretend property values everywhere else in the state rise by 1% and rise by 10% in Columbus specifically. In this hypothetical situation, this would mean our district would be becoming more "property rich" (i.e. our property value per student increases at a rate faster than other districts). This means we'd receive less state aid and would rely on property taxes more to maximize our spending under the revenue limit.

Conversely, if the percentages flipped (Columbus now increases by 1% and the rest of the state sees their property values increase by 10%), the district would rely less on property taxes and would instead receive more state aid.

3. The mill rate is the final number when determining property taxes. As a formula, the mill rate equals (Dollar Amount of Taxes Levied) / (Property Valuations from DoR). This number is generally reported

per \$1,000 of property value. Last year, the district's mill rate was \$10.10 per \$1,000 of property value. If your house is worth \$100,000, you would have paid \$1,010 in property taxes to the Columbus School District.

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

Projects at all three buildings are continuing to progress.

At CES, outside walls are continuing to be framed. The roof decking is nearing completion. Masonry is nearing completion on the gym, and the gym floor is scheduled to be poured this month.

At CMS, four new Trane rooftop units were installed at the end of September. A new fire alarm panel was also installed. Four more rooftop units will be installed later this month.

At CHS, the arch has now been installed and permanently fastened to the concrete pilings and roof. The roof decking is now being installed. Excavation work is being done for the circle drive and receiving drive.

Crews are working hard to get the additions dried in and ready for fall/winter temps. It is very exciting to see the progress at all buildings.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting, CMS Gym 7:30 Annual School Board Meeting, CMS Gym	12	13 1:15 Early Release	14	15
18	19	20	21	22 End of Quarter
25 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	26	27	28	29 1:15 Early Release

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 6:00 p.m. Title I Parent Meeting – via Google Meet	2	3	4	5
8 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	9	10	11	12 End of Trimester 1:15 Early Release
15	16	17	18	19
22 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	23	24 1:15 Early Release	25 No School 	26 No School
29	30			

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

Superintendent:	Annette Deuman	adeuman@columbus.k12.wi.us
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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
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