



## INSIDE ISSUE:

- Construction updates
- Free academic tutoring
- Links to Learning awards benefit CPS scholars
- CPS celebrates 150 years
- 2022-2027 Continuous School Improvement Plan
- 2023 summer school programs
- News you can use



★ SPRING 2023 ★

# QUARTERLY CONNECTION



**President**  
David Seamon

**Vice President**  
Chris Horn

**Member**  
Katherine Sasser  
Jeanne Snodgrass  
Helen Wade  
Suzette Waters  
Blake Willoughby

**Superintendent**  
Dr. Brian Yearwood

## ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA MO  
PERMIT #609

Aslin Administration Building  
1818 W. Worley Street  
Columbia, MO 65203

**QUARTERLY CONNECTION** is published by the Columbia Public School District as a public service to the parents of school-age children and district residents. The Columbia Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or use of leave protected by the Family and Medical Leave Act, in its programs, activities, or with regard to employment. The Columbia Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer. Inquiries regarding Columbia Public Schools' compliance with IDEA and Section 504 regulations should contact Special Services at 1818 W. Worley Street, Columbia, MO 65203.





# Construction updates

## CPS NATURE SCHOOL

Development of the Nature School continues, although many students have already been able to enjoy the space.

Ragan Webb, CPS coordinator of elementary science, said, “We have started construction, they’ve put in a new road and are ready for the foundation, and we’ve hired a Nature School teacher.”

Nature School Teacher Joe Brown is busy developing a 5th grade curriculum for implementation after completion. Brown said all 5th-grade students in Boone County will be welcomed to a multi-day, cross-curricular opening event.

Andrew Kinslow, CPS science coordinator, said approximately 1,500 scholars have visited the Nature School space so far this school year through science camps and field trips.

“We expect about 2,000 students to visit by the end of the spring semester,” Kinslow said.

The current space includes a pavilion with restrooms and hiking trails through forest and prairie land. Students can fish and enjoy paddle sports on the two ponds. They can net and study microorganisms living in the ponds, participate in archery and bird banding. The latter, an elective course for CPS high school students, includes tagging wild, small songbirds with leg bracelets for monitoring population trends and learning about different species.

The Nature School project is made possible through a partnership between Columbia Public Schools, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the community. The completed project includes a classroom building and is expected to be completed in 2024.

## JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEW GYMNASIUM

Work is nearing completion on the 18,000+ square foot addition to Jefferson Middle School, which includes an elevator, two sky walks and a new gymnasium. The gym completion is the last component and final touches will be complete May of 2023. The new gym will be official competition size for high school sports.



## FREE ACADEMIC TUTORING THROUGH TUTORME

CPS offers free academic tutoring 24-hours a day, seven days a week for all scholars in grades K-12 in **more than 300 subjects** through TutorMe. Since we launched the program in September, more than **1,153 CPS students** have already completed more than **374 hours** and **559 sessions**. Your student(s) can access this free service!

Students access TutorMe through the CPS student portal

# Links to Learning awards benefit CPS scholars

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS ENJOY ENHANCED LEARNING THANKS TO THE LINKS TO LEARNING PROGRAM



**BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVOLVED IN SPARTAN ACADEMY HEAR FROM VETERANS UNITED (VU) SPEAKER TRE WILLIAMS, A RECENT BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WHO WAS HIRED FULL-TIME BY VU.**

Columbia Public Schools' students enjoy enhanced learning thanks to the Links to Learning program, one of 10 philanthropic projects of the Assistance League of Mid-Missouri. This year marks the 30-year anniversary of the Links to Learning program.

Links to Learning provides funding for projects designed and implemented by Columbia Public Schools' teachers in preschool through high school. Since the inception of the program in 1993, the Assistance League has funded more than 4,000 CPS proposals, totaling more than \$2 million.

These awards have benefited countless scholars by making possible programs that stimulate thought, excite interest and provide opportunities for expanding learning.

Links to Learning was developed in response to the need expressed by school personnel for funds to enrich classroom curriculum with equipment, field trips, printed materials, music and scientific instruments, software, and various other items that offer students new opportunities in learning beyond what could be provided by the school district.

Teachers throughout the district can apply for up to two \$700 awards each year in August. In addition, each school can submit a proposal annually for up to \$2,000 for an entire department or total school effort. All proposals are blindly evaluated by Assistance League of Mid-Missouri members and awards are made in October.

Links to Learning awarded more than \$129,000 to CPS educators this year, which funded 191 proposals. Battle High School teachers received 13 awards to fund a variety of experiences for students, including unique field trip opportunities.

Teacher Clayton Elmy was awarded \$191.50 to fund a field trip to two kinesiology classes which are part of Mizzou's Exercise Physiology Department. Elmy said he selected this trip because it offers students an opportunity to see how what they are learning in the classroom could apply to real-world scenarios.

"By giving them the chance to talk to graduate students and professors in the exercise science career field they are able to ask specific questions about career opportunities," said Elmy.

Some of the other Battle High School awards included \$700 to teacher Jordan Rockett for transportation to and from Westminster College in Fulton for students to visit the cadaver lab and other health science areas; \$308.80 to teacher Marsha Tyson for transportation of students to MU's campus for a STEM applications and college planning field day; and \$700 awarded to teacher Anna McMillen for buses to take students on local field trips to colleges and job sites.

McMillen said the students really enjoyed the trips.

"We got to hear from a recent Battle grad who completed the VU internship program and is now working there full-time," said McMillen. "We visited a Habitat for Humanity site where Job Point students are building houses. Several of our students have transitioned from Spartan Academy to the new Job Point Columbia Builds Youth program, where students can get work experience building homes while working toward their GED."

Adam Taylor, principal of Battle High School, said, "The Assistance League Links to Learning awards are invaluable to our school community, as they allow teachers access to funding that provides real-world exposure to the learning that takes place in our classrooms each day. For example, learning about the branches of government in a freshmen level government class is necessary content for our students. However, if they're provided the opportunity to visit the capital and talk with state representatives, they have a better picture, and understanding, of the legislative branch. When an anatomy class is learning about body systems and they get to go to a lab on a college or university campus, their level of engagement in the content is

increased. At times these opportunities spark the interest in pursuing a career field that our students might otherwise not be exposed to.”

Links to Learning has been generously supported over the years by the Columbia community through donations and by shopping at Upscale Resale, a store run by Assistance League members. Other fundraising efforts include annual cookie sales and participation in the COMOGives program. Thanks to area support, the Links to Learning program continues to grow and advance education in the Columbia community.

Lynne Moore, this year’s chair of the Links to Learning committee, said, “We feel privileged to be able to help the schools in our community. Many of our members are former teachers. We have a love for kids and a belief in the importance of a strong education. Delivering the awards and seeing the excitement is such a wonderful feeling.”



**BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISITED VETERANS UNITED AND HEARD FROM VU STAFF ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.**



## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



The 2022-23 school year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Columbia Public Schools. While our community and district have grown considerably since 1873, our commitment to children, families and our community remains the same.

Official CPS sesquicentennial celebrations kicked off in January with proclamations from local and state officials read at the school board meeting. The district will continue to celebrate this milestone by reflecting on where we began, celebrating how far we’ve come, and looking to our future. More details are available at [www.cpsk12.org/cps150](http://www.cpsk12.org/cps150) where you can view a special monthly series about the history of Columbia Public Schools on CPS-TV.

# 2022-2027 CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## VISION

To be the best school district in our state

## MISSION

To provide an excellent education for all students

## VALUES

Trust – Integrity  
Collaboration  
Transparency  
Empathy – Grace

## PURPOSE SCHOLARS FIRST

- Every child is treated first as a scholar
- Every decision focuses on scholars first
- Every scholar receives quality educational experiences

## GROWTH GET THEM TO SCHOOL

1

**PRIMARY GOAL 1:** Ninety percent of scholars will attend school at least 90% of the time by the 2026–2027 school year. The percent will increase by 5% each year, beginning in 2023–2024.

## INNOVATION KEEP THEM IN CLASS

2

**PRIMARY GOAL 2.1:** The number of out-of-school suspensions will decrease by 50% by the 2026–2027 school year. The number will decrease by 10% each year. **PRIMARY GOAL 2.2:** The percent of teachers retained each school year will increase to 90% by the 2026–2027 school year.

## ACHIEVEMENT CATCH THEM UP AND ADVANCE THEM FURTHER

3

**PRIMARY GOAL 3:** The percent of scholars who are proficient or advanced on the MAP will increase by 3% each year in communication arts and mathematics, starting in the 2023–2024 school year.



# 2023 Summer School Programs

## JUNE 1 – JUNE 28

**Columbia Summer SUNsations** offers free summer school for students entering kindergarten through 8th grade.

**Gifted Education (EEE)** for grades 2-5 at Grant Elementary School, and grades 6-8 at Oakland Middle School.

**Special Education Extended School Year (ESY)** with home building.

**Summer Expedition** is a six-week program for high-potential multicultural students in grades 5-8 who have been historically under-represented at the college level and not enrolled in the gifted program.

**Early Childhood Special Education and Deaf Hard of Hearing** is at the Early Childhood Education Center, 901 Rain Forest Parkway.

**Early Childhood Special Education** is at the Center for Early Learning North, 2191 Smiley Lane.

**The Secondary Summer School High School Credit Advancement** program is available for Columbia Public Schools students entering grades 9-12. This program offers opportunities for credit advancement in the form of online, blended or classroom course options.

**The Secondary Summer School High School Credit Recovery** program allows students to make up credits they did not pass in order to stay on track for graduation. Successful completion of a credit recovery class results in the grade of P and .5 credit.

## JUNE 1 – JULY 28

**FUN CITY Youth Academy** partners with Columbia Public Schools to offer half day summer school curriculum (math, science, social studies, reading and writing) and half day FUN CITY programming. The program is located at Blue Ridge Elementary School.

## JUNE 5 – JUNE 23 & JULY 10 – JULY 27

**The Columbia Summer Enrichment Preschool** at Center for Early Learning North (CELN) is a tuition-based program available for students ages three-five. It runs from 8:30-11:30.

## JUNE 12 – JUNE 28

**Arts Explorers' Program** is at Smithton Middle School for selected elementary students entering grades four and five. Enrollment is by recommendation only.

## JUNE 16 – JUNE 21 (Overnight program)

**MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy** is an academic and enrichment experience for entering 10th-grade high-potential multicultural students. This program is a partnership with the University of Missouri.

## JULY 6 – JULY 22

**Secondary Choral and Instrumental Music** is at Gentry Middle School and offers enrichment instruction in choir, orchestra and band courses for secondary music students entering grades 7-9.

[www.cpsk12.org/summerschool](http://www.cpsk12.org/summerschool)

## BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

**Adventure Club** is an extended day program at elementary schools delivered by the University of Missouri - College of Education. It provides a supervised before- and/or after-school program during Summer SUNsations and Summer Enrichment programs. A non-refundable registration fee is required. Enrollment fliers are available at the elementary schools and there is also a link on the CPS website under Summer School. Adventure Club website is: [education.missouri.edu/adventureclub/summer-program](http://education.missouri.edu/adventureclub/summer-program)

## A+ TUTORING

**Opportunities for tutoring** in summer school may be arranged for secondary students enrolled in the A+ program. A+ students should contact the A+ coordinator in their high school building for additional information.

## ADDITIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

**Information regarding summer camps/programs** sponsored by various organizations, colleges and universities is available in school counseling and/or principal offices.

# News You Can Use

## MOSY WELCOMES CPS STUDENTS

All CPS 3rd-graders attended the 6th Annual Missouri Symphony (MOSY) Young People's Concert in November. James Melton, CPS director of Fine Arts, says this event takes the concept of classical music, which students may be familiar with, and makes it a reality.



MOSY Executive Director Trent Rash said "I truly think that this concert leaves such a lasting impression on all the students who attend, and for years afterwards I think they talk about it." In addition to gaining an appreciation for music, Rash hopes the students know they are always welcome at the Missouri Theater.

Melton adds that for many students, this trip is their first introduction to the Missouri Theater. "What an honor to introduce them to this space," he said, "and let them know that it's not just for a special few, and that they are welcome to come again and again."

See a video about the event on CPS-TV and on the district's website at <https://www.cpsk12.org/cpstv>.

## MILL CREEK ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NAMED MAESP ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Mill Creek Elementary School Assistant Principal Amy Rogers has been named the Missouri Elementary School Principals Association (MAESP) Northeast Region Assistant Principal of the Year. She was surprised with the announcement at the regional meeting on December 7. Each of the regional winners will be formally recognized at the annual MAESP leadership conference later this school year.

## DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL EARNS EFFECTIVE TEACHING RECOGNITION

Frederick Douglass High School has been awarded Level 2 certification in Marzano High Reliability Schools. Level 2 certification means Douglass High School has established "Effective Teaching in Every Classroom," to equip students with the content and skills they need for success in college, careers and beyond. The High Reliability Schools program was created by Marzano Resources to help schools take proactive steps to ensure student success. Using the High Reliability Schools framework and indicators, schools can drive sustained, positive and significant impacts on student achievement.

## ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

Former congresswoman Vicky Hartzler announced the winners of the 2022 Congressional App Challenge for Missouri's Fourth Congressional District. Jiya Shetty and Andrew Romitti, 10th-graders at Rock Bridge High School, were awarded first place for their "Dementia Doctor" app. Shetty and Romitti created an original app that revolutionizes how doctors can diagnose dementia by using two forms of artificial intelligence to classify the stage of dementia that a patient is in within seconds. Over 300 members of the U.S. House of Representatives hosted Congressional App Challenge events in their districts, which aims to engage students in computer science.

## CPS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) have awarded Columbia Public Schools with the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, respectively, for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021. These awards represent a significant achievement and reflect the district's commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting. ASBO International is a nonprofit organization that is committed to providing programs, services and a global network to promote the highest standards in school business management.



**2023-24  
KINDERGARTEN  
ENROLLMENT**

**Countdown to Kindergarten!**

To be eligible for kindergarten in 2023-24, a student must be five years of age before **August 1, 2023**. For additional information visit [www.cpsk12.org/kindergarten](http://www.cpsk12.org/kindergarten) or call Columbia Public Schools at **573-214-3437**.