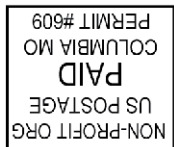


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Aslin Administration Building
1818 W. Worley Street
Columbia, MO 65203



ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

★ FALL 2020 ★



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Outdoor learning areas expanded throughout the district

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Columbia Public Schools recognized the many benefits of getting kids out of the classroom and into nature.

Research shows when you get students outside, attention span, behavior and engagement improve. Plus, outdoor learning is not just conducive for science, it can also boost creativity for language arts and other subjects.

Mike Szydlowski, CPS science coordinator, and his team have worked to add outdoor classrooms and learning areas throughout the district for more than a year. In the midst of returning for fall in-person learning during a global pandemic, the push to complete outdoor spaces has been a priority.

"At each school we are trying to identify five to six outdoor classroom spaces as well as build a nature play area and even outdoor eating areas," Szydlowski said.

The process starts by walking the school property to determine areas that are overgrown with brush and can be cleared out and made useful. Seating areas, facilitated by the addition of tables, folding camp chairs and in many cases, seating pads constructed from yoga mats, are added to areas that provide shade and inspiration in a semi-private learning space.

Fairview Elementary School recently celebrated its one-year anniversary of its outdoor space. Other schools where nature areas are complete or close to completion include West Boulevard, Paxton Keeley and Derby Ridge elementary schools. Russell Boulevard and Two Mile Prairie elementary schools are also in the works, to be followed by efforts at the middle school level, with Jefferson Middle School being one of the first.

"Working through the summer has meant some hot days, but the goal to have the spaces ready for fall made it worth it," Szydlowski said.

Szydlowski said he is pleased that students and their families have also been willing volunteers and adds the kids are really enjoying being a part of the process.

"Everything we are doing will be here long after the pandemic," Szydlowski said.



Completed projects: Fairview, Two Mile Prairie, Benton, Derby Ridge and Paxton Keeley elementary schools

Close to completion: Beulah Ralph Elementary School

Projects in progress: Midway Heights, Russell Boulevard, Alpha Hart and Battle elementary schools

Starting soon: Cedar Ridge and Mill Creek elementary schools

Learning this fall

Tracking COVID

The District has developed a COVID-19 tracker to monitor transmission within the school district boundaries. The tracker also includes numbers of employees and students who have been affected by COVID-19. Additionally, families can follow the daily mode indicator for any changes in learning modes at the school and district levels.

Learning Options

As outlined in the district’s re-entry plan, families were provided a choice between in-person and online learning enrollment options, understanding that in-person learning could be five days a week in-person, in-person hybrid (various options) or fully online depending on COVID-19 community transmission, guidance from health experts and local leaders, average daily attendance for students and staff, substitute availability and extreme swings in new cases. Any long-term changes in learning modes require approval by the Board of Education.

Resources & Support

There are FAQs, recorded webinars and additional information on the CPS website at www.cpsk12.org/fall2020. As changes occur, the district will make updates and information available through this platform. This is the best resource for answers and will ensure you get the most updated and accurate information.

Health & Safety

Everyone who enters a district school or facility is expected to wear a mask in accordance with the city mask ordinance. The district will continue to follow recommended health department guidelines, as well as guidelines from the CDC. We must all do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Wear a mask. Practice social distancing. Wash your hands. Stay home when you are sick. All of these things will be necessary in order for us to return to in-person learning. Antigen testing is also being made available to current students and employees.

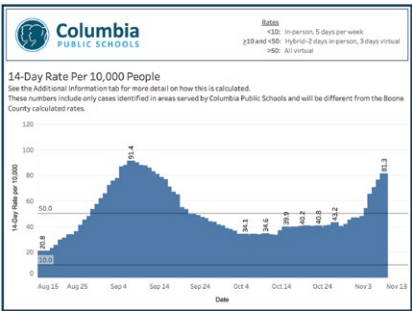
Technology

All students were provided a technological learning device for the school year. Students pre-K through 8th grade received an iPad and 9 -12 graders received laptops. CPS has also worked with local internet companies and other resources to facilitate access.

- Technology support is available to students and families when school is in session.
- Drive-up: each school day at all middle schools from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- By calling 573-214-3334: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- At the Aslin Administration building: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Family Welcome Center
- Via online chat: Visit the CPS Technology Services website (www.cpsk12.org/ts) and click on the link bubble that says “Students – chat with us, we are online!” in the bottom right-hand corner of the page

Support for CPS

Thank you to our community partners who have made donations, including Personal Protective Equipment, funds and supplies for Grab-and-Go Meals and funding school supplies, which have helped facilitate this year's learning, and who continue to support our school district: the Columbia Public Schools Foundation, the Assistance League of Mid-Missouri, the Heart of Missouri United Way, Veterans United, CoMo Helps, Community Foundation of Central Missouri, Quaker Oats, Aurora Dairy and several organizations in the faith-based community.



www.cpsk12.org/fall2020

UPDATED DAILY MODE INDICATOR

SAFETY AND WELLBEING

- 1 TRADITIONAL**
Pre-pandemic school. All classes will take place in school buildings. There are no restrictions on visitors and volunteers in the building.
- 2 HYBRID (VARIOUS OPTIONS)**
Students will receive instruction in a combination of in-person and online. Classes taught with AMI Support. Some buildings, wings or classrooms are learning remotely due to exposure. Visitors are restricted district wide.
- 3 DESIGNATED CLOSURES**
Some buildings, wings and classrooms are learning remotely. Designated athletics, activities and clubs may be restricted.
- 4 ALL VIRTUAL LEARNING**
Classes are taught as AMI. Designated Athletics, Activities and Clubs may be restricted.
- 5 DISTRICT CLOSED**
All buildings closed due to health orders or illness.

New to the team



Jimmy Hale – John Warner Middle School

Hale has spent 24 years in education, including 14 years in administration. He has served as an educator and coach and is approaching his eighth year with Columbia Public Schools. Named the principal of John Warner Middle School in the spring of 2019, Hale has been deeply involved in the building project, from hiring staff and working with designers to getting parents and students involved. Hale earned an undergraduate degree in physical education and health from Missouri State University and has a master's degree and specialist degree in educational administration from Lindenwood University.



Tonya Henry – Derby Ridge Elementary School

Henry is a Columbia native and Rock Bridge High School graduate who has spent her entire educational career with Columbia Public Schools. She served as the assistant principal at Derby Ridge Elementary School since 2018. Henry earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Missouri, then attended William Woods University for a master's in administration and a specialist degree in superintendency. Henry is currently working on her doctorate at William Woods.



Josh Johnson – Gentry Middle School

Johnson taught at Oakland Junior High School for 16 years. He has served as the assistant principal at Battle High School and, prior to that, as the administrative assistant at Gentry Middle School. Johnson earned his undergraduate degree in education from the University of Missouri as well as a master's degree and an education specialist degree in administration from William Woods University.



Dr. Larry Nelson – Cedar Ridge Elementary School

Nelson has been an educator for 21 years. He has served as an elementary teacher, an elementary assistant principal, a principal and an assistant superintendent. He has an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Missouri and holds a master's degree in elementary education from Northwest Missouri State University. He also earned a master's degree in school leadership and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Baker University.



Kristen Palmer – Center for Gifted Education (EEE)

Palmer has 16 years instruction experience, including gifted education. She has served as both an assistant principal and principal for Columbia Public Schools. Prior to moving to Columbia, she was a science instructor with NASA/Bernard Harris science enrichment camps at the University of Oklahoma and taught in the University of Oklahoma

Mini-College gifted program. She earned a degree in elementary education from the University of Oklahoma, a master's degree in elementary administration from the University of Missouri and an education specialist degree in administration from William Woods University.



Amanda Ruyle – Two Mile Prairie Elementary School

Ruyle was born and raised in Columbia. She taught kindergarten and third grade in Columbia Public Schools and was most recently the assistant principal at Russell Boulevard Elementary School. A graduate of Rock Bridge High School, she earned her undergraduate degree in early childhood and elementary education, master's degree in curriculum and instruction and a specialist degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri.



Tyler Simmons – West Boulevard Elementary School

Simmons has been with Columbia Public Schools for the majority of his educational career and has served as both an elementary teacher and assistant principal. Prior to becoming the principal at West Boulevard Elementary School, he served as the assistant principal at Fairview Elementary School. He earned his undergraduate degree in elementary education from Northwest Missouri State University and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Missouri. He also holds a specialist degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri and obtained his doctoral degree in educational leadership from William Woods University.



Adam Taylor – Battle High School

Taylor is a third-generation graduate of Hickman High School with deep community roots. He earned a degree in Business Marketing from the University of Missouri and began his educational career as a coach at Hickman High. While there, he pursued a career in education and, after seven years of teaching, became the assistant principal at Battle High School. He served as the associate head principal at Battle High School last year in preparation for becoming this year's principal.



Kyra Yung – Battle Elementary School

Yung served as a K-12 principal at another district before being hired by Columbia Public Schools as the assistant principal for Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School. Last year she transitioned to Battle Elementary School as the assistant principal. Due to COVID-19, Yung took the role of principal sooner than expected when Jeri Petre moved to the CPSElementary@Mizzou virtual learning program. Yung earned her early childhood degree at Central Methodist University and has both a masters and a specialist degree in educational leadership from the University of Missouri. She is currently working on her doctorate.

Update: Bond Progress

Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School

Progress continues with all work scheduled to be completed by the start of second semester. Remodeling of the existing building included the reallocation and reorganization of some office spaces, as well as the installation of new flooring and ceiling tiles. The largest portion of the project was the new addition. Crews are finishing details within the building, such as construction of a new black box theater, as well as outdoor work on playground spaces.

Rock Bridge Elementary School

The addition to Rock Bridge Elementary School, originally scheduled for completion in the fall of 2021, is now planned for fall of 2022. The completed expansion will provide additional classroom capacity for approximately 100-150 students, eliminating the three remaining trailers. Improvements to the existing space also include ADA enhancements such as a new lift on the gymnasium stage.

Oakland Middle School

This summer marked the completion of a two-year remodeling project at Oakland Middle School. Work at the school included an update to the HVAC system, new flooring and ceiling tiles as well as various classroom remodels. Mechanical and structural work was also performed to maintain building sustainability and a new athletic field with a track has been added.



2020-2021 School Year Calendar



September 8 First Day of Classes

September 10 First Day of Kindergarten

September 23 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

November 3 Election Day (school not in session)

November 4 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

November 13 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

*Parent-Teacher conferences (elementary and middle school)

November 25 – 27 Thanksgiving Break (school not in session)

December 23 – January 1 Winter Break (school not in session)

January 4 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

January 15 End of First Semester

January 18 Martin Luther King Day (school not in session)

January 19 Start of Second Semester

January 27 Teacher Collaboration (2.5 hour early dismissal)

February 10 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

February 15 President's Day (school not in session)

February 26 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

*Parent-Teacher conferences (elementary and middle school)

March 10 Teacher Work Day (school not in session)

March 29 – April 2 Spring Break (school not in session)

April 14 Teacher Collaboration (2.5 hour early dismissal)

May 5 Teacher Collaboration (2.5 hour early dismissal)

May 21 Douglas High School Graduation (A.M.)
Rock Bridge High School Graduation (P.M.)

May 22 Hickman High School Graduation (A.M.)
Battle High School Graduation (P.M.)

May 31 Memorial Day (school not in session)

June 4, 7-11 Built-in Snow Days

June 11 Last Day of School (2.5 hour early dismissal)

June 14 – July 9 Summer School

July 5 July 4th observed (school not in session)



GRAB-AND-GO MEAL SERVICE FOR BOTH VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON LEARNERS

Since summer 2020, we have offered free meals for students via Grab-and-Go.

Families can find their closest stop using the interactive map on the CPS website (www.cpsk12.org/grabandgo). Buses run multiple-stop routes (Monday-Friday) on all days that are listed as in session on the school district calendar.

Stops last a maximum of 15 minutes. Stops are not school-specific but rather designed regionally to include as many high-need areas as possible. Please find the stop closest to you using the map provided online (www.cpsk12.org/grabandgo) and go there at the designated time.

Grab-and-Go pick-up locations are also available to families who can't access one of the stops.

Students ages 2-18 can obtain a meal. Adults may pick up meals for students who are unable to do so. A student number is not required for each student meal set that is obtained. If a child is not enrolled at CPS, we will need to know the child's name, parent/guardian name and contact information.

We ask that you practice social distancing while at the stop. Both breakfast and lunch will be packed into each Grab-and-Go bag. Students may select a sack meal that includes breakfast and lunch, one milk and a fruit and/or vegetable. Meals contain some perishable and some non-perishable items. Please adhere to disposal and refrigeration instructions for perishable items.

Continue to check information at www.cpsk12.org and follow us on Twitter @CPSlunch.



HOURS, BUS & LUNCH INFORMATION



School Hours

7:30 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

7:55 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

8:05 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.

8:20 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.

8:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

8:20 a.m. – 1:35 p.m.

8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

8:55 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

9:08 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

12:20 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Gentry, Jefferson, John Warner, Lange, Oakland, Smithton and West middle schools

Eliot Battle, Benton, Locust Street, New Haven, Midway Heights, Ridgeway, Rock Bridge and Two Mile Prairie elementary schools

Quest South at the Center of Responsive Education (CORE)

Center for Early Learning – North (Preschool)

Early Childhood Special Education morning class (including LEAP)

Deaf Hard of Hearing Program

Alpha Hart Lewis, Beulah Ralph, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Derby Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Mill Creek, Parkade, Paxton Keeley, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard and West Boulevard elementary schools

Quest East at Roseta Learning Center

Battle, Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools

Douglass High School

Early Childhood Special Education afternoon class (including LEAP)

Bus information is available at www.cpsk12.org/transportation.

Bus Schedules

Free Bus Transportation

Free bus transportation is provided to all students in kindergarten through grade 8 residing one mile or more from their attendance area school. Students in grades 9-12 residing two miles or more from their attendance area school are eligible for free transportation.

Meal Prices

STUDENTS

All student meals are free until June 30, 2021.

Additional milk, juice and/or a la carte only prices may vary

ADULTS

Breakfast: \$2.40 | Lunch: \$3.90

Menus available online at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition. Parents may also pay for meals online at www.myschoolbucks.com or via the CPS Families Portal.

Free/Reduced-price Lunches and Breakfasts

Free and reduced-price lunch applications are accepted all year and are available at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition or at your child's school. A new application must be filled out every year to qualify. Students from families properly approved to receive SNAP, TANF, or are of foster status are eligible for free benefits. Application may still be required. Students from families properly approved to receive food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits may be automatically approved to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Reduced-price breakfast: \$0.30

Reduced-price lunch: \$0.40

For any questions about meal services, visit www.cpsk12.org/nutrition, via email at cpsslunch@cpsk12.org, or call 573-214-3480. For questions about transportation, call Student Transportation of America at 573-214-3860.