



Columbia

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

SPRING 2018



SUMMER



FALL



WINTER



Project Lead The Way

The students at Eliot Battle Elementary School are familiar with friends Mylo, Suzi and Angelina. They join the friends every year to help them solve a problem, whether that be helping rescue a trapped tiger in the zoo or creating a playground structure to provide shade from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Mylo, Suzi and Angelina are characters in Project Lead The Way's Launch modules for kindergarten through fifth grade. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a national cross-curricular, project-based learning program that each K-5 student at Battle participates in for 10-15 instructional hours every year. Students work in small groups to solve a real-world, story-based problem through hands-on learning, using communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

The units taught at Battle are aligned with CPS Science and Health curriculum, Next Generation Science Standards, the Engineering Design Process, and math and English language arts standards.

Prior to the school's opening in 2015, the Eliot Battle Elementary Library Media Program received a \$5,000 grant from the Columbia Public Schools Foundation and Veterans United to implement PLTW and create a makerspace—a center with everyday materials dedicated to enabling creativity,

design, technology and engineering concepts for students.

Kristen Burkemper, the school's media specialist and lead PLTW teacher, received official training from PLTW and co-teaches each unit with the classroom's teacher. Having both teachers creates a collaborative environment in which every student's needs can be supported. Burkemper can focus on the PLTW material and the classroom teacher can help students work together and communicate.

Depending on the unit, students usually spend an hour a day in the makerspace for two to three weeks. Students use an engineering, building and design process that begins with asking questions, exploring possible solutions, building and testing the model, and then evaluating and explaining their solution. Kindergarten through second grade record their findings, draw models and reflect on the process in a special notebook, while third through fifth grades do this digitally on iPads, which allows them to take pictures, videos and record notes.

When students are first introduced to the program in kindergarten it's a very new concept, but by the time they get to third or fourth grade they have a good understanding of how the design process works and what they need to do to solve the problem. The teachers discuss what it looks like for groups to be successful, so the process goes smoothly for everyone. Burkemper said the students' willingness to rework a problem if they fail has really grown since this process allows them to go back and find where they can improve upon their designs.

While students only participate in PLTW units once a year, that's not the only opportunity they have to engage in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) activities in the Battle makerspace. The makerspace is used as student incentives, hosts a variety of after school clubs like the LEGOS robotics team, and boasts monthly STEAM challenges—an activity where classes pair up



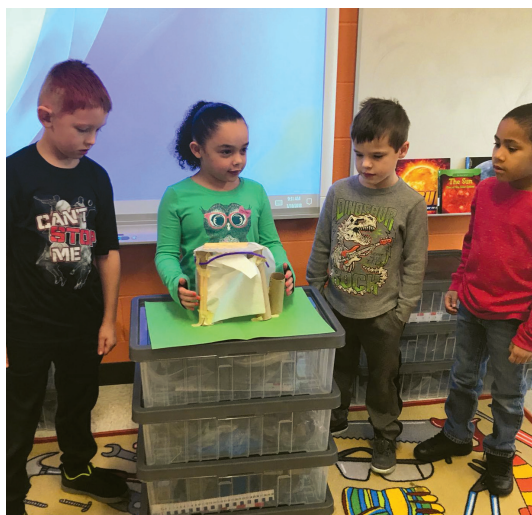
with another class from a different grade level to collaboratively solve a problem through creative engineering and design.

The February unit was centered around fairy tales and challenges included making bows and arrows inspired by Robin Hood; a bed that's just right for Goldilocks by determining the proper weight with pennies; and building a device to save Rapunzel from her tower so she doesn't have to use her hair. Battle hosts a STEAM night once a year, so students can show off their projects and the makerspace to parents and family members.

"The challenges really unleash their creativity, and students are doing a fun activity that is science or engineering-related, even though they may not always realize it's tied to curriculum," Burkemper said.

Burkemper says she sees PLTW and the makerspace continuing to grow and evolve in the future.

"One of the biggest reasons this works in our building is because I have administrator support...they really believe in having the makerspace in the way that it's used," she said. "We're always learning new ways to embed it into the curriculum...we're tying it into what they're already learning in class to make it more meaningful."



2018 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

JUNE 4 – JUNE 28

Columbia Summer SUNsations offers free summer school to students entering kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Secondary Summer School High School Credit program

is available for Columbia Public Schools students entering ninth through 12th grades. This program offers opportunities for credit advancement and credit recovery in the form of online, blended or classroom course options.

Gifted Education (EEE) for grades 2-5 at the Center for Gifted Education, Field School, and 6-8 at West Middle School.

Special Education Extended School Year (ESY)

at Rock Bridge High School. Early Childhood Special Education Hearing Impaired is at the Early Childhood Education Center, 901 Rain Forest Pkwy.

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

JUNE 4 – JULY 27

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 West Boulevard Elementary School.

JUNE 18 – AUGUST 3

The Columbia Area Career Center Summer Enrichment Experience for Youth at the Columbia Area Career Center is a tuition-based program for youth ages 10-14. No sessions held the week of July 2-6.

JUNE 11 - 28 & JULY 10 – 27

The Columbia Summer Enrichment Playschool at the Center for Early Learning North is a tuition-based program available for students ages 3-5. It runs 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

JUNE 13 – JUNE 28

Arts Explorers' Program is at Smithton Middle School for selected elementary students entering grades 4-5. Enrollment is by recommendation only.

JULY 5 – JULY 18

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

JULY 10 - JULY 27

The Columbia Summer Enrichment K-8 program at Shepard Boulevard Elementary is a tuition-based program. Students participate in courses selected from a wide variety of offerings. Sessions are 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

2018 MAC SCHOLARS SUMMER PROGRAMS

MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy is a free academic, overnight enrichment experience for high-potential multicultural students entering 10th grade. June 5 - 14 at the University of Missouri. Students earn 0.5 credits. Enrollment is by invitation.

Summer Expedition is a four-week program for high-potential multicultural students entering fifth through eighth grade who have been historically under-represented at the college

level and not enrolled in the gifted program. This program is June 4 – June 28 at Hickman High School. Enrollment is by invitation.

Anytown Leadership Institute for High School Youth (10-12)

is a collaborative partnership with the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan, St. Louis, focusing on student leadership to help address issues of social justice in our community and our schools. June 24 - July 1 at UMSL School of Pharmacy. This program is limited to 10 students. Enrollment is by invitation.

BEFORE- & 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 full day program is available during the month of July. A non-refundable registration fee is required. Enrollment flyers will be provided at the elementary schools in late February.

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 guidance and/or principal offices.

To learn more or enroll in a program, visit www.cpsk12.org/summerschool

Assistance League Grants

The Assistance League of Mid-Missouri funded 181 grants last fall totaling \$119,049.13 for Columbia Public Schools as part of the Links to Learning program. Most grants ranged from \$100 to \$700, with some totaling more than \$1,000.

Tara Rucker, a fifth-grade teacher at Mary Paxton Keeley Elementary School, received a Neila Petit Award for her proposal, "Uncovering America's Story while Leading Readers to Action." The grant provided diverse and high-interest texts to support fifth graders as they uncover themes throughout America's history in hopes of moving them to action.

Rucker said she applied for the grant because there's always a need for more relevant books in the classroom. Some of the texts she's purchased include historical fiction and non-fiction, poetry and prose, picture books, and multiple copies of books so students can participate in group discussions.

Rucker believes providing diverse literature like historical fiction will help students make connections and engage with historical patterns they notice over time and relate their findings to present-day. In the first 12 weeks of school, her class read an average of 11 books, with some students reading as many as 18.

"I think story is really important. That's something we all have to share," Rucker said. "If we can pull students to learn history through story, that can be influential and cause them to say, 'Oh, there are patterns in history that repeat.'"

Edith Stark teaches three community skills classrooms at Gentry Middle School, Battle High School and Rock Bridge High School. She works to make sure her students can be as independent and functional as possible. To help achieve this, she received a \$297 grant from the Assistance League to help establish a cooking curriculum. The grant will go toward basic cooking supplies for all three schools - things like cake pans, electric hand mixers, measuring cups and utensils.

"We want them to leave with the ability to really be able to make some meals they could use after graduation," Stark said. "Hopefully this will facilitate independence in the area of cooking and kitchen skills."

Shawn Huggans, a teacher at Hickman High School, received an Assistance League grant totaling \$300. His proposal was titled "Chemotherapy Head Scarves," and it provides resources for exactly that.

The grant covers the cost of the fabric and thread used to make headscarves that will be sent to cancer patients at University Hospital. "The goal is for the students to take the skills they have learned in the sewing lab to complete the scarves," Huggans said. "All of my students get excited about this project because they all know someone who had cancer or is going through treatment ... It shows them that they can contribute and give back to others in our community."

Students will begin work in March. Huggans' goal is to have 75-100 headscarves ready to send by the end of the school year.

News You Can Use

Hickman High School senior **Jeremiah Kent** won the Class 4 170-pound MSHSAA Wrestling Championship. The state championship marked his 150th victory, a perfect senior record.

Elementary guidance coordinator **Susan Perkins** has been named the Coordinator of School Counseling of the Year by the Missouri School Counselor Association. Perkins was recognized for her exemplary support and promotion of school counseling services and for implementing and improving counseling services in Columbia Public Schools. She was honored for her achievements by the Missouri School Counselor Association during a special awards ceremony at the Missouri state capitol in February.

The Columbia Public Schools' Child and Family Support Process (CFSP) Program has been awarded the 2018 Building Bridges Award by the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders. The program was recognized during an Awards Program in Kansas City, in February. Members of the CFSP Program are **Raina Martin, Claire Slama, Courtney Blackwell** and **Rebecca Townlain**.

BOND INFORMATION

VOTE	April 2010 \$120 million bond (no tax increase)	April 2012 \$50 million bond and 12-cent debt service levy increase	April 2014 \$50 million bond and 4-cent debt service levy increase		April 2016 \$30 million bond (no tax increase)	April 2018 \$50 million bond (no tax increase)	April 2022 \$40-\$50 million bond (estimated—no tax increase expected)
ISSUE	June 2011 - \$41m June 2012 - \$33m Feb. 2014 - \$46m	Feb. 2014	March 2016 \$35m	April 2017 \$15m	June 2018	June 2019	June 2023
PROJECTS	<div>Battle High School (2013)</div> <div>Gyms at Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools (2013)</div> <div>Transportation facility upgrades (2014)</div> <div>Battle Elementary School (2015)</div> <div>Ridgeway and Lee elementary school renovations (2015)</div> <div>HVAC projects (2015)</div> <div>West Boulevard Elementary School expansion (2016)</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>	<div>Shepard Boulevard Elementary School expansion (2015)</div> <div>Lange Middle School kitchen (2015)</div> <div>Beulah Ralph Elementary School (2016)</div> <div>Center for Early Learning—North (2017)</div> <div>Douglass High School renovation (2017)</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>	<div>Rock Bridge High School stadium (2017)</div> <div>New Cedar Ridge Elementary School (Opens 2018)</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>	<div>Grant Elementary School addition (Opens 2018)</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>	<div>Middle school land and design</div> <div>Elementary school expansion(s)</div> <div>Middle school athletic improvement</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>	<div>New middle school</div> <div>Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School addition</div> <div>Elementary school addition</div> <div>Building renovations and improvements</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Safety and security</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>	<div>New or renovated instructional space to accommodate growth</div> <div>Technology infrastructure</div> <div>Roofs and other critical facility needs</div>
<div>KEY</div> <div>COMPLETED AS PROMISED</div> <div>IN PROGRESS</div> <div>PLANNED</div>							

ELECTION UPDATE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Columbia Board of Education has called a special election on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, to submit a proposal for a no-tax-rate-increase bond issue to Columbia voters. The bond issue proposal requires 57 percent approval.

Q. What is the amount of the proposed bond issue?

A. \$30 million.

Q. Will the bond issue require a tax increase?

A. No. A tax levy increase is not necessary to maintain and improve our facilities. The bond will only extend the current debt payoff period.

Q. How is bond debt paid?

A. Bond debt is paid using the debt service fund. Debt service is one of four funds included in the school district's tax levy. The fund is used to pay principal, interest and fees on outstanding bond issues. The debt service levy is \$0.9719.

Q. What is the difference between a tax levy and a bond issue?

A. By law, bond issues only provide funds for new construction, renovation of existing facilities, technology and the purchase of equipment. Tax levy funds are used to pay for operating costs such as salaries, benefits, materials and supplies. The April 3 election is a bond issue request of voters.

Q. How will the funds be spent?

A. The bond will be used for:

New Construction

\$5 million will be used for completion of a new middle school located on Sinclair Road in south Columbia. Total project cost is \$34 million. The remaining \$29 million necessary for the project was previously approved by voters in the 2014 and 2016 bond issues.

Building Additions

\$9.5 million will be used for building additions, including: \$6 million for a classroom addition at Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School to eliminate 7 trailers; and \$3.5 million for an addition to elementary

school classroom addition to be determined by facilities planning to address continued community growth.

Building Improvements

\$13.15 million to maintain existing facilities, including: \$6 million for building renovations to Jefferson Middle School, to begin in 2020; \$2 million for middle school athletic facility improvements, including the installation of tracks and fencing; \$2.4 million for tuckpointing at Oakland Middle School, Field School, and Midway Heights, West Boulevard, and Benton STEM elementary schools; \$2.3 million for HVAC improvements and replacements at Gentry, Lange, and Smithton middle schools, including AC chillers and ventilation systems; and \$450,000 for roof replacements at Hickman High School and Fairview Elementary School.

Safety & Security and Technology

\$2.35 million, including: \$1.6 million for technology infrastructure needs; and \$750,000 for safety and security enhancements, including additional exterior cameras, protective glass window sheeting, and additional access control systems for building doors.

Q. Why is there a need for these items?

A. The Board of Education has adopted facility goals based on an evaluation of district facilities. These goals include reducing overcrowding in schools, including reducing the number of trailers; improving the physical and learning environments in all facilities; and increasing the functional life and efficiency of facilities.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 7

Voter Registration Deadline

April 2

Last Day to
Vote Absentee

March 28

Last Day to Request an
Absentee Ballot

April 3

Election Day

For more information on the bond issue proposal, visit www.cpsk12.org/bondelection2018

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



Cedar Ridge Elementary School

The students at Cedar Ridge Elementary School will have a new home next fall—one that has multiple sets of bathrooms, an actual cafeteria, and doesn't require the need for mobile classroom trailers. Students and teachers won't have to go far, though. The new building in the Vineyards subdivision off Highway WW is just a mile and a half away from Cedar Ridge's current location.

District voters approved the \$22-million building in the 2014 bond election, as part of CPS' 10-year plan to address growth and overcrowding. Construction began in summer 2016, and the design will mirror Eliot Battle and Beulah Ralph elementary schools. The new location will have a capacity of 650 students, more than five times the space Cedar Ridge currently has, but will start off with about 450 students next year and continue to grow.

Cedar Ridge has been overcapacity for several years and utilizes seven trailers for classrooms and multipurpose areas. The 40-year-old building only has one set of bathrooms for students, and at any given time there are usually more students in trailers than the school building, according to Cedar Ridge Principal Angie Chandler.

Along with more classrooms and improved facilities, the new school will feature a cafeteria with a kitchen and seating separate from the gymnasium, a fenced-in playground with a soft surface just for kindergartners, and a makerspace room, a space that will allow students to integrate art with technology through different creative materials. Chandler also hopes to implement a teacher wellness room, separate from the teacher's lounge, which focuses on mindfulness and gives teachers and faculty a space to relax and destress.

"This is an extremely stressful job, so I want to explore options for teachers and students. I want to make sure that as a staff we're expanding our knowledge of consciousness and mindfulness to help student stress levels," Chandler said. "We want to make sure we're doing the same thing for our teachers. It's a hard job, and you have to take care of the people who are taking care of our kids."

And what do the students think about the new building?

"They ask about the playground," Chandler said. "Students are so astounded and excited to learn they get a brand-new playground with brand-new structures. So, they're just trying to wrap their mind around leaving their playground and getting a new one."



Rock Bridge High School

The renovations for Rock Bridge High School stadium were approved by bond voters in 2014, and included a new and larger home grandstand, a new press box, new storage buildings, new fencing around the track, a legacy plaza, and bathrooms and seating accessible for individuals with disabilities. As the student population continued to grow, the old facilities became insufficient for hosting events, particularly varsity football games where there might be 3,000 or more people in attendance, according to Rock Bridge Athletic Director David Egan. The renovations have now made the facilities more comparable to those at Battle and Hickman high schools.

"I think most people recognized the upgrades were very much needed," Egan said. "The student-athletes have certainly been excited to compete in the new stadium."



Grant Elementary School

Construction of Grant Elementary School's new two-story addition is scheduled to be finished just in time for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The addition will provide numerous benefits the crowded school didn't have before, like a cafeteria. Amenities include dedicated classrooms for special education, a music/arts room and small greenhouse areas that will feature plants grown by second and fifth graders.

Principal Jennifer Wingert said the kids are excited. "Our classrooms are going to be brand new, the elevator makes it so everyone can come here, extra restrooms, a lunchroom that's all ours and weather-safe ... The students have just been so involved through the whole process," Wingert said.



New Middle School

South Columbia is the fastest growing area of town; however, five out of six CPS middle schools are located north of Broadway. But by 2020, a 63-acre plot of land off Sinclair Road will be home to a new middle school, if approved by voters.

Site clearing has begun at the future home of CPS’ newest middle school. The school will allow for reduced class sizes, more collaboration areas for students and spaces for the community to use.

This school will address growth in south Columbia and reduce overcrowding at Gentry Middle School.

The new school also continues to reduce the amount of mobile classroom trailers in CPS. In 2006, CPS had 173 mobile classrooms, but after construction of this middle school, CPS will have less than 20, Superintendent Peter Stiepleman said.



“I’m really excited that we live in a community that is committed to education,” Dr. Stiepleman said. “Especially in a community that is rapidly urbanizing, it’s important we recognize and appreciate and celebrate that we’re all in this together.”

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