



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

SPRING 2017



SUMMER



WINTER



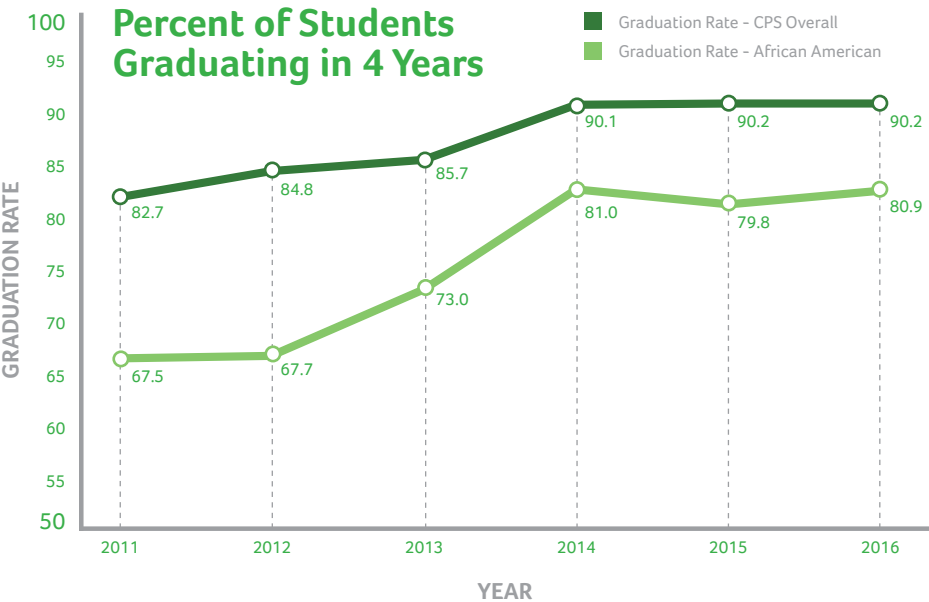
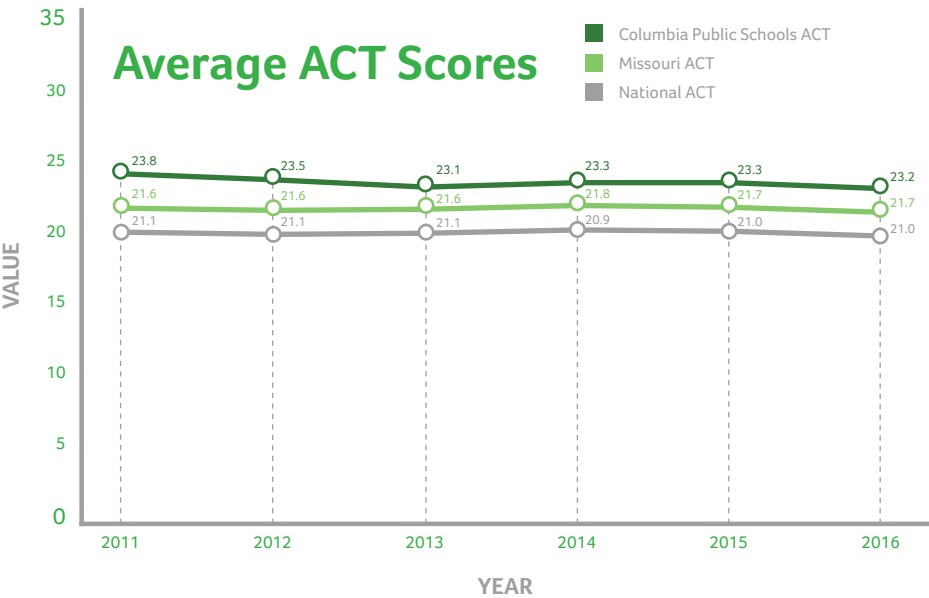
FALL



MAKING PROGRESS

Columbia Public Schools’ students continue to score higher on ACT tests than their statewide and nationwide peers. The slight dip in state and local scores in 2016 reflects the fact that it was the first year all Missouri high school juniors took the ACT. CPS consistently exceeds state and national ACT averages.

Columbia’s graduation rate has been steadily increasing. The district is also making progress in closing the achievement gap for African-American students. The graduation rate for African-American students has increased from 67.5% in 2011 to 80.9% in 2016.



Onward and Upward for All

Columbia Public Schools dedicates itself to assuring that students not only graduate high school, but continue to be successful in future endeavors. The CPS belief system is known as AEO—Achievement, Enrichment and Opportunity. The “A” stands for “All students graduate college or career-ready,” and recent data (left) seem to back up this endeavor.

One program that exemplifies CPS’ dedication to graduation and adult-life preparation is the AVID program, which stands for Achievement via Individual Determination. The program includes an elective course that targets students in the academic middle – B, C, and even D students – who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard.

“These students are capable of completing rigorous curriculum, but are falling short of their potential. Oftentimes, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and some are from socioeconomically disadvantaged families,” says Shanna Dale, CPS AVID coordinator. “Other AVID students don’t fall into either of those areas—they just need a champion at school to help them achieve their goals.”

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Assistance League Helps in “Sew” Many Ways

Group funds 187 projects in Columbia Public Schools

Karen Cottrell couldn't stop staring.

There they sat, half a dozen beautiful sewing machines, gathering dust in a Douglass High School teachers' lounge. Every time she walked by, she peered inside, a kernel of an idea beginning to pop in her mind. She received permission to use them.

This past October, Cottrell had a wish granted (literally). The Assistance League of Mid-Missouri parceled out grants totaling \$98,391.56 for Columbia Public Schools as part of the Links to Learning program. Most grants ranged from \$100 to \$700. Three teachers were given the Neila Petit Award, the largest Links to Learning grant worth \$800. Among them was Cottrell, an English Language Learners teacher at Douglass. The sewing machines required fabric.

Cottrell wrote her grant with teaching her students entrepreneurialism in mind. She teaches English to older students who have recently immigrated to the United States. While Cottrell's main goal is for her students to acquire enough English to move to a normal high school or earn a high school diploma, she also wants to assure her students gain other useful working skills that could earn them money. While part of the day is spent reading and writing, her students are gaining rudimentary skills in sewing, quilting and clothing design as well.



“As a second language learner, it helps if you do something while acquiring the language, so the doing in here is learning to sew,” Cottrell said. “When I’m working with one group, half the class will be reading, dialoguing and writing, while the other half is at the machines and learning how to quilt.”

A former seamstress, Cottrell has been using the machines as part of her curriculum for the past two years. There are 12 sewing machines in her classroom that students use throughout the day. She uses online tutorials from Missouri Star Quilt Company and then gives an in-class demonstration. Along with learning how to work the machines, her students have also learned techniques such as garment construction, applique and rolled hem.

When she first began the program, Cottrell supplied most of the fabric for her students, but quickly realized she needed help. This year, the Neila Petit Award will help provide books, fabric and bus transportation to visit Missouri Star Quilt Company for her three English language classes.

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2017 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

JUNE 5 – JUNE 29

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

The Secondary Summer School High School Credit program is available for Columbia Public Schools students entering 9th 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 Gifted Center, Eugene Field School, and grades 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 5 – 22 and JULY 10 – 27

The Columbia Summer Enrichment Preschool at Shepard Elementary is a tuition-based program available for children ages 3-5.

JUNE 5 – 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.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbia partners with Columbia Public Schools to offer half-day summer school curriculum (math, science, social studies, and writing) and half-day Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbia programming. The program is located at 1200 N. 7th Street and meets Monday-Thursday.

JUNE 12 – JULY 28

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 3-7.

JUNE 14 – JUNE 29

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

JULY 6 – JULY 19

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 Elementary is a tuition-based program. Students participate in courses selected from a wide variety of offerings.

2017 MAC SCHOLARS SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Expedition is a four-week program for high-potential multicultural students who have been historically underrepresented at the college level and not enrolled in the gifted program. This program is June 5-29 at Hickman High School.

MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy is an academic and enrichment experience for high-potential, multicultural students who are entering the 10th grade. The program is June 19-27 at Columbia College.

MAC Scholars First Time Advanced Placement (AP) Retreat is a two-day retreat for multicultural students taking Advanced Placement classes for the first time, to be held July 14-15 at Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbia.

Anytown Leadership Institute for High School Youth (9-12) 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. This program runs June 25- July 2 at SLU School of Pharmacy and is limited to 10 students.

MAC Scholars Transition to Middle School Retreat is a collaborative two-day retreat with Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbia. Designed for rising 6th graders, it is scheduled for July 12-13.

The MAC Scholars High School Transition Retreat is a three-day retreat that enhances academic skills, focuses on study habits, increases multicultural student participation in rigorous course work, and helps students develop a four-year high school graduation plan. This program is at Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbia Teen Center on July 14-15.

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 full-day program is available during July. A non-refundable registration fee is required.

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.



Brown Named New Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Columbia Public Schools recommended Jill Dunlap Brown as the new assistant superintendent for elementary education to the Board of Education at its February meeting. Brown will be replacing Ben Tilley, who will retire at the end of the school year.

Brown has been the principal at Russell Boulevard Elementary School since 2014. She has more than 16 years of experience in education in various roles, including classroom teacher, reading coach, professional development provider, educational consultant and elementary principal. Brown holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri.

"Dr. Brown has extensive experience creating systems to support student learning," said CPS Superintendent Peter Stiepleman. "We're excited for her to continue that work as a part of our district leadership team."

Lange Students Win Engineering Award

The Future City Team from Lange Middle School competed in the Great Plains Future City Competition on January 21 at the Kansas State Engineering Complex in Manhattan, Kansas. The team received the Kansas State University Award for their "Engineering Design Process." There were 52 teams competing, and the theme this year was "The Power of Public Spaces." The team consisted of students Braden Ambra, Addison Gish, Sean Keene, Ethan Magee, Lane Story, Landon Viers and Mya White.



Robert Ndessokia was the educator mentor, and Mike Heimos and John T. Conway, PE were the engineer mentors. The students started in August and spent a lot of time during and after school preparing for the project.

West Quiz Bowl Team Shines in Tuscumbia

The West Middle School Quiz Bowl Team, consisting of Ben Cohen, Grace Gomez-Palacio, Thomas McGrath, Sam Morgan, Celena Schmoldzi and Rhiannon Schnetzer, competed in the Tuscumbia Winter Academic Bowl the weekend of January 21-22. The West team was placed in the highly competitive division out of 20 teams and they earned third place in this division. Ben Cohen won second place out of 24 other students in this division for most questions answered.

Gentry Raises Nearly \$2K for Homeless Veterans

Students at Gentry Middle School raised \$1,830.28 to support Welcome Home Inc., an organization that provides emergency shelter and support services for homeless veterans. The school presented Tim Rich, executive director for Welcome Home, with a check at its December pep rally.

CPS Students Perform at State Music Educators Conference

Congratulations to the 8th grade Gentry Middle School band and the Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School choir on their respective selections to perform at the 2017 Missouri Music Educators Association conference. Selection to perform at the conference is competitive, and Gentry and Lee were selected from a pool of 187 applications from across Missouri by a panel of music educators from the states of Kansas, Illinois, Mississippi and Michigan. The ensembles performed at the conference in late January. The Gentry band director is Amber Quest and the Lee choir director is Elizabeth Tummons.

Center for Early Learning-North: Open for Opportunity

When it comes to making promises, Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Peter Stiepleman says the district intends to keep them. After the community voted to approve a \$50 million bond issue in 2012, part of that promise included building a space to house the district’s early childhood programs under one roof—which includes early childhood special education, preschool classrooms and Parents as Teachers.

Not only did CPS fulfill its promise with the creation of the Center for Early Learning-North (CELN), but Columbia Board of Education President James Whitt said it was done on time and under budget—finishing the project at \$9.3 million instead of the expected \$9.5 million.

CPS has been a leader for early childhood education in Missouri for many years and has stayed well ahead of the curve. The school district was the first in Missouri to offer Parents as Teachers programming in 1981 (before it was



implemented statewide in 1985) and has had early childhood special education classrooms for more than 25 years. What started as one preschool classroom has grown into a program of 28 that are almost fully funded by the community.

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