



Columbia

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

FALL 2017

SPRING



SUMMER



WINTER



NEW TO THE TEAM

**Anna Munson, Chief Financial Officer:**

Munson had been the chief financial officer at Riverview Gardens School District in the St. Louis area since 2014. She was the executive director for federal grants at St. Louis Public Schools

for seven years. She also spent seven years with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as director of business management for the Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled and as a supervisor for compliance in special education.

**Keith Bausman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources:**

Bausman taught secondary mathematics and science for 13 years. He has also been a high school principal. He comes to Columbia after serving as

executive director of human resources for Socorro Consolidated Schools just south of Albuquerque, New Mexico. He holds a master's degree in secondary curriculum and instruction from Arizona State University and a master's degree in educational leadership from Lubbock Christian University.

**Carla London, Chief Equity Officer:**

Over the last five years, London served as Columbia Public Schools' supervisor for student and family advocacy and was the director of student services. She was a Columbia Public Schools

home-school communicator at the elementary level and coordinated the Aspiring Scholars program in our secondary schools from 2002 to 2006. Earlier in her career, she was a middle school teacher at Round Rock Independent School District in Texas. London holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Dallas.

**Melita Walker, West Middle School Principal:**

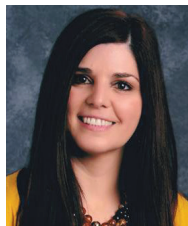
Walker takes this new position after serving as the assistant principal at Battle High School. She is an instructional leader with 20 years of experience in education. In addition to her

leadership role at Battle High School, she also has experience as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and reading coach. Walker holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership, an education specialist license and certification in secondary administration.

**Chris Drury, Smithton Middle School Principal:**

Drury graduated from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and received his Master's in Education from the University of Missouri. Before settling in Columbia, Drury taught high

school in Russellville (Mo.) and St. Louis Public Schools. He's been in central Missouri for 11 years now, having served as a seventh-grade teacher at Southern Boone Middle School in Ashland before joining the staff at Smithton Middle School. He was the assistant principal before being tapped to replace Dr. Ed Schumacher as principal on July 1. Drury also began course work for his doctoral degree from the University of Missouri this summer.

**Fairouz Bishara-Rantisi, Gentry Middle School Principal:**

Bishara-Rantisi comes to Columbia after serving as associate principal at East High School in Lincoln Public Schools in Nebraska. She has 18 years of experience in education.

She has taught both art and Spanish, and has been a curriculum specialist supporting both middle schools and high schools. She has also served as an education consultant to the Nebraska Medical Center, Nebraska Department of Education, and Spain Ministry of Education. Dr. Bishara-Rantisi holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Tony Gragnani, Hickman High School Principal:**

Gragnani had been an assistant principal at Hickman High School since 2014. He also has eight years of experience as a classroom teacher at both the junior high and high school levels,

as well as previous leadership experience as the summer school principal at Hickman. Gragnani holds an educational specialist degree in organizational leadership and is slated to complete his doctoral degree in organizational leadership in August 2018.

**Bonita Benson, Derby Ridge Elementary Principal:**

Benson had been the assistant principal at Rock Bridge Elementary School since 2014. Prior to her role there, she was the assistant principal at Paxton Keeley Elementary School for two

years. In total, Benson has 12 years of experience as an administrator. She has also taught English, social studies, and reading, and has been an instructional coach. Benson holds an education specialist degree from the University of Central Missouri and a master's degree in education from Avila University.

**Candy Fowler, Russell Boulevard Elementary Principal:**

Fowler had been the assistant principal at Fairview Elementary School for the last four years. She has 12 years of experience with Columbia Public Schools as a teacher at

Fairview, a literacy coach at Cedar Ridge Elementary School, and a language arts teacher at Gentry Middle School. She also has 14 years of experience as an adjunct instructor in graduate and adult studies for educators at William Woods University. Fowler holds an educational specialist degree from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in educational administration from William Woods University.

District Makes Progress Over Summer

Grant Elementary School Addition

A \$6.5 million addition is underway at Grant Elementary School. The two-story, 16,600-square-foot addition on the southwest part of the school will house a new kitchen and cafeteria. Currently, students get their lunch trays in the main hallway and carry them to the gymnasium to eat. The new cafeteria will double as the school's building-code-mandated storm shelter and free up the gym for assemblies and physical education activities.

Two elevators will be installed to make the building more accessible. The existing restrooms, lounge and main office are all undergoing renovation as well, with a nurse's office, workroom and adult restroom being added to the existing layout. The main office entry will be relocated to align with the pickup/drop-off loop near the Eco Schoolhouse, and the building's fire alarm system will be upgraded.

The addition will result in the elimination of four trailers upon its scheduled completion in August 2018.



Rock Bridge High School Upgrades Athletic Facilities, Entryway

The stadium at Rock Bridge High School spent the summer being upgraded, with new seating, renovated bathrooms and a brick-encased press box making the facility more accessible and appealing. The renovations also include upgrades to the baseball and softball fields, a new pole vault pit, plus new ticket booths and concession stands.

Improvements to the school's main entryway also greet RBHS students as they return from summer break. The renovations will cost \$5.875 million and will be complete this fall.



Douglass High School Students Return to Original Campus

One of Columbia Public Schools' most historic buildings has been ushered into the 21st century with a slew of much-needed upgrades and renovations.

Douglass High School has served generations of Columbians. For the comfort and safety of the next generations of Bulldogs, new air conditioning, heating and electrical systems have been installed, replacing the building's boiler and window air units. The floors have been replaced and two stair lifts have been installed. The iconic

concrete stairway in the front was refurbished and the parking lots repaved. The gym has been upgraded and classroom space for music and career-technical education have been added.

Douglass High School students spent the 2016-17 school year in a temporary home in southeast Columbia. The cost of the construction project, which voters approved in 2014, was \$6.75 million.

2017-2018 BUS & LUNCH INFORMATION

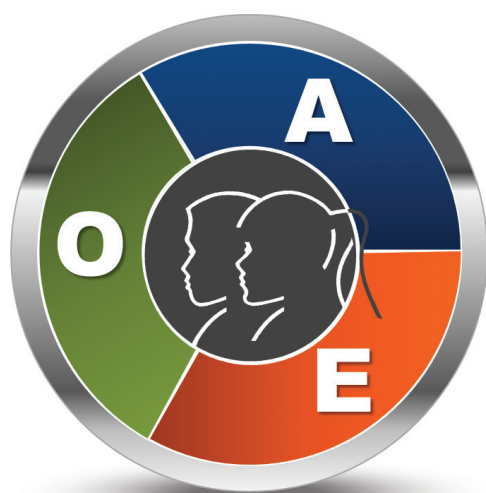
SCHOOL HOURS	Classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 15 for grades 1–12; Thursday, Aug. 17 for kindergarten; and Tuesday, Aug. 22 for preschool.	
7:30 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	Gentry, Jefferson, Lange, Oakland, Smithton, and West middle schools	
7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Eliot Battle, Midway Heights, New Haven, Rock Bridge, and Two Mile Prairie elementary schools	
7:50 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Ridgeway Elementary School	
7:55 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Lee Expressive Arts and Benton STEM elementary schools	
8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Alpha Hart Lewis, Beulah Ralph, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Derby Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Mill Creek, Parkade, Mary Paxton Keeley, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard, and West Boulevard elementary schools	
8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Quest at the Center of Responsive Education (CORE)	
8:55 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.	Battle, Hickman, and Rock Bridge high schools	
9:08 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Douglass High School	
BUS SCHEDULES	For information concerning school transportation routes and schedules contact Student Transportation of America at 573-214-3860 or visit the school district’s website at www.cpsk12.org .	
FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION	Free bus transportation is provided to all students in kindergarten through grade 8 who reside one mile or more from their attendance area school in the Columbia Public School District. Students in grades 9–12 who reside two miles or more from their attendance area school are eligible for free transportation.	
MEAL PRICES	STUDENTS GRADES K–5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast: \$1.85• Lunch: choice of salad bar, hot lunch with salad bar, or sack lunch: \$2.80• Additional milk: \$0.50 each	STUDENTS GRADES 6–12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast: \$1.85• Lunch: variety of meal choices: \$2.90• Additional milk: \$0.50 each ADULT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast: \$2.25 • Lunch: \$3.75
FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS	Menus available online at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition . Parents may also pay for school meals online at www.myschoolbucks.com . Free and reduced-price lunch applications are accepted all year and are available at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition or at your child’s school. 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced-price breakfast is \$0.30• Reduced-price lunch is \$0.40 For any questions about meal services, visit our website at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition or call 573-214-3480 . Follow us on Twitter @CPSlunch	



Career Center Experiences Record Summer Enrollment

At the Columbia Area Career Center, students between the ages of 10 and 14 have a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in a world of career exploration and discovery each summer. This year, CACC offered 50 camps and had 511 participants—its highest enrollment to date. The weeklong camps were offered in the morning or afternoon throughout the summer and ranged from culinary and welding camps to computer programming, filmmaking and engineering.

"The kids have so much fun," said Jim Sharrock, Professional and Community Education Supervisor for the Career Center. "They're amazed at what they accomplish at the end of the week and they have a realization that they can do things, like baking a soufflé or fixing an engine, that they never thought possible."



All students graduate college- or career- ready

Students have at least
90% attendance

Reduce out-of-
school suspensions

Students achieve
academic progress

Every teacher becomes the best

Professional Development
Plan

Evaluation Plan to
help teachers and
administrators be better

Our operations make our mission possible

Fiscally responsible with
taxpayer money

Support staff make it
possible to achieve AEO
for our kids

Achievement. Enrichment. Opportunity.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14
Jump Start Day (Grades 6 and 9)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
Opening Day of School
(Grades 1-12)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
First Day for Kindergarten

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
Solar Eclipse

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Labor Day; school not in session

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Teacher Work Day; school not
in session

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17
Teacher Collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30
Teacher Work Day; school not
in session

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Teacher Work Day; school not
in session
Parent Teacher Conferences
(Elementary and Middle Schools)

NOVEMBER 22 - 24
Thanksgiving Break; school not
in session

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 2
Winter Break; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
Teacher Work Day; school not
in session

MONDAY, JANUARY 15
MLK Day; school not in session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Teacher Work Day; school not
in session

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Teacher Work Day; school not
in session
Parent Teacher Conferences
(Elementary and Middle Schools)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Presidents' Day;
school not in session

MARCH 26-30
Spring Break; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
Teacher Collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

FRIDAY, MAY 18
DHS and RBHS Graduation

SATURDAY, MAY 19
BHS and HHS Graduation

MAY 21-25, 29
Built-in inclement weather days

MONDAY, MAY 28
Memorial Day; school not in session

TUESDAY, MAY 29*
Last Day of School
Teacher Collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

JUNE 5 - 29
Summer School

* Six inclement weather days are built into the calendar. If the district uses fewer than 6 inclement weather days during the year, the unused days are removed from the end of the school year.

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