



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

FALL 2016

SPRING



SUMMER



WINTER



Career Center summer camps allow kids to test-drive future careers

Columbia Area Career Center Summer Camp for Youth is a tuition-based program for youth ages 10 to 14. Every summer starting the second week of June through the end of July, the Columbia Area Career Center is transformed into a world of exploration and discovery for a slightly younger audience. Camps come in a wide-variety of interests, including music, acting, firefighting, culinary, fashion and engineering, just to name a few.

Most of us wouldn't be able to pinpoint the source of the food we eat every day. We think food comes from grocery stores, not farms. We interact with cashiers, not growers.

In mid-July, 10 students took part in the Animal Adventures youth camp at the **Columbia Area Career Center**. The week-long camp, which was led by Battle High School agricultural instructor Meridith Haley, "allowed students to explore careers and learn about the care of farm animals and the food those animals produce."

Aside from making homemade ice cream, the students enjoyed many off-site interactive tours and hands-on projects, including:

- MU Veterinary Health Center, where they met dogs and horses;
- Mizzou Meat Market, where they helped stuff hamburger and pork sausage;
- MU Dairy Farm, where they assisted in the milking and feeding processes of dairy cows.

Visit career-center.org/pce/youth/ for more information on future programs.



photo by Mat Matlack

Beulah Ralph Elementary School prepares for inaugural school year

After years of construction and preparation, students finally will fill the halls of Beulah Ralph Elementary School, the district's newest and 21st elementary school. The 89,000 square-foot building is located on the corner of Scott Boulevard and Route KK.

Groundbreaking for the school began in November 2014 and construction was completed in June of this year. Dr. Tim Majerus, the former principal at Alpha Hart Elementary School, was named principal of Beulah Ralph Elementary School in October of 2015 and planning for the school year quickly followed.

Majerus immediately began looking for his assistant principal and hired Seth Woods. Several Columbia Public School teachers and staff showed interest in transferring, and Majerus had the majority of his staff hired last February. Since then, Majerus and his team have been involved in getting to know each other and envisioning the future at Beulah Ralph.

"We've had two opportunities where we had the entire staff together," Majerus said. "So we met off-site and spent

the entire day together planning for the upcoming school year and talking about what our vision for the school is, and how to accomplish those goals. So it's been very fun."

Each teacher at Beulah Ralph is part of a committee, which revolves around discussing service learning, Positive Behavior Intervention Support, academics, and brainstorming school traditions. These committees have allowed teachers the opportunity to make Beulah Ralph a unique school. For example, the service learning component combines giving back to the community with learning in the classroom.

"I'm super impressed with our staff. They're collectively a very talented, very student-centered and very positive group of individuals," Majerus said. "The teachers will be tying the service learning projects back into the curriculum, so I'm very excited about those ideas."

To continue this article, and to read a profile about Mrs. Ralph, visit us at www.cpsk12.org

2016-2017 BUS & LUNCH INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS	Classes begin Tues., Aug. 16, for grades 1–12 and Thurs., Aug. 18 for kindergarten.	
7:30 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.	Gentry, Jefferson, Lange, Oakland, Smithton, West middle schools	
7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Eliot Battle, Midway Heights, New Haven, Rock Bridge, 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 and Benton 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, 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, 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 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: \$1.75• Lunch: choice of salad bar, hot lunch with salad bar, or sack lunch: \$2.70• Additional milk: \$0.50 each	STUDENTS GRADES 6–12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast: \$1.75• Lunch: variety of meal choices: \$2.90• Additional milk: \$0.50 each
	Menus available online at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition . Parents may also pay for school meals online at www.myschoolbucks.com .	
FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS	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 lunch is \$0.40• Reduced-price breakfast is \$0.30 Those families not approved for food stamps or AFDC benefits should complete an application that will be available in all schools, the district administration building, and on the website at www.cpsk12.org .	
	For any questions about meal services, visit our website at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition or call 573-214-3480 . Follow us @CPSLunch	

GET THE SCOOP

There are numerous ways to get information on happenings in Columbia Public Schools.

CPS MOBILE APP

Download our app to get a personalized window into the latest news and information about the district and your child's school. Available for free via iTunes or Google Play. Search for Columbia Public Schools.

CPS-TV

The school district's cable-access channel, CPS-TV is broadcast on Mediacom channel 81, CenturyLink 97 and Charter channel 985. Click on the CPS-TV icon on the left side of the school district home page at www.cpsk12.org for more information.

HOME ACCESS

A web-based, real-time parental tool allowing you to check your secondary student's current attendance, scheduled courses and more. Please contact your school directly for more information.

PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

The ParentLink/Blackboard system combines email, text and phone notifications into one system. More information about the system is available at www.cpsk12.org.

(U)MATTER

A newly design website for students and parents to find valuable information and support on a wide range of taboo topics, including alcohol and drug abuse, dating, cyberbullying and depression. (u)Matter encourages students to make positive and healthy choices. Visit umatter.us for more information.

VIRTUAL BACKPACK

Check out the Virtual Backpack on the school district homepage to access information on community events and activities for students and families provided by organizations in the community. Students can submit homework assignments, review grades, write academic blogs and much more.

SCHOOLOGY

Allows access to course materials and assignments both at school and home. Parents access Schoology from www.schoology.com and log in with the same username and password you use for Home Access. Students use cpsk12.schoology.com and use their CPS email address and network password to log in.

Follow us online!
www.cpsk12.org

NEW TO THE TEAM



Dr. Kevin Brown

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education

Dr. Brown comes to Columbia after serving as directing principal at Cherokee Heights Middle School in Madison, Wisconsin. He has more than 10 years of administrative experience at both middle and high school levels.



Dr. Brian Kurz

Chief Human Resources Officer

Formerly the superintendent of Community Unit School District No. 4 in Mendon, Illinois, Dr. Kurz has served as teacher, assistant principal, director of instruction and principal in his career.



Michelle Flores-Holz

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School Principal

Flores-Holz has 12 years of experience in education and 8 years of administrative experience, most recently as principal of Buder Elementary School in St. Louis.



Dr. Tim Majerus

Beulah Ralph Elementary School Principal

Dr. Majerus previously served as principal of Alpha Hart Elementary for four years and principal at Blue Ridge Elementary for 11 years. He also has 8 years of teaching experience.



Dustin Jenkerson

West Middle School Principal

Jenkerson comes to West Middle School after serving as principal of Trenton (Mo.) Middle School since 2013. He has a master's degree in education administration and more than 12 years experience as a teacher and administrator.



John Elliston

Shepard Boulevard Elementary School Principal

Elliston had been principal at Callaway Hills Elementary School in the Jefferson City School District since 2012. He has more than 20 years of experience in education as a teacher and principal.



Achievement. Enrichment. Opportunity.

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

visit us at www.cpsk12.org

MISSION

Why we exist

We provide an excellent education for our students by adhering to organizational goals.

VISION

Our desired future state

To be the best school district in our state.

PURPOSE

What we do

To be a valuable asset for our community by preparing our children so that they will be competitive in an ever-changing, unpredictable world.

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

First day of classes, grades 1-12

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

First day of kindergarten

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day; school not in session

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Teacher Work Day; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Teacher collaboration; 2.5 hour early dismissal

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Teacher Work Day; school not in session

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Election Day; school not in session

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Parent-Teacher Conferences; school not in session

NOVEMBER 23-25

Thanksgiving vacation; school not in session

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 2

Winter Recess; school not in session

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Teacher Work Day; school not in session

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Martin Luther King Day; school not in session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Teacher Work Day; school not in session

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Parent-Teacher Conferences; school not in session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Presidents Day; school not in session

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Teacher collaboration; 2.5 hour early dismissal

MARCH 27-31

Spring Recess; school not in session

TUESDAY, MAY 23

Last day of school; 2.5 hour early dismissal

MONDAY, JUNE 5

First day of summer school

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

Last day of summer school

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

BOND UPDATE

The summer months have been busy for construction and facility maintenance in Columbia Public Schools with more than 50 projects completed or underway.

Projects included everything from major construction to paving to roof work to new flooring.

As promised, the school district continues its long-range plan to eliminate trailers. This summer more than 20 trailers were

removed from schools including trailers at Russell Boulevard, Mill Creek and Derby Ridge elementary schools and Smithton Middle School, among others.

Improvements to the athletic facilities at Rock Bridge High School have begun. Field facility improvements were made this summer, including ball field back stops. The major renovation of the press box, stadium bleachers, concession stands and restrooms has been designed and work on the approximately \$5 million project will begin later this fall after football season is complete.

Blue Ridge Elementary School Turns 50



Blue Ridge Elementary School opened in the fall of 1966 and began commemorating its 50th birthday last spring with a student writing celebration. Students, faculty and staff will continue marking the 50th anniversary this school year.

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