



QUARTERLY REPORT

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPRING
2015



CPS BELIEVES IN SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS



The Columbia Public School District's relationships with local veterans and the Harry S Truman Veterans' Hospital continues to broaden and expand, with two recent fundraising efforts and two ongoing programs adding to that association.

For the fourth consecutive year, Columbia Public Schools' students and staff were challenged to donate to the Honor Flight program. This year's total of over \$5,000 makes more than \$52,000 raised by CPS in the program's history. For the second year in a row, Gentry Middle School raised the most money of all the schools and had the honor of presenting the check to Mary Paulsell, Honor Flight board president. At a cost of \$300 per veteran, this year's donation will allow 16 veterans to visit their war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Many schools throughout the district hold special celebrations and/or memorial ceremonies each year for Veterans' Day. This year, a fundraising effort by Gentry Middle School student Kaitlyn Roberts was one of those special efforts. After attending a summer business camp, the seventh grade student wanted to start her own business. To honor her veteran father, Roberts started Saving Soldiers and made paracord bracelets to raise funds for the Welcome Home campaign, which houses homeless veterans and is seeking to build additional housing. Roberts' goal was to make 100 bracelets and donate \$1,000, and she was able to meet that goal on Veterans' Day.

The beginning of the school year also marked the start of the 16th year of the partnership between the Harry S Truman Veterans' Hospital and Douglass High School. Students accepted into the program spend half their school day working at the hospital. Stephen Gaither from the VA Public Affairs office said "The VA sees this program as a great ongoing opportunity to get more involved with the community, and to allow students to serve local veterans. It also provides young teens with a chance to get real-world, adult experience applicable for their future careers."

Since 1999, the hospital has also sponsored an annual Veterans Day essay contest for middle and high school students. This year's topic was "Why Are Veterans Special?" Read the essays at: www.columbia.mo.va.gov and select "news & media."

Countdown to Kindergarten

If your child is entering kindergarten in the fall of 2015, please plan to attend Countdown to Kindergarten on **Thursday, March 12**. Parents and children can meet the teachers, visit a classroom and complete the school registration process.

Event is 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. for students who will be attending: Benton, Lee, Midway, New Haven, Ridgeway, Rock Bridge, Two Mile Prairie

Event is 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. for students who will be attending: Alpha Hart Lewis, Battle**, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Mill Creek, Parkade, Paxton Keeley, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard, West Boulevard

For more information, visit www.cpsk12.org or call Columbia Public Schools at 573-214-3400.

***Registration for Battle Elementary School will be held at Battle High School*

ACHIEVEMENT, ENRICHMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

Students in AP Courses

Columbia Public Schools is seeing an increase in the number of students taking more challenging courses. "The increase is in part due to efforts to encourage students to believe they can be successful in these advanced courses, and then to provide supports which help them realize that belief," says Superintendent Peter Stiepleman.

1,651	AY 11-12
1,746	AY 12-13
1,920	AY 13-14
2,639	AY 14-15

**Note: 2014-2015 is through first semester.*

BRIGHT FUTURES LAUNCHES "STRIKE UP THE BAND" INSTRUMENT DRIVE

The Bright Futures program is new to Columbia Public Schools and seeks to provide resources to fill a one-time need for a student. The program has narrowed its effort to be more effective.

"We had a meeting to discuss our next steps and focus as we begin this journey with Bright Futures," said Ben Tilley, assistant superintendent for elementary education. "We discussed not starting so broad that we are unable to be effective or so narrowly that we had little impact. It was decided to begin with a focus on opportunity and enrichment, two of the superintendent's goals, for our students interested in band and orchestra."

January saw the beginning of the "Strike Up the Band" instrument drive, which seeks donations of instruments in order for students to be able to join band or orchestra who otherwise, due to expense, may not be able to join.

"We know there are students who would like to join band or orchestra, but don't because of the expense of a musical instrument. We will be encouraging individuals to like our Facebook page and help us spread the word about the instrument drive. I think that it is exciting to have Bright Futures at a point where we can begin some focused work. I am looking forward to the impact the program will make."

MAC SCHOLARS FOCUSES FOR GREATER SUCCESS

The MAC Scholars program has undergone some changes in the past few years, streamlining efforts to reach the largest number of students possible.

Annelle Whitt, district coordinator of the MAC (Multicultural Achievement Committee) program, saw a great foundation in MAC Scholars when she came on board in 2012. However, Whitt felt the program needed some added consistency, so that students saw no differences in the program as they moved from elementary school through to their graduation from high school. Part of achieving that goal meant that the program's offerings were pared down from 60 to around 20, all of which are re-evaluated each year.

"We support students that are under-represented in honors classes," Whitt said, "not just African-American and Hispanic students, but multi-cultural students as well. We evaluate our programs in three areas: achievement, enrich-

ment and opportunity. We are part of the structure in place to support achievement in the district, and we want each student of color to have at least one MAC experience. Last school year we had around 4,500 experiences. Our goal is to double that."

Students have access to a MAC Resource Center at all four high schools. The center can serve as simply a quiet space to study, or somewhere to prepare for tests such as the ACT or learn the Cornell note taking system.

MAC Scholars also has performance levels based on GPA. The higher the GPA, the more incentives and opportunities become available. Some of those include the HBC (Historically Black College) tour and, upon graduation, a senior sash.

The district's Summer Expeditions summer school program now falls under the leadership of MAC Scholars, as does the "Failure is not an Option" conference, one of the few student-led conferences in the country.

Whitt says student success is important and measured. "We are looking for results, not just numbers."



AVID PROGRAM SEES RESULTS

The AVID program started in Columbia Public Schools last year and seeks to be a college and career readiness system for students in the academic middle - those who are underrepresented on college campuses and "might just need a champion."

"The academic middle can be different in each building," said AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Coordinator Shanna Dale. "These kids need someone pushing them, someone holding them accountable."

AVID is a class during the school day at the middle and high school levels where students gather and learn things like the Cornell note taking system and organizational methods, while also having the opportunity to interact with each other as well as college mentors.

"They become a family in the class," Dale said. "seventy-five percent of CPS students have parents who did not go to a university and 74 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Through the program, 36,000 AVID seniors nationwide graduated last year. AVID has been around for 30 years and it has shown to be an effective college readiness system."



CPS Bond Update

Large-scale bond projects are helping Columbia Public Schools address the ongoing issue of growth.

"This year will be our largest ever first, second, fourth and fifth grade classes," said Linda Quinley, the district's Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer. "The new elementary schools will help, but next we need to look at the middle school level."

Overall, the district has seen growth from 15,942 students in 2000-2001 to 17,206 students this school year, with projected growth to 18,377 by the 2019-2020 school year. The majority of that growth is currently at the elementary level, as it has grown from 7,306 students in 2006-2007 to a projected total of 9,153 in 2019-2020.

"This year will be our largest ever first, second, fourth and fifth grade classes."

- Linda Quinley

The building of Eliot Battle and Beulah Ralph elementary schools will help with that growth. Battle Elementary School was over 50 percent complete at the end of January and on target for its opening in August. Now enclosed from the winter elements, most of the work is going on inside the building. Construction on Ralph Elementary School, the newly-named school in the southwest part of town, began in October. The school is on pace to open in August of 2016.



Three other large bond projects are the kitchen addition at Lange Middle School and the West Boulevard and Shepard Boulevard elementary school additions. Both are on target to open this fall.

The work at West Boulevard and Shepard Boulevard elementary schools will eliminate trailer classrooms, a long-time goal of the district. Shepard will lose 12 trailers and six will be removed from West. Of the 175 trailers the district had, there are still 120 remaining. "Our growth as a district has partly prevented us from getting rid of them at the pace we had hoped," Quinley said.

HICKMAN ATHLETIC COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

Members of the Hickman High School student body and administration were joined by representatives from Columbia Public Schools and the Columbia Chamber of Commerce to cut the ribbon for the school's new athletic facility. Work wrapped up in June of 2014 on the \$3.4 million project, and included the addition of a wrestling room, concession stand and restrooms. Work was also completed on new tennis courts, the baseball/softball field and the parking lot.



GROUNDBREAKING - NEW ELEMENTARY

Ground was broken this fall for the Columbia Public Schools' new elementary school, to be built in the southwest part of town, at the intersection of Scott Boulevard and Route K. The 89,000 square foot school is scheduled to open in August 2016. In January, the Columbia Board of Education voted to name the school after Beulah Ralph. Ralph, who passed away in 2010, spent 58 years working at Douglass High School, from 1947 to 2005. She was a key figure in the desegregation of the district.

News You Can Use

HICKMAN, CACC STUDENTS WIN STATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE AT UMKC



In November, three teams from Hickman High School and the Columbia Area Career Center competed in the 2014 State Entrepreneurship Challenge. The teams from Hickman and CACC finished first and second. The teams that competed at the state competition had to qualify by submitting business plans. The top 20 teams were

selected to compete for the state title at the University of Missouri - Kansas City's Bloch School of Management. The winning team received \$1,000 renewable scholarships from UMKC and a tablet. Second place received the scholarship. Team members are: First place team: **Abby Fulcher, Gareth Greenwell, Caitlin Price, Becca Wagner and Matasen Chambers** (pictured). Second place team: **Kay Frymire, Sam Studer, Eden Brtock, Amy Hsu and Max Parry**. Qualified: **Nick Nelson, Olivia Klenke, Maddie Gilmore, Mark David and Yoel Stefanos**.

CPS EARNS GRANT FROM USDA TO HELP SCHOOLS PURCHASE FROM LOCAL FARMERS

In December, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced more than \$5 million in grants to support efforts to connect school cafeterias with local farmers and ranchers through its Farm to School Program. Columbia Public Schools will partner with University of Missouri Extension to expand and integrate its farm to school program through the following key activities: extend the use of local products by preserving the farm to school goods purchased for consumption during the non-harvest seasons; increase the amount of farm to school items served in the cafeterias by seeking additional opportunities to purchase local goods; extend the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program initiative to grades 6 and 7 in order to allow student tasting at all six middle schools; extend learning into the classroom through outside gardens that conserve on space and hydroponic gardens for inside use in the winter; promote a growing contest among middle school students to enhance learning; increase curriculum emphasis on the scientific aspects of growing produce and the health contributions of eating produce.

COLUMBIA PTA UNITS EARN STATE HONORS

Several Columbia PTA units were recognized for excellence and achievement at the 2014 Missouri PTA annual convention. Awardees are: Parent Education & Involvement Award Winner, Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Health and Safety Education Award Winners, Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Leaders Project, **Terra Merriweather-Schulz**, Columbia Council of PTAs Citywide President; National PTA School of Excellence Certificate of Merit, Benton Elementary School PTA; Early Bird Award, Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Exclusive 100 Award (100 percent increase in membership, 100 or more members and 100 percent enrollment), Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Oak Leaf Certificate (membership increase over previous year), Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School PTA, Gentry Middle School PTSA, Columbia Gifted and Talented PTA, Grant Elementary School PTA, Hickman High School PTSA, Lange Middle School PTSA, Ridgeway Elementary School PTA, Rock Bridge High School PTSA and Benton Elementary School PTA; 100 percent Faculty Award, Ridgeway Elementary School PTA; and the Missouri PTA Honor Roll (increased membership over previous year), Jefferson Middle School PTA, Lange Middle School PTA, Mill Creek Elementary School

PTA, Parkade Elementary School PTA, Paxton Keeley Elementary School PTA, Rock Bridge Elementary School PTA, Rock Bridge High School PTA and Russell Boulevard Elementary School PTA.

GENTRY AND JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL AT STOCK MARKET GAME

Two teams from Columbia Public Schools middle school EEE programs placed first and second in their region of 95 teams in the fall version of the Stock Market Game (SMG) sponsored by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA). SMG is a regular part of the EEE middle school curriculum in which students, in a real-time stock market simulation, practice skills in math, language arts, economics and social studies while investing a fictional \$100,000 in the stock market for ten weeks. Additionally, SMG helps students develop positive money habits and prepare the future. The students and their teachers will be invited to a banquet in May to honor this achievement. The winning teams are: First place - Gentry Middle School seventh grade (earned 8.7 percent profit in ten weeks): **Travis Bassford, Morgan Boussad, Jared Geyer and Noah Winton**. Their teacher is **Gretchen Trower**. Second place - Jefferson Middle School sixth grade (earned 5.7 percent profit in ten weeks): **Aaron VanDyke, Tyler Dettmar and Will Sanders**. Their teacher is **Beth Winton**.

HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PERFECT ON ACT

Hickman High School senior **Alexandra Fratila** earned a perfect 36 on the September ACT exam.

PETRE NAMED AS FIRST ELIOT BATTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Jeri Petre has been named as the first principal at Eliot Battle Elementary School. Petre is currently the principal at Derby Ridge Elementary School. Previously, she was the assistant principal at Blue Ridge Elementary School for more than eight years. She has more than 10 years of classroom teaching experience in various school districts and holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's in administration, and a specialist degree in administration. Eliot Battle Elementary School, located next to Battle High School, will open in 2015.

HICKMAN TEACHER WINS 2014 YALE EDUCATOR AWARD

Hickman High School Teacher **Janna Fick** has been recognized by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions as a recipient of the 2014 Yale Educator Award. The Yale Educator Recognition Program recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who support and inspire their students to perform at high levels and to achieve excellence. Of this year's 306 nominees, who represent 39 states and 20 countries, 53 teachers and 30 counselors were selected to receive the award.

CPS STUDENTS WIN VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST

Eight Columbia Public Schools students won the Harry S Truman Veterans' Hospital essay contest. Middle school winners are: First place, **Grace Gomez-Palacio** of West Middle School; second place, **Natalie James** of West Middle School; third place, **Kaylee Faddis** of Oakland Middle School; and honorable mention, **Andrew Yarbrough** of West Middle School. High school winners were: First place, **Katherine Byars**; second place, **Evann Twitchell**; third place, **C.J. Phillips**; and honorable mention, **Ali Schrupp**. All four high school winners are from Rock Bridge High School. Read the essays here: www.columbiamo.va.gov (select news & media).

2015 Summer School Programs

WWW.CPSK12.ORG

PROGRAMS AND DATES ARE:

JUNE 8 - JULY 2

Columbia Summer SUNsations offers free summer school for students entering kindergarten through eighth 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 and in the form of online or classroom course options.

Citizen Jane 1 (June 8-19) **Citizen Jane 2** (June 22-July 2) for entering 7-12 and **Fashion: Trends to the Runway** (June 8-19) for entering 7-8. These courses are offered to female students as collaborative programs on the Stephens College campus. Students explore concepts of film making in Citizen Jane. In Fashion: Trends to the Runway, students work on creating their own fashion designs.

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

Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) at Rock Bridge High School.

Early Childhood Special Education at the Early Childhood Education Center, 4001 Waco Road.

JUNE 8 - JULY 31

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 Ridgeway Elementary in June and Parkade Elementary in July.

Boys & Girls Club 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 Club programming. The program is located at 1200 N. 7th Street.

JUNE 15 - JULY 31

The Columbia Area Career Center Summer Enrichment Experience for Youth at the Columbia Area Career Center is a tuition-based program for youth ages 10-15. No sessions held the week prior to the July 4 holiday.

JUNE 8 - JUNE 25 and JULY 6 - JULY 23

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

JUNE 22 - JULY 2

Arts Explorers' Program is at Derby Ridge Elementary for selected elementary students entering grades 4-5. Enrollment is by recommendation only.

JULY 6 - JULY 17

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 6 - JULY 23

The Columbia Summer Enrichment K-8 program at Fairview Elementary is a tuition-based program. Students participate in courses selected from a wide variety of offerings.

MAC SCHOLARS SUMMER PROGRAMS

MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy is an academic and enrichment experience for entering 10th grade high potential multicultural students. June 22 – 24 Overnight at Lake of the Ozarks State Park and June 29 – July 3 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. August 10 – 11 at Battle High School, 8:55-4:05.

The MAC Scholars High School Transition Retreat is a three day retreat that enhances academic skills, focuses on effective 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 and Girls Club Teen Center, Aug. 12-14, 8:55-4:05 by invitation only.

MAC Scholars Transition to Middle School Retreat is a collaborative three day retreat with Boys & Girls Club of Columbia for rising 6th graders. July 8-10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Summer Expedition is a four-week program for high-potential multicultural students who have been historically under-represented at the college level and not enrolled in the gifted program. This program is June 8 - July 2 at Hickman High School.

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. Dates TBA. This program is limited to ten students.

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

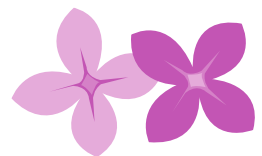
Adventure Club is an extended day program at elementary schools delivered by the University of Missouri - College of Education. It provides a supervised before- and/or after-school program during Summer SUNsations and Summer Enrichment programs. A full day program is available during the month of July. 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.



DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL EMPATHY MUSEUM

In December, Douglass High School students presented the Empathy Museum, a culmination of work done in conjunction with the University of Missouri's Honors College to address the questions: "What is empathy? Can it be taught? Can empathy lead to creating change in the community and the world we all share?" Several stations were set up throughout the museum, each with a different theme on the topic of empathy.

Esther Burks, a Douglass student, created a commercial to explain the idea of empathy. "I learned a lot about understanding people and even making the effort to understand people." Burks also commented on working with the Mizzou students on the project: "It was nice to see what we had in common with the MU students and also to learn about college."

"I learned a lot. A lot about understanding people and even making the effort to understand people."

- Esther Burks



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