



QUARTERLY REPORT

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALL
2015

CHINA | CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Furthering a relationship with the Confucius Institute at the University of Missouri and its Chinese partner university, Shanghai Normal University, a delegation of Columbia Public Schools administrators and students traveled to China this summer to learn about Chinese culture and observe a changing Chinese educational landscape.

"The relationship began in 2011 when the Columbia Public School District, the University of Missouri and Shanghai Normal University formed a partnership," said Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Peter Stiepleman. Shanghai Normal University is the leading teaching college in Shanghai. In the relationship, students from the University of Missouri have internship and cultural exchange opportunities and Columbia Public Schools receives Chinese teachers at no cost to the district.

"This coming year, all 1,300 sixth graders will have access to Chinese, Spanish and French," Stiepleman said. "We believe that preparing students with the necessary skills includes offering them high-impact world languages."

The district's delegation to China included eight students who earned A's in a full year of Chinese studies. Those students stayed an extra handful of days longer than the administrators and took classes from the Shanghai Normal University students who will be coming to Columbia to co-teach Chinese classes.

"We learned about their teacher preparation," said Connie Dewey, principal of West Middle School. "It was an opportunity to learn about Chinese culture, their educational system and traditions. They were extremely supportive of us. It was an amazing experience and I did not know it would be so enlightening."

"We attended meetings with educational researchers, secondary school principals, assessment coordinators and university officials to learn more about China's current education policies and the reforms that have been proposed," Stiepleman said. "Schools in Shanghai are shifting from the teacher lectures to an inquiry-based model where teachers facilitate the learning. This is a major shift in the role of schools in China."



STUDENTS STUDY CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY



STUDENTS EXPLORE SHANGHAI

TEAMWORK | VETERANS UNITED

A new opportunity to expand the relationship between Veterans United Home Loans and Columbia Public Schools led to teachers joining the team at Veterans United for the summer, helping out both organizations in the process.

"We are very busy in the summer," said Emily Clapp, recruitment generalist for Veterans United Home Loans, who just celebrated its fifth anniversary as a Partner In Education with Fairview Elementary School. "Last year we had to hire temporary employees, so we looked to get creative this summer."

Veterans United reached out to Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Peter Stiepleman with the idea of hiring on some teachers for the summer break. When a positive reaction was sent back, Veterans United advertised the positions.

"The response was overwhelming," Clapp said. "We had over 100 applicants for the 15 positions, and the applicants we got from Columbia Public Schools were all high-caliber people."



For eight weeks, from the beginning of June through the end of July, the teachers worked as processing assistants, a go-between position from the loan officers to underwriters, making sure all checklists are met so the necessary documentation is in order for loans to close on time.

"They have been wonderful employees for us. We have had better success and morale in that department than we did last summer. We want to continue the program and possibly grow it into holidays and spring break next year. We hope that the teachers will be able to bring back what they learn from the professional environment back into the classroom," said Clapp.

"So many of our educators began teaching right out of college, and so they may not have had the chance to see what private sector jobs look like or experience corporate culture," said Stiepleman. "I'm particularly interested in meeting with our employees who spent the summer at VU to see how they are sharing their learning with others and what role the positive corporate culture of VU might be having at their school sites."

SUMMER SUNSATATION | CAMP SALSA

Summer school in Columbia Public Schools means more than just an extension of the work done during the regular school year. It means exciting opportunities for students from kindergarten through high school to learn core concepts packaged into classes that have students making films, exploring fitness and even digging in the dirt.

Camp Salsa is a program for high school-aged students. What might have looked like teenagers digging in the dirt had much more significant goals behind it.

"The idea was for high school students to create a business based on gardening," said Sara Hughes, Camp Salsa coordinator. "The idea was to grow, prepare and sell salsa."

After an application and interview process, 10 students took part in Camp Salsa, spanning all four of Columbia Public Schools' high schools. Hughes explained the three key parts to the class. "To gain knowledge and skills at gardening - seeing that if they do the work then something comes from it. There is also a cooking component where they learn knife and culinary skills and create their own recipes, and they learn the start-to-finish of a business plan when they sell the salsa."

Other classes and programs offered as tuition-free programs this summer from Columbia Public Schools include the Citizen Jane

filmmaking class and Fashion Trends to the Runway, both geared towards female students, Crime Solvers and a class entitled "Twists, Turns and Loops: Roller Coaster Math!"



BOND WORK | CONTINUES

Neither heat nor rain can stop the construction and renovation from being done this summer across Columbia Public Schools stemming from voter-approved bonds.

The two biggest projects are two new elementary schools: Eliot Battle and Beulah Ralph. Battle Elementary School is ready for school to start in August, as just punch list items were remaining as of July on the \$12 million project. Ralph Elementary School will be about 50 percent completed by the fall and is on pace for completion in August of 2016.

Other large projects include work on around 55 percent of the roof at Rock Bridge High School. Replacement and installation of skylights will cost around \$1.3 million and will finish this fall. The expansions at West Boulevard and Shepard Boulevard elementary schools, costing \$5.5 million each, are on target for completion in December.

A couple other large-scale projects are still in the planning stages. The early childhood learning center, located on the Lange Middle School property, is under contract and ground will be broken soon on the \$9.5 million project, which is set to open in December of 2016.



BOND PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS SUMMER:

- Replace playground equipment at Blue Ridge Elementary School - \$50,000
- New baseball/softball bleachers at Rock Bridge High School - \$70,000
- Resurfacing tracks at Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools - \$85,000 each
- New flooring at Benton Elementary School - \$90,000
- Parking lot resurfacing at Smithton Middle School - \$180,000
- New HVAC at Derby Ridge and Mill Creek elementary schools - \$85,000 each
- New stadium lighting at Rock Bridge High School - \$215,000
- Electrical and sound upgrades at Hickman High School auditorium - \$250,000

BOND PROJECTS CONTINUING INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR:

- Replacing bleachers at Oakland Middle school - \$100,000
- New roof at Smithton Middle School - \$400,000
- Tuck pointing at Hickman High School - \$1.3 million

MEET | TWO NEW PRINCIPALS

Kristi Shinn comes to Columbia Public Schools with over a decade of experience as an elementary school principal, experience she is excited to bring to Derby Ridge Elementary School.

Born in Hannibal, Shinn graduated from Monroe City High School and then attended the University of Missouri for three years. The summer before her senior year she met her future husband and went with him to Culver-Stockton College in Canton. She has received her masters and specialists degrees from William Woods University and is finishing up her doctoral degree from there as well.

"I am very excited," she said of her move to Columbia and to Derby Ridge. "Some of my mentors are and have been administrators in the Columbia Public School District. The community support for the schools and the district is amazing in Columbia. I look forward to adding to that strong tradition."

Shinn and her husband, Doug, have a son, Cameron, who is a sophomore at Missouri S & T in Rolla.



Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School will be under the leadership of new principal Ed Elsea this fall. Elsea is returning to Columbia Public Schools after a brief teaching stint over 20 years ago.

"It is exciting to return," Elsea said. "I student taught in 1993 at Fairview Elementary and Hickman High School. The district has so many opportunities to offer. I look forward to building relationships and getting to connect with those who will make Lee a better place. I am excited to put my musical teaching career together with my administrative training and make arts integration an integral part of everyday life."

Elsea has spent time in the Smithton, Rolla and Poplar Bluff school districts in music education and served as a principal in the Lebanon and Santa Fe school districts.

"I am looking forward to meeting the teachers, students and parents. I am also super excited to get to be part of the arts integration network here at Lee."

Elsea's wife, Christy, will be the choir director at Smithton Middle School and will have a class at Hickman also. Their son, a senior, and their daughter, a sophomore, attend Battle High School.



NEW | TO THE TEAM

NEW DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

- **DAVID WILSON** - Executive Director of Special Services
- **TORI BALLEW** - Director of Special Education
- **JESSICA MOORMANN** - Section 504 Coordinator
- **JUDI PRIVITT** - Assistant Coordinator for Elementary Math Education
- **DAVID BONES** - K-12 Online Administrator

NEW PRINCIPALS

- **LAURA BEELER** - Benton STEM Elementary School
- **ED ELSEA** - Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School
- **KRISTI SHINN** - Derby Ridge Elementary School

NEWS | YOU CAN USE

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CREATES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SUMMER EXPEDITIONS STUDENTS

Columbia College is pleased to announce a new scholarship program designed to support graduates of the annual Summer Expeditions Program, which is offered to fifth through seventh-grade students from Columbia Public Schools. Graduates who pursue their college education at Columbia College may be eligible for the \$2,500 Summer Expeditions Scholarship renewable for four years for a total scholarship of \$10,000.

COLUMBIA STUDENTS PLACE AT HOSA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Students **Emily Getzoff**, **Bryanna Arnold** and **Marilise Stamps** earned national honors at the 2015 HOSA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif. Fourteen students from HOSA chapters at Hickman, Battle and Columbia Area Career Center competed in the event for future health professionals. Getzoff (junior, Rock Bridge) won a silver medal in the Transcultural Health Care Knowledge Test. Arnold (sophomore, Hickman) was a top ten finisher in the Transcultural Health Care Knowledge Test. Additionally, the Biomedical Debate Team reached the second round of competition. Stamps (junior, Rock Bridge) was a top ten finisher in the Nutrition Knowledge Test. HOSA advisors are **Monica Duemmel**, **Christine Roberson**, **Deb Canine**, **Karen Hirst**, **Michael Giblin** and **Bobby Horn**.

TWO CAREER CENTER STUDENTS PLACE AT NATIONAL SKILLSUSA CULINARY COMPETITION

Hyeonseo "Jerry" Jo, 2015 Hickman High School graduate, placed first in the SkillsUSA Culinary Arts national competition, and **Jacob Knerr**, 2015 Columbia Home Educators graduate, placed fourth in the SkillsUSA Commercial Baking national competition for high school students. The two trained through the Columbia Area Career Center's Culinary Arts Program. The two competitors practiced for the entire year with chefs **Brook Harlan**, **Carri Risner**, **Jeff Rayl**, **John Minor** and **Katie Frink** of the Culinary Arts Program at the Columbia Area Career Center. Jo's effort will be rewarded with a full four-year scholarship to many of the country's top culinary schools. Knerr was awarded a partial scholarship to the same schools. Jo and Knerr will continue their education at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. This Culinary Arts National Champion is the fourth in a row for the Columbia Area Career Center. The Columbia Area Career Center's other Culinary National Champions were in 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2014. This also marks the 13th straight year that the Columbia Area Career Center has had a state champion for Missouri competing in the national contest for Culinary Arts. A CACC Culinary Commercial Baking student placed 1st at the SkillsUSA national contest in 2013, fourth in 2012 and second in 2014. CACC has also won the state championship six out of the last seven years.



2015-2016 IMPORTANT BUS AND LUNCH INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

7:30 am – 2:35 pm

7:40 am – 2:40 pm

7:50 am – 2:55 pm

7:55 am – 2:55 pm

8:15 am – 3:00 pm

8:20 am – 3:20 pm

8:55 am – 4:05 pm

9:10 am – 3:45 pm

**CLASSES BEGIN TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, FOR GRADES 1 – 12
AND AUGUST 20 FOR KINDERGARTEN.**

Gentry, Jefferson, Lange, Oakland, Smithton, West middle schools

Eliot Battle, Midway Heights, New Haven, Rock Bridge, Two Mile Prairie elementary schools

Ridgeway Elementary School

Lee and Benton elementary schools

Quest

Alpha Hart Lewis, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Derby Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Mill Creek, Parkade, Paxton Keeley, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard, West Boulevard elementary schools

Battle, Hickman, Rock Bridge high schools

Douglass High School

BUS SCHEDULES

For information concerning school transportation routes and schedules contact Student Transportation of America at **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 eight who reside one mile or more from their attendance area school in the Columbia School District. Students in grades nine through 12 who reside two miles or more from their attendance area school are eligible for free transportation.

MEAL PRICES

STUDENTS GRADES K-5

- Breakfast: \$1.65
- Lunch: choice of salad bar, hot lunch with salad bar, or sack lunch: \$2.60
- Additional milk or juice: \$0.50 each

STUDENTS GRADES 6-12

- Breakfast: \$1.65
- Lunch: variety of meal choices: \$2.80
- Additional milk: \$0.50 each

ADULTS

- Breakfast: \$2.00
- Lunch: variety of meal choices: \$3.50
- A la carte items: prices vary

For any questions about meal services, visit our website at **www.cpsk12.org/nutritionservices** or call **214-3480**.

ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS

All district schools are using a computerized cashiering system. Students may pay into their lunch and/or breakfast accounts. Payments to this account can be made three ways: in your school cafeteria to the food service staff only, at Nutrition Services located at 1818 W. Worley Street or online through **www.MySchoolBucks.com**.

PAY ONLINE

Parents may also pay for lunches via the district's website via My School Bucks, **www.MySchoolBucks.com**.

- View account transactions
- Make secure credit or debit card payments to student accounts
- Set daily, weekly or monthly spending limits for breakfast, lunches and a la carte purchases if desired

For menus and other department information visit **www.cpsk12.org/nutritionservices**

- Get deposit forms, pin pad practice sheets and nutritional analysis information
- Ask a dietitian
- Get free and reduced-price lunch applications

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.

- Reduced-price lunch is \$.40
- Reduced-price breakfast is \$.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**.

GET THE SCOOP!

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

CPS MOBILE APP

Download the school district's mobile app for free via iTunes or Google Play.



CPS-TV

CPS-TV is the school district's cable-access channel. CPS-TV is broadcast on Mediacom channel 81, CenturyLink 97 and Charter channel 985. Additionally, visit CPS-TV on the school district's website to access live programming, the schedule and special programming. Click on the CPS-TV icon on the left side of the school district home page at www.cpsk12.org.



HOME ACCESS

Home Access is a web-based, real-time parental tool allowing you to check your secondary student's current attendance, scheduled courses, demographic information and class work. Please contact your school directly for more information on accessing the system.



PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

The ParentLink / Blackboard system combines e-mail, text and phone notifications into one system. More information about the new system, including mobile access for parents, is available on the district home page at www.cpsk12.org. Parents can download the district's mobile application through iTunes or Google Play, search for Columbia Public Schools. You can log in to ParentLink/Blackboard using your Home Access ID.



VIRTUAL BACKPACK

Virtual Backpack connects the community to Columbia Public Schools. Check out the Virtual Backpack on the school district homepage at www.cpsk12.org to access information on community events and activities for students and families provided by organizations in the community.



And don't forget to visit us on the web at www.cpsk12.org.

COLUMBIA | PARKS AND RECREATION

The mutually-beneficial relationship between the city of Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department and Columbia Public Schools has yielded more than \$1 million in funding toward resources such as trails, playgrounds and gyms for schools.

Beginning in the early 1980s, the city of Columbia has allotted a portion of the park sales tax revenue to work on projects in conjunction with the school district.

"We set aside \$25,000 a year for annual school facility improvements," said Mike Griggs, director of Parks and Recreation for the city. "There is no need for the city to build a baseball field when we can make use of school district fields and have funds available for improvements to the sites."

The partnership has recently extended into the school construction process, as the city provided \$150,000 to each new elementary school, Beulah Ralph and Eliot Battle, in order to expand the gym space. "We wanted to make sure the gyms were big enough for community activities - a gathering point," Griggs said, "and we could not even begin to build a stand-alone gym on our own for \$150,000 or even \$300,000."

"We try to make sure all schools are represented and all parts of the city," Griggs said. "The key point is that we are both into developing healthy lifestyles for our kids and the city being able to fund a project or help fund one will be another step in improving the quality of life for our children."

"The Parks and Recreation Department is one of our most important partners," said Peter Stiepleman, Columbia Public Schools superintendent. "The public schools believe that healthy minds and healthy bodies are key components to an excellent education. Mike Griggs and his team work with us very closely. One critical piece of the parks tax that is up for renewal is the annual funding Parks and Recreation provides to our public school playgrounds. Instead of building stand alone playgrounds, it invests in the replacement of older pieces of equipment, which the community is encouraged to use after school hours and on the weekends. Schools should be the beacon of a community and Parks and Rec helps those beacons shine a lot brighter."



FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY THE SCHOOL'S TRACK FUNDED THROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION

STUDENTS | SUMMER ENRICHMENT

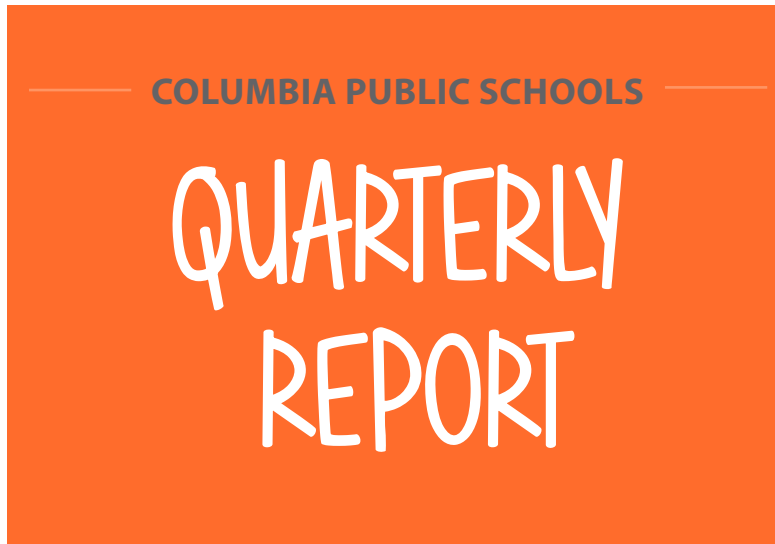
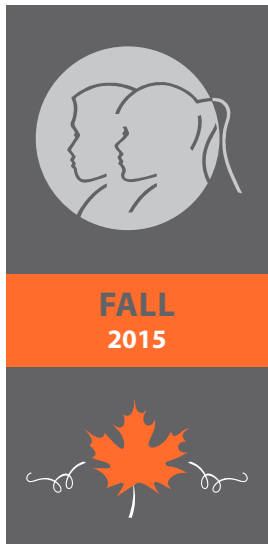


CLASSES SUCH AS "COOKING ADVENTURES WITH BOOKS" AND "OLYMPIC MADNESS" HAVE MADE COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM A POPULAR DESTINATION FOR STUDENTS.

2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 18	First day of classes for grades 1-12	January 27	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
August 20	First day of classes for kindergarten	February 12	Teacher collaboration day: school not in session
September 7	Labor Day: school not in session	February 15	Presidents' Day: school not in session
September 28	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	February 26	Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session
November 2	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	March 28 –	Spring recess: school not in session
November 3	Election day: school not in session	April 1	
November 5	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration	April 27	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
November 13	Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session	May 25	Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration
November 25-27	Thanksgiving vacation: school not in session	May 30	Memorial Day: school not in session
December 21 –	Winter recess: school not in session	June 3	Last day of classes: Early dismissal
January 1		June 6	First day of summer school 2016
January 4	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	June 30	Last day of summer school 2016
January 18	Martin Luther King's Birthday: school not in session		

Six snow days are built into the calendar (May 26 – June 3). If the district uses exactly three inclement weather days, the district will consider taking May 6 as a holiday, so that the final day of school will not be a single early release day following the weekend.



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www.cpsk12.org

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