



THE GRAND TETON AND YELLOWSTONE ADVENTURE

Summer school has moved past the traditional classroom catch-up courses that many perceive it to be. A great case in point is Columbia Public Schools' annual science department trip, the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks Adventure.

"It is a science adventure trip," said Mike Szydlowski, coordinator of the district's science department. "Eight days to Yellowstone and Grand Teton. It is for sixth through 12th grade students and we took 300 kids and staff this summer, up from 77 when we started the trip three years ago."

Involvement has grown so much that there were actually three different trips this year to accommodate all of the students interested. Once at the camp, the teacher-student ratio was 1 to 5. Szydlowski says it is a great trip for students and teachers alike.

"We have a waiting list for staff members who want to go. The teachers learn so much from being there - they come back a different teacher."

The students learn from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, studying topics such as wildlife tracking, geology and forest fire ecology. They also pick up some great leadership and outdoor skills along the way.

A feather in the cap for this fairly young program is the dual honors the district holds: bringing the most students, out of the more than 75 districts that participate, and being the most affordable non-Wyoming school district to offer the trip.

The cost was \$790 per student and the district provided fundraising opportunities for those students interested. The Columbia Audubon Society also helped by sponsoring two students this year.

Summer Enrichment for Students

Columbia Public Schools' 2014 summer enrichment program is yet another way for the school children of Columbia, and those outside of the district, to learn over the summer. With tuition-based courses ranging from Lego Mania! to I Love to Sing and Perform, students as young as those entering kindergarten through eighth grade had plenty of choices this July.

More than 200 kids participated in the summer enrichment program, said Coordinator Cara Ross. Held at Fairview Elementary School, the program had two slates of classes, one from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and the other from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Ross estimated that about 90 percent of those enrolled took part in both sessions, lasting a total of three weeks.

"We have a few eighth graders, but the bulk of our students are from third grade and younger," Ross said. "Some of the classes, like New Physics and Engineering Challenges, let the teachers go into greater depth on the subjects than they are able to do in the regular school year."

Summer enrichment offers a number of classes that do not just focus on one subject, but that integrate multiple subjects centered around a single topic. Examples include Reading, Writing and Wiggling and Strategy Games and Problem Solving. Fairview has a nature trail connected to the school grounds, which allows the school an additional outdoor teaching area. The program partnered with the Columbia Audubon Society to learn what plants and trees are growing in its midst.

"We have a lot of families and teachers who return to the program year after year," Ross said. "We do not have a lot of turnover and I think that is due to some of the niche classes we offer and the integrated learning we have in many of our classes." Tuition costs for the program were \$155 a session for ages three to five and \$85 a session for grades kindergarten through eighth.

CPS Students Visit City Hall

More than 150 middle school students in the Columbia Public Schools' summer school program had the chance to visit Columbia's City Hall and discuss topics of their choosing with department leaders. Topics ranged from crime and gang violence to an ice rink and an amusement park.

"It was a brand new class this year," said Marc Alexander, curriculum writer for eighth grade social studies for summer school. "And one that will be offered again next year."

When looking for a program that would get the students excited, Alexander thought about working with the city. What began as a possible work shadowing program developed into students brainstorming their own topics and then meeting with city representatives to present them.

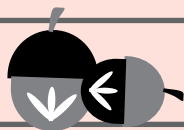
"For the first few days we focused on what the city does. Then we opened it up to what the students wanted to focus on. We divided the topics into groups, then working with Heather Cole at City Hall, we matched students up with representatives in those areas."

"This is a program everybody can do," Alexander said. "It helps make learning meaningful in a different way."



CITY MANAGER MIKE MATTHES ADDRESSES CPS STUDENTS

Summer SUNsation



Columbia Public Schools' Summer SUNsation is the biggest part of the summer school season, with nearly 8,000 students taking part in the month-long program.

Classes like "Gameology" used board games to help students who will be entering third grade in the fall learn thinking and social skills, while Camp Citizen Jane taught basics of filmmaking to girls entering seventh and eighth grades.

Another part of the program is the summer gifted education program, which serves students in grades two through eight. Jake Giessman, co-director of the Center for Gifted Education, said the program had approximately 120 students at the middle school level this summer.

BOND WORK CONTINUES

The Columbia Public School District continues to see progress from the two voter-approved bonds and 12-cent debt service levy increase. "We have fewer projects, but bigger projects," said Linda Quinley, chief financial officer and chief operations officer for the district.

The biggest project is the southwest elementary school, which will begin this fall. The project cost is approximately \$25 million - \$23.5 million of which is slated to be spent this year. The school is set to open in the fall of 2016.

New projects will also be starting this fall, including a kitchen addition at Lange Middle School that will serve both the school and the new early childhood center to be located on the Lange property. The kitchen is set to open in August of 2017. Additions will also occur at Shepard Boulevard and West Boulevard elementary schools, and work is set to begin on highway safety lights at Two Mile Prairie Elementary School. The lights will coincide with a decrease in the speed limit around the school, from 55 to 45 mph.

"We have fewer projects, but bigger projects."

- Linda Quinley

SEVERAL PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED THIS SUMMER, INCLUDING:

- Transportation facility improvements
- Roofs at Gentry and Lange middle schools, Lee, Derby Ridge and Paxton Keeley elementary schools
- The addition of a wrestling room and tennis courts at Hickman High School
- HVAC work, tuckpointing and interior wall work at Jefferson Middle School
- Air conditioning and windows at New Haven Elementary School
- Interior renovations at Lee Elementary School
- New handicapped-accessible doors at Fairview Elementary School
- New cafeteria doors at Jefferson and Oakland middle schools
- Some new exterior doors at Russell Elementary School
- New slide at Rock Bridge Elementary School

With projects at New Haven Elementary School and Jefferson Middle School completed, all schools now have air conditioning.

"The program grows every year. Students learned computer programming, designed schools in Google Sketch-Up, held a chess tournament and simulated international peace negotiations. A new feature this year was that students showcased final products for parents on the last day."

From learners entering kindergarten all the way up to those preparing to start eighth grade, Columbia Summer SUNsation had plenty of fun and exciting choices for students seeking summer enrichment. The Summer SUNsation program continues a long and successful tradition of offering free opportunities to thousands of students throughout Columbia Public Schools each year.

MEET THREE NEW PRINCIPALS

Ryan Link – Rock Bridge Elementary School



Summer renovations will provide a fresh look for new and returning staff and students this fall at Rock Bridge Elementary School. The school's new principal, however, will be a familiar face to all, as assistant principal Ryan Link moves into the principal's position.

"I am very excited about this new opportunity at Rock Bridge Elementary," Link said. "I think it is a real strength to already know every student's name and have those relationships with the families."

Link has been with Columbia Public Schools since 2000, working at Lee, Fairview and Paxton Keeley elementary schools prior to coming to Rock Bridge in 2009.

"I am excited to continue along the path of excellence we have been on, and I look forward to helping us move to the next level."

Jill Dunlap Brown – Russell Boulevard Elementary School



Russell Boulevard Elementary School's new principal, Jill Dunlap Brown, begins her Columbia Public Schools career this fall, bringing with her experience from the educational field as well as the corporate world.

After starting her teaching career in Jefferson City, Dunlap Brown spent two years working for Edward Jones, training brokers. "It was a great learning opportunity," she said. "It was teaching, just as I had been doing with kids, but my students there were as old as 75."

Dunlap Brown has held positions at Prairie Home R-V and the University of Missouri. She also started her own educational consulting business. This experience led to the principal's position at South Callaway R-II in Mokane and now to the position at Russell Boulevard.

She describes her new environment as a "fabulous district with so many opportunities for kids. It is exciting to see that as an educator and as a parent - that the district is always trying to get better. My main goal is to build relationships and learn about the great things already happening at Russell and throughout the district."

Eric Johnson – Hickman High School



When looking for a new principal, Hickman High School did not need to look far. Eric Johnson, who has been at the school for eight years, was the chosen candidate to take the principal's seat.

Originally from Kansas City, Johnson's college and post-graduate work was all done at the University of Missouri, where he is continuing work on his doctorate degree.

It has been a big year for Johnson and his wife, Denisha, who is a second grade teacher at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School. They welcomed their first child, Arian, in May.

Johnson has spent all of his professional career at Hickman High School, first teaching a year of English and the last four serving as assistant principal.

"I want to continue the work we have been doing," Johnson said of what he envisions for his first year as principal. "We are heading in the right direction with teachers who care about students. I am most excited to work with the kids. We have amazing students. Someone told me Hickman is like going to school with the world because we have diversity in culture, socioeconomics and interests. Education is my passion and I am proud to be a part of an amazing school in an amazing community."

New to the Team



NEW DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

- **PETER STIEPLEMAN**
Superintendent
- **DANA CLIPPARD**
Deputy Superintendent
- **LINDA QUINLEY**
Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer
- **BEN TILLEY**
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
- **JIM CHERRINGTON**
Director of Business Services
- **MELINDA ADAMS**
Chief Human Resources Officer
- **MEGHAN HOLLERAN**
Coordinator of Adult Education
- **SHELLI ADAMS**
Director of School Improvement and Title I Federal Programs

NEW PRINCIPALS

- **RANDALL GOOCH**
Director at Columbia Area Career Center
- **ED SCHUMACHER**
Principal at Smithton Middle School

News You Can Use

CAREER CENTER STUDENTS SHINE AT HOSA CONFERENCE

Columbia Area Career Center students **Alex Komes**, Rock Bridge High School graduate, and **Julia Hill**, Rock Bridge High School junior, placed third in Forensic Medicine at the HOSA Future Health Professionals 37th annual National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, in June. The competition consisted of a written test and a case analysis.

HICKMAN ACADEMIC TEAM TAKES SECOND IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Hickman High School's Academic Team took second place in the MSHSAA State Scholar Bowl Tournament on May 10, at the University of Missouri. **Andy Sun** was also awarded an individual recognition. Participating team members included **Alex Harmata, Wenzer Qin, Amanda Sun, Andy Sun, Franziska Weston** and **Sherry Xie**.

2014-2015 Important Bus & 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

8:20 am – 3:20 pm

8:15 am – 3:00 pm

8:55 am – 4:05 pm

9:10 am – 3:45 pm

**CLASSES BEGIN TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, FOR GRADES 1 – 12
AND AUGUST 21 FOR KINDERGARTEN.**

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

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

Ridgeway Elementary School

Lee and Benton elementary schools

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

Quest

Rock Bridge, Hickman, Battle high schools

Douglass High School

BUS SCHEDULES

For information concerning school transportation routes and schedules contact

First Student, Inc. at **474-9473** or **474-9476** 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 seven who reside one mile or more from their attendance area school in the Columbia School District. Students in grades eight 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: \$1.55
- Lunch: choice of salad bar, hot lunch with salad bar, or sack lunch: \$2.45
- Additional milk or juice: \$0.50 each

STUDENTS GRADES 6-12

- Breakfast: \$1.55
- Lunch: variety of meal choices: \$2.70
- Additional milk: \$0.50 each

ADULTS

- Breakfast: \$1.90
- Lunch: variety of meal choices: \$3.25
- A la carte items: prices vary

For any questions about meal services, visit our website at **www.cpsk12.org** 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**

- 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.

NEW WEBSITE

Columbia Public Schools' website is getting a make-over. During the summer months the school district began a massive redesign of its site; including new features, and a new look. The redesign is happening in phases due to the size of the school district's site. Please be patient while the new site is under construction. Visit the new site at www.cpsk12.org.

HOME ACCESS

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



PARENTLINK NOTIFICATIONS

The ParentLink 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 using your Home Access ID.



CPS-TV

CPS-TV is the school district's cable-access channel. CPS-TV is broadcast on Mediacom channel 81, CenturyTel channel 602 and Charter channel 16. 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.



VIRTUAL BACKPACK

Virtual Backpack connects the community to Columbia Public Schools. Check out the Virtual Backpack Web page to access information on community events and activities for students and families provided by organizations in the community.



GENE HUFF SCHOLARSHIPS



For more than 10 years, the Dr. Gene S. Huff Scholarships for Education have provided funds to Columbia Public Schools' teachers seeking to begin or advance their careers in education.

Dr. Gene Huff worked in education for 41 years, 33 of those in Columbia Public Schools. The largest part of his career was spent as principal at Oakland Junior High School and as director of human resources for the district. He had a passion for assisting educators, both those beginning their careers as well as those starting on new roles in education. That is why his family and the school district created the scholarship after his passing in 2003.

Main sources for the scholarship funds come from direct donations to the school district or through an annual golf tournament that supports the scholarship fund and Oakland Middle School.

"I was ecstatic," said Morgan Neale, music teacher at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, winner of the Dr. Gene Huff Memorial Career Advancement \$1,000 Scholarship. "It was nice to hear that my work has been appreciated."

Neale is getting her educational specialist degree in educational administration from the University of Missouri and will graduate in December. "I have put a lot of hours into the educational specialist degree and this will help me finish it off. I am very thankful to the Huff family for the recognition and for what they have been doing to help teachers."

The winner of the Dr. Gene Huff Memorial Teaching Fellowship \$1,000 Scholarship is Cortni Ervin, teacher of algebra I and principles of algebra at Hickman High School. The fellowship scholarship is awarded to a teacher who demonstrates professionalism, leadership and a strong desire to make a difference.

"I was really excited," Ervin said. "The fellows program has so many passionate and good educators. I knew it would be difficult because everyone is making a difference in their classroom."

Ervin has already put some of the money toward integrating technology into her classroom.

"I was ecstatic. It was nice to hear that my work has been appreciated."

- Morgan Neale



DARLENE HUFF WITH MORGAN NEALE



DARLENE HUFF WITH CORTNI ERVIN

2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 19	First day of classes	January 28	Teacher collaboration: 2 1/2 hour early dismissal
August 21	First day of classes for kindergarten	February 13	Teacher collaboration day: school not in session
September 1	Labor Day: school not in session	February 16	Presidents' Day: school not in session
September 29	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	February 27	Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session
November 4	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	March 23 – 27	Spring recess: school not in session
November 14	Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session	May 25	Memorial Day: school not in session
November 26-28	Thanksgiving vacation: school not in session	May 26	Teacher collaboration: 2 1/2 hour early dismissal
December 22 –	Winter recess: school not in session	June 3	Last day of classes: 2 1/2 hour early dismissal
January 1		June 8	First day of summer school 2015
January 2	Teacher collaboration: school not in session	July 2	Last day of summer school 2015
January 19	Martin Luther King's Birthday: school not in session		

Six snow days are built into the calendar. If the district uses fewer than six inclement weather days during the year, the unused days will be removed from the end of the school year. If the district uses exactly zero inclement weather days, the district will consider taking May 1 as a holiday, so that the final day of school will not be a single early release day following the weekend.

www.cpsk12.org

QUARTERLY REPORT



FALL
2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- THE GRAND TETON AND YELLOWSTONE ADVENTURE
- SUMMER ENRICHMENT FOR STUDENTS
- CPS STUDENTS VISIT CITY HALL
- BOND PROGRESS CONTINUES
- SUMMER SUNSATION
- NEW TO THE TEAM
- NEWS YOU CAN USE
- IMPORTANT BUS & LUNCH INFORMATION

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Administration Building
1818 W. Worley
Columbia, MO 65203

Non-profit org.
US postage
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit No. 13

Board of Education

President Christine King
Vice President James Whitt
Members Paul Cushing
Jan Mees
Darin Preis
Jonathan Sessions
Helen Wade
Superintendent Dr. Peter Stepleman

Quarterly Report is published by the Columbia Public School District as a public service to the parents of school-age children and district residents. The Columbia Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or use of leave protected by the Family and Medical Leave Act, in its programs, activities, or with regard to employment. The Columbia Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer. Inquiries regarding Columbia Public Schools' compliance with IDEA and Section 504 regulations should contact the offices or individual below: Special Services (IDEA), Director of Special Services, Section 504 Dr. Lou Ann Tanner-Jones 1818 W. Worley, Columbia, MO, 65203, (573) 214-3400.