



TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS BOOSTS ACCESS TO RESOURCES



When Battle High School opened in the fall of 2013, every student was issued an iPad, providing for a 1:1 ratio and allowing for increased access to resources. Now Columbia Public Schools has embarked on an expansion to that technology program to allow even greater access to instructional resources in the classroom. The program has been extended to fifth grade classrooms across the district as well as AP (advanced placement) students at Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools.

"The fifth grade rollout is going very well," said Matt Villasana, instructional technology specialist for the district. "It has been a three-part process: meeting with the teachers, administrators and media specialists in the buildings and then a parent meeting where we explain everything and set up the Apple IDs. Then we get the iPads into the buildings and activate them. It has all gone very well. Our goal is to get students use to the iPad so that when they go to middle school and high school they are already accustomed to it."

The district is using Google Apps and Classroom to allow for document sharing and creation, but there are significant security procedures in place as well.

"We were going to need to purchase more textbooks and it made more sense to buy iPads than textbooks."

- Chris Diggs

"There is no messaging," Villasana said of the devices. "The district uses a Web filter when students are at the schools and will work with parents to show them how to use similar filters when students are away from the school's Internet."

Villasana estimates that the technology services department sent out around 1,400 iPads to the fifth grade students this year. Additionally, Midway Heights and Russell Boulevard elementary schools have furthered the program through building initiatives. Midway is 1:1 in second through fifth grades and Russell is 1:1 in third and fifth.

The other area of growth for the program is the AP students at Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools. Around 750 devices were sent out to each school this fall, allowing the students access to a digital curriculum that, due to AP's different curriculum, might be more easily accessed online.

"Our numbers in AP are going up," said Chris Diggs, director of technology services. "We were going to need to purchase more textbooks and it made more sense to buy iPads than textbooks. It is more fluid."

Diggs sees a four-year life span for the devices, meaning that the fifth graders who have the iPads this year will carry it through the end of their middle school career, then get a new device in high school, which will last for those four years.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE



The Assistance League of Mid-Missouri, a non-profit volunteer organization which has greatly benefited the Columbia Public Schools, celebrated its 20th anniversary on October. 1 with a public celebration and Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting.

The organization is made up of members who develop, implement and fund ongoing philanthropic programs which serve women and children in need in our community. Through fundraising efforts such as their Cookie Connection, annual comedy night and the Upscale Resale store, the organization has provided scholarships, newborn necessities, assault survival kits and many other resources to those in need.

Two other programs that the Assistance League provides directly benefit the students of Columbia Public Schools. These programs are Operation School Bell and Links to Learning.

Operation School Bell provides new clothing and personal hygiene kits to children whose school attendance and performance have been affected by the lack of suitable clothing. The largest philanthropic program currently provided by the League, this program allows students to pick out their own clothing, working hand-in-hand with a personal shopper.

The Links to Learning program awards grants to Columbia Public Schools' teachers to enrich student learning experiences related to district curriculum, improve students' achievement, involve and benefit students and foster interdisciplinary instruction, enhance higher order thinking skills and/or support multi-age structures.

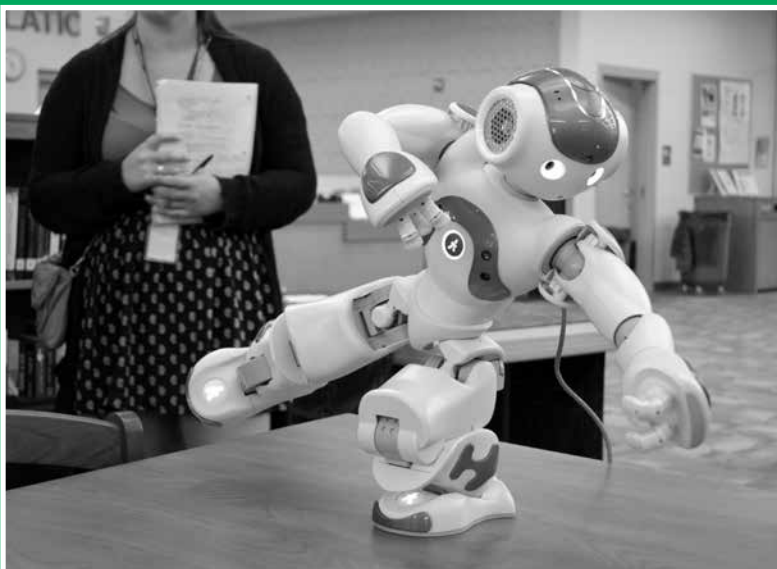


CPS Foundation Grants

Since the 1997-1998 school year, the Columbia Public Schools Foundation has been awarding grants to Columbia Public School District teachers for programs and technology that will supplement and enrich those already in place.

The foundation receives its funds mainly through donations and its annual Hall of Leaders ceremony. That money is then put into the district in the form of grants. This year the foundation awarded nearly \$70,000 in grants.

The goals of the foundation are fivefold: Enhance academic excellence in the public schools by providing funding not available through public sources; expand learning opportunities for all our children; stimulate creativity and innovation; enrich the schools' basic curriculum; and encourage community and business involvement in the public schools.



2014-15 FOUNDATION GRANTS

IREAD TO SUCCEED

Grant submitted by Nick Kremer - \$18,240
Provides each middle school a reading intervention program with 10 iPad Minis that are custom-tailored to the interests and ability levels of struggling students; also provides online assessment and diagnostic tools for teachers

FIT FOR LIFE

Grant submitted by Christi Hopper and Patty Cornell - \$14,699
Makes FitnessGram software available to all K-12 students in Columbia Public Schools; FitnessGram gives students a tool for assessing their own health-related fitness and lets them set fitness goals, produce reports for parents and promote life-long activity

NAO ROBOTICS

Grant submitted by Craig Adams and James Melton - \$21,500
Enables district coordinators, computer programming and music teachers to use NAO robots for hands-on interdisciplinary learning; when used in the lab, students will engage hands-on with topics such as locomotion, grasping, audio and video signal processing, voice recognition and more

MOBILE LIBRARIES TO ENGAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS

Grant submitted by Gregory Caine - \$15,062
Provides a variety of leveled, high-interest books for students to read during weekly school-wide sustained silent reading (SSR) time in sixth through eighth grade advisory classes

THE NIGHT OF STARS

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation's 16th annual Night of Stars event was held for the first time this year at Battle High School. The Night of Stars is a way for the Columbia Public Schools family to honor some of the best and brightest who have attended, taught or volunteered in the school district. This year, 12 individuals were honored in the following categories:

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Adam Guy
Sabra Tull Meyer
Dan Simon
Tom Weaver
David Wilson

OUTSTANDING RETIRED EDUCATORS

Charlotte Dean
Nancy Gerardi
Rod Kelly
Hank Landry
Peggy Poe

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Don Ludwig
Libby Reid



SUPERINTENDENT PETER STIEPLEMAN JOINED THE BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND FOR A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE EVENT



2014 HONOREES

Seven Years of Blues in the Schools



Blues in the Schools returned for the seventh year as blues musician and educator T.J. Wheeler visited schools around the district, bringing the history of blues and the people who made the music to hundreds of Columbia Public Schools' students. The program culminated with a three-hour performance at the Roots 'N Blues 'N BBQ Festival at the Stephens Lake Park amphitheater.

To open the performance, Anne Moore of the Blues in the Schools Foundation board told the crowd, "This is one show guaranteed to put a smile on your face."

Blues in the Schools started in Columbia in 2007 when T.J. Wheeler visited Grant Elementary School and its music educator Pam Sisson, referred to as "the mama of the Blues in the Schools" during this year's performance at the festival. The program was created by the Roots 'N Blues 'N BBQ event creators and Mary Wilkerson from Boone County National Bank, Grant's Partner in Education.

Moore called the program "a multi-disciplinary event that involves history, culture and music." She went on to say "It is a wonderful learning experience for these children to have."

Sponsors for this year's performance at the festival were *The Columbia Daily Tribune* and Shelter Insurance, and sponsors of the Blues in the Schools program were Missouri Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The feedback we hear from the kids is that this is an experience they will treasure for years to come," said Anna Hargis from Shelter Insurance.

"What a beautiful day for music," said Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Peter Stiepleman at the Roots 'N Blues 'N BBQ performance. "I'm here to thank our teachers for putting this together and having a chance to give the kids real opportunities to perform like this."

"Teaching blues to kids in the school is important," said Linda Hays of *The Columbia Daily Tribune*, a sponsor of the festival performance. "Learning to think from a different perspective is great and I applaud Columbia Public Schools' music programs for embracing that diversity."

Wheeler has been working in the blues education field since the 1970s and he developed the "Hope, Heroes and Blues" project in 1989, taking the blues to schools with messages of diversity. More than 250,000 students across the country have learned from Wheeler over that time, including hundreds from Columbia Public Schools over the seven years he has visited the district.

News You Can Use

RIDGEWAY MUSIC SPECIALIST HONORED BY MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Celestine Hayes, music specialist at Ridgeway Elementary School, was one of the honored teachers at this summer's Teacher Appreciation Day at the Missouri Scholars Academy. The Missouri Scholars Academy is a three-week academic program for 330 of Missouri's gifted students who are ready to begin their junior year in high school. The academy is a residential program held on, and partially funded by, the campus of the University of Missouri. The academy offers a specially designed curriculum that focuses on the liberal arts, and a variety of stimulating extracurricular activities. Teacher Appreciation Day allows scholars at the academy an opportunity to thank and recognize the teachers who have meant the most to them in life.

PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM EARNS INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES

Columbia Public Schools' Project CREATE team earned fourth place in its division at the 2014 Future Problem Solving Program International Conference. Students from all three comprehensive Columbia high schools competed against more than 500 of the very best problem solvers in the world at this event.

The Global Issues Problem Solving Team placed ninth in the world. The Global Issues Problem Solving competition has nearly 100,000 participants from 49 states and 21 countries each year. Team members were **Stephanie Kang** (Rock Bridge High School), **Anna Lauriello** (Hickman High School), **Dzung Nguyen** (Rock Bridge High School) and **Amanda Sun** (Hickman High School).

Nick Edgar (Hickman High School student) was invited to represent the state of Missouri at the Multi Affiliate Global International Competition. Edgar teamed up with students from California, Georgia and Kentucky, all of whom had never met each other before the day of the competition, and together they were able to place fifth in the world.

The Future Problem Solving Program International Conference engages students in creative problem solving within the curriculum and provides competitive opportunities. Future Problem Solving Program International involves thousands of students annually from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DISTRICT RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

During its 60th Anniversary Conference and Tradeshow in September, the International Downtown Association (IDA) recognized The District with a Downtown Merit Award for its work and initiatives related to Columbia Public Schools' Partners in Education program. This

program - a true partnership between The District and **Douglass High School** - was one of 58 award submissions and is receiving an award in the category of Downtown Leadership and Management. This category features comprehensive and unique organizational approaches, projects, or programs that improved the effectiveness of downtown management organizations.

In May of 2012, The District teamed up with Douglass High School through Columbia Public Schools' Partners in Education program, instituting a paid internship program where students were offered a position on The District Clean Team. Interns sweep sidewalks, remove posters from light poles, and help pass out information to merchants. Douglass High School staff teach the students how to fill out a resume and District staff handle on-the-job training.

"So many key people in the community stepped up to help us with this program, but more than anything else, I'm so proud our students and what they've accomplished," said Carrie Gartner, former director of The District.

"The District's project received the IDA Merit Award for delivering excellence in downtown management," said David Downey, IDA President and CEO. "Each year the IDA Awards Jury recognizes organizations that utilize best practices in our industry. The Partners in Education program is a shining example of excellent downtown management delivering real value to the city."

The IDA is based in Washington, D.C. and brings together cities to help share best practices and advocate for vital and livable urban centers. Columbia Public Schools' Partners in Education program pairs schools with businesses and community organizations to share resources, strengthen our schools' programs and enhance our community's economic growth.

THREE COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOLS HONORED WITH NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION SAFE SPORTS SCHOOL AWARD

Hickman, Rock Bridge and Battle high schools are the recipients of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School awards for their athletic programs. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes. The award reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment. Rock Bridge and Battle won first place and Hickman took second. They constitute three of the four winners in the state of Missouri.



ASBESTOS ABATEMENT EFFORTS

Columbia Public Schools continues the long-term task of monitoring all asbestos in district buildings. In order to comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act passed in 1978, asbestos surveillance occurs every six months or less; a complete inspection happens every three years.

Copies of the asbestos management plans can be reviewed at the Aslin Administration Building, 1818 West Worley Street, during regular office hours. Copies of each school's building plans are also available for review at each school.

CPS-TV ONLINE

You can now view all sorts of Columbia Public Schools' cable-access videos, like special events and school board meetings, right at your computer. Stream CPS-TV from the Columbia Public Schools' website live and on demand at cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT SNOWS

School will be cancelled only after roads are tested. Should cancellation or altered routes be necessary, efforts will be made to notify radio and TV stations by 6 a.m. Information will also be sent via Parentlink, posted on the district website and on CPS-TV. Parents may make the final decision regarding a child's attendance. If the parent views the weather too severe or road conditions too dangerous, absences will be excused.

Difficulty in contacting parents usually prevents early dismissals, but under appropriate circumstances the district may dismiss early. On inclement weather days, please constitute listening to local radio and TV stations for news of early dismissal. Altered bus routes for district buses will be run at times when increment weather makes some roads too hazardous for safe travel. School bus snow routes are available through schools as well as the school district website.

STAY INFORMED

- Check the school district website: www.cpsk12.org
- Download the district's free mobile app. Search for Columbia Public Schools in iTunes or GooglePlay
- Tune in to CPS-TV on Mediacom 81, CenturyTel 97 and Charter 985 or view the live and on-demand streaming on the CPS-TV website at cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us

BOND UPDATE



With projects stemming from the 2010 voter-approved \$120 million bond now completed, the district is working on projects resulting from the 2012 voter-approved \$50 million bond.

The projects currently underway include a couple of large-scale undertakings: Battle Elementary School and the other new elementary school to be located southwest of town.

Battle Elementary is well underway with many walls and ceilings in place by the start of fall. Operations Officer Linda Quinley expects K & S Construction to turn the building over to the district in March, followed by the opening for summer school in June 2015. Quinley does not anticipate missing either of those dates. The total budget for Battle Elementary is \$15,652,605.

The new southwest elementary school held a groundbreaking in November and design work is already in progress. Orf Construction from St. Louis is handling the \$23,450,000 project, which is slated to open August 2016.

The district is in the design phase for the new Early Childhood Learning Center. It will be located on the same property as Lange Middle School and the \$10 million project will ramp up in the spring. It will be completed in August of 2017. Lange's property is also home to a major kitchen renovation and expansion at the middle school. That project, at a cost of just over \$2 million, has been ongoing through the summer and into the fall.

Shepard Boulevard Elementary School is undergoing an expansion, with nearly 28,000 square feet of classroom space being added. New lights and ceilings as well as other work will also be done inside the existing building, with a total cost of \$6,274,161 for all projects.

The district was also authorized by voters for a \$50 million bond in the spring of 2014. The district's long-range planning committee is working on the projects for that money and will have the plan finalized this year. The bonds will not be sold until 2016.

WORK COMPLETED OVER THE SUMMER INCLUDES:

- Gentry Middle School roof - \$476,000
- Jefferson Middle School tuckpointing - \$781,984
- New Haven Elementary School HVAC and windows - \$1,516,752
- Rock Bridge Elementary School HVAC and windows - \$1,393,272
- District-wide telephone system upgrade - \$2,590,117
- Field building HVAC - \$781,909

BATTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:



BRIGHT FUTURES FOR CPS STUDENTS



Bright Futures - that is what all Columbia Public Schools students have in front of them, and now the name of a new program just beginning in the district. The program will look to aid students and families with some of the things that might otherwise get in the way of those bright futures.

“Bright Futures was started in Joplin after the tornado and has one goal,” said Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Ben Tilley. “That goal is to meet a one-time immediate need of a student within 24 hours.”

Those needs could range from a musical instrument so a student can take part in band, to funds for a cheerleading uniform. Once a need is brought to the district, Columbia Public Schools will send that need out via social media, Facebook and Twitter, to try and meet that student’s need.

“They saw in Joplin that most needs were met within a few hours – not even requiring a full 24 hours,” Tilley said. “It is a great way to get the

community engaged in the process. We have so many other wonderful groups that fundraise and help with things like winter coats, and Bright Futures is not going to compete with those groups, but provide an additional avenue of support when existing resources are not available. It is a program that has been growing and working in districts large and small, urban and rural.”

Approved by the Board of Education in September, Tilley sees a framework for Bright Futures in place by the end of the calendar year. To learn more about Bright Futures, contact either Ben Tilley or Michelle Baumstark at the district office at 214-3400.

"It is a great way to get the community engaged in the process."

- Ben Tilley

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COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY

REPORT

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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2014

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