

SCHOOLS RAISE OVER \$15,000 FOR CENTRAL MISSOURI HONOR FLIGHT

The Central Missouri Honor Flight and Columbia Public Schools have a growing relationship, one that saw the district raise more than \$15,000 this year to help veterans travel to Washington, D.C. to see their war memorials.

The district's involvement began a few years ago when Superintendent Chris Belcher received a phone call from Brian Mitchell, his counterpart in Jefferson City.

"We wanted to make it a bigger program, so we challenged the schools to raise 50 cents per student. Getting the kids involved was different at every building. This activity gave our teachers a chance to teach what a veteran is and teach the older students about the conflicts."

West Junior High School raised the most money in Columbia Public Schools this year. The school raised \$6,033, enough to sponsor an entire Honor Flight, which costs \$300 a veteran.

"We have been doing this for four years," said Sandra Logan, principal of West Junior High School. She and Brenda Blankenship headed the effort at the school.

"We do an eighth vs. ninth grade competition through the social studies department," Blankenship said of the fundraising method for the school's 860 students. "We just ask kids to donate. Quarters, dimes, nickels, whatever. We have been very blessed that our kids, parents and teachers give."

This year the eighth graders won, giving them bragging



Mary Paulsell and Steve Paulsell (pictured on ends) receive the school district's \$15,000 donation presented by West Junior High School Principal Sandra Logan (center left) and Social Studies department chair Brenda Blankenship (center right).



Joint presentation from both Columbia Public Schools and Jefferson City Public Schools at the Central Missouri Honor Flight Honor Ball in December.

rights over their older schoolmates.

The school was able to give its check to Mary Paulsell,

president of the Central Missouri Honor Flight. Paulsell visited the school before holiday break in December. Both Honor Flight representatives, Mary and her brother Steve Paulsell, are West Junior High School alumni.

"In the past we had high goals, but this year we had a goal of raising enough for 20 Honor

Flights, which we accomplished."

Over the past four years, West Junior High School has donated nearly \$20,000.

"We are thankful for our kids and their parents," Logan said. "We had kids who babysat and donated the money. Some trick-or-treated and instead of candy they asked for donations. The kids really gave from their hearts."

"We have given about \$80-90,000 between the two districts over the last two years," Belcher said. "Many in our district are in families with veterans and this is a great way to show appreciation for that generation. We plan to continue to do this."

We have been very blessed that our kids, parents and teachers give.

- Brenda Blankenship

BOND UPDATE

The visible construction lull of winter is about to be broken as Columbia Public Schools has numerous bond projects on tap.

Battle High School is nearing completion, with 94 percent of the school finished as of the end of January. "It is down to the details," said Nick Boren, the district's deputy superintendent. Those details include finishing the floors, painting and HVAC work and labeling all of the pipes so the district can see exactly what goes where.

District presences are already at Battle, with custodians and the administrative team in place. "Custodians have begun the cleaning of Battle," Boren said. "We hope to have phase one of the cleaning done by the end of February and then we will finish the floors. The administrative team moved in during the last week of January."

The \$75.9 million project is on track not just for the August opening, but also for a "soft opening," which will consist of a full slate of summer school classes, starting in June.

Improvements around the area will really gear up in the spring as the city and county will install a trio of roundabouts, starting at the St. Charles Road/Clark Lane intersection, with another at the Lake of the Woods Road three-way intersection and the third where Pin Oak and Hogan cross St. Charles. St. Charles will also be resurfaced and work will be done at the I-70 interchange, widening the on and off ramps.

OTHER DISTRICT BOND PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Gyms and associated spaces at Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools - both set for completion in March
- Elementary school to the north of Battle High School - infrastructure is set for ground breaking in the fall; opening set for August 2015
- Elementary school in southwest part of town - district is "aggressively" looking for land and will decide among three sites in March or April
- Midway Heights Elementary School - \$1.2 million driveway project to create two entrances
- Oakland Junior High School - redo east entrance, including bus loop and sidewalk improvements
- HVAC work - West Junior High School, Jefferson Junior High School and Field School will have HVAC work done as soon as school lets out; work at Jefferson Junior High School will continue into summer 2014
- Roof work - Midway Heights Elementary School and CASA (Columbia Aeronautics and Space Association) building at Hickman High School will receive new roofs this summer; part of the roof at Shepard Boulevard Elementary School will be replaced; Cedar Ridge, Gentry, Lange and Lee will also see roof work



ASSISTANCE LEAGUE AWARDS LEAD TO GREATER INNOVATION AND NEW PROGRAMS FOR CLASSROOMS



Students in Morgan Tyler's music class at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School play the new string instruments purchased with Assistance League grant money.

In 20 years the Assistance League of Mid-Missouri has given nearly \$1 million to Columbia Public School teachers and students, enhancing the education of thousands of children every year.

This year the 200-plus member Assistance League distributed 170 awards totalling almost \$85,000 across the district. Awards ranged from small (\$56.26) to large (maximum award of \$650); and from low-tech (mallets and ukuleles) to high-tech (iPads) and are used for anything from supplies, to field trips or possibly the cost of a special classroom visitor.

“They can work together to make a product. It gives them a sense of excitement.”
- Morgan Tyler

“The Assistance League gives money for innovation and new programs,” said Chris Belcher, Columbia Public Schools superintendent. “It provides opportunities for teachers to work in teams or individually to receive awards. It is great, no

bureaucratic process. It is easy to apply and lots of kids receive funding to experience new opportunities. The organization is productive and competent. They are just perfect in everything they do.”

Morgan Tyler, a music teacher at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, received two grants: Mallet Madness and Little

Strings for Little Hands. Each helped purchase musical instruments (percussion and strings) along with literature and technology to help students play and learn those instruments.

“They can work together to make a product,” Tyler said. “It gives them a sense of excitement. They want to do it and do it well, they get to listen and evaluate, watching each other and seeing what can be done. Working as a team makes for a more confident student.”

Tyler estimates more than 700 students from kindergarten through fifth grade will benefit from the two awards she and her fellow teachers Brian Vaughn and Jenna Dunseth received.

Money is raised mostly through the Assistance League's store, Upscale Resale on West Broadway. Any teacher can apply, and they can apply for multiple awards, up to \$650 per award.

“The applications are read anonymously and we go as far as our budget will allow us to go,” said Phyllis Stoecklein, Links to Learning chair for the Assistance League. “I can't tell you how many times our members have said it is the most appropriate thing we can do. It gives you a warm feeling. At the end of the year teachers give us evaluations and receipts for the awards and we also get notes, cards and pictures from them. The teachers are very thoughtful about their work. We are able to enhance what the curriculum does - an icing on the cake, which is an important piece. We just appreciate the community support, the things they donate to us for the store. This is a real team effort.”

NEWS YOU CAN USE

HICKMAN REVIEW EARNS HIGHEST NATIONAL RANKING

The Hickman Review has received a superior ranking, the highest award ranking, from the National Council of Teachers of English. This is the second year in a row the publication has received this level of distinction. The editors for the 2012 Hickman Review were **Avery Wagner** and **Anne Marie VanDoren**. Sponsors are teachers **Carolyn Chipley-Foster** and **Nancy White**.

HICKMAN'S ONLINE NEWSPAPER EARNS GOLD

Hickman High School's online newspaper, *The Legacy*, earned a gold medal in the most recent critique by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. The Columbia Scholastic Press Association program is affiliated with the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York City. Hickman student **Cole Brendel** is editor-in-chief of all news publications. Student **Emily Rackers** is associate editor in charge of online news and **Zach Fletcher** is the technology editor. Read *The Legacy* at www.purpleandgoldnews.com.

ROCK BRIDGE STUDENT NAMED AP SCHOLAR

Rock Bridge High School student **Ge Song** has earned a State AP Scholar Award, for her extraordinary performance on the 2012 Advanced Placement Exams. She is among 108 students nationwide to receive this honor. The College Board confers this distinction on one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken. Ge took a total of 13 exams in 2012 and earned a mean score of 4.46. She was one of 411 Rock Bridge students that took one or more AP exams in 2012. Rock Bridge students took a total of 816 AP exams in 2012. Ge is now a freshman at the University of Missouri.

LOGAN NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR BY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Sandra Logan, principal at West Junior High School, has been selected as the Missouri Music Educators Association Administrator of the Year. Logan was selected because of her support of music education and music educators in the school district.

TEACHER NAMED OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Lisa Lewis, learning specialist at Benton Elementary School, has been named the 2013 Outstanding Educator Award by the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders. The Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders fosters professional and family leadership to improve the lives of children and youth with emotional/behavioral disorders or related behavioral challenges.

CREATIVE WRITING STUDENT PUBLISHED

Hickman High School Junior **Danielle Komo** had her short story, "Phoenix Rising," published in *The Columbia Missourian* and *Vox Magazine*. Komo is a student in Nancy White's creative writing class. Read her story here: <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/155176/from-readers-columbia-teen-shares-fictional-story-called-raising-the-phoenix/>.

PERFECT ACT SCORES

Three Columbia Public Schools students earned perfect scores on the ACT exam. Hickman High School seniors **Itamar Naveh-Benjamin** and **Daniel Shyu** and Rock Bridge High School senior **Stephen Turban** each earned a perfect 36 on the exam. Turban earned a perfect 36 on the ACT exam while studying abroad last year. Last year, only 704 (0.04%) of the 1.6 million students taking the college entrance exam earned a perfect score of 36.

PERFECT SAT SCORE

Rock Bridge High School junior **Rujie (Jenny) Yao** earned a perfect score on the 2012 SAT exam. The SAT is a college admission exam that tests knowledge of reading, writing and math.

HICKMAN TEACHER EARNS MU HONOR

Hickman High School Assistant Principal **Eric Johnson** has been selected to receive the University of Missouri College of Education Outstanding Young Professional Award.

BULLDOG BBQ GOES NATIONAL

Douglass High School teachers **Kerry Hesse** and **Kelly Anderson** will present on the Bulldog BBQ program developed for Douglass High School students at the National Alternative Education Conference in Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia.

CURRENT VERSION OF GED TEST TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2013

Individuals seeking to obtain their Missouri High School Equivalency Certificate by taking the General Educational Development (GED) test have until the end of 2013 to pass the current test series, known as the 2002 Series GED Test. The current test will be replaced with a new assessment beginning January 2, 2014.

CPS SPACE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Columbia Aeronautics and Space Association (CASA), a high school aerospace organization in Columbia Public Schools, is celebrating 25 years. The program brings several hundred students from across mid-Missouri together for a six-day, five-night aerospace simulation. The CASA mission utilizes a "themes in context" learning style that allows students to implement the lessons provided during a regular class period. Students work in groups to upgrade and enhance the program's facilities. Mentors from businesses and the aerospace industry incorporate their knowledge and real life expertise with the students' training. All the students' instruction accumulates to the ultimate education experience; a simulated space mission. Students of all ages and abilities band together to solve simulated problems and overcome the daunting challenges of a mission. This year's mission, Mission 2513, took place Feb. 4-9, 2013.

COLUMBIA STUDENTS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL HONORS CHOIR

Six Columbia Public Schools students were chosen to participate in the 2013 Honors Choirs for the American Choral Directors Association National Conference. More than 3,600 singers auditioned for the honor this year and Columbia Public Schools' students were among the 320 singers accepted from across the nation. The student will perform in Dallas at the national conference in March 2013. Selected students are: (Lange Middle School) **Sammie Keeler**, **Ellen Schmidt** and **Zach Taylor**; (Gentry Middle School) **Sydney Wahl**; and (Hickman High School) **Logan Moore** and **Laura Rowe**.

ROCK BRIDGE DECA STUDENT HEADS TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Rock Bridge High School student **Matt Hefner** has qualified for DECA's International Competition in Anaheim, Calif. Hefner qualified for the competition by winning the first round of the DECA Virtual Business Challenge in the Retail Division and is one of two students from Missouri to qualify for the competition. DECA is a program that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

FOUR ROCK BRIDGE STUDENTS NAMED 2012 SIEMENS COMPETITION REGIONAL FINALISTS

Congratulations to **Atreyo Ghosh**, **Nidhi Khurana**, **Katelyn Race** and **Raj Satpathy** on being named 2012 Siemens Competition Regional Finalists. These Rock Bridge students represented all the regional finalists for the state of Missouri. Congratulations also to **Charles Shang** for being named a semifinalist, one of only three in Missouri. The Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology is the nation's most coveted teen science prize.

ROCK BRIDGE STUDENT NAMED INTEL SCIENCE SEMIFINALIST

Rock Bridge High School Senior **Charles Shang** has been named a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2013 for his project titled "New Multidimensional Scaling and Markov Networks Based Methods for Protein Model Quality Assessment." Semifinalists were selected from more than 1,700 entrants and hail from 190 high schools in more than 30 states and one American high school overseas. Shang was one of only two students from Missouri selected. Each semifinalist receives a \$1,000 award from the Intel Foundation with an additional \$1,000 going to his or her school.

2013 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONTINUES OFFERING EXCITING AND ENRICHING SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS.

PROGRAMS AND DATES ARE:

JUNE 3 - JUNE 28

- Columbia Summer SUNsations offers free summer school sessions for students entering kindergarten through eighth grade.
- The Secondary Summer High School Credit program is available for Columbia Public Schools students entering ninth through 12th grades. This program offers opportunities for credit advancement and credit completion and includes a variety of online as well as classroom course options.
- New this summer is a Driver Education course teaching the foundations of responsible driving.
- Freshman Academy providing additional academic support for students entering 9th grade
- Gifted Education (EEE) for grades 2-5 (elementary), 6-8 (middle school), and 9-10 (high school)
- Summer Expedition is a four-week program for high-potential minority and/or free reduced lunch students who are not being served by gifted services.
- Special Education Extended School Year (ESY)
- Early Childhood Special Education

JUNE 2 - JUNE 13

2013 MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy is a live-in academic experience at the University of Missouri for entering 10th grade high potential minority students.

JUNE 3 - JUNE 28

Citizen Jane 1 (June 3-14 & June 17-28) and Fashion: Trends to the Runway (June 17-28) are courses offered to female students entering 6th-9th grade as collaborative programs offered on the Stephens College campus. Students explore concepts of film making as well as creating their own fashion designs.

JUNE 3 - JULY 26

FUN City Youth Academy is a continuing community partnership serving minority students over the course of an eight week program.

JUNE 3 - JULY 26

Boys & Girls Club of Columbia partners with Columbia Public Schools to offer part-time CPS summer school curriculum (math, science, social studies, and writing) and part-time Boys & Girls Club programming. Participating students will attend at the new building location on 1200 N. 7th Street.

JUNE 3 - JULY 26

The Columbia Area Career Center Summer Camp for Youth is a tuition-based program for youth ages 10 to 15. No camps the week of the 4th of July

JUNE 10 - JUNE 27

The Columbia Summer Enrichment Preschool is a tuition-based program available for students between the ages of three and five. This is the first of two sessions.

JUNE 14- JUNE 23

The Anytown Leadership Institute for High School Youth is a collabora-

tive 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.

JUNE 17- JUNE 28

Arts Explorers Fine Arts Camp at Shepard Elementary
This camp is for select elementary students entering grades 4-5.

JULY 8 - JULY 19

Secondary Choral and Instrumental Music - choir, orchestra and band courses for secondary music students entering grades 7 - 9

JULY 8 - JULY 25

The Columbia Summer Enrichment program is a tuition-based program for students entering kindergarten through grade 8. During this three-week session, students participate in courses selected from a wide variety of offerings.

The Columbia Summer Enrichment Preschool is a tuition-based program available for students between the ages of three and five. This is the second of two sessions.

JULY 14 - JULY 18

The Exploring Education and Teaching Academy is coordinated with the University of Missouri College of Education as a live-in experience that encourages minority students who are aspiring educators to explore a career as a teacher.

JULY 21 - JULY 24

New to 2013, the MAC Scholars High School Transition Academy is a collaborative day camp experience offered in collaboration with the University of Missouri to improve study habits and increase minority student Advanced Placement enrollment. All minority students who are entering 9th grade are invited to take part.

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

Adventure Club is an extended day program for school-age students delivered by the University of Missouri College of Education. It provides a supervised before- and/or after-school program. There are additional sessions available as a full day program that runs throughout the month of July. This tuition-based program requires a non-refundable registration fee for enrollment.

A+ TUTORING

Opportunities for tutoring in summer school may be arranged for secondary students enrolled in the A+ program. Tutor training is in late April, with assignments to programs made in May. A+ students should contact the A+ coordinator in their building for additional information.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Information regarding summer camps/programs sponsored by various organizations, colleges and universities is often available in school guidance and/or principal offices.

CPS WELCOMES BOARD MEMBER BACK

Darin Preis is the newest member of the Columbia Board of Education, but he is no stranger to the position. Preis previously served on the board from 2005-2008. Preis will serve out a term vacated when Paul Cushing moved and had to resign his position.

Even after leaving the board Preis stayed involved in the district, helping with the strategic planning and boundary committees. He remained a part of the district and rejoined the board because he sees the work it does as vital.

“Our educational system is the life blood of this community,” Preis said. “That is where success starts from. The opportunity to work with the district at this level is exciting. I’m interested in the success of all students and in having a quality, consistent educational system.”

Preis is the executive director of Central Missouri Commu-

nity Action, a non-profit dedicated to helping people get out of poverty. Education is omnipresent at the Preis house, as his wife is the director of the Joint Committee on Education in Jefferson City and they have an 11-year-old son in fifth grade at Mill Creek Elementary School.



Quarterly Report

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPRING
2013



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