

2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR (K-12)

August 20	First day of classes	January 29	Early dismissal for staff planning & collaboration
August 22	First day of classes for kindergarten	February 13	End of second trimester
September 2	Labor Day: school not in session	February 14	Teacher Collaboration Day: school not in session
September 30	Teacher Collaboration Day: school not in session	February 17	Presidents' Day: school not in session
November 1	Teacher Collaboration Day: school not in session	February 28	Parent/teacher conferences, school not in session
November 15	Parent/teacher conferences, school not in session	March 24-28	Spring recess: school not in session
November 27-29	Thanksgiving vacation: school not in session	May 26	Memorial Day: school not in session
December 20	End of first semester	June 4	Last day of classes
December 23-	Winter recess: school not in session		Early dismissal for staff planning & collaboration
January 2		June 9	First day of summer school 2014
January 3	Teacher Collaboration Day: school not in session	July 3	Last day of summer school 2014
January 20	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 or exactly four inclement weather days, the district will consider taking May 2 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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Quarterly Report

M M 2013

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ROTARY CLUBS REWARDING PARTNERS FOR CPS

olumbia Public Schools benefits from the support of the six Columbia Rotary Clubs. The clubs - Downtown, Metro, Northwest, Rotaract, South, and Sunrise Southwest - each play a role in providing opportunities and support for students and teachers in the school district through volunteer service, donations and educational opportunities such as the exchange student program.

Partners In Education – Several Rotary Clubs have committed to be involved in the school district's Partners In Education program. Metro Rotary and the Title I reading and preschool program are celebrating their 10-year partnership anniversary, Northwest Rotary joined as a partner with West Boulevard Elementary School this year and Sunrise Southwest Rotary is celebrating its five years of partnership with Oakland Junior High School.

Jim Cherrington, Metro Rotary's president when the partnership with Title I started, said more than 25 percent of the club's members read to the kids and they find it an "extremely important project for the club, putting service above self."

Metro Rotary also provides funds to purchase books for Title I schools in the district each year on a rotational basis so every school receives a donation every few years. More than \$10,000 has been donated to schools over the last 10 years.

"We were looking to find a charity to donate money to," Cherrington said of the onset of the PIE, "but we also wanted something we could continue on a regular basis. Rotary had a Reading Rotarians program...but we did not want just one school, we wanted the Title I program."

Mary Rook, supervisor of the Title I program, said the program serves more than 650 students and Metro Rotary's involvement helps promote early literacy through the members spending time with the kids, listening, talking and sharing.

"Their commitment to education is strong," Rook said. "When they say they will do something, they will do it."





Sunrise Southwest Rotary focuses its partnership on helping the students at Oakland Junior High School gain knowledge and skills regarding careers and citizenship.

Members of the club participate in the ninth-grade Project Search activity. "They interview our students for 'jobs' and some of the members also allow our freshman to job shadow them for a day," Oakland Junior High School Principal Helen Porter said.

The club also participates in service activities centered on school beautification at Oakland each year.

Northwest Rotary Club became a partner this year with West Boulevard Elementary School and is establishing a partnership based on mentoring and spending time in individual classrooms to support both the students and the teacher. The club is also participating in joint service projects with the students, including collecting and donating hundreds of hats to Ellis Fischel Cancer Center and Boone Hospital to be shared with cancer patients in Mid-Missouri.

Student Support and Educational Opportunities – All six of the Columbia Rotary Clubs also participated in a city-wide project to provide support at Douglass High School.

The clubs are also installing a trail and fitness area at Douglass High School and have started a very in-depth mentoring and career counseling program with the school.

Eryca Neville, principal at Douglass High School, said Rotary mentors talk to students about their future, "It is an opportunity for students to hear from adults who can provide them with wisdom and support on how high school students can transition to the real world. They also get an opportunity to connect with people in career paths they might be interested in. It is a win-win for all involved."

Rotary Club members also participate in annual career days at the district's three middle schools and provide dictionaries to all third grade students in Columbia Public Schools. Clubs also sponsor in-bound and out-bound exchange students. The high school students spend a year in Columbia attending school and experiencing life in the community.

The Rotary South and Sunrise Southwest clubs also sponsored students to attend and participate in Rotary Student Government Day in Jefferson City. Students spend the day learning about state government and have an opportunity to hear from elected officials.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

ROCK BRIDGE SHOW CHOIR NAMED GRAND CHAMPION AT NATIONALS

Congratulations to the Rock Bridge High School Show Choir and Director **Mike Pierson** on being named "Grand Champions" in the women's division at Show Choir Nationals held at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn. In addition, the choir received "Best Overall Effect" and Rock Bridge Junior **Tateonna Thompson** was named "Best Vocalist."

KEWPIE MATH CLASSIC RESULTS

Hickman High School's mathematics honor society, MU Alpha Theta, hosted the Kewpie Math Classic for sixth to eighth grade students. Competition results are: First Place: **Chung Hyun Lee**, Jefferson Junior High; Second Place: **Daniel Barnett**, Smithton Middle School; Third Place: **Boonakij Palipatana**, Jefferson Junior High; Math Jeopardy Team Winners: **Boonakij Palipatana** and **Zane Durante**, Jefferson Junior High

ROCK BRIDGE SCHOLAR BOWL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Rock Bridge High School Scholar Bowl won its second Junior Varsity State Championship in five years. Rock Bridge's A-team went undefeated in the tournament and was comprised of **Ashwini Mantrala**, Victor Topouria, Jett Ballou-Crawford and **Andy Kegley**.

Rock Bridge's B-team earned fourth place beating the A-teams of 14 other schools. Team members include Robby Schmidt, Delaney Tevis, Clarissa Curry and Alex Parks. Ashwini was the tournament's high scorer, earning First-Team All-State and Robby was fifth place earning Second-Team All-State.



Pictured is the A-team (left to right): Jett, Andy, Ashwini, and Victor

3M AWARDS \$10,000 FOR SCIENCE INNOVATIVE DESIGN PROJECT

3M corporation has awarded Jefferson Junior High School \$10,000 for an innovative science and design project. Principal **Greg Caine** and teacher **Jen Szydlowski** created the project that will allow eighth grade science students to work in small teams researching and then building an earthquake resistant tower and bridge model that meets engineering standards. The 3M contribution will provide authentic electronic earthquake shake tables that will test the students' designs under increasing earthquake Richter Scale levels. The teams will collect data and report their findings and ideas for future testing.

CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS TAKE THE CAKE AT STATE

Columbia Area Career Center culinary arts students finished in the top five at the Missouri SkillsUSA State competition:

Hailey King – First place Culinary Arts (Rock Bridge High School senior); Heather Pitt – First place Commercial Baking (Hickman High School senior); Mallory Barnes – Second place Commercial Baking (Rock Bridge High School senior); Chormaic Sullivan – Fifth place Culinary Arts (Rock Bridge High School junior). Hailey and Heather will continue to the national level and represent Missouri in their respective contests in June. Culinary Arts instructors are Brook Harlan, Carri Risner and Jeff Rayl.

TEACHER AND STUDENTS RECEIVE COMPUTING AWARDS

Columbia Area Career Center and Rock Bridge High School students **Kristen Buster** (Graphic Design/Web Design), **Najeebah Hussain** (Computer Programming), **Shelby Richardson** (Geospatial Information Systems) and **Michelle Zhuang** (Computer Programming) have received the 2013 Missouri and Kansas NCWIT Award for Aspirations

in Computing and Information Technology. The award, sponsored by Microsoft, Motorola Solutions Foundation, and the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) recognizes young high school women for their computing-related achievements and interests in an effort to encourage more young women to choose careers in technology. Robert Allee, Columbia Area Career Center Computer Aided Design instructor, was named the NCWIT 2013 Missouri & Kansas Educator award recipient. The award recognizes educators for their efforts to promote gender equity in computing by helping to encourage young women to continue exploring their interest in computing and technology. Columbia Area Career Center Computer Aided Design students Samantha Ding, Natalie Heath, Katherine Hurdle, Jessica Murphey, and Kendall Overton; and Civil Engineering and Architecture student Breta Phillips also received recognition for their outstanding computer-related accomplishments.

CPS STUDENTS ACHIEVE PERFECT ACT SCORES

Four Columbia Public Schools students earned perfect scores on the ACT exam. Hickman High School seniors **Itamar Naveh-Benjamin**, **Daniel Shyu** and **Yvan Quinn** and Rock Bridge High School senior **Stephen Turban** each earned a perfect 36 on the exam. **Stephen 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.

PERSONAL FINANCE CHALLENGE TEAM SECOND IN STATE

The Rock Bridge High School Personal Finance Challenge team placed second at the Missouri Personal Finance Challenge competition. Team members were **Jacob Freyermuth**, **Charles Shang**, **Jonathan Ackmann** and **Dmitriy Rozenblat**. Teacher Susan Lidholm is the team's faculty sponsor. The competition is sponsored by the Missouri Council on Economic Education.

HICKMAN STUDENT EARNS NATIONAL WRITING AWARD

Hickman High School student **Joelle Thompson** has received the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Award in writing. Joelle is the only student in Missouri to achieve this recognition this year.

PROBLEM SOLVING TEAMS SWEEP STATE COMPETITION

Students from West and Oakland junior high schools placed well in the Missouri Future Problem Solving Program's state problem solving competition. The winning teams were: First Place - West Junior High School - Amanda Sun, Stephanie Kang, Sherry Xie and Dzung Nguyen; Second Place - West Junior High School - Brady Hughes, Nick Edgar, Leo Ewin, and Adam Xie; Third Place - West Junior High School – Julia Hill, Sydney Timmerman, Anna Miller and Mamie Davis. In the Community Problem Solving competition, Project C.R.E.A.T.E. was awarded first place at the state competition. The champions will now go on to represent the state at the 2013 International Conference to be held at the University of Indiana in June. Team members included: Oakland Junior High School - Emma Davenport, Jake Johnson, Curran Kirkpatrick, Savannah Kitchen, Vy Le, Elaine Miller, Gillian Schulte and Sam Speake. West Junior High School - Noah Frick-Alofs, Caroline Bocklage, Claire Cheek, Stephen Drown, Isabel Dyke, Logan Garton, Alex Harmata, Julia Hill, Thomas Jurczyk, Joey Katz, Nathan Kempf, Anna Lauriello, Anna Miller, Amanda Montgomery, Micah Remus, Amanda Sun, Sydney Timmerman, Megha Verma and Sherry Xie. In the Future Scenario Writing competition, Gabe Calvin took first in state.

HICKMAN STUDENT NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR SEMIFINALIST

Hickman High School's **Daniel Shyu** has advanced to semifinalist in the 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Shyu goes from one of more than 3,000 candidates to one of 500 and is one of 10 high school students in Missouri to advance as a semifinalist.

BOND UPDATE

t stands to reason that funds from voter-approved bonds are being put to good use throughout the district. Columbia Public Schools has a number of large and small scale projects on tap for the summer and into the future. However, the biggest of those projects is ready to be completed – Battle High School.

"It has been a 10-year process," said Nick Boren, the district's deputy superintendent, "from planning to opening." That opening and school dedication has been set for June 2 at 2 p.m. The next day Battle will open its doors to about 300 students for summer school.

As of the end of April, Battle has 99.7 percent of its budget paid out. All that was left were minor construction items, the "punch list." These include floor tile issues, paint touch-up and decorative finish work.

A big part of Battle's summer will be receipt and placement of all of the furniture, fixtures and equipment. The furniture equipment budget was \$7 million, \$5 million of which has been spent or encumbered as of April and \$3.5 million of that has been delivered to the school.

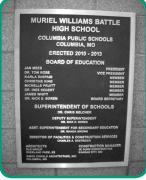
Road work in the Battle High School area is underway, with widening of the road and installation of three roundabouts "progressing well" in Boren's eyes.

Other bond projects on tap for the summer include:

- West Junior High School Air conditioning work, continuing into the school year
- Field School Air conditioning and window upgrades
- Jefferson Junior High School Electrical upgrades and temporary air conditioning in preparation for a full air conditioning project next summer
- Lange Middle School Painting both levels
- Hickman High School Family and consumer science (FACS) kitchen work and CASA (Columbia Aeronautics and Space Association) roof work

Additionally, the district is looking to break ground on a new elementary school located near Battle this fall. That school is slated to open in 2015. Plans to purchase land in the southwest part of town for another elementary school set to open in 2016 are also in progress.







DEBBIE JACOBS, COORDINATOR OF FINE ARTS, RETIRES



It would be difficult to find someone who is more a product of Columbia Public Schools than Debbie Jacobs. Retiring from her position as coordinator of fine arts at the end of the school year, Jacobs grew up with both parents teaching in the district, followed by a professional life that took her from elementary to junior high to

administration within the district, with a higher education stop along the way.

Beginning in music education at Parkade Elementary right out of college, Jacobs saw a long-time career in education as almost inevitable. "I grew up in a family where education was everything," she said. "That was instilled in me and became what I wanted to do." She stayed at Parkade for 16 years, leaving to become the choir director at Jefferson Junior High.

After a handful of years, Jacobs left the district in 1998 to become coordinator of music education for Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.

"I thought I would retire there," Jacobs said of her time in higher education. "When I came back to Columbia in 2008 people asked 'why move away from higher education?' I told them 'you don't know the Columbia Public Schools and Columbia, Mo.' CPS is incomparable when compared to other districts. The whole community is invested in education. With the higher education here as well, it is a whole community of learners and teachers. I knew it was the right place for me as an educator."

All combined, Jacobs has worked for 37 years in education and feels the timing is right for her to step away.

In retirement, Jacobs plans to spend more time with her children, Amanda and David, both Columbia Public School District products, as well as her granddaughter Lexie, currently a student at Lee Expressive Arts School. Additionally, she writes children's books and songs and will look to get some published.

ROTARY CLUBS REWARDING PARTNERS FOR CPS (CONT.)

Connecting education and the community – This year as part of a city-wide Rotary peace project the clubs sponsored several free community showings and discussions of the documentary film, "Battle: Change from Within." The film chronicles the pivotal role educator Eliot Battle and his family placed in desegregating schools, housing and the Columbia community. To provide more access to the film and the message, clubs also purchased a copy for each school in the district.

Additionally, clubs participated in a number of school beautification and school clean-up projects this year as part of a special Rotary district effort. Rotary South, along with members of Rotaract, conducted beautification projects at Two Mile Prairie and Benton elementary schools and Field School that included grounds clean-up and tree planting. The club also built a new sandbox at Field School and shelves for a greenhouse at Benton Elementary School.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION ANNIVERSARIES

25 YEARS: CAREER CENTER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Career Center and the University of Missouri Administrative Services celebrate a 25-year relationship they describe as a "perfect partnership."

"We view it as an absolutely perfect partnership," said Jackie Jones, vice chancellor of the administrative services department at MU. "We match up so well. We have a lot of departments, many of whom are hiring the skill sets involved at the Career Center."

Facets of the partnership include job shadowing, resume help and mock interviews involving the IT, trades and culinary arts areas taught at the Career Center.

One of the biggest areas was the creation of the "I Can" award, Jones said. "It is based on attendance, quality of work and respect for others and yourself. If students continue doing what they have done to receive the award, they will be successful in life."

The awards are given out at quarterly breakfasts that are well attended by supportive friends and family. Additionally well attended is the awards ceremony held at the end of the year at Jesse Auditorium honoring students completing certificates and individual honors in the Career Center disciplines.

Overall, Jones sees the partnership as a "great relationship over the years, a good combination of skills and goals."

15 YEARS: MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND COLUMBIA INSURANCE GROUP

Celebrating their 15th year as Partners In Education are Mill Creek Elementary School and Columbia Insurance Group, a partnership developed through familiarity.

"We have a really good relationship with Mill Creek," said Judy Donnell, director of general services for Columbia Insurance Group. "A lot of us have had kids go through school there."

For kindergartners, Columbia Insurance Group employees discuss what it means to be a partner and how insurance helps them, "how we all work together," Donnell said.

With fifth graders, representatives go through a demonstration of getting a loan to buy a house and also buying insurance. One facet used to be the school's assistant principal not buying insurance and then being bit by a tornado.

"We have employees who go for grandparent days to partner with kids who do not have a grandparent in the vicinity," Donnell said.

"It is a great concept (the PIE program)," Donnell said. "We need to get more companies to do it, more kids able to get all the help they need."

15 YEARS: HARRY S. TRUMAN MEMORIAL VETERANS' HOSPITAL AND DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

For 15 years the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital and Douglass High School have been working together as Partners In Education, providing work opportunities that align with the educational opportunities available at Douglass.

"It is a work study program," said Angela Fadness, the teaching specialist at Douglass who works with the partnership. "There is a satellite classroom at the VA hospital where the students work half of the day and get their academics done the other half."

Students have the chance to work in different areas of the hospital – from food service and Meals On Wheels to sterile processing to recreational therapy. Ten spaces are available in the program, which requires good attendance, good behavior and sufficient credits so students graduate on time.

"It is a great program," Fadness said. "We are very thankful to the VA for giving us a classroom and the opportunity. There are a lot of fields available. Kids think you are either a nurse or doctor, that is all there is in medicine. This shows them some of the technical fields and gets the students work experience you need to transition out of high school."

20 YEARS: COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER WITH NEW HAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For 20 years the Columbia Environmental Research Center, which monitors aquatic ecosystems and works with endangered species, has been a Partner in Education with New Haven Elementary, a relationship that CERC values in all facets.

"This is the third or fourth director we have had and all have been very supportive of the partnership," said Nile Kemble, fisheries biologist at CERC. "When I have gone to them to ask if we can help with this or that, I have never been told no."

One of those activities is a reading program where CERC employees go into kindergarten and first grade classes and either read to or be read to by the students. There is also a mentoring component as well.

"We have done job shadowing as well," Kemble said. "We have participated in their student council's Earth Day activities and helped with their field day as well. If they have something, we always try and get down there and help out as we can."

20 YEARS: ROCK BRIDGE ELEMENTARY AND THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Rock Bridge Elementary School and the Missouri Department of Conservation are celebrating their 20th year together as Partners In Education, a relationship that has led to a number of outdoor activities for the students.

"We have several different events on an annual basis," said Earl Buckner, resource science assistant for the Missouri Department of Conservation. "There is our annual first grade fishing trip to Little Dixie and the field trip in the summer to Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City."

The school also has an outdoor classroom and the department assists in managing the pond and prairie located there.

The Department of Conservation also helps out another of Rock Bridge Elementary's PIEs, Meals On Wheels. They help in the solicitation of food, the bagging up of it and then they transport the food from the school to the Meals On Wheels office.

"We enjoy working with them," Buckner said of Rock Bridge. "It has transformed over the years, but we all enjoy volunteering and we have a wideranging staff here with a lot of skill sets. We cover all of the departments in our agency and it has been very enjoyable for us."

25 YEARS: BOONE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE CPS SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Boone County Bar Association and the Columbia Public Schools' Social Studies department are celebrating their 25th anniversary as Partners in Education.

"They do a lot," said Nick Kremer, the district language arts and social studies coordinator. "They sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship at each of the three high schools, which is awarded to a student who has demonstrated civic awareness. We frequently use them for professional development for our teachers – ninth-grade government teachers, especially. We had a few roundtables as a way to bring real world applications of law and governance as most of our teachers do not have that background."

Bar association members visit classrooms and talk to students, as they do in a program at Douglass High School. At Douglass, bar members visit once a week to look at and discuss contemporary issues and law and the effects.

"We also use their support every year for the capstone event for ninth graders," Kremer said. "They comprise a big part of the panels the students present to and we usually have a large number of Boone County Bar Association lawyers come in."

"More than anything the PIE helps to ground our work and teachers in more real world applications of government and law and politics. The Boone County Bar brings that professional everyday world of experience to professional development for our teachers, working directly with students and also funding - all ways to make the curriculum feel more real and grounded."

COLUMBIA FUND FOR ACADEMIC **EXCELLENCE 2013 WINNERS**

For a group that likes to keep its winners secret until a traveling party shows up at school and surprises them with the news, April Fools' Day might have been an odd choice for scheduling. But none of the seven winners of the Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence (CFAE) award questioned the news coming from Superintendent Chris Belcher and the rest of the administrative staff.

A group of district administrators, Belcher and special guest Jeanne Lewis, one of the fund's co-founders, traveled to the winners' schools to surprise them with flowers, congratulations and the knowledge that they were named one of the district's outstanding educators for 2012-13.





Jean Selby and Mary Allee

Mike Pierson

WEST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SAYS GOODBYE TO DR. LOGAN

he students and staff of West Junior High School will lose someone who has been a fixture there for nearly 20 years. At the end of the school year, Principal Sandra Logan will retire. Logan says most of the memories of her educational career will be of her West Junior family: "The students, parents and staff. We established a family atmosphere. West Junior High has been my home."



Starting out teaching Family and Consumer Science (FACS), Logan came to Columbia Public Schools in 1988 as a FACS teacher for Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools.

In 1994 she moved to West Junior High School. First serving as administrative assistant for a single year, Logan then served as assistant

principal until a day in the spring of 1999 she still remembers as if it were vesterday.

"Dr. Ritter (then the district's superintendent) came to the school for a faculty meeting and announced me as the next principal," she said with a smile. "That is one of the most memorable moments I have ever had in my life."

In her time as principal, one of Logan's favorite accomplishments is the implementation of Positive Behavior Support. "It

Since its inception in the 1979-80 school year, the CFAE has recognized more than 200 educators in the Columbia Public Schools. Each year, educators are selected from nominations submitted by parents and peers. This year's honorees and their respective categories are:

OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR GRADES PRE-K-2

Marisa Sherbo Paxton Keeley Elementary School

OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR GRADES 3-5

Shari Lawson Ridgeway Elementary School

OUTSTANDING MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH EDUCATOR

Mary Allee Smithton Middle School

OUTSTANDING SENIOR HIGH EDUCATOR

Mike Pierson Rock Bridge High School

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR IN A SPECIALIZED AREA

Tara Collier Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School

OUTSTANDING BEGINNING TEACHER

Whitney Brown Moore West Junior High School

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

Jean Selby Smithton Middle School

At the CFAE's banquet, held at Stoney Creek Inn, each honoree received a \$1,200 cash award and an engraved silver tray.

The fund began through the work of Ray and Jeanne Lewis, with an initial contribution and extensive fundraising efforts. The late Ray Lewis was a local attorney and former Board of Education member. Jeanne Lewis is a former teacher and actively serves the community in a number of ways. The fund has come to exemplify excellence in not only the schools, but the community as well. Thanks to the contributions and support from individuals, businesses, and organizations each year, Columbia's best are recognized for their contributions to young people.

is an on-time program we started to reduce tardies and increase instructional time. We changed the climate and culture of the building. We took the responsibility of dealing with tardies off of the teachers, and over 60 percent of our students have not been tardy for even an hour of any day all year long."

Logan will enjoy spending time with her husband Gregory, a retired home school communicator from Hickman High School, and their six children.

"I have had a satisfying career," Logan said. "How it progressed, I can say it has been next to perfect. I have no regrets at all. I have been motivated to make a difference in kids' and professionals' lives."

The students, parents and staff. We established a family atmosphere. West Junior High has been my home.

- Sandra Logan

