



FALL | 2013



CPS Summer Science Camp

Approximately 25 campers at Benton Elementary School spent time this summer figuring out how to design and build their own windmills and solar ovens through the school's summer engineering camp, another part of the STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - educational method.

For its summer science camp, Benton utilized its affiliation with the University of Missouri's QUEST (Quality Elementary Science Teaching) program, which hosted the camp last summer. However, when QUEST did not receive

We are trying to help students be problem solvers and creative thinkers.

- Troy Hogg

funding this summer. Benton Principal Troy Hogg and his staff saw this as a chance to run their own camp as a school fundraiser. As a STEM school Benton has more technology needs than some other district schools.

The camp's curriculum was funded through a Columbia Public Schools Foundation grant and is titled "It's Easy Being Green!" The two themes were "Catching the Wind: Designing Windmills" for the younger students and "Now You're Cooking: Designing Solar Ovens" for the older students.

"We are trying to help students be problem solvers and creative thinkers," Hogg said. "Use processes. Find ways to figure things out. Make a plan, create, improve and solve problems on their own."

This fall begins the third year of STEM education at Benton Elementary School. As a lottery school, Benton serves the enrollment area first, then opens up enrollment to the rest of the district. Since the introduction of STEM, enrollment at Benton Elementary School is up to about 280 students. Kindergarten is a growing area for Benton. The school had to cap the number of students at that level after adding a third kindergarten last year and is keeping it this year.

2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 20	First day of classes	January 20	Martin Luther King's birthday: schools closed
August 22	First day of classes for kindergarten	January 29	Early dismissal: staff planning & collaboration
September 2	Labor Day: schools closed	February 13	End of second trimester
September 30	Teacher collaboration day: schools closed	February 14	Teacher collaboration day: schools closed
November 1	Teacher collaboration day: schools closed	February 17	Presidents' Day: schools closed
November 14	End of first trimester	February 28	Parent/teacher conferences: schools closed
November 15	Parent/teacher conferences: schools closed	March 24 - 28	Spring recess: schools closed
November 27-29	Thanksgiving vacation: schools closed	May 26	Memorial Day: schools closed
December 20	End of first semester	June 4	Last day of classes: early dismissal
December 23 -	Winter recess: schools closed	June 9	First day of summer school 2014
January 2		July 3	Last day of summer school 2014
January 3	Teacher collaboration day: schools closed		

Six snow days are built into the calendar. If the district uses fewer than 6 inclement weather days during the year, the unused days will be removed from the end of the school year. If the district uses exactly 0 or exactly 4 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.

News You Can Use

ROCK BRIDGE GRADUATES RECEIVE YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Recent Rock Bridge High School graduates **Nahush Katti** and **Vikram Arun** were awarded the Young Entrepreneur Award and \$25,000 in development capital to continue to develop their telemedicine business, DoctorOn, at the Green and Affordable Innovation event in New Delhi, India. Nahush and Vikram were given the opportunity to present their product to Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, U.S. Ambassador Powell, and Indian Minister of Science T. Ramasamy. Following the presentation they attended a dinner and reception and had the opportunity to meet with USAID Director Dr. Rajiv Shah and Dr. John Holdren, senior advisor to President Obama on science and technology issues.

LANGE STUDENTS EXCEL ON NATIONAL SPANISH EXAMS

Congratulations to the world language students from Lange Middle School who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2013 National Spanish Examinations. The tests are very rigorous and test not only grammar and vocabulary skills, but listening and reading as well. Seven students placed high throughout the nation, and several are top scorers in the region: **Daylin Huebotter, Lucinda Kegley, Madalynn Owens, Brett Porter, Payton Roberts, Eabryana Zeller, Joseph Sandoval, Martin McBee.**

BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL CHEER SQUAD WINS REGIONALS, HEADS TO STATE

The Battle High School varsity cheerleaders received first place at the regional cheerleading competition held at Moberly Area Community College. The Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association extended a bid to the squad to compete in the Missouri State Cheerleading Champions to be held in September at the Hearnes Center in Columbia. At the MCCA State Championships in Columbia, the Battle High School cheerleaders will compete with other high school cheerleading squads throughout the state. The squad is coached by Corey Cathey.

BATTLE RECEIVES MISSOURI ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

Battle High School has been awarded a Missouri Arts Council grant to work collaboratively with the City Office of Cultural Affairs. The \$7,500 grant will fund an artist-in-residence project that allows Kansas City sculptor Beth Nybeck to work with school art specialist **Jody Spriggs** and lead multiple sessions of students from the Art 1: Foundations class through the process to create her style of sculpture. The residency will create a permanent piece of art to be installed at the new Battle facility.

FINE ARTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Lee School Explorers have been invited to perform at the 76th Annual Missouri Music Educators Association Conference in January 2014. There were a total of 154 applications for performance submitted this year and only 34 ensembles from across the state in a variety of music disciplines were selected. Elizabeth Tummons is the elementary music teacher at Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School.

Rock Bridge High School student **Evan Schaffer** made the National Association for Music Education All-National Honor Symphony Orchestra. The All-National Honor Ensembles represent the top performing high school musicians in the United States. The ensembles will perform in Nashville, Tennessee in October.

CPS SELECTED AS PARTICIPANT IN THE HD LIVE IN SCHOOLS METROPOLITAN OPERA BROADCASTS

Columbia Public Schools has been selected to participate in the HD Live in Schools Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts and will receive tickets to attend four different broadcasts. CPS will also receive training, curricular materials and educational support. This is a unique opportunity to expose students to the wide world of opera performance and the variety of skills and jobs needed to make these performances occur. Participating this year will be Lee Expressive Arts Elementary

Bond Progress Continues

Summer might mean a time of relative quiet for students, but not for the school buildings. Approximately one-third of the district's buildings have undergone some sort of improvement, most stemming from the 2010 and 2012 voter-approved bonds.

The biggest project this summer was the HVAC installation at West Middle School. About 80 percent will be completed when school starts August 20. Trailers will be used to house those without air conditioning at the year's onset until the project is 100 percent complete.

A two-year HVAC project is underway at Jefferson Middle School, beginning this summer with asbestos abatement and the increase of the power capacity for next summer's system upgrades. An air conditioning trailer will be on site, pumping air into the building throughout the 2013-2014 school year.

"With Field also adding air this summer, all of our buildings will now have air conditioning," Chris Belcher, superintendent of Columbia Public Schools said. Rock Bridge and New Haven elementary schools will have central HVAC installed next summer, replacing their current window units.

"We are installing energy efficient systems," Belcher said. "They will pay for themselves in six or seven years with the energy savings, making them an investment that will save money down the road."

With Field also adding air this summer, all of our buildings will now have air conditioning.

- Chris Belcher

School, Hickman High School, Battle High School and Rock Bridge High School.

BENTON RECEIVES LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION GRANT

Benton Elementary School has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. This is the third year in a row that the school has received funding from the foundation. The funds will be used to expand, update and diversify the school's library book collection.

DOUGLASS STUDENTS HONORED BY COLUMBIA ART LEAGUE

Paul Burns and **Nathan Webb**, students at Douglass High School, were selected for the Columbia Art League's "Emerging Artists" for the summer. There were 127 pieces submitted and only 18 selected. Congratulations to these two young men and to their art teacher, Adam Dresden.

HICKMAN STUDENT TAKES SECOND IN ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

Hickman High School student **Joanna Zou** won second place in the Discover High School Competition focusing on architectural drawing for her drawing of the Hickman commons. She competed against students from 15 states and two countries. Congratulations to Joanna and her art teacher, Julia Grant.

Meet Three of Columbia Public Schools' New Principals

Jennifer Mast, Principal – Rock Bridge High School

A Columbia resident since she was 10, Jennifer Mast is the new principal at Rock Bridge High School and a product of Columbia's educational system herself: New Haven Elementary School, Oakland Junior High (now Middle) School, Rock Bridge High School and the University of Missouri (for undergraduate, masters, specialists and doctorate degrees).

Mast taught math at Gentry Middle School and was assistant principal and athletic director at Rock Bridge High School before earning the principal's position this summer.

"I have been a part of the Rock Bridge family for a long time," Mast says. "I have a very good sense of the community and attitude here, due to all of the different ways I have been involved. It is a great job and my honor to serve this school in this way."

Secondary reorganization is a major change occurring at Rock Bridge this fall, as well as at many other schools throughout the district. Mast says, "Since I have been ingrained at Rock Bridge, I have been aware of the process. My goal is to help with our transition."

Besides new adventures in her career, Mast has one other big change to look forward to. This October, she will marry Jeff Rukstad, a Columbia police detective.



Connie Dewey – Principal, West Middle School

Changes are abundant at West Middle School, from secondary reorganization to significant building work over the summer. Another change students can look forward to this fall is new Principal Connie Dewey.

Born in Louisiana, Mo., Dewey has spent chunks of time in Odessa, Tx., and Hannibal before coming to Columbia in 2007. She taught middle school math at her stops, including one year at Gentry Middle School before becoming assistant principal at Lange Middle School. She entered her current position in June. Her family consists of husband Dennis and daughters Leanna and Emily.

"The perception is that West is a great community for high academics," Dewey said. "It has been high performing, both academically and in fine arts."

Change is the theme of the school year as all of the students will be new to West Middle School (due to secondary reorganization) as will about half of the teachers.

"I am very passionate about middle school education," Dewey said. "It is a unique experience where the kids see a variety of developmental changes. They need nurturing and support along with high expectations for achievement. And I am looking forward to meeting all of the families and encouraging them to get involved in our PTSA."



Shari Lawson, Principal – Ridgeway Elementary School

Ridgeway Elementary School's new principal, Shari Lawson, could not be more a part and product of her school's unique environment, spending the last 20 years at the school as a teacher.

Ridgeway is a K-5 magnet school based on the concept of Individually Guided Education (I.G.E.). By assessing each student in each subject area and placing that student in appropriate instructional groups or working individually, the student should be successful every day. Lawson has been a part of that learning environment since 1993 and feels it gives her a running start in her new role as principal.

"I know firsthand about individually guided education. I started teaching it in college. I think it will be an easier transition having me here as opposed to someone from outside who would need to get to know the culture."

Lawson calls herself a very positive person who gets along well with families. "I know the Ridgeway families. I know the staff and the learning philosophy we have. I'm excited about the job. Ridgeway is the right fit for me."

Lawson has been married to her husband Ewell for 20 years and they have two children, a 10-year-old at Ridgeway and a 15-year-old at Hickman High School.



New to the Team

- **LAURA BEELER**
Assistant Principal at Mill Creek Elementary School
- **DAVID EGAN**
Assistant Principal at Rock Bridge High School
- **SHELLY FAIR**
English Language Learners Coordinator
- **CANDY FOWLER**
Assistant Principal at Fairview Elementary School
- **DEBORAH GREENE**
Assistant Principal at Rock Bridge High School
- **JIMMY HALE**
Assistant Principal at Jefferson Middle School
- **MEGHAN HOLLERAN**
Coordinator of Adult Education
- **CARLA LONDON**
Supervisor of Student and Family Advocacy
- **RACHEL MAZZOCCO**
Assistant Principal at Derby Ridge Elementary School
- **JAMES MELTON**
Fine Arts Coordinator
- **SARAH SICHT**
Assistant Principal at Parkade Elementary School
- **BEN TILLEY**
Title I Supervisor
- **JENNIFER WINGERT**
Principal at Grant Elementary School

Save the Date

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation will hold the annual Hall of Leaders Gala on October 17 at the Missouri Theatre from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The event honors distinguished alumni, volunteers and educators and features student performances. Proceeds are used to provide grants to schools for special projects. For reservations, part of which are tax-deductible, and more information visit www.cpsf.org.

2013 – 2014 IMPORTANT BUS & LUNCH INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

8:55 am – 4:05 pm
9:15 am – 3:45 pm
7:30 am – 2:35 pm
8:15 am – 3:00 pm
7:55 am – 2:55 pm
7:50 am – 2:55 pm
7:40 am – 2:40 pm
8:20 am – 3:45 pm

**CLASSES BEGIN TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 FOR GRADES 1 – 12
AND AUGUST 22 FOR KINDERGARTEN.**

Rock Bridge, Hickman, Battle high schools, Career Center
Douglass High School
Lange, Gentry, Smithton, Jefferson, Oakland, West middle schools
Quest
Lee and Benton elementary schools
Ridgeway Elementary School
Midway Heights, New Haven, Two Mile Prairie, Rock Bridge elementary schools
Alpha Hart, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Derby Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Mill Creek, New Haven, Parkade, Paxton
Keeley, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard, West Boulevard elementary schools

BUS SCHEDULES

For information concerning school transportation routes and schedules contact
First Student, Inc. at **474-9473** or **474-9476**.

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: \$1.45
- Lunch - choice of salad bar, hot lunch with salad bar, or sack lunch: \$2.35
- Additional milk, 100% juice or ice cream: \$0.50 each

STUDENTS GRADES 6-12

- Breakfast: \$1.45
- Lunch - variety of meal choices: \$2.60
- Additional milk: \$0.50 each

ADULTS

- Breakfast: \$1.80
- Lunch - variety of meal choices: \$3.10
- A la carte items: prices vary

For any questions about meal services, visit our Web site at
www.columbia.k12.mo.us/depts/nutrsvcs.php 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. Money to be deposited in an account should be given to a cafeteria cashier.

PAY ONLINE

Parents may also pay for lunches via the district's Web site via My School Bucks.

- 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.columbia.k12.mo.us/depts/nutrsvcs.php**

- 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 administration building, and on the district's Web site.

Get the SCOOP ...

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

PARENTLINK NOTIFICATIONS

ParentLink is replacing CPSAlert and Key News text and e-mail notification systems. 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.columbia.k12.mo.us. Parents will also be able to download the district's ParentLink mobile application.



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 Web site to access live programming, the schedule and special programming are available on the Web. Click on the CPS-TV icon on the left side of the school district home page at www.columbia.k12.mo.us.



VIRTUAL GALLERY

Take a few minutes to visit the CPS Virtual Gallery, which displays student artwork and photos of special events and activities. You can access the gallery by clicking on the Virtual Gallery icon on the left side of the school district's home page at

www.columbia.k12.mo.us.



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.



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. Click on the VB icon on the district's home page at www.columbia.k12.mo.us.



Columbia Area Career Center Culinary Students Win Big

Two Columbia Public Schools high school students placed first in the SkillsUSA national competition. Hailey King, a 2013 Rock Bridge High School graduate, placed first in Culinary Arts and Heather Pitt, a 2013 Hickman High School graduate, placed first in Commercial Baking. King is the third Missouri student to win the Culinary Arts competition and Pitt is the first Missouri student to win Commercial Baking.

The two competitors practiced for an entire year with chefs Brook Harlan, Carri Risner and Jeff Rayl of the Culinary Arts program at the Columbia Area Career Center.



We are very lucky to have been extremely supported by the district from day one

- Brook Harlan

Support, both in the form of time and money, has been significant for the culinary arts program. "We hold fundraisers so we can practice and compete," Harlan said. "We spend thousands of dollars just to practice. We have huge omelet fundraisers and a large dinner at Les Bourgeois, a partner who has been great for the program."

Along with their wins, King and Pitt received full four-year scholarship offers from most of the major culinary universities in the country. Both picked Johnson & Wales University, one at the Providence, R.I., branch and one at the Charlotte, N.C., branch. Pitt will focus on baking, while King will tackle both baking and culinary arts.

Each student has been involved in the culinary arts program for all three of their high school years. Pitt competed for two years, King for all three. King finished second in the district both as a sophomore and junior before winning the competition this year. King had not baked until she started in the program as a sophomore with Rayl, while Pitt comes from a family baking background.

"It is an independent study program so they have to be driven and focused," Harlan said of his students. "They make and keep their own calendars and a lot of it is after school and weekends."

The culinary arts program started in 1997 with 19 students. Today there are 230 students enrolled. "We are very lucky to have been extremely supported by the district from day one," Harlan said. Rayl agreed, "We also have a lot of alumni who come back and a lot of support from local restaurants, including chefs who donate their time to come and do demos. Overall, the Career Center administration and staff are and have been very supportive."

The culinary arts program is adding two chefs to the district this year, John Minor at Battle and Katie Frink at Rock Bridge. Frink is a CACC alumnus who placed second in the 2005 national culinary arts competition.

This also makes the 11th straight year that the CACC has had a state champion for Missouri competing in the national contest for Culinary Arts. It has had commercial baking students win the state championship and compete at the national contest five out of the last six years.





CPS Students Win Study Abroad Scholarships

Two of Columbia Public Schools' world language students were recently honored by the U.S. Department of State. Alexandra Fratila and Megan Infield, both juniors at Hickman High School this year, won the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) Scholarship to study language abroad.

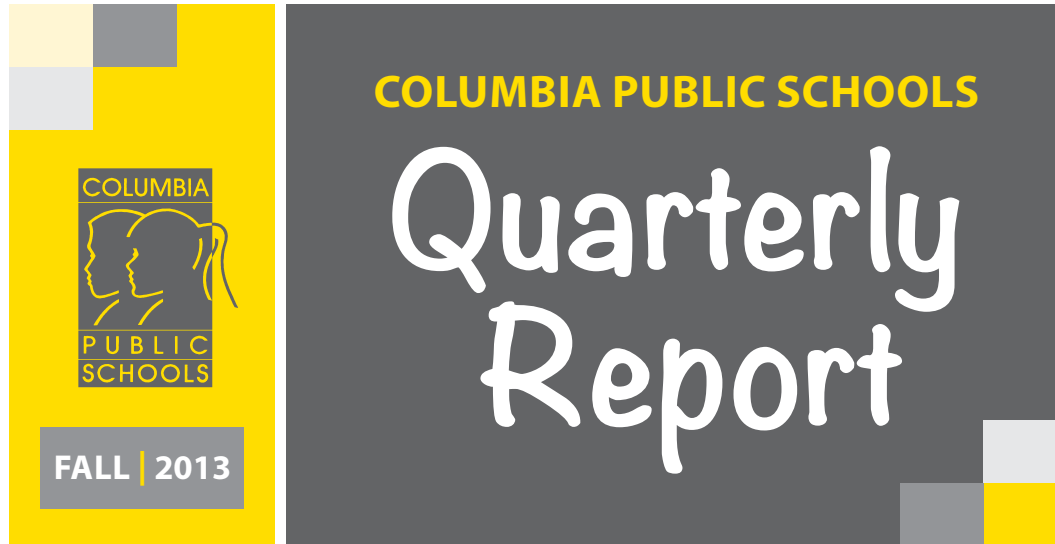
The National Security Language Initiative for Youth awarded 625 scholarships for 2013-14. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, NSLI-Y provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly taught languages during the summer and academic school year in intensive overseas immersion programs.

These scholarships enable Fratila to study Chinese in China and Infield to study Korean in South Korea for the summer. The scholarships cover all program costs including domestic and international travel; tuition and related academic

preparation; language testing; educational and cultural activities focused on language learning; orientations; and meals and accommodations, which are usually with a host family.

NSLI-Y is part of a broader, multi-agency U.S. government initiative launched in 2006 to improve Americans' ability to engage with native speakers of critical languages from around the world. In addition to the U.S. Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education and the National Security Agency offer a number of language-focused programs under the NSLI-Y umbrella.

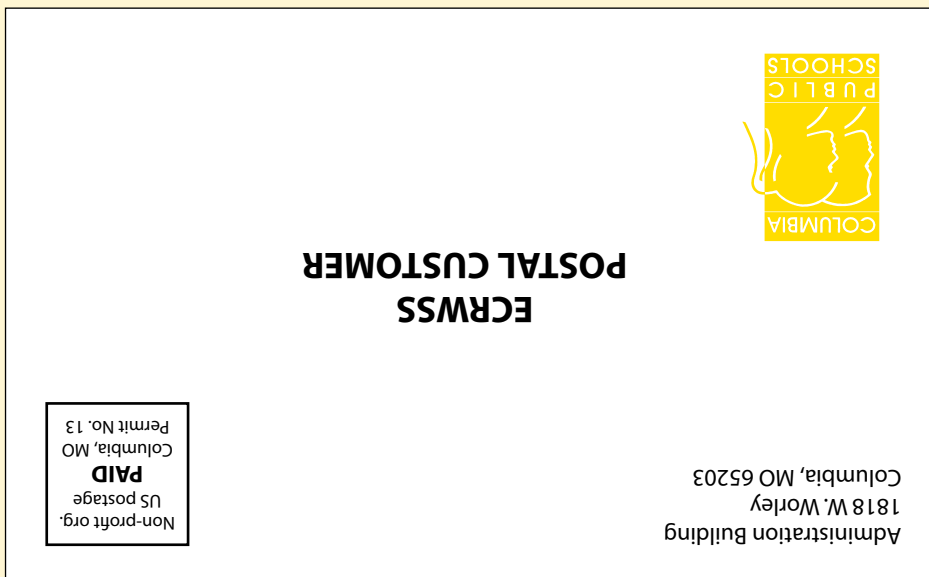
Scholarships are available for students to learn the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian (Tajik), Russian and Turkish.



www.columbia.k12.mo.us

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