



GROWING SUCCESS FOR CITIZEN JANE FILM ACADEMY

Now in its second year, the Citizen Jane Film Academy expanded to two sessions, and yet even that was not enough to satisfy all of the young women interested in learning about filmmaking.

"It was a great problem to have," said Kerri Yost, associate professor at Stephens College and supervisor of the academy. "We had students from last year who wanted to do it again and a lot more people who wanted to take part than we had space and resources for."

The two sessions were split between beginners in early June and more advanced filmmaking in late June. Of the 40-plus overall participants, eight stayed all summer and took part in both sessions, which also expanded in duration to an all-day program.

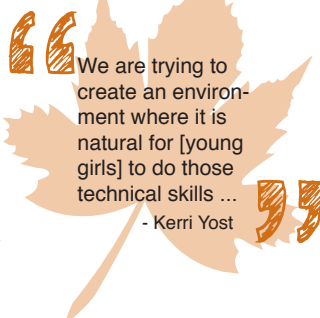
The Citizen Jane Film Academy was created to encourage the filmmaking interest in young women in grades 7 to 12, a field that Yost said women have typically not been encouraged to participate in.

"It is a very technical field and women, especially young girls, are not steered in that direction. We are trying to create an environment where it is natural for them to do those technical skills as well as their creative skills."

In the camp, the women are trained on the equipment of the business, even collaborating with Columbia Access Television on a show the last day of the camp. That work also includes a membership for campers to CAT, which Yost has been happy to see some continue to use after the camp has ended.

"This community has very good resources for filmmakers," she said of Columbia, "and they came up with several different projects, from documentaries to PSAs to horror films."

Several of the commercials and PSAs will be shown at the Citizen Jane Film Festival, Oct. 19-21, as well as on the festival's Web site. Yost added that "as they



2012 – 2013

School Year Calendar

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|-------------------------|---|
| August 16 | First day of classes |
| September 3 | Labor Day: schools closed |
| September 24 | Teacher collaboration: schools closed |
| November 6 | Teacher collaboration: schools closed |
| November 16 | Teacher collaboration: schools closed |
| November 21-23 | Thanksgiving vacation: schools closed |
| December 24 – January 1 | Winter recess: schools closed |
| January 2 | Teacher collaboration: schools closed |
| January 21 | Martin Luther King's Birthday: schools closed |
| January 30 | Early dismissal for teacher collaboration |
| February 15 | Teacher collaboration: schools closed |
| February 18 | Presidents' Day: schools closed |
| March 1 | Teacher collaboration: schools closed |
| March 25 – 29 | Spring recess: schools closed |
| May 27 | Memorial Day: schools closed |
| May 29 | Early dismissal for teacher collaboration |
| | Last day of classes |
| June 3 | First day of summer school |
| June 28 | Last day of summer school |

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 5 inclement weather days, the district will consider taking May 3 as a holiday, so that the final day of school will not be a single early release day following the weekend.

come in to see the films, festival goers will be told in a very creative way to turn off their cell phones."

"I believe it is important to get young women exposed to media, those who want it. We need to support female filmmakers. Nothing in our industry is going to change if we don't work with young people at an early age. Our goal is to train them to do work on their own. It is definitely working and has been inspiring. These young women are so talented."

Save the Date

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation will hold the annual Hall of Leaders Ceremony on October 18 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.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES IN SUMMER EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM

The Summer Expeditions program expanded this summer, adding a relationship with the University of Missouri to its ongoing Columbia College relationship and expanding the number of students it reaches, up to 40 high-achieving minority students.

"We have students who are both high-achieving and minority," said Summer Expeditions Coordinator Jay Wiltshire. "These kids have no limits and we are working to help them academically advance over the summer break."

Wiltshire points to the program's three teachers, Juan Diaz, Kristen Palmer and Dolores Obregon, as a driving asset behind Summer Expeditions' success.

"The teachers are given a budget and a group of highly motivated students and allowed to design their own programs," Wiltshire said. "They make connections with the kids and get the message out to them that education is not something that just happens to you. You take part and own it."

Started in 2009, Summer Expeditions has traditionally taken place on the campus of Columbia College, but this year the program added a section on MU's campus, as some of the students visited the CALEB lab for a week of cancer research.

"That was such a great experience for the students," said Ian Mette, summer school coordinator, "to be able to see what they do in a cancer lab like that."

Columbia College offers scholarship opportunities for students who stay in the program, and staying seems to be something the students are looking to do, even past the Summer Expeditions age groups.

"We are looking to expand and keep our senior class together," said Wiltshire. "When the senior class requests that they stay together, that is something you want to have happen."

Mette added, "This is a special project that allows us to promote that you are a part of something you can be proud of. It is a cohort of students who want to be high achievers and they work to affirm to each other that it is okay to be smart. This is real work, which gives the students a sense of 'I can do this,' and it can help to narrow the achievement gap."

COMMUNITY GARDEN: ROOM TO GROW

A community garden project has sprouted at Ridgeway Elementary School where, in conjunction with Hickman High School, they will be developing a community garden on the school site. The garden has one plot at the moment and tomatoes, corn and pumpkins have already been planted. Ridgeway Principal Ben Tilley sees expansion in the works for the upcoming school year. "By next spring, all of the plots will be developed," Tilley said. "25 plots, 10' by 20', will be available for community members to apply for and garden in."

The garden idea came out of talks with the Ped Net Coalition about having more gardens in the city. Further discussions with the health department and Center for Urban Agriculture developed the possibility, which was helped along by a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's which paid for the infrastructure: fencing, gates and water lines.

Community groups are welcome to add their pieces to the project, as local Girl Scouts have started a compacting project and a Boy Scout is working on a shed for his eagle scout project.

"We have had quite a bit of interest in it," Tilley said. Those interested can contact the school for more information. "We are looking at using some of the produce in the school and there are curriculum areas, like soils, where the garden can be used for hands-on learning."



CAREER CENTER TAKES NO SUMMER BREAK

The Columbia Area Career Center just completed what may be their busiest summer yet, as more than 350 kids took part in youth camps in topics ranging from forensics to ice cream.

"We have camps for youth ages 10 to 15 that focus on career exploration," said Jim Sharrock, lead supervisor for Professional and Community Education. "We had about a 20 percent increase over last year, both in kids attending and number of camps available. And the energy they have, the excitement - the students don't really think of it as an educational experience."

Camps with an eye on career exploration can also lead students to finding out what careers may not be right for them. Linda Rawlings, Career Center director, described a mock trial class that some students took because they wanted to be attorneys. Through their experience working in the class, they discovered they wanted to instead be federal investigators. "It is a great way to learn about careers," Rawlings said. "The instructor is a retired prosecuting

attorney and works hard to make the experience real for the students."

Dan Griffin, an intern from the University of Missouri working with the program this summer, described some of what he saw in classrooms. Griffin witnessed CSI-style classes where the kids used fingerprints and shoeprints to solve cases to an ice cream class that focused not only on production, but also marketing. He also described a brother and sister who have attended at least three camps this summer.

"We definitely have repeat customers," Sharrock said. "When we are about to come out with the brochure we have parents calling, asking when it will be available."

In addition to the youth camps, the Career Center has also had adult learning this summer, graduating classes in practical nursing (13 grads, the 97th graduating class) and surgical technology (18 grads, the 40th graduating class) and holding night classes in CNA and medical coding.

SECONDARY REORGANIZATION SET FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Columbia Public Schools has reached a vital point in its secondary school reorganization plan. Boundaries have been set and students and teachers know where they will be attending and working at the start of the 2013 - 2014 school year, when the district switches from three middle schools, three junior highs and two comprehensive high schools to six middle schools and three comprehensive high schools, with the addition of Battle High School.

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Jolene Yoakum has taken over the process from Wanda Brown, who retired last school year, and feels confident about the reorganization and transition process.

"Dr. Brown was able to get me up to speed and we were able to go to meetings together. I was and am amazed by the staff, the teamwork and planning that has occurred," Yoakum said.

What is next is a "very important piece of the implementation" in Yoakum's eyes. That piece begins when the 2012 -2013 school year begins. Yoakum and the principals at the secondary level have met and identified the leadership teams in each building. Starting in September, teachers will have five collaboration days throughout the year to meet in what will be their 2013 - 2014 building with the leadership team that will be in place at that time.

"They will get to work with their new leadership team," Yoakum said. "It will give them a jump start on building a collaborative culture."

Various committees continue to meet and work on items such as curriculum and transportation. Once the school year starts, Yoakum will convene with them and add their ideas into the reorganization plan.

"I have never been in a district - and I have been in eight - who has gone through this much change," Yoakum said of the secondary reorganization. "I am confident we will do what is best. I'm not saying it will be perfect, but it will be very good. We are setting off change that should be very smooth because of the leadership and planning that has occurred over the last few years."

Yoakum wants the dialogue concerning the reorganization process between families and the district to continue.

"We want two-way communication. We want families and others in the community to contact us if they wish. It all will help to make our district the best in the state."

NEW PARENTLINK SYSTEM TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

The parents of Columbia Public Schools students will soon have a new tool to keep updated and in touch with the district, as the ParentLink automated notification system is set for implementation at the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

"This is a new system for the district," said Michelle Baumstark, director of community relations for the district. "It will combine e-mail, text and phone notifications into one system. It will be more efficient and user-friendly."

As an example, Baumstark said that under the previous system, if a bus was running late, everyone would receive that message. Now, the system has the ability to send out specifically directed messages, down to the students/parents on that bus route.

"There is a lot more flexibility," Baumstark said of ParentLink. "Parents can see messages by student if they have more than one in the district. There is survey ability so that parents can get more engaged about school events and we can receive input from them."

The goal is to have the new system in place for the start of school in August, with back-to-school nights as a forum the schools will use to detail the system to parents.

"Down the road there is even more we can do. For now, it will be a great way to communicate."

2010 BOND PROJECTS PACING RIGHT ALONG



HVAC work at the elementary schools this summer

"On schedule" and "ahead of schedule" are probably favorite terms at the moment for Deputy Superintendent Nick Boren. Boren oversees the district's construction projects, including those springing from the voter-approved \$120 million 2010 bond.

"... attack with a lot of manpower as soon as we can get in, and will be ready for opening in August."
- Nick Boren

"Ahead of schedule" would describe the gym projects at Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools. Scheduled for August of 2013 openings, both are running four to five months ahead of schedule, Boren said. Hickman's project is a bit more involved, including classrooms and stadium work, but stadium work will be ready for football season this fall and both gyms should be available for use next summer.

HVAC work continued all summer at five elementary schools: Midway Heights, Ridgeway, Grant, Lee and Two Mile Prairie. Boren said, as of July, the worksites were "pretty chaotic, with all sorts of equipment," but work should be done in time for the district's custodial crews to "attack with a lot of manpower as soon as we can get in, and will be ready for opening in August."

The biggest bond project is Battle High School, which is around 81 percent complete as of the summer. The large-scale building construction is done and crews are working on finish work inside, including flooring, painting, and wiring and site work outside, such as parking lots and tennis courts. All site work is set to be completed by October. Work is also ongoing on furniture, fixtures and equipment for the building.

POLICY SET FOR HEAT-RELATED DISMISSALS

In the event of excessive heat and humidity, non-air-conditioned public schools in Columbia may be closed for partial days. The school district's intent is to have students attend school all day, but the safety and well-being of students and staff is paramount. A decision will be made in the evening prior to any heat-related closing. Appropriate news media will be notified before 10:00 p.m.

Principals and teachers will monitor closely the welfare of students during days when heat can become an issue. Water breaks will be provided and fans will be running in areas of greatest concern. Students will be served lunch before they are dismissed. Jefferson Junior High School and West Junior High School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. The Early Childhood Centers on Waco Road and Rain Forest Parkway will dismiss at 11:30 a.m., including extended day. No afternoon sessions will be held at those locations.

2012 – 2013 IMPORTANT BUS & LUNCH INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

7:45 am – 2:45 pm
7:50 am – 2:45 pm
7:50 am – 3:00 pm
8:00 am – 2:45 pm
8:00 am – 3:00 pm
8:45 am – 2:30 pm
8:50 am – 3:45 pm

CLASSES BEGIN THURSDAY, AUGUST 16.

Hickman High School
Douglass High School
Rock Bridge High School, Career Center
Jefferson, Oakland, West junior high schools
Gentry, Lange, Smithton middle schools
Quest
Alpha Hart Lewis, Benton, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Derby Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Lee, Midway Heights, Mill Creek, New Haven, Parkade, Mary Paxton Keeley, Ridgeway, Rock Bridge, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard, Two Mile Prairie, 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: \$1.35
- Lunch - choice of salad bar, hot lunch with salad bar, or sack lunch: \$2.25
- Additional milk, 100% juice or ice cream: \$0.50 each

STUDENTS GRADES 6-12

- Breakfast: \$1.35
- Lunch - variety of meal choices: \$2.50
- Additional milk: \$0.50 each

ADULTS

- Breakfast: \$1.70
- A la carte items: prices vary
- Lunches: \$3.00

For any questions about meal services, visit our Web site at <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/depts/nutrsvcs.php> or call **214-3480**.

ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS

All district schools are using a computerized cashing 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 at www.myschoolbucks.com.

- View account transactions
- Make secure credit or debit card payments to student accounts
- Set daily, weekly or monthly spending limits for breakfast, lunches and a la carte purchases if desired

For menus and other department information visit www.columbia.k12.mo.us/depts/nutrsvcs.php

- Get deposit forms, pin pad practice sheets and nutritional analysis information
- Ask a dietician
- 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 NOTIFICATION

This school year ParentLink will be replacing the CPSAlert and Key News text and e-mail notification systems. The new system will launch in August. More information about the new system, including mobile access for parents, is available on the district home page at www.columbia.k12.mo.us.

CPS-TV

CPS Television is the school district's cable-access channel. CPS-TV is broadcast on Mediacom channel 81 and CenturyTel channel 602. Additionally, visit CPS-TV on the school district Web site to access programming schedule and special programming made 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 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. Currently secondary schools are utilizing the system. Please contact your school directly for more information on accessing the system.

CPS WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

Timing worked out just right for Jolene Yoakum, who was able to arrive early to Columbia Public Schools as the new assistant superintendent for secondary education. This lead time allowed her to work with Wanda Brown, her predecessor in the position.

"It was a gift to have that time with her," Yoakum said of the smooth transition from Brown's retirement. "I'm looking to build on the successes the district has already had."

Originally from the Kansas City area, Yoakum was eager to come back to her home state after working in Texas. She has more than 20 years of experience in education working in both Texas and Missouri.

"I wanted to work for a medium-sized district," she said. "It has the best of both worlds, lots of resources but you get to know people individually. I want to build the capacity of the staff to have an impact on students. Students are always at the forefront of my decisions."



SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS

On June 29, 2012, Missouri received a waiver of certain No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements. Columbia Public Schools would like to explain the educational opportunities made possible by the waiver and what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

NCLB required Missouri to measure the progress schools were making toward the goal of 100 percent proficiency in reading and math by the year 2014. Schools that did not make sufficient progress for two or more consecutive years were "identified for improvement." Under NCLB, schools receiving federal Title I funds that did not make sufficient progress were required to offer parents the opportunity to transfer their child to another school in the district that was not identified for improvement and/or offer supplemental educational services (SES) to children from low income families.

When NCLB was passed in 2002, it provided families useful information about the performance of their children's schools. However, NCLB's rising targets have led to an increasing number of schools deemed failing under the law. Missouri's approved NCLB waiver corrects many of the problems under NCLB including ineffectual identification of schools and restrictive use of federal funds. Districts will have greater flexibility in using federal Title I funds to meet identified needs.

Due to the flexibility offered under the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, beginning in the 2012-13 school year, Columbia Public Schools will no longer offer NCLB School Choice or SES. If your child is enrolled in a school as a result of a previous NCLB school choice, however, he or she is entitled to remain in that school through the highest grade served by the school. Instead of offering additional school choice or SES, Columbia Public Schools will use those federal funds to improve teaching and learning for our neediest students.

The waiver does not affect our continuing obligation to share with you information on the performance of your child's school; nor does it affect our commitment to involving all parents as full partners in the education of their children. We seek and encourage your involvement!

For more information on the waiver and what it will mean for your child, please contact Nancy Carper, Title I supervisor, at 214-3915.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Belcher
Superintendent

NEW TO THE TEAM

- **Jolene Yoakum**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
- **Ranita Dement**, Supervisor of Student and Family Advocacy
- **Bonnie Conley**, Supervisor of Special Services
- **Christi Phillips**, Coordinator of Adult Education and Literacy
- **Tim Majerus**, Principal, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School
- **Jill Edwards**, Administrative Assistant, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School
- **Sarah Sicht**, Assistant Principal, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School
- **Kristen Palmer**, Principal, Blue Ridge Elementary School
- **Marietta Monroe**, Assistant Principal, Blue Ridge Elementary School
- **Rebecca Pisano**, Assistant Director, Columbia Area Career Center
- **David Laughlin**, Assistant Principal, Gentry Middle School
- **Matthew Ross**, Assistant Principal, Jefferson Junior High School
- **Bonita Benson**, Assistant Principal, Mary Paxton Keeley Elementary School
- **Tabetha Rawlings**, Principal, Mill Creek Elementary School
- **Jennifer Wingert**, Assistant Principal, Mill Creek Elementary School
- **Carole Garth**, Principal, New Haven Elementary School
- **Helen Porter**, Principal, Oakland Junior High School
- **Jeff Mielhe**, Assistant Principal, Oakland Junior High School
- **Cristina Aeet**, Assistant Principal, Parkade Elementary School
- **Tim Baker**, Assistant Principal, Rock Bridge High School
- **Amanda Bruckerhoff**, Assistant Principal, Russell Boulevard Elementary School
- **Jacquie Ward**, Principal, Shepard Boulevard Elementary School
- **Gary Gabel**, Assistant Principal, Shepard Boulevard Elementary School

CAREER CENTER CULINARY CHAMP

Will Kinney brought another wave of recognition back to Columbia and the Columbia Area Career Center, as championship winner at the SkillsUSA Culinary Arts competition in June.

"It was pretty surreal," Kinney said of the competition and finding out he had won. "During the competition, I didn't think I'd win, but my parents and teachers thought I did well. I thought maybe second. When they announced the winners and second was named and was not me, my heart dropped. After they announced first, the events are a bit of a haze."

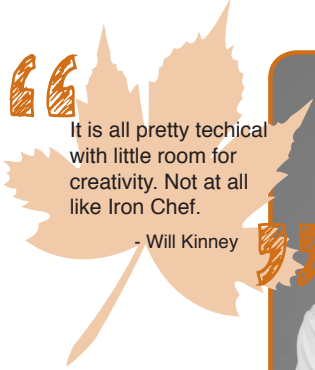
In the competition, Kinney faced off against other state winners for five and a half hours in events including chicken fabrication, knife cuts, salad, soup and two entrees.

"It is all pretty technical with little room for creativ-

ity," Kinney said. "Not at all like Iron Chef."

Kinney will be attending Cornell in the fall, but winning the competition comes with a medal, certificate and, among other scholarships, a full ride to the Culinary Institute of America, which Kinney is looking to incorporate into his Cornell education.

"His win is evidence of the high quality program we have here," said Career Center Director Linda Rawlings, "and how hard our instructors work with the students to help them succeed."



Quarterly Report

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALL
2012



www.columbia.k12.mo.us

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