

# YEARBOOK 2013

## IN THIS ISSUE ...

### PAGE ONE & TWO

- MURIEL WILLIAMS BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS
- CLASS OF 2013 LEADERS SPEAK
- HIGHLIGHTS

### PAGE THREE & FOUR

- TEACHERS IN TANZANIA
- HIGHLIGHTS
- 2013 CPS STATISTICS

### PAGE FIVE & SIX

- STUDENTS SURPASS NATIONAL AVERAGES
- ADULT LEARNERS RECEIVE THEIR GEDs
- COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
- ENGINEERING PROGRAM PROJECT LEAD THE WAY
- TECHNOLOGY UPDATES AT CPS

### PAGE SEVEN

- NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS NEW CHANGES
- SUMMER BOND WORK

*Yearbook* is published by the Columbia Public School District as a public service to the parents of school-age children and district residents. The Columbia Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or use of leave protection by the Family and Medical Leave Act, in its programs, activities, or with regard to employment. The Columbia Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer.

Administration Building  
1818 W. Worley  
Columbia, MO 65203

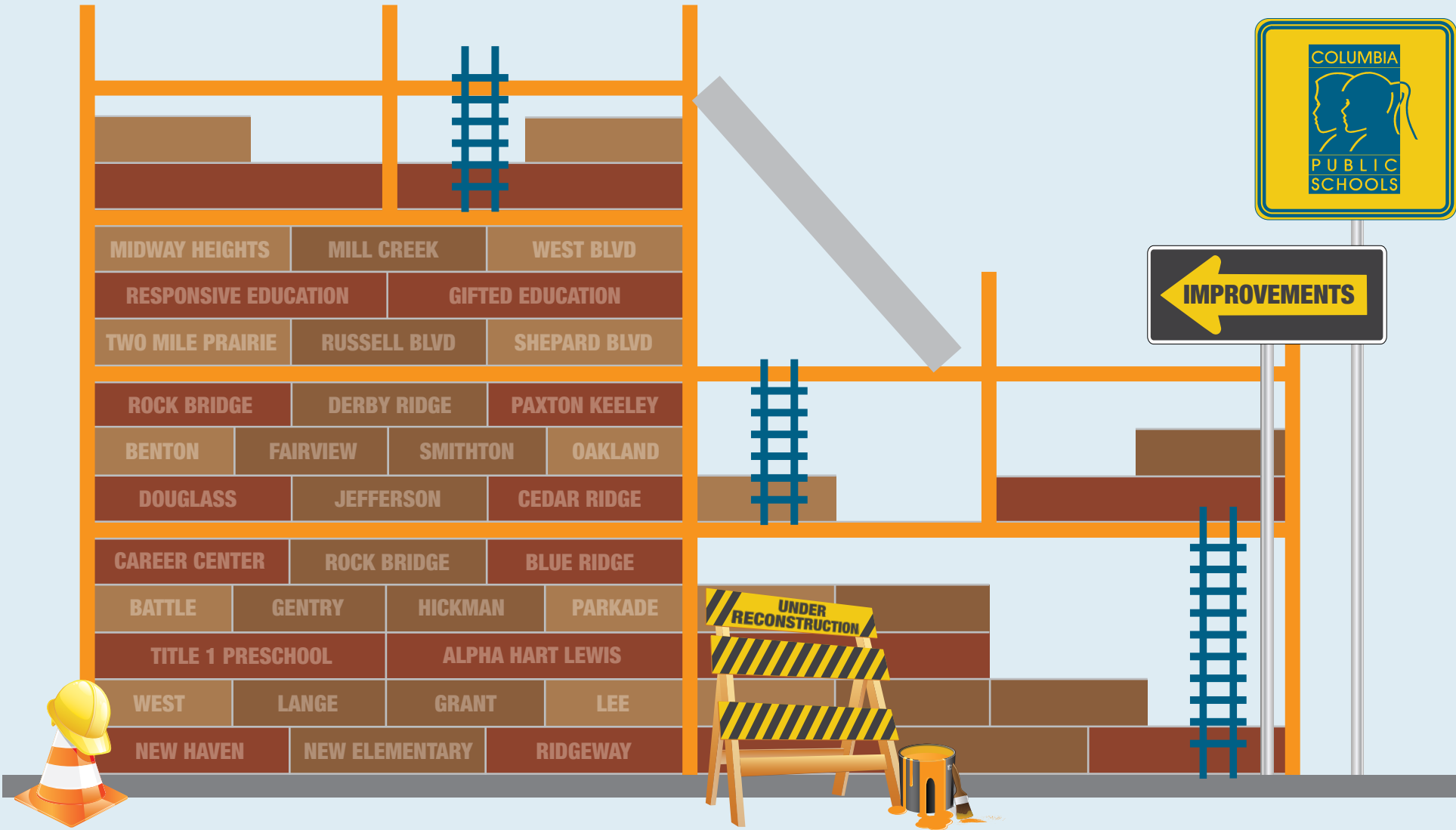
Non-profit org.  
US postage  
**PAID**  
Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 13

**ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**



## Board of Education

**President** Christine King  
**Vice President** James Whitt  
**Members** Jan Mees  
Darin Preis  
Dr. Tom Rose  
Jonathan Sessions  
Helen Wade  
**Superintendent** Dr. Chris Belcher





# BATTLE FOR CHANGE

## *Reconstruction in Progress ...*



## MURIEL WILLIAMS BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS



The ending to chapter one of Muriel Williams Battle High School came on June 2 as the official dedication ceremony welcomed future Spartans, members of the Battle family, and a few hundred community members and dignitaries from the city, county and school district.

"Planning began back in 2005," said Christine King, president of the Columbia Board of Education. "This is a \$75 million investment by the community in education and economic development. It is an investment in our future, and we are proud to open the building on time and on budget."

She praised the work done by hundreds of community members, including those who worked on more than 15 committees involved in making Battle High School everything it is.

Chris Belcher, superintendent of Columbia Public Schools, shined a light on the workers who helped bring Battle out of the field where ground was broken just three years ago. Belcher highlighted a few facts and figures:

- MORE THAN 700 DAYS OF CONSTRUCTION
- NOT ONE ACCIDENT ON SITE
- APPROXIMATELY 200 WORKERS ON SITE DAILY
- MORE THAN 50 DIFFERENT CONTRACTORS

And very importantly: on time and under budget.

"What an accomplishment, what a wonderful building," Belcher said. "This is a model of what can be done with public facilities. It was not an easy project – being in the county, soon to be in the city and built by the school district."

About the school's namesake, Belcher said, "The impact she had on Columbia is not small and we think we hit a

home run in naming this high school in honor of Muriel Battle."

Muriel Battle's husband, Dr. Eliot Battle Sr., was the first from the Battle family to speak. He said, "Muriel and I spent 40 very joyous years working in Columbia schools. We have received and appreciated a multitude of honors from the school district, university and city of Columbia. Today tops everything. To drive here to the newest city high school and to see the name Dr. Muriel Williams Battle on the new high school was truly humbling. It is an exciting experience. We are so grateful."

The Battles' three daughters and one son also spoke, along with Muriel's sister. They were among the numerous Battle family, friends and colleagues present for the building's dedication. After introducing the family in attendance, daughter Muriel Jean Battle Browder noted: "Today, look how our family is growing. In August, when Battle High School opens we will be adding 1,064 new Battles to our family."

Daughter Carolyn Battle Thomas announced the opening of a new foundation called "Battle 4 Success." It will launch this fall and will identify students at the school, who will be called "Battle Scholars." The foundation will seek to "support them and give them the things we had as children."

Additionally, Battle 4 Success will start a preschool enrichment program and an intergenerational culinary program with middle school students and senior citizens. A template for the program will be created for any Columbia Public Schools alumni who would want to start a mentor-

“  
*To drive here to the newest city high school  
and to see the name Dr. Muriel Williams  
Battle on the new high school was truly  
humbling. – Dr. Eliot Battle Sr.*  
”

ing program in any part of the country.

Dr. Eliot Battle Jr. called the school "Such a collective achievement. This is not my mother, not my father. This is all of us."

He told the crowd this makes the third generation in his mother's family to have a school or other building named after them, joining her grandfather and aunt.

"The Battle family is forever proud, forever honored, forever appreciative. There is nothing more you can do for us. We are here if you need us."

The school's first principal is Dr. Kim Presko. The day after the dedication ceremony, Presko and the Battle staff opened the doors to around 450 summer school students.

Presko has a special connection to her school's namesake. "It was 24 years ago that Muriel took a chance on me and hired me as a teacher at West Junior High School. It is my honor to continue her legacy. She was a pioneer in our community. It is a magnificent day for us, the start of some great traditions and a wonderful culture. In her words, 'we're really glad you are here.'"

### A GREAT MAN REMEMBERED

Dr. Eliot Battle passed away June 11. The Columbia Public Schools school-community is deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Battle. We were honored to have him participate in the dedication of Muriel Williams Battle High School. He and his wife created a legacy in our community that we were honored and grateful to be able to celebrate. Dr. Battle played a pivotal role as an educational leader in Columbia Public Schools. His presence in our community will be deeply missed.

#### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

**\$75 MILLION COST**

**300,000 SQUARE FEET ON  
85 ACRES**

**1,800 TO 2,000  
STUDENT CAPACITY**

**PARKING SPACES TO  
ACCOMMODATE  
1250 CARS AND 80  
BICYCLES**

**ENERGY EFFICIENT  
SYSTEMS INCLUDING  
GEOTHERMAL HEAT  
PUMP AND HVAC**

**GROUND BROKEN ON  
JULY 15, 2010 –  
DEDICATED JUNE 2, 2013**

**DONATIONS TO BATTLE 4 SUCCESS CAN BE SENT TO  
202 E. WALTON, NO. 3W, CHICAGO, IL 60611**



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ROCK BRIDGE STUDENT NAMED TO ALL-AMERICAN MODEL U.N. TEAM

Rock Bridge junior **Adam Zaghouani** was named a member of the All-American Model United Nations team by the College Apprentice organization. He joins a dozen or so of the top students from around the U.S. to compete at a Model U.N. conference in Beijing, China this August. Adam was a member of the RBHS Model U.N. team. In February, the RBHS Model United Nations team competed in Washington DC in the 50th Annual North American Invitational Model U.N. conference. The team competed against 3,000 students from around the world in committees tackling a variety of global issues. The RBHS team sat on 17 different committees and brought home several awards and recognitions.

## ROCK BRIDGE ONLINE PUBLICATION WINS TWO YEARS RUNNING

For the second year in a row, the RBHS journalism program's online publication, BearingNews.org, was awarded an Online Pacemaker Award by the National Scholastic Press Association. Journalism students traveled to San Francisco, Calif., in April for the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association Spring Convention. Sixteen RBHS students and 1,481 students overall participated in write-off contests. Out of the 16 RBHS participants, 13 students placed, receiving a recognition of Honorable Mention, Excellent or the highest, Superior, which is reserved for the top 10 percent of contestants.

BearingNews was a finalist for the Online Pacemaker Award out of a record 252 entries. The NSPA and the Newspaper Association of America Foundation have co-sponsored the Pacemaker competition since 1971. Judges select Pacemakers based on coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion page, evidence of in-depth reporting, design, photography, art and graphics.

Additional awards at the convention included a second place Best of Show Award in the Newspaper Broad-sheet-17 pages or more category for The Rock, RBHS' print newspaper, and a fifth place award for Southpaw in the Newspaper Special Edition Best of Show category.

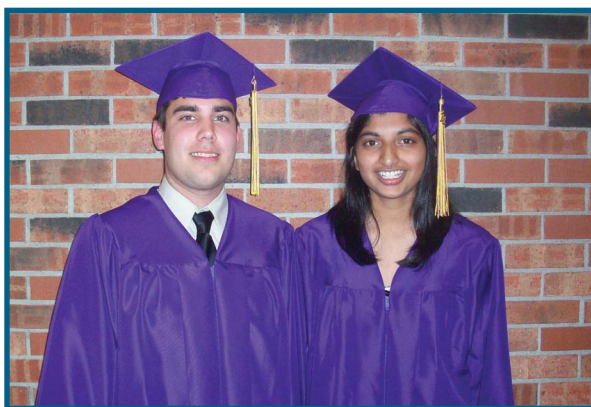
Write-off contest award recipients were **Nomin Jagdagdorj** – Superior in Computer Design: Advertisement; **Brett Stover** – Superior in Copy Editing/Headline Writing; **Hylee Won** – Superior in Magazine Illustration; **Daphne Yu** – Superior in Newswriting; **Stazi Prost** – Excellent in Yearbook Copy/Caption; **Paige Martin** – Honorable Mention in Computer Design: Photoshop Art; **Raj Satpathy** and **Tyler Dunlap** – Honorable Mention in Broadcast: Sports Play-by-Play; **Maddie Magruder** and **Julia Schaller** – Honorable Mention in Short Documentary; **Hagar Gov-Ari** – Honorable Mention in Editorial Writing; **Ipsa Chaudhary** – Honorable Mention in Literary Magazine Layout and **Maria Kalaitzandonakes** – Honorable Mention in Broadsheet Layout.

## WEST JUNIOR STUDENT EARNS SECOND IN STATE ESSAY CONTEST

West Junior High School ninth grade student **Stephanie Kang** took second place in the 9-12 category of the

# CLASS OF 2013 LEADERS SPEAK

## HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS



Adam Suppes & Maya Ramachandran

“

Columbia Public Schools has really given me the freedom to develop as a person. – **KATELYN RACE**

Columbia Public Schools has been about freedom with responsibility and opportunities that I know I could not find anywhere else. – **KATHARINE HARLINE**

My time in Columbia Public Schools has taught me that you can work hard and succeed and have fun at the same time. – **DAVID WANG**

Columbia Public Schools has meant an opportunity to grow in my education with the freedom I need to fully reach my potential. – **KUN QIAN**

Meeting some great new friends, learning to try my best and push myself and go forward and working with some great teachers. – **PAIGE SELMAN**

In Columbia Public Schools I have had the opportunity to explore whatever subjects I wanted in however deep I wanted to go into them. – **ATREYO GHOSH**

## DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2013



”

All of my teachers, friends and classmates have taught and inspired me immensely. – **MAYA RAMACHANDRAN**

Columbia Public Schools has been enjoyable. I have grown as a person and it has prepared me for the challenges of college. – **ADAM SUPPES**

Throughout the years in Columbia Public Schools, I can say that I found myself. I have tried so many different things, things that showed me who I am and where I want to go in the future. – **MORGAN WIDHALM**

## ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS



L to R: Rachel Kiehne, Atreyo Ghosh, Paige Selman, Katharine Harline, David Wang, Jacob Freyermuth, Kun Qian, Samuel Mulholland, Michael Nemec, Katelyn Race, Mason Sherman, Morgan Widhalm, Not pictured – William Swift

”

Rock Bridge has really been a second home for me. It is where I meet my friends every day. I get to meet great teachers and great people all around. – **MASON SHERMAN**

It has taught me hard work and dedication. – **RACHEL KIEHNE**

I really enjoyed my years in Columbia Public Schools. It gave me a great opportunity to get education that I can really use in real life. That is something valuable I will always take with me. – **JACOB FREYERMUTH**

I have enjoyed my time here. My teachers have been awesome. It has really been a good time. – **MICHAEL NEMEC**

CPS has been all about getting a great education and making some awesome friendships. – **SAMUEL MULHOLLAND**





## TEACHERS IN TANZANIA

A trio of Paxton Keeley Elementary School teachers spent the month of May in Tanzania, working with University of Missouri teaching students and Tanzanian youth benefiting more than just Tanzanian students.

Jane Welman, a teacher at Paxton Keeley Elementary on the trip said, "It was an amazing trip - educationally, professionally and personally. Just wonderful."

Welman, an ELL (English Language Learners) teacher said, the experience proved very beneficial. "I have kids who come from Africa and we have a large ELL population as well as many MU students who come and work in our building. It was an extension of my professional development."

Elaine Hassemer, Paxton Keeley principal, helped get the ball rolling. The dean of the MU College of Education is a Paxton Keeley parent and the district and MU are Partners In Education. Discussions between the two led to the trip featuring the Paxton Keeley teachers.

"We are very involved with MU and this was a wonderful opportunity that the faculty and students would benefit from so very much," said Hassemer.

Kathryn Chaval, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Education at MU, was a part of the first group of MU students who took the trip in 2012. She saw the need for additional support for those teachers in

training.

"There are different challenges so they have to come up with creative solutions," Chaval said. "They were falling into traditional classroom mistakes and we needed experienced hands with them."

The Paxton Keeley trio, consisting of Welman, Kristin Nies and Tara Gutshall worked alongside the MU students to provide assistance and guidance. "They all were a delight to work with," Welman said of the students, "to collaborate with teachers in the beginning of their careers."

"I saw that no matter where you are, you strive for the best for the children," Welman said. "It was a wonderful opportunity for professionals at my level or at the MU students' level to see life through a different lens."

A week and a half after returning, Nies said "It is still difficult to process it all. I keep reflecting back to the fact that kids in America and kids in Tanzania are eager and excited to learn."

Nies shared her experiences with her fifth grade class, who she had to leave for the month-long trip. "I showed them a slideshow and artifacts that I brought back. That was one of my favorite components, bringing that back to my kids here. I look forward to working it into my classroom instruction in the fall. The experience is not finished yet."



Missouri Law Day Essay Contest. There were 13 finalists in her category. The Missouri Bar Young Lawyer's Selection and the Missouri National Education Association sponsor the contest. Stephanie will receive \$200 and will attend an awards presentation in Jefferson City.

### PARKADE WINS MUSTANGS 5K STAMPEDE TROPHY

Congratulations to **Parkade Elementary School** for taking home the Mustangs 5K Stampede participation trophy for the second year in a row. Parkade had 28 participants in the Blue Ridge Elementary School Mustangs 3rd Annual 5K Stampede held on Saturday, April 28. A special thank-you to all the other runners representing seven other schools in the Columbia Public School District: Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, 8 runners; Blue Ridge Elementary School, 13; Cedar Ridge Elementary School, 10; Mill Creek Elementary School, 1; Shepard Boulevard Elementary School, 2; Gentry Middle School, 2; and Lange Middle School, 7.

### HICKMAN ACADEMIC TEAM TAKES SECOND IN STATE

The Hickman High School Academic Team won second place in the MSHSAA State Scholar Bowl Tournament on May 4 at Memorial Union on the University of Missouri campus. The Hickman team was undefeated until it lost to the team of Ladue Horton Watkins High School, which is ranked number one in the nation. The Hickman team included **Itamar Naveh-Benjamin, James Dolezal, Alex Harmata, Mingu Kim, Andy Sun, and Adam Suppes.**

### HICKMAN STUDENT EARNS WRESTLING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Hickman High School senior **J'Den Cox** has received the 2013 Dave Schultz High School Excellence Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. J'Den, a four-time Missouri High School State Champion with a record of 205-3 at Hickman, is the Central Region winner for 2013. He will be attending the University of Missouri this fall as a projected heavyweight.

### MILL CREEK STUDENT COUNCIL RAISES \$3,000 FOR CHARITIES

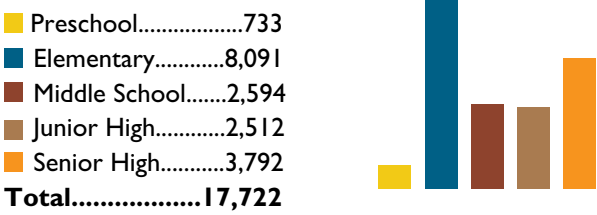
The Mill Creek Elementary School student council had a successful year, raising \$3,000 in donations for several charities, including Heaven Hats Foundation, Salvation Army, American Red Cross and Coyote Hill. Students also collected 322 hats, mittens and gloves to donate to those in need as well as 480 pounds of food for the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. The Mill Creek student council is sponsored by teachers **Kim Harl and Janette Henry.**

### BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZED FOR ADVANCEMENT OF EXCELLENCE

The Columbia Board of Education has been recognized by the Missouri School Boards Association with the 2013 Governance Team Award for its efforts to advance excellence in public education through school board governance.

STUDENT FACTS

Enrollment



Special program enrollment

Adult education.....	5,866
English Language Learners.....	1,954
Gifted education.....	1,488
Parents As Teachers children served.....	2,021
Special education.....	3,786
Career education.....	1,806

Projected enrollment

2013 – 2014.....	17,987
2014 – 2015.....	18,198
2015 – 2016.....	18,323

Racial composition

White.....	62.7%
Black.....	20.2%
Asian.....	4.9%
Hispanic.....	5.7%
Multi.....	5.8%
Other.....	0.7%

STAFF FACTS

Staffing ratios

Students to all teachers.....	13 to 1
Students to administrators.....	235 to 1
Students to classroom teachers.....	20 to 1

Teachers

Full-time equivalent (FTE).....	1,299
---------------------------------	-------

Average salary

Columbia.....	\$47,435
Missouri estimate.....	\$45,709

Average years of experience

CPS.....	13
Missouri.....	12.4

Teachers with a Master’s degree or higher

CPS.....	72.4%
Missouri.....	58.8%

Administration

Principals, assistant principals, directors, supervisors, coordinators central office staff (FTE)..... 114

Average Salary

Columbia.....	\$86,619
Missouri estimate.....	\$84,794

STUDENT SUPPORT

Secretaries, aides, food service, guidance, transportation, security, PAT, nurses, mental health, custodians, technology staff (FTE).....875

FINANCIAL FACTS

\*Figures are projected pending finalization of the 2012 – 2013 expenditures.

Total revenue (projected).....\$224.2 million

Sources of revenue

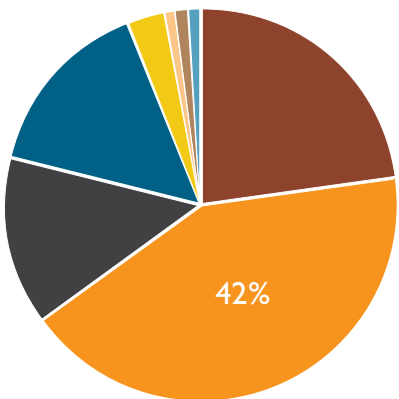
Local.....	62%
Intermediate.....	1%
State.....	25%
Federal.....	6%
Bonds.....	4%
Other revenue sources.....	2%

Total expenditures.....\$255.4 million

Average expenditure per pupil.....	\$9,419
Students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.....	40%
Student attendance rate (K-12).....	94.4%
Volunteers.....	19,783
Volunteer hours.....	350,735
Dollar value of service.....	\$7,642,515

HOW FUNDS WERE USED

Incidental fund.....	23%
Teacher’s fund.....	42%
Capital projects.....	14%
Debt. service.....	15%
Nutrition services.....	3%
Student extracurricular fund.....	1%
Grants & donations.....	1%
Adult education.....	1%



Property tax rate.....	5.4019
(per \$100 assessed valuation)	
Tax levy uses.....	\$1.6293 operating fund
	\$2.7000 teachers fund
	\$.9219 debt service fund
	\$0.1507 capital fund

WHERE DO GRADUATES GO?

College.....	72.2%
Employment.....	11.9%
Post-secondary.....	2.3%
Military.....	2.5%
Other.....	5.0%

College Enrollment

72.2% of the district’s students attend college compared to 68.5% statewide.

MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Columbia’s students continue to achieve high on formal standardized tests, as district meets 14 out of 14 state standards.

MAP performance

Columbia Public Schools 2012 MAP results remained consistent with last year’s scores. Overall, results show an upward trend over the last five years, with the last two years indicating the highest scores thus far. The 2012 MAP results also include data from end-of-course exams in Algebra I/Integrated I, English II and biology. Students performed at or above the state on English and biology and slightly below the state on algebra. All schools will focus on how the results of these assessments can help measure progress toward the district’s school improvement and student achievement goals.

Explore Achievement Test

Columbia students’ average scores exceeded national averages on all assessed areas.

Plan Achievement Test

Columbia students’ average scores exceed state and national averages on all assessed areas.

American College Test (ACT)

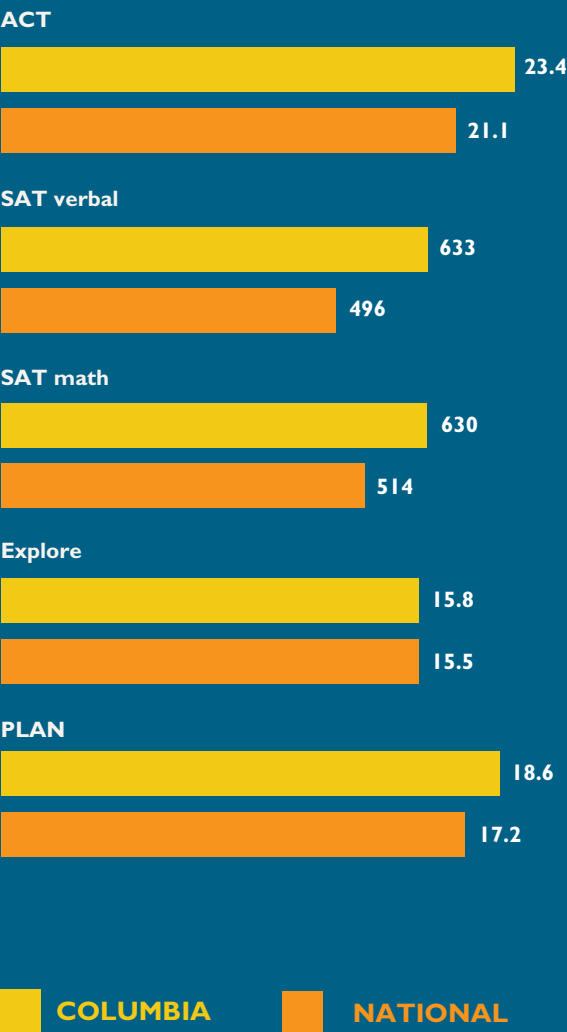
Columbia students’ average ACT scores exceeded state and national averages on all assessed areas. Approximately 73 percent of the district’s students take this college-admissions test each year.

Advanced Placement Exams (AP)

The number of Columbia high school students taking AP exams continues to grow. Each year, district students take approximately 1,000 course exams with 82 percent earning AP credit.



# STUDENTS SURPASS NATIONAL AVERAGES



# ADULT LEARNERS RECEIVE THEIR GED

The 2013 round of graduations came to a close on the first day of June with the GED graduation, held at the Missouri Theatre. The ceremony was the culmination of a journey for some of the Adult Learning Center’s 800 students, split almost evenly between those seeking their GED and those enrolled in English as a Second Language classes.

“Students range in age from 17 to 70,” said Christi Phillips, coordinator of the Adult Learning and Literacy program.

Because a GED student may take the test and earn a degree at any time, many of the almost 90 graduates in the program during the 2012-13 school year did not participate in the graduation ceremony. “We could have had a student earn their diploma the day after graduation last year - technically they are a 2013 graduate, even though

they have been out of school for almost a year,” Phillips said.

The GED program is based out of Douglass High School, but it has offices throughout mid-Missouri. Any student who is at least 17 and not currently enrolled in high school is eligible.

Around 35 students did take part in the graduation ceremony, which featured a speech by 2013 graduate Nakia Bowen. Bowen dropped out at 17, had two children, was married and divorced and then tragically paralyzed from the waist down in a tree-cutting accident. But at 28 she earned her degree – a success she proudly spoke of to the graduates. Bowen said she now has her eyes on a teaching career.

17 to 70



# CSIP: COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



To be the best school district  
in the state

- Student achievement as the priority
  - Elimination of achievement disparities
  - Diversity
  - Equitable curriculum and learning opportunities to prepare all students for citizenship, careers and college
- Learner engagement
  - Highly qualified staff
  - Professionalism
  - Collaboration
  - Innovation
  - Data-driven decisions
  - Adequate technology resources and support
  - A culture of dignity



To provide an excellent  
education for all students

- A safe learning environment
  - Quality facilities
  - Appropriate instructional resources
  - Partnerships between schools, parents and the entire Columbia community
- Open, proactive communication
  - Visionary leadership
  - Excellent fiscal management and accountability
  - Efficient, judicious use of public resources

# ENGINEERING PROGRAM

## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

An advance in Columbia Public Schools’ engineering program has arrived with the first steps into Project Lead The Way, a nationwide curriculum expanding in Columbia after a successful first year.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a program that provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs to middle and high schools. Founded in upstate New York in 1986, PLTW went statewide in New York in 1997 and grew to its current nationwide status thereafter. More than 4,700 schools in the country are offering PLTW courses.

Getting Project Lead The Way to Columbia took some doing from the state, teachers and the superintendent.

“The first class went well. It was a jumping off point. Next year we will get to the middle schools to get them into the engineering pipeline. – Craig Adams

“We had looked at this for years,” said Craig Adams, practical arts coordinator for the school district.

“But it was a costly program. Dr. Belcher came in and asked ‘why don’t we have this?’ Linda Rawlings, Career Center director, and I worked at it and when the state said it was enhancement grant eligible, we jumped, because it was now not as costly.”

Project Lead The Way in the Columbia Public

Schools was started as a pre-engineering program, offering the class Intro to Engineering to freshmen and sophomores. The class was able to use the industry-grade software to design, model and print in 3-D whatever they wanted or needed.

“We asked them to design a cell phone case, using their own phone as a model,” Adams said. “Need a part? Then design it, model it, print it and use it.”

The printing part comes from a 3-D printing process called “additive printing.” Picture a glue gun filled with material that looks like the reel on the end of a weed-wacker and you can start to get the picture. That material sets and hardens when expelled, forming the piece the student needs to fulfill his or her design dream.

“Next year, we will offer a course in programming,” said Adams. “The first class went well. It was a jumping off point. Next year, we will get to the middle schools to get them into the engineering pipeline.”

If students take two courses in the PLTW program, they can then pass a test and earn three credits at Missouri State University. “That is a big deal,” Adams said, “walking onto campus with three credits in your pocket.

“Over 150 kids took the first course we offered. There is a demand for it - a need for it.”



The district is also committing to iPads in a big way, with Battle High School leading the movement. Every student at Battle will receive an iPad Mini at the beginning of the school

year, allowing the school to forgo

purchasing textbooks for its opening in the fall. A full third of Battle’s library is in the form of e-books, which means fewer shelves had to be purchased for bound books.

Battle High School Principal Kim Presko said, “We are going to be a digital school.” All of the meetings were done on iPads and teachers will teach with the iPad. Presko was instrumental in making that happen. “It is a pilot program that we will explore and look to expand.”

Advanced placement students at Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools will also have iPads available to them. This is due to an increase in the desire to take advanced placement classes, but not having the textbooks available for all the students.

Another technical education tool is MyOn Reader. Media Specialist Kerry Townsend explained the program as an online database of around 4,500 e-books.

“Students can access them on a computer or tablet. It tracks your reading, giving the student more challenging books over time, but still allowing for their choices.”

Started as a pilot program in some of the district’s elementary schools, by fall MyOn Reader will be at all 19 elementary schools. The district has also expanded the program to three and four-year-olds, getting word out at the public library and by other means.

“We gave the preschool students logins for the summer,” Townsend said. “We have had challenges getting the word out, but a student can download up to 20 books at a time, read them and then reload.”

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATES AT CPS

With today’s technology in constant evolution, Columbia Public Schools has upgraded some of its systems to stay on the leading edge for students.



Beginning August 1, new families to Columbia Public Schools will be able to register their student online. This new advancement for the schools will allow parents to complete all of the necessary paperwork, saving them manual entry time and paper.

Wireless Internet availability has been upgraded into all district buildings. “We just completed it,” Chris Diggs, director of technology services for the district, said. “We now have the ability for blanket coverage in every single school, and we have designed it for dense coverage with the idea that every student might have a device.”

# NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS NEW CHANGES

The opening of the 2013-14 school year will bring about big changes for the school district, including the opening of Battle High School, a reorganization of the secondary level and changes to the school day's start and finish times.

## TIME CHANGES:

Most elementary schools will start at **8:20 a.m.** and end at **3:20 p.m.**

- Lee and Benton elementary schools will start at **7:55 a.m.** and end at **2:55 p.m.**
- Ridgeway Elementary School will start at **7:40 a.m.** and end at **2:55 p.m.**
- Midway Heights, New Haven and Two Mile Prairie elementary schools will start at **7:40 a.m.** and end at **2:40 p.m.**

Middle schools will start at **7:30 a.m.** and end at **2:35 p.m.**

High schools will start at **8:55 a.m.** and end the day at **4:05 p.m.**

1,000 - a number that will grow each school year until it is near the 1,800 figure.

In making the move, ninth graders, formerly the highest ranking students at their respective junior high schools, now become freshmen in the high schools. Benefits include no longer needing to bus students to high schools for advanced classes or for those who play sports above their grade level. Benefits also include reducing the number of building transitions for the students from four down to three and reducing the enrollment in each of the secondary schools. This will help the district move out of the temporary classrooms, a goal of Superintendent Chris Belcher.

There will also be changes to the times students will attend school. After much public input and discussion, the school board voted to change the start times to incorporate the new high school, reorganization and boundary changes.

The changes are in part due to the bus system. According to school board President Christine King, the routes with the highest number of riders are high school and elementary school. Placing those back-to-back would not leave enough time for the buses to turn around to get to the next round of stops.

"It was always about what was best for the students and the community," King said. "It is not a negative, just a change. Financially, it is more effective and it sets us up for the future. In the end, we are not vastly different from other districts."

"There was not a consensus, no perfect answer," said Belcher. "When the proposal had high school first, some did not like that. When it was elementary first, some did not like that. We had to find the best answer for our students and schools."

“  
*It was always about what was best for the students and the community.*  
– Christine King  
”

# SUMMER BOND WORK

The summer is when some of the large-scale projects stemming from the voter-approved bonds from 2010 and 2012 really begin to surface. Once the majority of students and teachers have left for the summer, work on windows, roofs and parking lots can begin. Summer bond work underway includes:

- New signs at the three former junior highs – Jefferson, Oakland and West - which are now middle schools starting in the fall
- Heating and air conditioning upgrades combined with energy efficient window replacement at West Middle School; renovations to the locker room and Family And Consumer Sciences kitchen; cost of West renovations – \$3.8 million
- At Jefferson Middle School, asbestos abatement and window replacement; temporary air conditioning will be in place for the 2013-14 year and next summer a full air conditioning project will take place; additional roof work will also take place; cost of work at Jefferson – \$3.3 million
- Additional HVAC work at Lange and Oakland middle schools as well as Derby Ridge Elementary School
- Several sections of roof replaced at Cedar Ridge Elementary School
- Air conditioning and window work at Field School
- Midway Heights Elementary School will have site work done to its parking lots, creating a second entrance, and upgrades to the water line; cost at Midway Heights – \$1.07 million
- At Hickman High School, the FACS kitchen is getting a remodel; work will also take place on the school's parking lot, tennis courts, football and softball fields, wrestling room, restrooms and concession area; costs at Hickman – \$4.3 million
- Rock Bridge High School will see its former wrestling room turned into four classrooms

"Around one-third of the district's buildings will undergo some sort of bond-related work during the summer," said Nick Boren, the district's deputy superintendent.

The reorganization of the secondary level has been an ongoing process since fall of 2010. The biggest challenge was reorganizing Columbia Public Schools' three-tiered secondary level, made up of middle schools, junior highs and high schools, down to two levels while also incorporating the opening of Battle High School, Columbia's third comprehensive high school.

Last redrawn in 1999, boundary lines had to be changed to accommodate Battle's addition as well as the district's middle schools (Lange, Gentry and Smithton) and junior highs (Jefferson, Oakland and West), combining to form one middle school level.

The changes will result in each of the three comprehensive high schools spanning grades nine through 12 with the ability to house approximately 1,800 students each. Battle began with 450 summer school students, and this fall there will be just over