

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fall 2021

Community CONNECTIONS

District News • Community Ed Offerings • and more!



OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools
Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner
"All Belong, All Succeed"

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Community Connections is an official publication of Columbia Heights Public Schools written, edited and produced by the Communications Department.

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If you would like to join the Advisory Council or have any questions, contact Kristen Stuenkel at 763.528.4515.

Community Education Department

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The Community Education Office will be closed: Sept. 6, Oct. 22, Nov. 25-26, Dec. 23-24, Dec. 30-31

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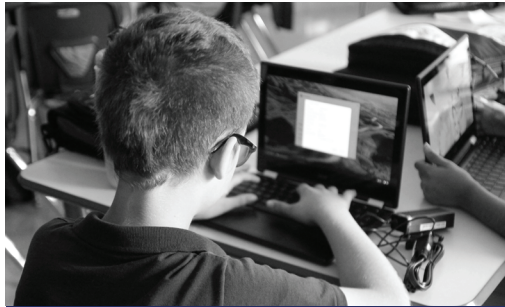
Welcome to Columbia Heights Public Schools



Blooming Heights

Edible Schoolyard & Outdoor Classroom

- Garden/Agriculture programming in classrooms, Blooming Heights and North Park Elementary's courtyard
- ENCORE enrichment programs
- Blooming Heights educational YouTube videos
- Cooking and nutrition programs
- Assistant programs for high school students



Personalized Learning

- 1:1 Chromebooks grades K-12 and consistent access to devices for PreK
- Ongoing professional development for teachers modeling personalized learning tools and practices
- Instructional/in-class coaching and support from Technology Integration Specialists
- Technology-based family engagement tools



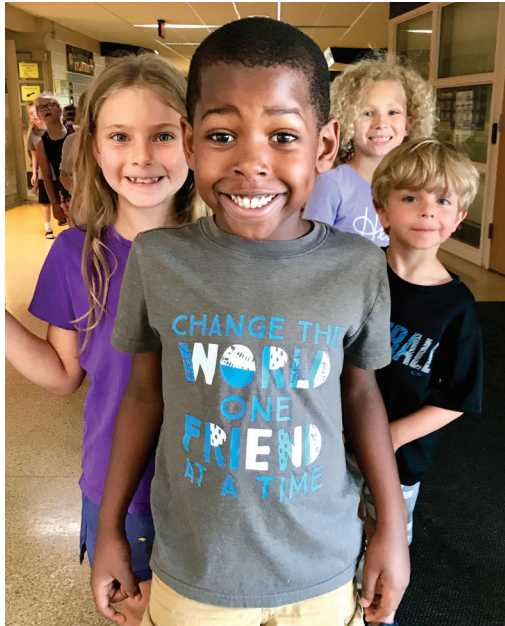
Activities & Athletics

- Middle- and high-school sports: football, soccer, swimming, tennis, volleyball, adapted soccer, bowling, basketball, gymnastics, wrestling, baseball, softball, lacrosse, synchronized swimming and track
- Activities for elementary, middle, and high school: chess, drama (plays and musicals), Knowledge Bowl, math team, Future Problem Solvers, Destination Imagination, robotics and speech



Early Learning

- Early Childhood Family Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- PreK 3
- One-to-one parent visits
- Early Childhood Screening
- Mini Adventures child care program
- Monthly Early Childhood special events
- Collaborative storytime with CH Library



Elementary (FREE PreK 4-Grade 5)

- STEM and World Languages
- AVID
- Social Emotional Learning
- Responsive Classroom
- Art, music and PE
- Gifted and Talented instruction
- ENCORE enrichment programs



Columbia Academy (Grades 6-8)

- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering courses
- AVID
- Advanced courses
- Student uniforms
- Enrichment courses such as media and visual arts, music, band, PE and theater
- ENCORE enrichment programs



Columbia Heights High School (Grades 9-12)

- Early College, Advanced Placement®, College Possible, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
- AVID
- State- and nationally-recognized arts programs
- Genesys Works career preparation program
- Eight class periods offer expanded choice of electives such as music, band, theater
- ENCORE enrichment programs
- Project Lead the Way engineering courses
- Career and Technical Education programs



Community Education

- Adventure Club child care program
- ENCORE aquatics classes
- Summer sports camps
- Adult enrichment and senior programming
- Senior Event Pass for free access to events
- Adult Basic Education: English classes, GED preparation, citizenship classes and job training

Adult Enrichment

Some classes are in-person and some are online. If you'd like to attend an online class, but are not able to use a computer, contact us and we will try to accommodate you with a private or class atmosphere with the online instructor. For full class descriptions and instructor bios, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd.

For virtual classes, Zoom links will be sent to all registered participants one week and again one day before the class takes place. Participants must register – even for FREE classes – to ensure the instructor can prepare appropriately and minimum enrollment is met.

SENIOR

Defensive Driving | 8-hour Class

Wed & Thurs	Sept. 22-23	5:30-9:30 p.m.	\$30 (2 classes)	Virtual via Zoom
Wed & Thurs	Dec. 8-9	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	\$30 (2 classes)	Virtual via Zoom

Defensive Driving Refresher

Tuesday	Sept. 28	4:30-8:30 p.m.	\$30 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
Tuesday	Nov. 23	1-5 p.m.	\$30 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom

Health Care Fraud

Thursday	Oct. 7	6:30-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Zoom
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Medicare 101

Tuesday	Oct. 26	6:30-8 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Zoom
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Everything You Want to Know about Medicare

Thursday	Nov. 4	6:30-8 p.m.	FREE	FC Room 111
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Healthcare Directives

Thursday	Nov. 18	6:30-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Zoom
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Ten Warnings Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia

Tuesday	Dec. 14	6:30-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Zoom
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MN Help Network

Thursday	Dec. 16	6:30-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Zoom
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WELLNESS

Yoga

Come explore the ancient exercise system that strengthens the body while calming and focusing the mind.

Tuesdays	Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28	5:30-6:30 p.m.	\$36 (4 classes)	FC Room 113
Tuesdays	Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26	5:30-6:30 p.m.	\$36 (4 classes)	FC Room 113
Tuesdays	Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30	5:30-6:30 p.m.	\$36 (4 classes)	FC Room 113
Tuesdays	Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28	5:30-6:30 p.m.	\$36 (4 classes)	FC Room 113

Zumba

Take the “work” out of workout! Mix low- and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. This class presented in partnership with the Columbia Heights Recreation Department.

Saturdays	Sept. 25, Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30	9:30-10:30 a.m.	\$45 (5 classes)	Murzyn Hall
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Drop in to any of these dates.
\$10 per class. Register separately.



TEACH A CLASS ★

Do you have knowledge, ideas or passions you'd like to share with others? **Consider teaching a Community Education class!**

For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/AdultEnrichment or contact Adult Enrichment/Senior Program Manager Amáda Márquez Simula at 763.528.4591 or SimulaA@colheights.k12.mn.us.

Sewing Machine Maintenance

Tuesday	Oct. 12	6:30-8:30 p.m.	\$10 (1 class)	FC Room 111
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Modern Art Appreciation | Movements, Masterpieces and Artists

Saturday	Oct. 16	10 a.m.-Noon	\$18 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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Modern Sculpture Appreciation | From Impressionism to Mid-20th Century

Wednesday	Oct. 27	6-8 p.m.	\$18 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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Contemporary Art Appreciation | Styles, Ideas and Artists

Saturday	Nov. 6	10 a.m.-Noon	\$18 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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Contemporary Sculpture Appreciation | From Mid-20th Century to Present Day

Wednesday	Nov. 17	6-8 p.m.	\$18 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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ART

Participants will receive an extensive handout along with the link to join prior to class. There will be ample time for questions during the session, and participants will receive a link to the recording afterward.

All About Pasta

Thursday	Sept. 23	6:30-8 p.m.	\$20 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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Holiday Hacks

Thursday	Oct. 21	6:30-8 p.m.	\$20 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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Air Fryer Veggies

Thursday	Nov. 4	6:30-8 p.m.	\$20 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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Desserts

Monday	Nov. 15	6:30-8 p.m.	\$20 (1 class)	Virtual via Zoom
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COOKING

Building a Better Back Yard for Pollinators

How can you attract more pollinators, such as butterflies, bees, and birds to your yard? This class will introduce the idea of landscaping that deliberately keeps pollinators' habitats in mind with plants that offer food, cover and nesting sites. This class is offered by the Columbia Heights Public Library in support of City of Columbia Heights Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Register through the Columbia Heights Library website at anokacounty.us or call 763.706.3690.

Tuesday	Sept. 21	6-7:30 p.m.	FREE	CH Library
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Real Estate | Home-Buying Seminar

Visualize your journey toward owning a home.

Tuesday	Oct. 5	6:30-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Saturday	Oct. 16	10:30-11:30 a.m.	FREE	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday	Nov. 30	6:30-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Saturday	Dec. 4	10:30-11:30 a.m.	FREE	Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Star Watching with Mike Lynch

Make the stars your old friends as we watch the great Halloween celestial show in the skies over Fridley/Columbia Heights with Mike Lynch, retired WCCO meteorologist. Bring lawn chairs to make yourself comfy in this socially-distanced class.

Thursday	Sept. 23	7-8:30 p.m.	\$35 per family *Limit 5 people.	Fridley Community Center
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Supporting Our Parents as They Transition

Hear from experts in home organizing, home selling, assisted living/nursing home communities, and probate. Learn how to prepare as a family for a smooth transition and downsize for an aging parent or loved one.

Saturday	Nov. 6	10-11:30 a.m.	FREE	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday	Nov. 9	6-7:30 p.m.	FREE	Virtual via Microsoft Teams

SPECIAL INTEREST

EQUITY

Discussing Race & Racism (Even When It's Uncomfortable)

As a white person, talking about race and racism is hard and can be very uncomfortable. Let's practice discussing race and racism in healthy, productive ways. This group is designed for white people, but all are welcome. This is a shared class with First Lutheran Church.

Wednesdays Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13 6-7:30 p.m. FREE First Lutheran Church

Native American Storytelling | History of the Ojibwa-Anishanabe

Join Ojibwa-Anishanabe storyteller Bud Johnston of Pipestone as he shares the history and traditions of his American Indian tribe and breaks down cultural stereotypes. This is a shared class with the Minneapolis Public Schools Community Ed program.

Monday Oct. 11 7-8 p.m. FREE Virtual via Zoom

Mississippi Watershed Protection | Community Actions for Protecting Water and Habitat

Join the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) in a discussion around community-led actions to protect water quality and build habitat in our community and beyond. From DIY projects to community-organized events, communities lead the way towards a healthier local environment.

Thursday Oct. 14 6:30-8 p.m. FREE Virtual via Zoom

Celebrating MN's African American Community

Members of Minnesota's Black Community Project will discuss the making of "Minnesota's Black Community in the 21st Century" book contributes to the history of Minnesota African Americans professions during the pre- and post-Civil Rights era. This is a shared class of the Minneapolis Public Schools Community Ed program.

Tuesday Oct. 26 6-7:30 p.m. FREE Virtual via Zoom

The Story of a Personal Attack | 'We See You, Jew'

Dr. Ellen Kennedy received an anonymous and threatening message in her email one morning with the subject line "We See You, Jew." Kennedy – who is Jewish – will discuss the alarming spike in antisemitism locally and globally; her response to the attack; and the need to stand up against hate and xenophobia in our communities, our state, and in our nation. In partnership with World Without Genocide.

Thursday Oct. 28 6:30-8 p.m. FREE In Person, FC Room 111

What You Always Wanted to Know about Islam and Muslims

Always wanted to learn more about Islam and Muslims? The class will introduce basic terminology, demographics, and differences between religion and culture. You will learn about the beliefs and practices of Muslims as well as religious celebrations. Discussion and Q&A are welcome. In partnership with the Islamic Resource Group.

Tuesday Nov. 16 6:30-8 p.m. FREE Virtual via Zoom



Equity classes provided in collaboration with HeightsNEXT.

HeightsNEXT is a local 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to build a resilient and sustainable community in Columbia Heights. For more information, visit [HeightsNEXT.org](https://heightsnext.org).

Metro North Adult Basic Education

Reading, Writing, Math, GED Preparation

Monday-Friday	9 a.m.-Noon	In person or online
Tuesday-Thursday	6-7:30 p.m.	Online only

English as a Second (or other) Language (ESL) | Levels 1-3

Monday-Friday	9 a.m.-Noon	In person or online
Tuesday-Thursday	6-7:30 p.m.	Online only

Advanced ESL

Monday-Friday	9 a.m.-Noon	In person or online
Tuesday-Thursday	6-7:30 p.m.	Online only

FREE classes for adults!

Day and evening class times available!

Adult Education Center – Columbia Heights/Fridley

4111 Central Ave. NE, Suite 100

Columbia Heights, MN

How to Register

To register for classes, call 763.706.3833 or complete the online interest form available at metronorthabe.org and someone will contact you.

Class times may vary.



Columbia Heights Public Schools is one of Minnesota's only school districts with an outdoor classroom and living laboratory used by educators and students. Blooming Heights is a great place to learn hands-on gardening skills, and to use math, science, literacy, art and nutrition.

Learn more at colheights.k12.mn.us/BloomingHeights.

Columbia Heights Public Schools Welcomes New High School Principal

Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) welcomes Todd Wynne as the next Columbia Heights High School (CHHS) Principal. The CHPS Board of Education approved the recommendation of Wynne at its June 8, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting. Wynne began his role July 1, 2021 in which he will work to develop and maintain educational programs which align with increasing academic achievement and creating college and career-ready students.

"[CHPS] is very unique. The District is small, has a strong sense of community, and has robust course offerings and opportunities for all students that you would expect in larger school districts," said Wynne about what drew him to this principalship. "CHHS is rich in tradition and academic success and takes pride in the diverse school population we serve. Throughout the interview process and interactions with the staff and district leadership team I could feel the positive energy and love for kids."

In his role as CHHS Principal, Wynne will be responsible for meeting the diverse academic needs of over 1,000 students in grades 9-12. He will also lead, develop and support approximately 100 staff members.



Wynne comes to the District with over two decades of education experience including both teaching and administrative roles at all levels – elementary, middle and high school.

"I have been a high school social studies teacher, grades K-8 PE teacher, athletic director, dean, assistant principal, and principal," he said of his background. "I was fortunate to work with amazing students, staff, and school communities ranging from a very rural, small town school to one of the largest and most diverse middle schools in the country."

Wynne brings a great philosophy to the District – that all students can learn and have a right to a high-quality education.

"Our role as educators is to meet every student where they are and to support their academic, social, and emotional needs through quality teaching and strong relationships," he said.

"My goal is to help maintain a safe and caring school culture where all students and staff feel like they belong," Wynne noted of what he hopes to achieve at CHHS. "I am driven to ensure students have the tools, resources and confidence to have success after high school. I also understand the importance of creating strong relationships with the elementary and middle schools that feed into CHHS, and want to grow and foster these relationships."

"Principal Wynne comes to us with a great deal of experience as a school leader," said Superintendent Zena Stenvik. "His enthusiasm for CHPS was apparent from the first time we met. He is committed to our district's mission and is sure to form strong connections with our families, students and staff."

Wynne noted families can expect him to be visible, approachable and to always listen.

"I love my job and I hope it shows in all that I do," he said.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Department at 763.528.4588.

Driver's Education

Students will receive a total of 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. The classroom portion consists of ten, three-hour classes and the behind-the-wheel portion is three, two-hour private lessons. Pre-registration is required with a \$215 down payment payable to CH Community Education. Classes offered through Safeway Driving School. The additional \$140 is payable to the instructor. For more information, contact Safeway at 651.351.9150 or visit safewaydrivingschool.com.

Parents/guardians will be required to complete Safeway's Account Verification. Safeway will send out an email before class begins that gives detailed information about how to login to the student's Safeway account to verify and complete contact information and to review and acknowledge our Service Agreement.



Session 1

Monday-Thursday

Sept. 13-28

3:15-6:15 p.m.

Session 2

Monday-Thursday

Nov. 29-Dec. 14

3:15-6:15 p.m.

The following **MUST** be provided during registration:

- Student full legal name (first, middle and last)
- Home address
- Parent email addresses
- Student date of birth
- Student email address
- Parent phone numbers

Columbia Heights Public Schools Implements Change to Chill™ with new Partnership with Allina Health

Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) has partnered with Allina Health to implement their teen mental well-being program Change to Chill™ (CTC) to its schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Initially, the program was only going to be implemented at the high school, but the District secured a \$10,000 Prairie Care grant to expand CTC to all five schools.

The partnership includes Change to Chill trainings for school staff, tailored communications for parent engagement, funding for a "Chill Zone," and a summer internship opportunity for two students at the high school.

"[Student mental health is a priority]; we need to enhance our response to students in real time by providing tools and resources for staff to implement when students exhibit a crisis," said Director of Special Education John Fry.

First launched during the 2018-2019 school year, the CTC School Partnership provides selected schools with year-long support from Allina Health, centered around student leadership, stress management and mental health training sessions for school staff, outreach and engagement with guardians and a \$1,000 grant to put toward creating a "Chill Zone" – a space created by student interns to de-stress and relax before returning to class.

This year, the focus of school partnership will be to continue meeting the unique needs of schools in their responses to the pandemic. Change to Chill staff are working with students to create new, tailored content, and utilizing its online platform to support distance learning through videos, worksheets, audio meditations and more. Students and teachers also receive support to incorporate different stress management elements into classroom and virtual learning.

"We know when teens have the resources and support to stress less, they are more resilient and able to live fuller and happier lives," said Susan Nygaard, manager of Allina Health's Community Health Improvement. "Change to Chill works as a preventive measure to equip teens with tools and resources to better manage stress and anxiety."

"Providing a CTC space and the strategies associated with the space will enhance what we are able to offer our students. Columbia Heights Public Schools provides students with mental health support that is based on student needs and best practices," Fry noted.

For more information, contact the Student Services Department at 763.528.4414.



Teaching & Learning Coordinator Named 2020-2021 CHPS Employee of the Year

Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) Research & Assessment Coordinator Disa Fabeck has been named the 2020-2021 Employee of the Year. Fabeck is the twelfth recipient of the award.

“Fabeck exemplifies the mission and core values of CHPS,” said Superintendent Zena Stenvik. “She is knowledgeable, customer service oriented and a delight to work with. I appreciate that she approaches her work with a scientific and analytical mindset.”

“My first reaction when I heard I had been selected as the Employee of the Year was of gratitude,” said Fabeck. “This past year has required a high level of flexibility and collaboration and I have been fortunate to work with a wide variety of staff. CHPS has some of the most creative, solution-seeking staff I have ever been a part of. It is a true honor to receive this recognition among the coworkers I have.”

In her coordinator role, Fabeck leads the data analysis to support the Teaching & Learning Department. She is responsible for training staff on test specifications and procedures, coordinates district-wide assessments, serves as the District’s liaison to the Minnesota Department of Education and other consortiums with respect to assessment data, and more.

Prior to her work in CHPS, Fabeck worked as a high school science and AVID teacher, club advisor, and district curriculum writer in the Anoka-Hennepin School District and then at the postsecondary level at Saint Mary’s University.

Nominators cited Fabeck as “exemplifying what a strong work ethic really is.”

“When Disa comes to assist or lead a meeting, her demeanor and overall outlook on school is positive plus,” nominators said. “Disa has welcomed assisting any staff member with Zoom meetings, preparing for testing, and helping with professional development. [She has come through] when all seems futile or lost and has positively approached situations with a glass half full attitude.”

Fabeck described how the District’s mission statement’s inclusion of “all belong, all succeed” resonates with the philosophy she brings to her role. “Every conversation and decision needs to be viewed in conjunction with what is best for our learners. We have talented, intelligent adults working daily to ensure that each and every student and family experience the opportunities and access needed for academic success and enrichment,” she said. “My goal in the work that I do is to establish a practice of excellence in equity because our community deserves it.”

“There has not been a rock she has not polished to shine blue and gold,” nominators noted. “There is not enough space or time to tell of all the great things Disa has done for CHPS.”

“Disa’s focus on creating opportunities for students is evident in her leadership with Advanced Placement, Gifted, and Assessments,” said Director of Teaching & Learning Tara Thukral. “She is dedicated to the students, staff and families of CHPS.”

“My favorite thing about working [in CHPS] is the people and the clear, equity-driven mission,” Fabeck said. “Student and family voices are encouraged in the decision-making process, staff utilize multiple data points to ensure students are getting exactly what they need to thrive, and the diverse student body is celebrated. It is because of this positive, collaborative climate that I truly enjoy being a Hylander.”

This year, 16 nominations were received for the annual recognition. To be eligible for the Employee of the Year award, individuals must be a current employee of the District, have worked at least three full years and not received the recognition before. A committee reviews the nominations and makes a selection based on criteria including work ethic, demonstration of “Heights Pride,” exemplary performance and more.



Locals Donate Over \$350,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors

Community members, along with local donors – representing foundations, businesses, memorials, individuals, and others – donated over \$350,000 in scholarships to 83 Columbia Heights High School (CHHS) seniors at the school's virtual Academic Awards Ceremony this week.

A total of 25 students were named to the "A" Honor Roll and 17 were recognized as Honor Ranking Graduates. A total of 71 students received scholarships valued at \$1,000 or more with 43 seniors presented with two or more scholarships.

Seniors Doua Chee Lee, Raghad Mohammed, Valerie Barrera Estrada, Peyton Thao, Lamee Ibrahim Waday, Modou Dibba, Samsam Mohamoud and Ahmed Ait Daoud were awarded scholarships from Wallin Education Partners. Wallin Education Partners is more than a scholarship, it is a proven college-completion program for high-potential students with financial needs. The organization has been awarding scholarships for 28 years and have helped more than 4,500 students attend and graduate college. They partner with 65 donors who share a passion to make college graduation a reality. Students awarded a Wallin scholarship receive up to \$16,000 over four years.

Seniors Jesus Romero Rivera, Jamyang Dolma, Sol Schindler, Mir Ali, Yasmin Mohamed and Catherine Salto Gonzalez were the recipients of \$12,000 scholarships courtesy of the CHHS Alumni Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1998 and, since its inception, has donated over \$680,000 in scholarships to 90 CHHS students. These scholarships are given in the names of Earl Bakken, Connie Bakken, Gerard and Marianne Herringer, Vern and Nancy Hoium, and John Dudziak.

"On behalf of the entire CHHS community, congratulations to all of the students who received scholarships at this year's academic awards," said Principal Dan Wroblewski. "We share the utmost gratitude and appreciation to all of our donors who continually provide financial support for our students' next education journey."

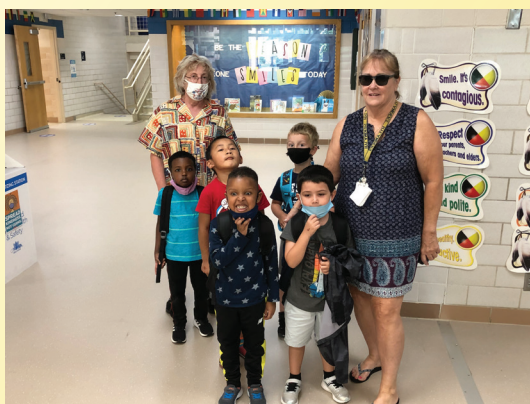
To view the ceremony video, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/2021AcademicAwards. For more information on the Academic Awards, contact the high school at 763.528.4600.



ENCORE offers extended learning opportunities focused on technology, arts, environmental studies, health/fitness and academic support. All class offerings are designed to provide students with the skills they will use to be successful in college and careers.

ENCORE is available to students in grades 1-12 who attend CHPS or live within District boundaries. Columbia Heights Recreation and the Columbia Heights Library are partners in offering ENCORE programming after school, on non-school days and in the summer.

For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/ENCORE.



Columbia Academy and Columbia Heights High School Theater Departments Earn Spotlight Recognition for “The Wizard of Oz”

The Columbia Heights High School (CHHS) and Columbia Academy (CA) Theater Departments were recognized for their accomplishments in musical theater by Hennepin Theatre Trust as a participant in the Spotlight Education program. As the Trust’s premier education program, Spotlight Education supports and honors Minnesota high school students and programs focused on musical theater.

Over 40 students and individuals participated in the schools’ production last month and earned a total of 12 recognitions. “Outstanding” recognition is the high honor, followed by “Honorable Mention.” “Shout-Outs” are a new distinction to give recognition to those students who caught the attention of the evaluators.

- Overall Production** | Honorable Mention
- Ensemble Performance** | Honorable Mention
- Overall Technical Team** | Outstanding
- Light & Sound Crew** | Outstanding
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role** | Sophie Kuether as Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz
- Honorable Mention in a Leading Role** | Jeremiah Taris-Pierce as Zeke/Lion
- Honorable Mention in a Leading Role** | Lily Kleinschmit as Scarecrow/Hunk
- Outstanding in Technical Leadership** | Renee Demars Dehn as Board Operator
- Outstanding in Technical Leadership** | Amara Thompson as Board Operator
- Evaluator Shout-Out** | Mathias Wheeler
- Evaluator Shout-Out** | Yuli Cordova-Quizhpi
- Evaluator Shout-Out** | Loulou Sadrant

“I am so proud of all of the hard work that our CHPS students put into this production,” said CA Theater Teacher Tara Lorence, who directed the joint production. “With all of the challenges that this past year has brought, they persevered and put on an amazing show!”

For more information, contact the Activities & Athletics Department at 763.528.4511.

Peter Heryla and John Rockwell Named Columbia Heights High School Alumni of Distinction

Columbia Heights High School (CHHS) alumni Peter Heryla (class of 1988) and John Rockwell (class of 1989) have been named their alma mater’s 2020/2021 Alumni of Distinction. Heryla and Rockwell are the 12th and 13th recipients of the award. An alumnus was not formally recognized last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“[When I found out] I was amazed, honored, humbled,” said Heryla. “We have been involved with the community so long and seeing who else was awarded this, they did some pretty big things and to be considered with them in the same conversation was an amazing thing.”



“You don’t work to win an award, you do it as a labor of love so I was completely surprised,” said Rockwell.

Superintendent Zena Stenvik expressed her gratitude to the alumni on behalf of the District for their decades of service to students. “From coaching student athletes, to opening the strength training program and mentoring so many students over the years, these two have made an incredibly positive impact.”

Heryla and Rockwell attended CHHS in the late 1980s and played varsity football – from which they both carry a multitude of memories.

After graduation, Heryla attended St. Olaf College while Rockwell attended Augustana University where they played football, respectively. Both eventually landed in the real estate business and partnered shortly after college graduation. The flexibility in their careers enabled them to continue their involvement in CHHS football. They were both hired by the District in the early 1990s and have been coaching the team ever since, totaling 57 years of coaching between the two of them.

“There are no two more deserving individuals than John Rockwell and Pete Heryla for the Alumni of Distinction award. They have shown so much dedication and passion for our District and schools,” said CHHS Principal Dan Wroblewski. “Pete and John’s visibility and commitment to our students has been significant. They are great role models for all our students and they truly know how to ‘Keep it REAL!’”

Heryla and Rockwell will be formally recognized in the fall by the Columbia Heights High School Alumni Scholarship Foundation.

Child Care

Adventure Club | PreK 4-Grade 5

Adventure Club programming facilitates a variety of activities to promote learning beyond the classroom including arts & crafts, guided group time, themed activities, dramatic play, cooking, games, outdoor play, science and more!

Hours, Dates, Locations & Fees

2:20-6 p.m. Regular School Days | 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Non-School Days

Programming is available at Highland, North Park and Valley View Elementary Schools.

Open most school vacations and non-school days.



Program Fees* Per Child	Registration Fee	After School	Non-School Day	Drop-In
	\$25	\$20.50	\$46	\$23.50

*Fee assistance may be available through Anoka, Ramsey or Hennepin County Child Care Assistance Programs. Contact your county for details.

Learn More

For more information including fees or to register visit colheights.k12.mn.us/ACregister or call 763.528.4517.

Mini Adventures | 36 Months-5 Years Old

Mini Adventures is a four-star Parent Aware child care program for children 36 months to 5 years old. In Mini Adventures, your child will participate in a variety of activities including mathematics, guided group time, literacy, dramatic play, music, games, outdoor play, arts & crafts, movement and more! Early Childhood Screening is required for all participants.

Independent toileting is required for children before participating.



Hours, Dates, Location & Fees

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, year-round at the Family Center.



Weekly Program Fees* Per Child	5 Days	4 Days	3 Days	2 Days	1 Day
	\$296	\$250	\$197	\$139	\$71

*Breakfast, lunch, and snack included in weekly fee. We accept County Child Care Assistance and Pathways I scholarships. Pathways II scholarships may be available for those who qualify.

Learn More

For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/Mini or call 763.528.4517. Space is limited.

Enroll your child in PreK 3 or PreK 4 for an essential educational experience!

Super Saturdays | 2 to 5 years as of Sept. 1

Join us for Saturday morning fun once per month! Children and families enjoy activities and stories together based on the theme.

Saturdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. FC Rooms 103-104 \$5 per child per session

Oct. 9 Fall Festival

Nov. 20 Dynamic Dinosaurs

Dec. 11 Winter Wonderland

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Early Childhood

For more information about Early Childhood offerings, or to register, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd.

All Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes have the same sliding fee scale and are held in the same location (FC Rooms 102-104). Rates are the for the entire year and will be prorated based upon start date.

\$24 (\$0-18,999)	\$66 (\$19,000-29,999)	\$106 (\$30,000-49,999)	\$148 (\$50,000+)
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Birth to Two | Birth to 23 months as of Sept. 1

As your young child grows, you encounter milestones and new experiences together! Start your morning by connecting with other families, who are experiencing similar joys and challenges of infants and toddlers. Enjoy engaging activities and group time with your child and gradual separation to an educator-led discussion with other parents/caregivers for part of the class time.

Thursdays **Sept. 16-June 2** **9-10:30 a.m.**

Terrific Toddlers | 12-35 months as of Sept. 1

Toddlers are curious and busy! Spend time with your child, exploring and engaging in activities, songs, and stories in the classroom for part of the morning. Engage in discussion with other parents/caregivers in an educator-led discussion, while your child interacts with peers and fun activities.

Tuesdays **Sept. 14-May 31** **9-10:30 a.m.**

Grow With Me | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

This class is a time to enjoy learning and playing together through activities designed for you and your child(ren). Boost your parenting/caregiving skills through an educator-led discussion for part of the class, while your child(ren) enjoy interacting with their peers.

Wednesdays **Sept. 15-June 1** **9-10:30 a.m.**

Play & Learn | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

Play & Learn is a great way to connect with your child(ren) after a long day! Join other families for fun activities and group time, followed by an educator-led discussion for part of the class, while your children enjoy connecting with peers and activities.

Tuesdays **Sept. 14-May 31** **4-5:30 p.m.**

NEW Virtual ECFE | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

Our new class offers families an opportunity to interact with other families from the comfort of their homes. Teacher led group time with music and stories and an educator-led discussion with parents. Activities will be provided on Seesaw and materials available for pick up. Children ages 3-5 years will receive an additional 30 minutes of instruction and support from a licensed teacher.

Mondays **Sept. 13-May 23** **9-10 a.m. for all students**
AND 10-10:30 a.m. for students ages 3-5

ECFE

ECFE for Multilingual Learners with Transportation (Spanish Only) | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

This class is designed to teach child development and basic English to both children and their parents through play and discussion. Families will enjoy learning and playing together through activities and group time with songs and stories. Parents will meet with our parent educator to learn about child development, ask questions, and receive parenting support, while learning basic English. For families with home language of Spanish.

Tuesdays **Sept. 14-May 31** **11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.**

ECFE para estudiantes multilingües con transporte (solo en español) | nacimiento hasta los 5 años a partir del 1 de septiembre

Esta clase está diseñada para enseñar el desarrollo infantil y el inglés básico tanto a los niños como a sus padres a través del juego y la discusión. Las familias disfrutarán aprendiendo y jugando juntas a través de actividades y tiempo en grupo con canciones e historias. Los padres se reunirán con nuestro educador de padres para aprender sobre el desarrollo infantil, hacer preguntas y recibir apoyo para padres, mientras aprenden inglés básico. Para familias cuyo idioma materno es el español.

Martes **14 de septiembre al 31 de mayo** **11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.**

ECFE for Multilingual Learners with Transportation | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

This class is designed to teach child development and basic English to both children and their parents through play and discussion. Families will enjoy learning and playing together through activities and group time with songs and stories. Parents will meet with our parent educator to learn about child development, ask questions, and receive parenting support, while learning basic English. For families with any home language.

Wednesdays **Sept. 15-June 1** **11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.**

Multilingual Learners

DROP-IN

Early Childhood Drop-In Pass

Purchase a Drop-In Pass for the 2021-2022 school year and attend any drop-in class requiring payment at no additional cost.

Drop-In Pass Valid September 2021-May 2022 **Fee: \$75**



Drop-In & Play | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

Looking for something fun to do with your child? Drop in with your child to play and learn in a classroom rich with materials to explore. Enjoy activities including art creations, songs, and stories with our Early Childhood Educator.

Thursdays Sept. 16-June 2 11 a.m.-Noon FC Rooms 103/104 \$5 per family collected at door OR EC Drop-In Pass

Not in session: Oct. 21, Nov. 11, 25, Dec. 23, 30 March 24, April 7

Mindful Movement | Birth to 5 years as of Sept. 1

Enjoy calming movements with your child. Mindful Movement engages the heart, mind, and body through integration of physical yoga, mindfulness activities, and social emotional learning. It is movement for your child that goes beyond the usual benefits of physical fitness, stress reduction, and mindfulness.

Mondays Sept. 13-May 23 11 a.m.-Noon FC Rooms 103/104 \$5 per family collected at door OR EC Drop-In Pass

Not in session: Dec. 27, Jan. 17 Feb. 21, Mar. 21

In Partnership with the CH Library

Join us for our collaboration with the CH Public Library! Our licensed parent educator will be available to talk to parents and caregivers about child development, parenting, and early childhood opportunities available in our programs. There is no cost to attend.

Baby Read, Baby Grow | Birth to 18 months as of Sept. 1

This opportunity includes a "Welcome Baby" bag for each new family.

Thursdays Sept. 23-Nov. 18 10:30 a.m.

Family Story Time | All ages

Includes songs, stories, and activities. This opportunity includes a "Welcome to CHPS" bag for each new family.

Mondays Sept. 20-Nov. 15 10:30 a.m.

Parenting Seminars

Join us for these FREE adult educational opportunities! Gain information and learn about strategies to support children. Share experiences with other parents/caregivers and ask questions of our licensed Parent Educator. Spanish and Somali interpreters available upon request. Child care not available. Pre-registration is required. For seminar details, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/ECFE.

Mondays 6-7:30 p.m. Family Center

Oct. 11 Strategies for Developing Routines in the Home (Focus Age: 12 and under)

Nov. 15 Developing Productive Discipline (Focus Age: 12 and under)

Dec. 13 Setting Limits and Boundaries: Establishing Success for Children at School/Child Care (Focus Age: 12 and under)

Early Childhood Screening

Promote positive health and developmental outcomes and kindergarten readiness starting at the age of three (3) years. During screening your child's speech, motor, and cognitive skills are reviewed. Your child will have their height, weight, vision, and hearing checked. You will participate in a summary interview to review the screening process, social and emotional skills, and discuss any concerns you may have. Screenings last approximately 60 minutes and are held at the Family Center. To schedule an appointment, call 763.528.4517.

Tuesday Sept. 7 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday Sept. 8 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday Oct. 1 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday Oct. 4 12:30-7 p.m.

Friday Nov. 5 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday Nov. 8 12:30-7 p.m.

Thursday Nov. 11 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Friday Dec. 3 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday Dec. 6 12:30-7 p.m.

Join the Early Childhood Advisory Council

Join the Early Childhood Advisory Council! Our council is comprised of parents and guardians involved in early childhood education and care programs. Benefits include: FREE Early Childhood Drop-In Pass, providing input and feedback, developing leadership skills, creating new friendships and support from other members, and having FUN!

Our council meets monthly to provide input and feedback about programming and community needs, plan events and raise funding for classroom materials. For more information, or to join, call 763.528.4518.

School Census

Are you in the school census? Being in the census ensures that you will receive Early Childhood mailings, receive notification of Early Childhood Screening, and receive PreK and Kindergarten information when your child is eligible to attend. If you recently had a baby, moved, or did not receive this catalog in the mail, contact the Community Education office at 763.528.4517.

One-to-One Visits

Columbia Heights Public Schools offers free one-to-one visits after the birth or adoption of a new child or for parents/caregivers who simply have questions about their child’s development. During these visits, our licensed parent educator will provide developmental, behavioral and social emotional support to all families in person, by email, or by phone day and evening. Call 763.528.4546 for more information.

PreK

Register now!
Space available in PreK 3 and PreK 4 for the 2021-2022 school year!

PreK 3 | 3 years old by Sept. 1

PreK 3 prepares children for lifelong success! PreK 3 curriculum and assessment is aligned with PreK 4 and Minnesota Early Learning Standards. Classes are taught by licensed early childhood education teachers. Early Childhood Screening is required for all PreK 3 students. Transportation is not available. For more information, or to register, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/PreK3.
Monthly tuition is based on a sliding fee scale. Financial assistance is available to families who qualify.



Mon/Wed/Fri	\$22 (\$0-11,000)	\$42 (\$11,001-20,000)	\$62 (\$20,001-30,000)	\$84 (\$30,001-40,000)	\$105 (\$40,001-50,000)	\$135 (\$50,001+)
Tues/Thurs	\$14 (\$0-11,000)	\$28 (\$11,001-20,000)	\$42 (\$20,001-30,000)	\$56 (\$30,001-40,000)	\$70 (\$40,001-50,000)	\$90 (\$50,001+)
Mon/Wed/Fri	8:15-11:45 a.m.	FC Room 112	Tues/Thurs	8:15-11:45 a.m.	FC Room 112	
	11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	FC Room 112		11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	FC Room 112	

PreK 4 | 4 years old by Sept. 1

PreK 4 is a FREE program that provides an engaging and educational environment to prepare your child for Kindergarten. PreK 4 curriculum and assessment is aligned with Kindergarten and the Minnesota Early Learning Standards. Classes are taught by licensed early childhood education teachers. Early Childhood Screening is required for all PreK 4 students. Bussing is provided for PreK 4 families who live within the District boundaries. Classes are held Monday-Friday at Highland Elementary, North Park School for Innovation and Valley View Elementary.

Mornings 7:55-10:25 am. **Afternoons 11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.** **Full Day 7:55 a.m.-2:15 p.m.**

To register your student for PreK 4, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/Enroll or visit the Placement Center.

Registration Information

For more information on Community Education Registration, including class eligibility and policies, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd or call 763.528.4517. To register for Mini Adventures, call 763.528.4517. To register for PreK 4, visit the Placement Center or call 763.528.4426.



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To receive CHPS news by email, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/Subscribe.



Columbia Heights Public School District #13
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