



Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

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WHAT'S NEW?

- Bray and the District Core Planning Team (CPT) have continued to meet bi-weekly.
- The second User Group Meetings were held on October 7. These are short meetings held with staff members during which the design team gets focused feedback on specific building areas. The user groups will continue to meet with the design team approximately once a month.
- The District had a coordination meeting with engineers on October 12. This allowed the Bray team, the engineers, and the District to continue to work through questions related to site, structural, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems.
- Elementary Furniture User Group meetings were held on October 21 to gather feedback from staff on furniture selections.
- The third round of subcommittee meetings were held on October 28 to gather staff feedback on both the elementary and high school projects.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- The High School Furniture User Groups will meet in November. In these meetings, the design team will assess furniture options selected by groups of staff members.
- Exterior material selections will be presented to the District for final approval, along with renderings.

PLANNING + DESIGN UPDATE

- The Bray team presented preliminary interior finishes to the District.
- The floor plans continue to be fine-tuned. The District has been running mock scheduling exercises to ensure all classes have a home in the new buildings.
- The District's food service consultant, Boelter, has been working closely with the District and Bray to develop equipment layouts for the elementary and high school kitchens.
- The Bray team is looking for opportunities to integrate historical, educational, and interactive graphic design elements that will celebrate the Columbus School District community.



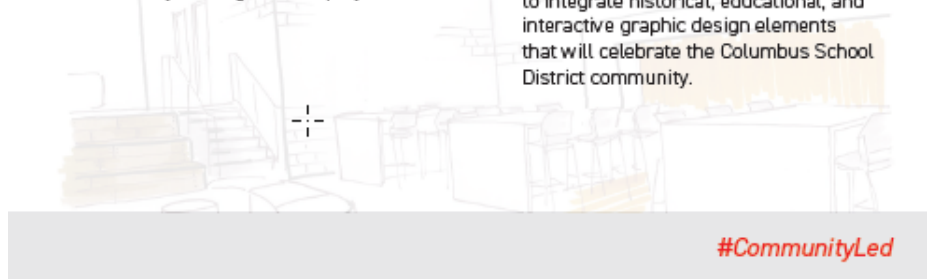
**APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM**

CommunityLed Process

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
Annette Deuman, Superintendent
referendum@columbus.k12wi.us
920.350.0365

bray
architects

CD SMITH
CONSTRUCTION





APRIL 2020 REFERENDUM

Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

The Bray team, the engineers, and the District met with Focus on Energy to begin selecting an energy-savings bundle. This is a design plan including energy-efficient mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and architectural strategies that will reduce energy usage.

The Bray team and engineering consultants completed a 50% progress set of construction documents (plan drawings) on October 30. This will be used for budgeting and coordination with C.D. Smith Construction.

High School Shop
Upper Commons
Preliminary
Rendering



High School
Collaboration Lab
Preliminary
Rendering



High School
Library Commons
Preliminary
Rendering



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Annette Deuman, Superintendent
referendum@columbus.k12.wi.us
920.350.0365



Columbus School District

#CommunityLed

News from the Nurse,

Brittany Bayer, RN

Hello families,

I hope all of you are doing well! Here are a few reminders for you as we enter into the 3rd month of school...

1. Please be as specific and descriptive as possible when leaving a voicemail regarding your student's absence. Information that should be provided in the message includes: the child's full name, grade, teacher, and the reason for their absence. In addition, please indicate whether your child has tested positive for COVID-19, has been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or if they have any of the following symptoms: *fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, nasal congestion, runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, headache, unusual fatigue, muscle or body aches, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea*. Including this information allows us to prioritize and follow-up with the appropriate families in a timely manner.
2. Many have expressed confusion on what it means to be a close contact of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A person is considered a close contact if any of the following criteria have been met, even if facial coverings were worn, or physical barriers were used:
 - a. Within 6 feet of a positive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more, within a 24-period.
 - b. Had direct physical contact with a positive COVID-19 case (i.e. hug, kiss, or handshake).
 - c. Had contact with a positive COVID-19 case's respiratory secretions.
 - d. Live with a positive COVID-19 case or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with them.
3. If your child is tested for COVID-19, for any reason, please remember to keep them home while waiting for their test results! If they have been identified as a close contact, and they test negative, they must still remain in quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure to the positive case.
4. With the holidays in the near future, it is important to be aware of safe practices regarding travel during COVID-19. A few of these include:
 - a. Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when using public transportation for travel (i.e. planes, trains, subways, taxis, etc.).
 - b. Stay at least 6 feet away from other passengers that do not live in the same household as you do.
 - c. Wash your hands often! Bring hand sanitizer for those times when running water and soap is not available.
 - d. DO NOT travel if you are sick!
 - e. Consider self-quarantining for 14 days upon return for any travel outside of your local community. Monitor for symptoms during this time and report any concerns to your healthcare provider.
5. Columbia County will be offering free COVID-19 testing sites in the upcoming month. Please see the date/times of these opportunities for free testing:
 - a. November 6th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM @ the Cambria Fire Department
 - b. November 10th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM @ the Columbus Community Center

- c. November 20th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM @ the Cambria Fire Department
- d. November 25th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM @ the city of Portage Utility Building
- e. December 4th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM @ the Cambria Fire Department

Thank you!

Brittany Bayer, RN



Curriculum News

Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Virtual Learning Details Plans

Over the past several weeks, the district has been gathering information about what is working well and what needs to be improved with our instructional plan. One of the things we have heard is that there is a strong preference for an increase in live, synchronous instruction on virtual days; however, there is also concern about amount of screen time and many other factors. Taking all feedback into account, the district has been working with staff on a revised plan going forward. Beginning the **week of November 3rd for K-8 and November 9th for 9-12**, the attached virtual learning details plans will apply on ALL VIRTUAL DAYS. Please consider printing and posting your child(ren)'s plan(s) somewhere that is easily accessible.

- [K-5 Virtual Learning Details Plan](#)
- [6-8 Virtual Learning Details Plans](#)
- 9-12 Virtual Learning Details Plans
 - [For Virtual Students while school is on Cohort/Blended schedule](#)
 - [Optional schedule the school use if CHS transitions to ALL virtual](#) (Only use if directed to by the district.)

Covid-19 is absolutely a concern when it comes to the possibility of all virtual days being a necessity, but as we head into Wisconsin winter, so is the weather. This year, there will be **no snow days**. If weather should dictate that it is unsafe for students and staff to come to school, the day will be treated as an **all virtual day** instead. So for example, if what in the past would have been a snow day occurs on a Monday, we will follow the Monday schedule for live/recorded instruction.

Grades K-5 (Cohort/Blended Students)

While the district is open for in-person instruction M/Tu/Th/F, your child will receive in-person instruction like normal. On Wednesdays, your child's teacher will post work in the Google Classroom and may also work with you in advance to set up any additional small group video conferences.

If at any time, your child's classroom, grade level, school, or the school district is converted to all virtual instructional for a period of time (whether that be to the pandemic or a "snow" day), the attached [K-5 Virtual Learning Details Plan](#) will apply.

Grades K-5 (All Virtual Students)

Currently, your child has the opportunity to participate in live, synchronous instruction with their teacher every day. If the school or district must close for a short period of time, there will **not** be significant changes to the live, synchronous instruction schedule that their teacher currently uses. If the school or district should have to close for a significant period of time (ex: like when the state closed schools for three months last spring), the district would reassess this plan at that time.

Grades 6-8

Grade 6- Currently, cohort/blended students receive in-person instruction on Monday/Tuesday and virtual instruction Wednesday-Friday. On Mondays and Tuesdays, nothing will change for cohort/blended or all virtual students. **Since Wednesday-Friday are all virtual days for every Grade 6 cohort, beginning Nov. 3rd, the attached schedule will apply for 6th graders on Wednesday-Friday.**

Grades 7 & 8-Currently, cohort/blended students receive virtual instruction Monday-Wednesday and in-person instruction on Thursday/Friday. **Since Monday-Wednesday are all virtual days for every Grades 7 & 8 cohort, beginning Nov. 3rd, the attached schedule will apply for 7th and 8th graders on Monday-Wednesday.** On Thursdays and Fridays, nothing will change for the cohort/blended or all virtual students.

There is a minimum of 15 minutes built in between each class on all virtual days for “tech breaks.” On virtual days, if a student is able, we expect them to show up for their live class. For those who are unable to make it, we will video the instruction and post it in the Google Classroom.

If at any time, a student’s cohort, grade level, school, or the school district is converted to all virtual instructional for a period of time (whether that be to the pandemic or a “snow” day), classroom teachers will teach live instruction at the time that the class is scheduled to meet based on the CMS Virtual Learning Details Plan schedule. Please find your child’s cohort’s schedule in the [CMS Virtual Learning Details Plan schedules](#) folder; if you are not sure about which cohort a student is in, please contact Mrs. Denk at cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us.

Grades 9-12

CHS is different from the rest of the schools because with all the choices in classes, it is impossible to “cohort” the same group of students for an entire day. So, to mitigate risk, when students are in-person at CHS, instead of attending six classes, in order to lessen the number of people students are exposed to on a given day, students attend three classes each day for two hours at a time on a modified block. Because some high school classes have multiple grade levels that may be present for in-person instruction on different days, the modified block schedule is utilized M/Tu/Th/F, regardless if it is a student’s in-person or virtual days. Beginning the **week of November 9th**, the attached [\(9-12\) Virtual Learning Details Plan \(Cohort/Blended Schedule\)](#) will apply.

If there comes a time this school year when CHS has to transition to ALL virtual instruction for a period of time, for instructional purposes, the school also has an option to transition to the [\(9-12\) ALL Virtual Learning Details Plan \(All Virtual Option\)](#) schedule. This is just an alternate option we want you to be aware of in case we decide it is in the best interest of students in the future. We will not transition to this schedule for quick closures (ex: snow day) or even if for example, 9th/10th grade are all virtual, but 11th/12th grade is not. **Only use this schedule if notified to do so.**

Because we don’t want students glued to their computers for multiple hours in a row, live instruction may not last the entire class period. Teachers may provide instruction and then want students to practice independently on their own or complete work outside of their computer. On virtual days, students who are able are expected to



Student Services News

Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Student Services Update

Columbus School District empowers students to be community, career, and college ready.

NOVEMBER IS
NATIONAL CAREER
DEVELOPMENT MONTH

NOVEMBER 9-13 IS
NATIONAL SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

NOVEMBER 13
IS WORLD
KINDNESS DAY

NOVEMBER
13-19 IS
TRANSGENDER
AWARENESS
WEEK

Columbus School District Student Services' Contact Information

- **Lisa Blochwitz**, Director of Student Services:
920-350-0356, lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us
- **Hailey Schiedermayer**, K-12 School Psychologist:
920-623-5950, ext. 3223, hschiedermayer@columbus.k12.wi.us
- **Leah Wilson**, CES/DCS School Counselor:
920-623-5950, ext. 1120, lwilson@columbus.k12.wi.us
- **Grace Kropp**, CIS School Counselor:
920-623-5950, ext. 3149, gkropp@columbus.k12.wi.us

Victoria Claas, CMS School Counselor:
920-623-5950, ext. 3127, vclaas@columbus.k12.wi.us

- **John Crombie**, CHS School Counselor:
920-623-5950, ext. 2105, jcrombie@columbus.k12.wi.us

National Career Development Month

Career development begins well before students are in high school deciding their post-secondary course of action. As educators and as caregivers, we all expose students to careers through our discussions about work; through encouraging pursuit of hobbies, skills, clubs, and sports; and through helping students assess their strengths and their preferred ways of learning.

In classroom lessons across all grade levels, school counselors facilitate conversations on the above topics while guiding students through more personalized exploration. One way we're able to do this in middle and high school is through the software program [Xello](#). When using Xello, students learn about how their school subjects can apply to careers, while exploring how their own interests, personality, and strengths best "match" them to specific careers. Using Xello is an incredibly fun way for students to start exploring the many options available to them!

Transgender Awareness Week

Transgender Awareness Week is a week when transgender people and allies work to make visible the realities of being transgender - the experiences, the stories, the prejudices, and the discrimination. The week ends with Transgender Day of Remembrance, commemorating the lives of transgender people lost to interpersonal violence.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, adolescents who identify as transgender are disproportionately more likely to attempt suicide. See [this article](#) from the Human Rights Campaign to learn more about children exploring their identity and the basics of gender as it relates to child development!

You can get involved as an ally by reporting defamation, being mindful of a person's privacy if they are discussing identity exploration with you, advocating for inclusivity in your community and workplace, and challenging trans-phobic comments or jokes.

World Kindness Day

Let this day serve as a reminder to be kind to others, to the world, and to yourself! [Inspire Kindness](#) has many resources for getting involved, like graphics for sharing on social media and tips for bringing more kindness into the workplace. See this short video, [Kindness Can Be the Norm](#), for some inspiration from the Random Acts of Kindness Organization! Let's make kindness the norm, not the exception.

National School Psychology Week

School psychologists support students' ability to learn and support teachers' ability to teach. School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to support a safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environment for students. They help schools improve academic achievement,

promote positive behavior and mental health, support diverse learners, create positive school climates, strengthen family-school partnerships, and improve school-wide assessment and accountability monitoring of student progress in academics and behavior.

Hailey Schiedermayer is the school psychologist at Columbus School District. She is originally from Kaukauna, WI, and currently lives in the Madison area. Hailey received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her master's degree from Alverno College. Hailey is looking forward to building lasting relationships with the students in the Columbus School District. If you would like to speak to Hailey, her email is hschiedermayer@columbus.k12.wi.us.



Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School

Beth Hellpap, Principal

Message from the Principal,

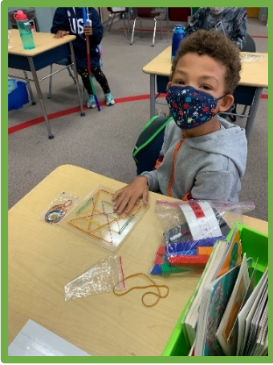
In last month's article, I wrote about the move from learning routines to learning academics. The fine balance between the two is something schools work toward all year long. Just because routines are taught in the beginning of the year does not mean we don't continue to teach and model them. The K-5th grade staff have teams that specifically speak to supporting students in their behavior and school routines.

The Responsive Classroom team at CES/DCS has been focusing on how to continue to create a school community but with COVID modifications in mind. This year we will not have all school assemblies that support school community and pride, so in response to this, the Responsive Classroom team will have opportunities for virtual assemblies. Our first virtual assemblies will be our Veterans' Day Assembly. This virtual time will have all the classrooms participating in a Google Meet with presenters sharing a slideshow made of parent submissions of their family and friends who have served our country!

At CIS our Positive Behavior Intervention Team has begun the process of "Positive Phone Calls Home". This is where teachers nominate a student for being safe, respectful and responsible. With this nomination the student is celebrated in the all school virtual morning meeting and their parent gets a special phone call from me sharing why they were nominated. This practice of "sharing the positives" is one of the most enjoyable parts to my job. We have so many wonderful students and families in our schools, and now more than ever, we can all use a positive message!

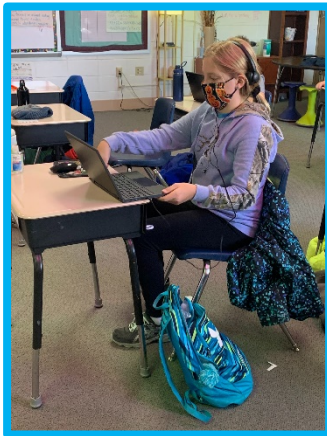
Beth Hellpap, Principal





Even when it is indoor recess, 2nd grade students in Ms. Bowdin's class LOVE to use their math manipulatives to play and learn!

5th grade students are working hard on their assessments.



Mrs. Stovall's class learns how to utilize technology in the classroom so they can be prepared for virtual learning days!

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Kreklow's class enjoy free choice time!



Columbus Middle School



Cori Denk, Principal

Happy November! We started our second quarter at the beginning of the month. As we transitioned into the new quarter we made some changes to our virtual learning days. We added more live learning opportunities for our students on virtual days. We are hoping that this will increase student engagement.

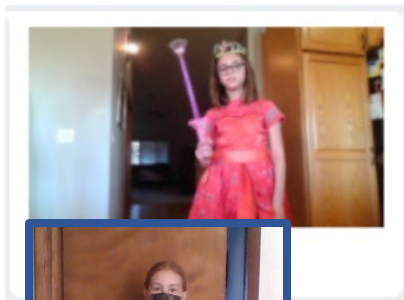
Eighth Graders Transition to High School: During the first week of November a panel of high school students are doing a Q&A virtual session with our current 8th graders. This will give students an opportunity to start learning more about the experience. Students were able to submit questions ahead of time so that they could get their questions answered.

We had Spirit Week the last week of October! Here are a few pictures!

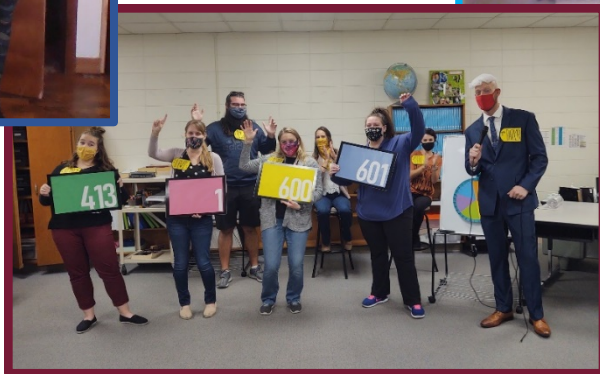
Monday was Mismatch Day



Tuesday was Virtual Day Learning (Fancy top/casual pants)

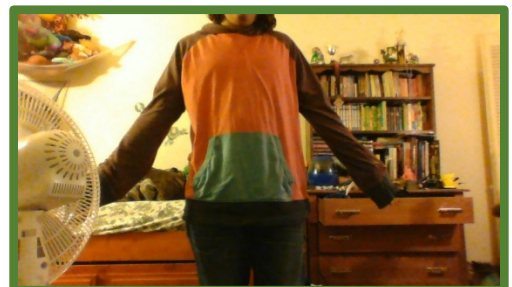


Wednesday was Costume Day



Thursday was Cohort Color Day Cohort 1: Orange Cohort 2: Blue Cohort 3: Green Cohort 4: Purple Staff: Black

Friday was School Spirit Day





Columbus High School

Jonathan Rouse, Principal

We are officially into November and that means the last couple weeks of the first trimester! We want to continue to emphasize the importance of prioritizing school work. Although we are not able to be in person every day, CHS teachers are offering synchronous (live) opportunities throughout the week. This is the best chance for students to have questions answered and get feedback from their teachers.

The trimester ends the week of Thanksgiving. Trimester 2 starts upon the return.

Staff Shout Out...

One thing our high school staff does not lack is passion. Our teachers are passionate about students. We'd like to point out one teacher who demonstrates a strong passion for kids and their content, who is new to our district. Mr. Clemmons, Choir Teacher, does an excellent job displaying that passion on a daily basis. We are thankful that Mr. Clemmons is a member of our Cardinal Community!

Continue to emphasize...

We'd love it if you continued to emphasize the following at home:

- -Doing the little things
 - Remind students that the little things make us successful. In some cases, the little things are really big things in this environment. For instance, we have lunch set up for students to sit with their existing classes. We need students to honor this request as it helps us with the safety of everyone.
- -Infinite Campus Parent Portal
 - Be sure to check the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#). Teachers are working hard to get up to date grade information, but attendance information is located in there as well.

Teacher Weekly Lesson Plans

As a reminder, if you are looking for more information about specific class expectations, check out the following link. Our teachers post their lesson plans for the upcoming week. If you haven't already, check it out for more information on specific classes!

[Weekly Lesson Plans](#)

Thank you all again for a great week, and Go Cards!

Jon Rouse

CHS Principal

jrouse@columbus.k12.wi.us

Joe Schneider

9-12 Assistant Principal

6-12 Activities Director

jschneider@columbus.k12.wi.us

Food Service News

Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

Free Meals Extended Through June 2021

Submitted by Laura Austin

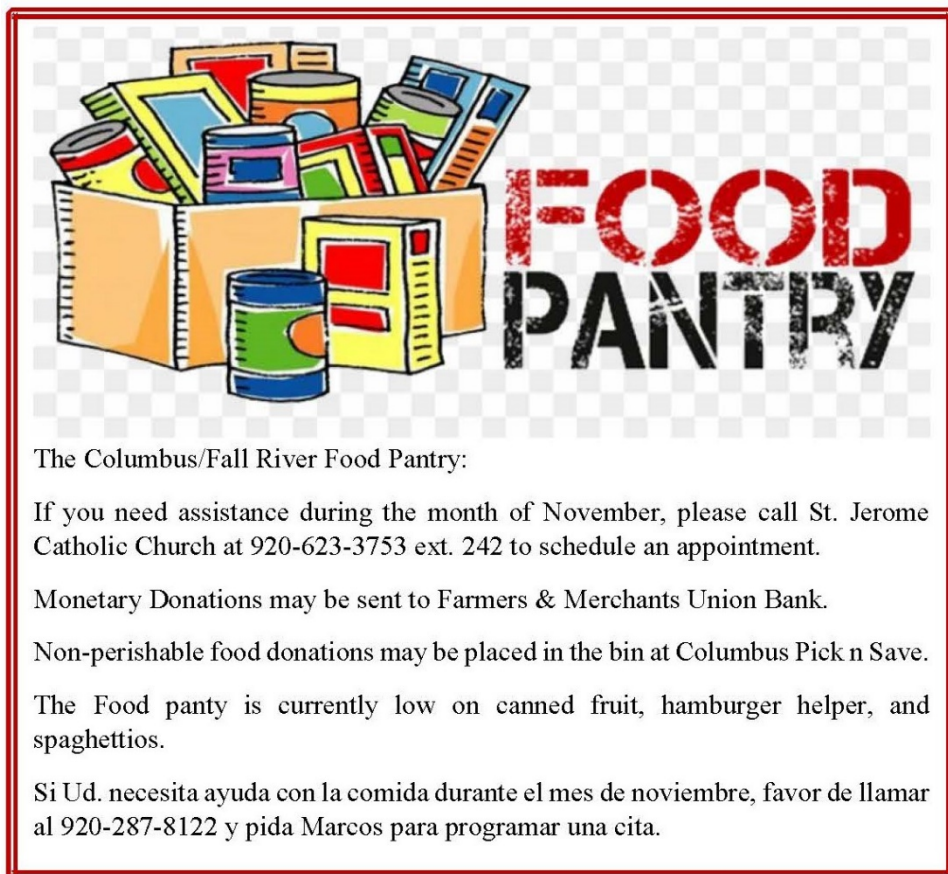
The USDA has extended the FREE meals to students through June 2021 under the Summer Food Service Program which the Columbus School District participates in. This means that Columbus families can continue to receive both breakfast and lunch meals at no charge whether learning in-person or virtually. Meals are available Monday through Friday on scheduled school days.

For in-person learners, breakfast and lunch are available via breakfast carts or in the cafeteria at regularly scheduled meal times. Virtual learners need to pre-order meals via the parent portal of Infinite Campus for pick-up at one of our 3 locations. Meals just need to be ordered by noon on the previous day. Pick-up times are between 7-8 am each school day morning.

Meals are available for **any** Columbus youth 18 years of age or younger. If there are children in the family that are not yet school-age, please contact the Food Service Director at youthmealdelivery@columbus.k12.wi.us or at 920.623.5950 X2190 to make arrangements for ordering and to arrange for pick-up.

This program is for any and all families to make use of during this unprecedented time regardless of need or family income. The goal is to make healthy meals available to all children that reside in the Columbus School District.

Monthly menus are available on the district webpage under the 'popular' tab. Menu substitutions may occasionally need to be made based on availability of products and as food delivery challenges arise. Thank you for supporting the Columbus School District Food Services. Our team is proud to make these meals available.



The Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry:

If you need assistance during the month of November, please call St. Jerome Catholic Church at 920-623-3753 ext. 242 to schedule an appointment.

Monetary Donations may be sent to Farmers & Merchants Union Bank.

Non-perishable food donations may be placed in the bin at Columbus Pick n Save.

The Food panty is currently low on canned fruit, hamburger helper, and spaghettiios.

Si Ud. necesita ayuda con la comida durante el mes de noviembre, favor de llamar al 920-287-8122 y pida Marcos para programar una cita.

FFA News


FFA Meeting: The next FFA Meeting will be held on Monday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting, but it will include the crops contest and portions of the Fall Open House. The officers will collect the crops at the high school in the ag room. They will be judged and awarded prizes as in the past. The officers are also inviting the Section 6 State FFA Officer Olivia Lulich to present a speech. In addition, there will be National FFA Convention update and SAE project presentations. If any FFA member would like to share their SAE project at this meeting they should email FFA Advisor, Mrs. Crook at gcrook@columbus.k12.wi.us

Wisconsin SAE Grants: The Wisconsin FFA Foundation and the National FFA have released their SAE grants. Here is a new link to the Wisconsin FFA application: [SAE Grant Application](#). The National FFA SAE grant has to be done online through the National FFA application site and only members can access the application. See Mrs. Crook if you need help. Make sure the applications are completed and **submitted by November 10th to Mrs. Crook** to complete the advisor portion of the application. The grants applications are due November 16, 2020.




Calendar / Upcoming Events

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Inservice – No Students	3	4	5	6
9 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	10	11 Late Start	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23 Board Meeting, City Hall, 7 PM	24	25 No School	28 No School 	27 No School
30				

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7 No School	8	9 Late Start	10	11
14 Board Meeting, City Hall, 7 PM	15	16	17	18 No School
21	22	23 No School	24 No School	25 
28	29	30	31	
-----Holiday Break-----				

Contact Information www.columbus.k12.wi.us Phone Number: 920.623.5950

Superintendent:	Annette Deuman	adeuman@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Business Services:	Nathan Knitt	nknitt@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Special Education:	Lisa Blochwitz	lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Becky Schmidt	bschmidt@columbus.k12.wi.us
Director of Technology Services:	Daniel Parizo	dparizo@columbus.k12.wi.us
Facilities Manager:	Troy Marshall	tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us
Food Service Director:	Laura Austin	laustin@columbus.k12.wi.us