



E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

December, 2020

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

From the Nurse	1
End of Year Giving	2
Student Services News	3
Columbus Elementary School/ Discovery Charter School/intermediate School	5
Columbus Middle School	6
Columbus High School	7
FFA News	8
Food Service News	8
School Board News	9
Calendar/Upcoming Events	10
Contact Information	11



All Columbus School District buildings will be closed **December 24 – January 1.**

Virtual learning resumes and school offices will open on January 4th.

News from the Nurse,

Brittany Bayer, RN

Hello families,

Here is some information that you should know or that you may find helpful as we get further into the holiday/winter season.

1. The Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer some recommendations for how to safely participate in the upcoming holidays. These include:
 - a. Avoid certain events such as large gatherings with people from outside of your household, indoor bars and restaurants, or shopping in crowded stores.
 - b. Find alternative ways to celebrate like having a virtual dinner with family and friends, watching sporting events, parades, and movies from home, and preparing and delivering meals and treats in a way that doesn't involve contact with those outside of your household.
 - c. Make safe choices by avoiding unnecessary travel, wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, washing hands, and staying home as much as possible.
 - d. Know when to not host or attend any in-person gatherings. If you or anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not met the criteria for discontinuing isolation (10 days since symptom onset, fever free for 24-hours without the use of medication, and an improvement in symptoms), has symptoms of COVID-19, is waiting for test results, may have been exposed to someone in the last 14 days, or are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, please continue to stay home.
2. As I have previously mentioned, it is crucial that those who can receive the flu vaccine do so. In general, those who are above six months of age can safely receive one. The flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick, reduces the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations, and can decrease the severity of illness in

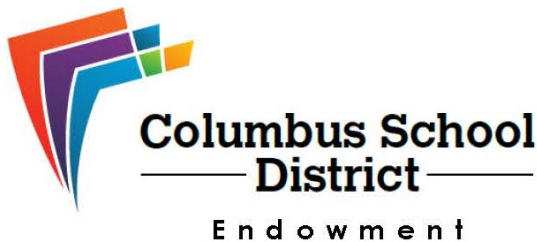
those who have received the vaccination but still get sick. This vaccination can also help protect those around you who may be at an increased risk for complications related to the flu, like babies and small children, the elderly, and those with certain chronic health conditions.

3. Even though we have shifted to virtual learning, please remember that we are still tracking information related to any COVID situation. We would appreciate it if you would notify the school if your child has symptoms, is waiting for test results or has tested positive, and/or has been identified as a close contact. You may call this information into the attendance line, or email me directly.

I hope you all are staying happy and healthy and are able to find a safe way to participate in the holiday season. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us

Thank you,

Brittany Bayer, RN



P O B o x 1 4 2 | C o l u m b u s , W I

End of Year Giving

If you would like to donate to the **Columbus School District Endowment** before the end of the year, please consider the following:

- Madison Community Foundation manages our funds
- Donations must be in Madison Community Foundation's office on or before December 31, 2020.
- The envelope must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2020 and arrive in Madison Community Foundation's office by January 15, 2021.
- Merely dating a check with a 2020 date will not assure a 2020 tax deduction.

You can also donate online at [Columbus School District Endowment](#)
Fund ID: 1030762

The School District Endowment offers grants directly to teachers in the district. Please see the Endowment Fund's [flyer](#).

Thank you for your support!



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

[Blessings in a Backpack Sign-up](#)

[Free Breakfast/Lunch Sign Up](#)

Northwest Connections (Mental Health or AODA Crisis): 1-888-552-6642

Student Services Update

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

We recognize that virtual learning and the holiday season can be incredibly stressful. We also recognize the financial strain this can place on families. If concerns about resources arise, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building’s school counselor or principal. They can connect you to resources, within Columbus and the broader community, to support personal needs.

FOOD, HOUSING, CLOTHING

Resources

- Free Breakfast and Lunch**
Sign up on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal
Provides students with free breakfast and lunch for each virtual school day.
- Blessings in a Backpack**
Contact Geoffrey Baumann, District Coordinator
920.623.5950, ext. 3101 | gbaumann@columbus.k12.wi.us
Provides students/families with food for the weekends.
- Fall River/Columbus Food Pantry**
Call to set up an appointment:
Pat Wendt: 920.623.3350
Diane Morauske: 920.484.3129
Christine Hilbrich: 920.623.3610
Wanda Guenther: 920.623.3625
- ReachOut Lodi Community Store**
608.592.4592 | www.reachoutlodi.org
Provides free assistance to families/individuals in crisis in order to meet basic living needs (food, cleaning items, clothing, etc.)
- Homelessness, Housing Concerns**
Contact Lisa Blochwitz, District Liasion
920.350.0356 | lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us

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:
608-571-6865 (call or text) | hschiedermayer@columbus.k12.wi.us

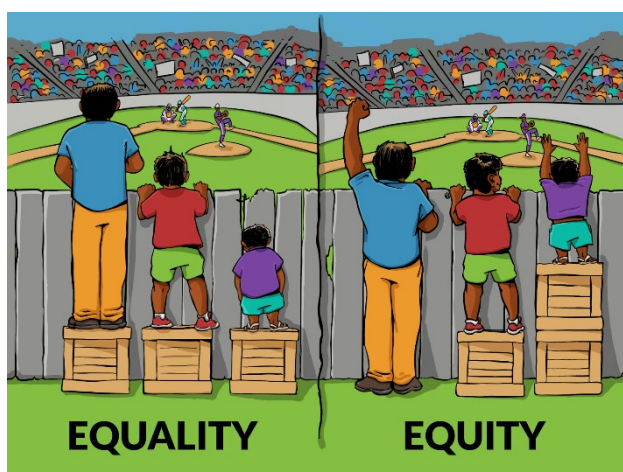
School Counselors

- Leah Wilson**, CES/DCS School Counselor:
619-607-3509 (call or text) | lwilson@columbus.k12.wi.us

- **Grace Kropp**, CIS School Counselor:
619-624-1808 (call or text) | gkropp@columbus.k12.wi.us
- **Victoria Claas**, CMS School Counselor:
619-624-1814 (call or text) | vclaas@columbus.k12.wi.us
- **John Crombie**, CHS School Counselor:
619-624-1856 (call or text) | jcrombie@columbus.k12.wi.us

Special Education Day (12/02/2020) and International Day of Persons with Disabilities (12/03/2020):

As a student services team, one of the highest priorities in our work is making appropriate education accessible for *all* students, thus addressing educational barriers. Our education support professionals, special education teachers and case managers, school counselors, and school psychologist all play different roles in supporting students in need of more individualized education plans (IEPs or 504 accommodation plans). Our district prioritizes inclusion within the classroom setting, keeping students within the same learning environment as their peers while supporting their unique needs through a variety of services. Each student is an individual, so the appropriate amounts and types of services must be developed to promote that particular student's academic, social, and personal growth.



Students in the Columbus School District understand that in order for everyone to be successful, every student needs different things. As adults, we aim to foster a learning environment that celebrates differences and recognizes the benefits of understanding each student's unique abilities. Remember that disabilities are often not visible and that they can present in many different ways - from psychiatric to learning to physical differences. Fairness is accounting for all of this and supporting the given needs one may have in order to best develop each student's potential.

A Note on Virtual Learning

In the same way that students are referred to or request to check in with the school counselor, the school counselors will be setting up check-ins for individual students virtually. *We expect students to continue monitoring Google Hangouts chats to maintain regular communication.* With specific concerns or questions, please email, call, or text at the above contact information. We are here to support the varying needs of each student - from developing a daily schedule to navigating conflicts between friends - so that they can be successful in their virtual learning.

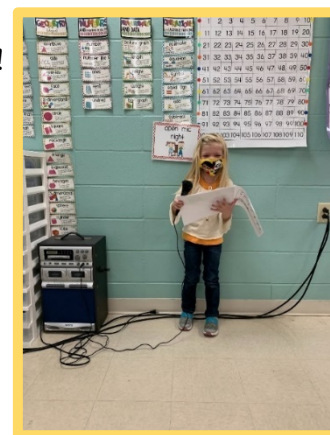


Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

Message from the Principal,

Did you know that a child is much more likely to write more expressively, with detail, and purpose when they write for an audience? Our writing curriculum, Teachers College Units of Study, has taught us that! Even during the pandemic, the CES kindergarten students were able to celebrate their writing while having a *Cafe* themed celebration which invited special guests. These guests included other staff from the school, counselors, dean of students and the principal. The students were very proud to share their writing. They were even more excited to have their classroom transformed into a Cafe! This “cafe” had easy listening music playing, a teacher/barista with an apron who gave host-like directions to the students and guests, they even had pretend cafe snacks to “eat” while reading their classmates' writing. This celebration allows for engagement in future writing activities and of course is super fun and memorable!

Thank you Mrs. Kreklow for inviting us to your Cafe! The students will never forget this!



Kindergarten students learn more about patterns in math class. Here is a beautiful pattern quilt made by Mrs. Koehler's class!



Supporting the Food Pantry in a Time of Need!

The Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry was/is in need of items. So to give thanks, the CES/DCS students had a food drive that collected 297 items! This new way to collect allowed for presorted items to be dropped into boxes and then quarantine before being sent to the food pantry. Thanks to all the families who participated and a special thanks to Ms. Flor our art teacher for the adorable boxes!



Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal

Message from the Principal,

I can't believe that it is already December! We started our all virtual learning journey on Monday, November 30th. We are super excited to help students learn in a different way. Students do have expected times when they need to log in for live sessions. If students are not able to so during that time they need to let their teachers know by 3:00 pm, for attendance purposes.

Office Hours:

Our CMS/CIS office will be open from 7:30 am- 4:00 pm. If families need assistance please call 920-623-5954 ext. 3270. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Materials Pick-up

Students might have materials they need to pick during our virtual learning. We will not have set days for pick-ups but grade levels will let you know when materials are in the office that need to be picked up.

Virtual Learning: Just as a reminder to students and parents we want to stay consistent with our rules and expectations during virtual learning. We are considerate of our classmates and during break out sessions we want good citizenship.

Please remember that if your child is sick or unable to participate in the learning for that day, parents need to call their child in sick.





Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Message from the Principal,

Welcome to the second trimester! As we transition to the second trimester, we also transition to a completely virtual format through January 18. Attached are a few helpful documents that will clarify the schedule for you.

[Sample Student Schedule](#)

[Blank Student Schedule Template](#)

An important thing to note about the schedule is that different content areas will have synchronous (live) classes on different days.

Monday/Thursday:

Math
Science
Health
CTE (Business, Agriscience, Tech Ed)

Tuesday/Friday:

English
Social Studies
World Languages
Fine Arts (Music, Art)

CHS Office Hours:

7:30-4:00

[Blessing in a Backpack](#): Please use this link to sign up for Blessings in a Backpack.

CHS Livestream Events:

If you are interested in watching our livestream of basketball and wrestling events, you may do so at the following link: tinyurl.com/CSDeventslive

Establishing and maintaining routines along with consistent communication will ultimately lead to our success this winter. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

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



FFA News

FFA Meeting: The next FFA Meeting will be held December 21, virtually.

Fruit Sale: The fruit will arrive at Columbus High School on Thursday, Dec. 17. Pick up times will be shared soon.

Food Service News, Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

The Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry is currently helping over 170 families in the Columbus and Fall River areas. Your continued Support and generosity make this possible.



We are a volunteer organization and 100% of your donations go towards feeding people in our local communities. Please remember us during the holiday season. Monetary donations may be dropped off at Farmers & Merchants Union Bank. Non-perishable, non-expired food donations can be dropped off in the bin at Columbus Pick n Save.

We are always in need of the following items: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit, Soup, Crackers, Baked Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta, Rice, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Meat, Cake Mix, Frosting, Mac & Cheese, Spaghettios and such, Hamburger Helper, Canned Vegetables - other than corn and green beans, and Toilet Paper.

If you have questions, are planning a food drive, or have a large amount of food to donate, please contact Colleen @ 920-210-6266. For more information regarding the food pantry, you can find us at www.cityofcolumbuswi.com Departments/Government/Senior Center/Food Pantry.

For those who are in need of assistance during the month of December, please call Faith Lutheran Church at 920-623-3610 to schedule an appointment. Si Ud. necesita ayuda con la comida, favor de llamar al 920-287-8122 y pida Marcos para programar una cita.

COLUMBUS/FALL RIVER FOOD PANTRY 2021 ROTATION

Serving Thursdays, 4:00 pm to 6:45 pm, by Appointment

Call the Contact name and number to make an appointment or other arrangements.

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

Located in the back of the Columbus Senior Center, 125 N Dickason Blvd, Columbus.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>PASTOR/CHURCH</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
January	Columbus Community Church of the Nazarene	Pastor Chris and Teresa Baker 920-623-5235

February	Columbus United Methodist Church Rev. Liz Whitford	Nancy Buss 920-623-3625
March	St. Jerome Catholic Church Father Garrett Kau	Teresa Miller 920-623-3753 ext.242
April	Faith Lutheran Church	Christine Hilbrich 920-623-3610
May	Columbus Assembly of God	Rev. Matthew Brown 920-344-8025
June	Olivet Congregational UCC Pastor Ruth Wagner-Bradshaw	Darlene Crombie 920-623-5140
July	Columbus Community Church of the Nazarene	Pastor Chris and Teresa Baker 920-623-5235
August	Wisconsin Academy Pastor Jonathon Fetrick	Diane Morauske 920-484-3129
September	First Presbyterian Church	Pat Wendt 920-623-3350
October	St. Jerome Catholic Church Father Garrett Kau	Teresa Miller 920-623-3753 ext. 242
November	Faith Lutheran Church	Christine Hilbrich 920-623-3610
December	Olivet Congregational UCC Pastor Ruth Wagner-Bradshaw	Darlene Crombie 920-623-5140

**If your call is not answered, please leave a clear message
with your name and phone number.
Messages will be checked daily.**

School Board News

Spring Election

Anyone interested in running for School Board may submit their Declarations of Candidacy and Campaign Registration Statement. These are due by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Since the District will be virtual during this time period, please contact Tammy Sether (tsether@Columbus.k12.wi.us) to arrange a time to either pick up a packet or to file your paperwork. Tammy will be in the District Office on Tuesdays from 7:45-4:00 to accept these filings. If this day does not work for you, please contact Tammy. The District office will be closed the week of December 28th.



Incumbents William Braun, Julie Hajewski and Lee Trask's terms will expire in April. If they are not running for another three-year term, they must complete non-candidacy papers by December 22nd.

Qualities of a School Board Member (wasb.org)

There are many qualifications and qualities that experienced school board members have indicated are important to school board membership. These include:


- A commitment to the belief that all children of the school district are entitled to have available to them a beneficial educational program.
- An open mind and readiness to learn.
- A willingness to attend seminars and workshops which can help them make intelligent decisions in school affairs.

[The first WASB event for newly elected school board members are the New School Board Member Gatherings held in late April in 15 regions throughout the state to briefly review school board member responsibilities and introduce the new members to the services and information provided by the WASB.]

- A vision and an ability to understand changes in our society.
- The ability to act with other school board members to advance the best interests of the school district.
- The capability to articulate the philosophy and goals of the school and to listen carefully to the criticisms offered by people with differing views.
- A willingness to invest the hours that will be necessary to faithfully discharge their duties.
- Freedom from conflict with any other interest.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

December

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

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 No School
4 Virtual learning resumes	5	6	7	8
11 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	12	13 Parent/Teacher Conferences Grades 9-12	14	15 End of Quarter
18 No School – Teacher Work Day	19 Return to School (Virtual or in-person)	20	21	22
25 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	26	27	28	29

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

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