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WHAT'S NEW?

- Bray and the District Core Planning Team (CPT) have continued to meet bi-weekly.
- Bray, C.D. Smith Construction, and the District have begun meeting regularly with the City of Columbus to work through the details of permitting on the elementary school site.
- The final round of elementary and high school subcommittee meetings were held on December 16. These meetings were an opportunity to keep staff informed of design development and seek their feedback.

PLANNING + DESIGN UPDATE

- The full architecture, engineering, and construction team met with the District for a coordination meeting on December 14. These meetings occur at regular intervals throughout the project.
- The first furniture planning meetings held with the Core Planning Team (CPT) reviewed the District's furniture needs. Future meetings will move toward selecting furniture pieces. There is also an ongoing effort to select existing furniture in good condition to save and reuse.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Bray and the District will present to the City of Columbus Plan Commission in January. They will be seeking approval of a Certified Survey Map (CSM) for the elementary school site.
- Environmental branding design and furniture selection will continue through the upcoming months.



**APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
Annette Deuman, Superintendent
referendum@columbus.k12.wi.us
920.350.0365



APRIL 2020 REFERENDUM

Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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



Columbus School District

December 2020

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

The Bray team made a preliminary presentation to the City of Columbus Plan Commission in preparation for their January presentation.

The Bray team and engineering consultants completed a 75% progress set of construction documents (plan drawings) on December 18. This will be used for budgeting and coordination with C.D. Smith Construction.

High School
Cafeteria
Rendering



Preliminary
Elementary School
Environmental
Branding
Rendering



#CommunityLed

News from the Nurse, Brittany Bayer, RN

Hello families,

We are so excited to welcome students back into the building on January 19th. Here are a few COVID reminders/updates for you as we prepare to return to in-person learning.

1. Please screen your child(ren) for symptoms prior to coming to school each day and keep them home if they are not feeling well.
2. We will continue to use the same protocol for excluding symptomatic students as before. If your child(ren) is showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 such as shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, cough, fever or chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, muscle or body aches, and/or sore throat, please keep them home and contact myself or your healthcare provider for further guidance. As always, we are more than happy to provide you with assistance in determining when it is safe for them to return to school.
3. Those who have been tested for COVID-19 should remain home while waiting for the results. Students who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school once it has been 10 days since symptoms onset, they have been fever-free for 24-hours without the use of medication, and all other symptoms have improved.
4. If your child is identified as a close contact, they will need to remain out of school and from participating in any extracurricular activities for 14 days since they were last exposed to the confirmed positive case. We will not be shortening the quarantine period for asymptomatic close contacts as best practice is to remain quarantined for the full 14 days.
5. We recognize that some students who are 16 years and older may be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Currently, there is not enough evidence to suggest that those who have been vaccinated do not need to follow the other mitigation measures. Those who have gotten the vaccine will still need to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, wash hands, and follow quarantine/isolation guidelines. This means that even those who have been vaccinated will need to quarantine for 14 days if they are identified as a close contact, and/or isolate if they begin to show symptoms of COVID-19.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us



Landmark Service Cooperative Donation helps students access online learning.

Landmark Service Cooperative announced that its pilot program with the Columbus School District successfully came to a close, resulting in a donation of \$3,271 to the District.

From September 1 through November 30, 2020, the Landmark Cenex convenience store in Columbus donated 5% of all sales generated inside the store and 5 cents per gallon of gas purchased when customers shopped using their Landmark Rewards Program cards.

This donation helped the District invest in Wi-Fi hotspots, which gave more District students a reliable mechanism for accessing online learning.



Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction January Updates- Focus: Academic Support and Feedback Opportunity For Families

January Parent/Guardian Survey

Dear Parents and Guardians-

Thank you for being our partners in your child(ren)'s education. We are now at the halfway point in the school year and would like to encourage you to provide the district with your feedback on how things are going. Below are links to feedback surveys. You will need to complete one survey for each grade band in which you have at least one student.

These feedback surveys have two purposes: to hear from you how the school year is going for your child(ren) so we can continue to work on improving our practices and to also get your thoughts as we consider additional options for the future. Your voice is so important in helping us plan to meet your child(ren)'s needs.

Thank you for taking time to provide your valuable feedback. This

survey will remain open through Monday, January 25th.

[4K-5 Parent/Guardian Feedback Survey](#)

[6-8 Parent/Guardian Feedback Survey](#)

[9-12 Parent/Guardian Feedback Survey](#)

In addition to providing feedback on how you feel we have done with the instructional program this school year; the surveys also provide you with an opportunity to give us feedback that will help us plan for summer school and to gauge potential interest level in online programming for next school year.

Sincerely,

Becky Schmidt

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Reminder of Academic Resources & Tutorials for Families

As a reminder to families, the district has academic resources available on its [Curriculum & Instruction website](#). Current resources include: instructional technology, literacy and math. Coming Soon: information on State Assessment and update to the Summer School page. Please let us know if you are looking for a resource for at home in something that is not available.

Literacy Resource Update

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project has released 100+ videos for families and caretakers who are supporting K-8 students in reading, writing, and phonics. If you have questions about supporting your student

in the Units of Study curriculum or in their literacy development, please use [this link](#) to access these helpful resources.

2020-21 Transition Plan to Full-Time In-Person Teaching and Learning

	Grades 4K - 5	Grades 6 - 8	Grades 9 - 12
Phase 1 January 19th - February 5th (Same model as before break - except high school schedule)	Blended Cohort Model 4 days a week in person (M, T, Th, F) All grades Wed virtually All virtual option	Blended Cohort Model Gr 6th Mon & Tues in person; Th & Fri virtual Gr 7 & 8 Mon & Tues virtual; Th & Fri in person All grades Wed virtually All virtual option	Blended Cohort Model - 6 period days Gr 9 & 10 Mon & Tue in person; Th & Fri virtual Gr 11 & 12 Mon & Tue virtual; Th & Fri in-person All grades Wed virtually All virtual option
Phase 2 February 8th - March 26th (Change to Middle School frequency)	Blended Cohort Model 4 days a week in person (M, T, Th, F) All grades Wed virtually All virtual option	Grades 6, 7, & 8 4 days a week in person in classroom cohorts (M, T, Th, F) All grades Wed virtually All virtual option	Blended Cohort Model Gr 9 & 10 Mon & Tue in person; Th & Fri virtual Gr 11 & 12 Mon & Tue virtual; Th & Fri in-person All grades Wed virtual All virtual option
Phase 3 April 6th - End of Year	Full Time 5 days a week All virtual option	Full Time 5 days a week All virtual option	Full time 5 days a week All virtual option



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Dane County Youth Assessment

Columbus School District will be participating in the Dane County Youth Assessment this year. We will be assessing students in grades 3-12 between February 15th and March 15th. Surveying our students is more important this year given the prolonged pandemic and the concerns about the impact on student well-being and mental health.

The Dane County Youth Assessment has been used to inform the following community efforts:

- School districts throughout the county use the data in classroom discussions, to track youth trends and to add counseling resources to assess student mental health needs.
- Dane County Human Services expanded mental health support to community centers.
- The Dane County Homeless Coalition launched a homeless shelter for youth.
- United Way of Dane County developed the Achievement Connections initiative with partner school districts to improve high school achievement and graduation rates.
- The City of Madison uses the data to set funding priorities and launched an Out of School Time service initiative.
- Dane County uses the data to inform resource allocation and funding priorities.

The survey will be conducted in the Columbus Intermediate, Middle and High Schools between February 15, 2021 and March 15, 2021. The survey will be administered electronically. No one in the school or district will see any individual student responses. Parents may review the survey in a hard copy form at the offices of CHS and CIS/CMS or by contacting the building principal. If you prefer your son or daughter not participate, you may opt them out of participating by contacting [Lisa Blochwitz](mailto:Lisa.Blochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us) at lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us.



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

Message from the Principal,

Tis the season to slow things down?!?!?! December typically boasts a hectic time of gatherings, shopping, concerts, and a rush of work to be completed before the holiday season. As I contemplated how much I missed our traditional 4k holiday sing along, CES/DCS assembly with staff dressing up to act out a silly rendition of a favorite holiday story, and the all important pajama day...I looked at what we did to replace those traditions. Keeping some type of normalcy for kids is very important, therefore, many teachers had students wear pajamas on the last day before break or used a fun morning meeting activity. Although this school year has been extremely different in comparison to others, I can't help but notice the "lessons learned" while maneuvering the global pandemic. Taking time to read with my children, playing a board game, enjoying time outside, and listening to music, are some of the forgotten stress relievers we so often lose track of when a new time constraint is brought upon us. Teaching our youth time management, noticing stressors and responding with appropriate tools is never going to be a lesson wasted. This special December of 2020 is a perfect time to teach our children how to wind down, find out what makes you happy and use that tool for when things ramp up again. My new year's resolution is to never lose sight of this and learn a lesson from this peculiar time!

Social/Emotional Goals

The K-5 counselors have been working hard to analyze the most recent data from our staff regarding the social and emotional needs of our students. We are happy to report that our grade levels are not determined to have high needs at this time, however, to respond to the potential support, this student services team has created weekly boosters of socials skills that everyone can work on! Some of those skills include, listening to others, staying calm with peers, and following directions. A big thanks to [Leah Wilson](#) and [Grace Kropp](#) for making these boosters happen!



Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal

Message from the Principal,

Happy 2021! I hope everyone had a restful break. We started back with virtual learning on Monday, January 4th. We are so excited to have so many students participate in our live sessions. We love seeing their smiling faces.

Quarter Ends: The second quarter ends on Friday, January 15th.

Classes for Next Year: This month students will be looking at class options for next year. Please have your child be on the lookout for emails from Mrs. Claas so that we can start preparing for next year.

Office Hours:

During virtual learning our CMS/CIS office will be open from 7:30 am- 4:00 pm. If families need assistance please call 920-623-5954 ext. 3103. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

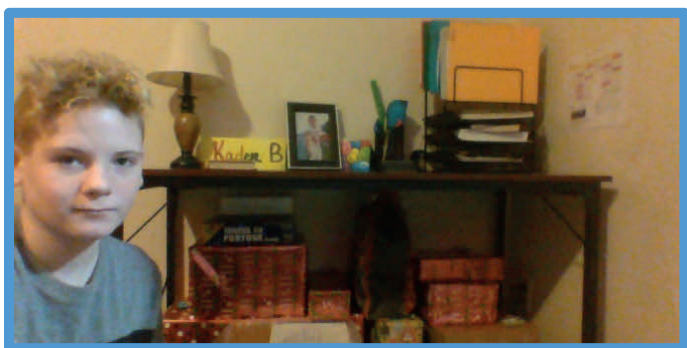
Materials Pick-up

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 breakout sessions we always 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.

Student Virtual Learning Environments:



Columbus School District Crossing Guards

Rick Voelker
Christy Nelson
Joy VanderSanden
Jerry King
Cheryl Hoffman
Lynn Dhein
Lucas Derra

SUB CROSSING GUARDS:

*Susan Brisky
*Jeremy Roll
*Suzanne Reynosa

Thank you for keeping our students, families and staff safe.

Adult Crossing Guard Week

January 11 – 15, 2021



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Message from the Principal,

Happy New Year from Columbus High School! We are excited to get back into routines after the winter break. There are two important things coming up to note at CHS.

Scheduling

Believe it or not, it is that time of year already! Students and families will soon be getting information about scheduling for the 2021-22 school year from our school counselor, John Crombie. This communication will include information about the process and timeline for choosing classes for next school year. It will also include our course catalog. This is great opportunity to engage your son/daughter in conversation about his/her high school plan. Please look for that, and reach out with any questions.

Continue to emphasize...

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

- -Create a schedule
 - Remind students of the importance of creating and sticking to a schedule. This will help them stay on top of their work, and will help prevent procrastination.
- -Communication with teachers

It is very important for students to communicate frequently with their teachers. This pertains to struggles/confusion with classwork and absences. It also pertains to positive things that are working well for a student.
- -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 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](#)

Jon Rouse
CHS Principal

jrouse@columbus.k12.wi.us

Joe Schneider

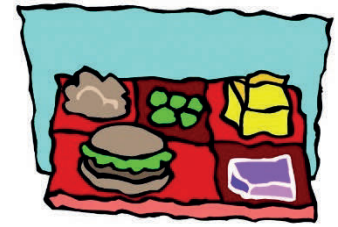
9-12 Assistant Principal, 6-12 Activities Director

jschneider@columbus.k12.wi.us

Joe Schneider

Food Service News, Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

January 8, 2021



Dear Families of the Columbus School District:

First, the Columbus Food Services Team would like to thank you for allowing us to feed your students during these unprecedented times. I am sharing the plan to continue to make meals available for the students and youth of Columbus.

- Meal delivery will continue through Friday, January 15th with bus delivery and pick-up at the Middle School.
- There will be NO meals available on Monday, January 18th

Meal service will resume on Tuesday, January 19th with a few changes:

- Breakfasts and lunches will still be available at NO CHARGE at each school for in-person learning days
- Milk Breaks will continue for K-5 throughout each day. There is a 50 cent charge for milk unless a family receives Free/Reduced meals
- Ala carte items will continue to be charged at regular costs (milk with a meal brought from home, additional items at CHS, etc.)
- Food Service will continue safe serving practices and allowing for social distancing during meal times
- Students in grades 3-12 will still need to have their SCHOOL ID with them to pay for their meals. We will be using a scanning system to decrease touch points at the cash registers and breakfast carts

Virtual Learning Days and Virtual Learners:

- Food Services will continue with the online preordering system through the Parent Portal of Infinite Campus.
- Parents will be able to preorder any breakfast or lunch for any student grades K-12.
- **Meals will be available for curbside pick-up at ONLY the MIDDLE SCHOOL from 7-8 am each day that school is in session (There will no longer be pick-up at CES or CHS, please come to Middle School now)**
- Meals can be preordered for pick-up up to 2 weeks in advance so that parents do not need to go into the system to order every day.
- ****NOTE: ALL MEALS must be ordered by 8 AM of the previous school day and by 8 AM on Friday for the following Monday.**

Any questions or comments can be sent to Laura Austin at youthmealdelivery@columbus.k12.wi.us or by calling 920.623.5950 ext. 2190

The Food Services Team thanks you for supporting our meal program.

~Laura Austin and the Food Services Team

Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry: **Thank You** to all who have donated to the Food Pantry during the Holiday Season! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you need assistance with food during the month of January, please call Columbus Community Church of the Nazarene at 920-623-5235 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.

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

School Board News

Spring Election – April 6, 2021

There will be three candidates on the ballot in the upcoming election.

Mark Pyfferoen
Tessie Sharrow
Julie Hajewski



Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services



Hello Columbus Community! I'm Nathan Knitt, the new Director of Business Services. Before coming to Columbus, I spent the last 5 years working in the insurance industry up at Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point. I've lived in a good number of parts in the state throughout the years. I grew up in Madison, lived in the Fox Valley for a good chunk of time in the early 2000s, graduated from Pardeeville High School, and went to Carroll College and UW Whitewater. So far, while there have been many challenges, I am loving working for the district and getting to know more about Columbus! When I'm not crunching numbers at school, I enjoy training for marathons, going out for hikes, and binging the latest and greatest on Netflix.

Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services



I live on the south east side of Madison (by McFarland) on Hey Jude lane. The entire addition is Beatles themed. Anna and I were married in 1997. We have two adult children Alice (20) and Adam (22). Alice attends UW and Adam works full time.

We have 3 dogs (Ivy a pit mix, Rosie a lab/pit mix, Marty some sort of hound mixed with space aliens.) We have a screened in porch where we relax with friends and family during the spring/summer/fall. On the deck you can also listen to the water feature - a waterfall/koi pond (let's be clear – they're really goldfish) that we inherited when we purchased the house just over 3 years ago.

I spent four years in the USAF (stationed in Texas and Hawaii) where I earned a B.S. in Computer Science. Later I earned a M.S. in Computer Information Systems and a PH.D. in Applied Management and Decision Sciences. My dissertation focused on K-12 technology and user empowerment.

I've worked in many career areas participating in and leading tech efforts in non-profit/not for profit. I've worked for many sectors including HVAC (Trane/American Standard), State of Wisconsin (DPI and DOR), private university (Marian University), Architecture firm (CAData and Gensler), and Avionics (Rockwell/Collins Commercial Avionics.)

I have too many hobbies and consider myself a jack of all trades, master of none. I enjoy aeronautics, technology, tinkering, building/re-building things, flying a drone, and riding my motorcycle. I make wine, beer, and at one time branched off into distilling. I earned a black belt in martial arts (that I am beginning to work my way back to.) I've rebuilt an auto engine, built a 3d printer, I have (had) a pilot's license, worked farming jobs, and tour guide jobs.

I am very social, I love humor/jokes. The biggest benefit from all of the above is the people I have met along the way. I cannot wait to meet each of you in person to see where our future takes us!

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

The facilities department was very busy over the last month in preparation for the upcoming referendum projects. In late December, an asbestos abatement took place at CHS. The area to be abated housed a couple of storage areas, that over the years had accumulated many no longer needed items. The custodians and department heads went through every item to determine what was a "keep" and what was a "throw". Also, as we emptied those areas out, we went through all of the other storage areas. This gave us an opportunity to really organize those areas. This process also took place at CMS. The week of January 11th we are helping the Tech Department to recycle many items that are no longer in use.

Moving forward the custodians are preparing for the return of students on January 19th. We are excited for the students to return and will work hard to ensure a healthy and safe environment.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

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) High School Blended Cohort Model – 6 period days begin	20	21	22
25 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	26	27	28	29

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
8 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall Grades 6,7,8 begin 4 days/wk in person – cohorts	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall Inservice Day – No School	23	24	25	26

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