




Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

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**APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM**

*Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.*

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

bray
architects

C.D. SMITH
CONSTRUCTION



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 meet regularly with the City of Columbus to work through elementary school site permit details.
- Bray and the District met with the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Advisory Council. This group of people represent local businesses that relate to the STEAM curriculum. The Bray team provided a virtual walk-through of the new high school STEAM spaces, while the STEAM Advisory Council offered feedback on design and equipment layout.

PLANNING + DESIGN UPDATE

- Furniture planning meetings have continued to progress with the Core Planning Team (CPT). These meetings have focused on selecting new furniture pieces to purchase and existing pieces to reuse.
- Environmental branding design continues to move forward at the elementary and high schools.

WHAT'S NEXT?

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



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Columbus School District

January 2021

PROJECT **PROGRESS REPORT**

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

Asbestos abatement was completed at the high school over winter break. Floor and ceiling tiles were removed in preparation for new finishes.

The Bray team is working toward completion of the final construction documents (plan drawings) on February 19. Following completion, C.D. Smith Construction will send the project out to bid.

High School
Cafeteria
Rendering



High School
Learning Stair
STEAM
Rendering



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News from the Nurse, Brittany Bayer, RN

Nursing Update:

Hello families,

Please read the following information regarding travel recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and what information to provide the school related to your travel plans.

Things to Consider Prior to Traveling Per CDC Guidelines:

1. Are you, someone in your household, or those you will be visiting at higher risk for becoming very ill from COVID-19?
2. Are cases high or increasing in your community or the destination in which you are traveling to?
3. Are hospitals at or near capacity in your community or the destination in which you are traveling to?
4. Are there any travel requirements or restrictions in place?
5. What mode of transportation are you using? Will it be difficult to remain 6 ft. apart from others at all times?
6. Are you traveling with people that are not in your household?
7. Can you get tested prior to traveling and quarantine until leaving?

Higher Risk Activities:

1. Large social gatherings such as a wedding, funeral, or party
2. Mass gatherings like sporting events, concerts, or parade
3. Crowded areas including bars, restaurants, fitness centers, or movie theaters
4. Using public transportation such as trains, buses, or airplanes
5. Traveling on a cruise ship or river boat

How to Protect Yourself When Traveling:

1. Check any travel restrictions before leaving
2. Get your flu shot at least a few weeks before traveling
3. Bring extra supplies including masks and hand sanitizer
4. Do not travel if you are not feeling well
5. Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose in public settings, including when using public transportation
6. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently
7. Avoid contact with anyone who is sick
8. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

After Returning from Travel:

1. Consider getting tested 3-5 days after returning. If your test is positive, isolate immediately
2. Stay at least 6 ft. apart from others
3. Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose in public places, and in your house if you live with someone that did not travel with you
4. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently

5. Avoid being around others who are at an increased risk for severe illness
6. Monitor for symptoms

If your family has any upcoming plans to travel, we ask that you inform the school to pre-arrange their absence. In addition, providing us with the following information will help determine if your student will be asked to quarantine upon returning:

1. Location of Travel Destination
2. Date Leaving
3. Date of Return
4. Reason for Traveling
5. Mode of Transportation
6. Where/Who Are You Staying With
7. Known Planned Activities

Please continue to reach out to me if you have any questions at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us. I am more than happy to provide assistance and support in any way that I can.

Thank you,
Brittany Bayer, RN



Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction January Updates

Preparing for State Testing

State Testing. Not exactly a term that inspires a lot of excitement. Not for educators, not for parents, and certainly not for students. When schools were ordered to shut down last March, the state applied for and received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, and along with Wisconsin Act 185, it resulted in the suspension of all federal and state requirements to administer academic assessments for 2019-20.

State testing is mandatory, but it is also really important to help us assess how our students are performing after the last year from a program level. This school year, our current instructions from the state are that we should expect to administer all state and federally mandated assessments, and that we must administer them *in person*.

These are the state assessments that are taken at each grade level.

- **ACCESS-** Grades K-12 students who are English Learners
- **Forward**
 - Grades 3, 5, 6, & 7- ELA and Math only
 - Grades 4 & 8- ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies
 - Grade 10- Social Studies only

Important open enrollment dates

February 1 – April 30, 2021 – Parents must submit applications online or directly to the nonresident school district.

June 11, 2021 – Nonresident school districts must send notices of approval or denial via US mail or email. If the application is approved, the school district must notify the parents of the specific school or program to which the pupil is assigned. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

June 18, 2021 – Resident districts must notify applicants if the application is denied. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

June 25, 2021 – Parents of accepted applicants must notify the nonresident district if the pupil will attend the nonresident district in the 2021-22 school year. If the parent fails to make this notification, the nonresident district may refuse to allow the pupil to attend the district.

- **ACT Aspire**
 - Grades 9 & 10
- **ACT w/ Writing**
 - Grade 11
- **Dynamic Learning Maps** (alternate assessment to Forward, ACT Aspire, and ACT)
 - Grades 3-11- only students for whom it has been deemed essential by an IEP team

All Virtual Students (Plan for *In-Person* State Testing)

Columbus School District understands that families who have their children attend all virtually do so for a variety of important reasons, many which center around limiting exposure to others due to Covid-19. Unfortunately, we have been told very clearly that remote administration of these assessments is forbidden. Therefore, in addition to the mitigation practices already in place at each school, the district is putting the following plan in place for in person state testing for students who are otherwise virtual. *Principals will send out more detailed information as time gets closer.*

ACCESS Testing

- The window for this assessment is February 22- April 30. The school district will be in contact to set up ACCESS testing in the conference room at the District Office.

Forward Testing

- Grades 3-8 students will test in the Columbus Elementary School library. Students may enter the building from the Selden St. doors right next to the library entrance and will be greeted by a masked staff member. Students will need to bring their laptop and charger with them. The CES library will be sanitized in-between groups.

March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26
3rd Grade	4th Grade	6th Grade	4th Grade	Make-ups
8:00-11:00	8:00-10:00	8:00-11:30	8:00-10:30	
5th Grade	8th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	
12:00-3:00	12:00-2:00	12:00-3:30	12:00-2:30	

- Grade 10 virtual students will take the Forward Social Studies exam on **March 22nd** or **March 23rd** in the CHS Library. The school will send out info at a later date with instructions on how signing up for the date you prefer.

ACT Aspire

- Testing will be held at Columbus High School right away in the morning on **April 14**. This is a late start day on the district calendar, so the majority of CHS students will not arrive until approximately two hours into testing. Testing will be rooms where students are well distanced from each other, and virtual students may leave after testing is complete. Students will need to bring their laptop and charger with them.

ACT w/ Writing

- **March 9** is a mandatory date set by the state, so this is the one assessment for which normally in-person and normally all virtual students will test simultaneously. Because of the seriousness of this particular assessment, all students in Grades 9, 10, and 12 will have an ALL VIRTUAL day on March 9th.
- Students taking the ACT will be spread across multiple classroom spaces to maximize on distancing during testing.

Dynamic Learning Maps

- The window for this assessment is from March 22- May 14. The school district will be in contact to set up DLM testing at the school site. The DLM assessment is administered 1:1.

In Person Students (Plan for State Testing)

ACCESS Testing

- The district is targeting completing testing between February 25- March 9 during the regular school day.

Forward Testing

- The window for this assessment is from March 22- May 14. Different parts of this assessment do not have to be completed on the same day.
- Testing will occur during the regular school day. The tentative plan is that grade levels will take the following assessments during these weeks.
 - **Week of March 22-** Grades 4, 5, 7, & 8 (ELA Assessment)
 - **Week of April 7-** Grades 4 & 8 (Science and Social Studies Assessments)
 - **Week of April 12-** Grades 3 & 6 (ELA) and Grades 5 & 7 (Math)
 - **Week of April 19-** Grades 3, 4, 6 & 8 (Math)
 - TBD- Grade 10 Social Studies (it will take approximately 70 minutes on a single day)

ACT Aspire

- The window for this assessment is from April 5- May 19. Different parts of this assessment do not have to be completed on the same day.
- TBD- will be scheduled to be taken during regular school hours during appropriate classes.

ACT w/ Writing

- March 9 is a mandatory date set by the state. Grades 9, 10, and 12 will have an ALL VIRTUAL day on March 9th. Grade 11 will be in person and testing must begin first thing in the morning.
- Some students who have IEPs or 504 plans are approved by ACT with different testing codes that allow them to test over multiple days. The window for ACT approved alternate timing codes is March 9-12 and March 15-19.

Dynamic Learning Maps

- The window for this assessment is from March 22- May 14. The DLM assessment is administered 1:1.

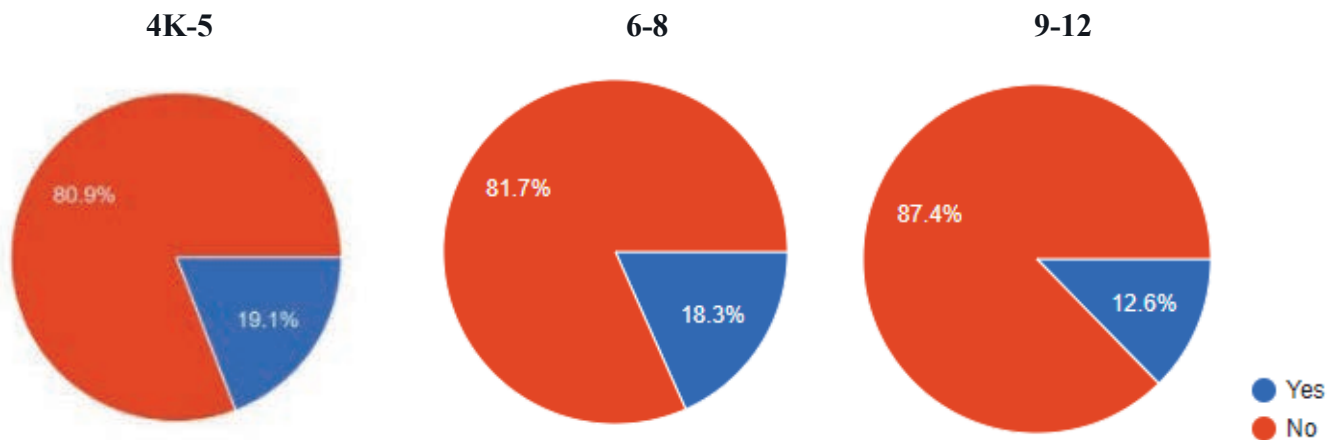
Additional Information

- **February 17-** CESA 5 will be conducting ACT Prep for Juniors. Students should watch their email and listen to announcements for instructions on how to sign up if interested. There will be no cost to students to participate.
- For families and students who would like to learn more about what is on any of the state assessments, the following are links to resources set up by the Department of Public Instruction

- [Forward](#) (Online Tools Training and Online Item Sampler)
- [ACT](#) (Free online practice tests and multiple ACT prep options)
- [ACT Aspire](#) (Practice Test)
- [DLM](#) (Released testlets)

Instructional Options for 2021-22

We know that families have options when it comes to where children attend school. Last month, as part of the parent/guardian feedback surveys, the district asked the following question in regards to planning for next school year: *During the 2021-22 school year, if Columbus School District provided an option for your child(ren) to attend an online virtual school for the school year, would you be interested in considering enrolling them in it?* The results were as follows.



Most parents and guardians who responded “Yes” also indicated a pandemic-related reason as a factor likely to influence their decision. As a district, we want to make sure that we provide a quality educational experience to all students. We believe that students learn best in school, but the pandemic has forced us to realize that not all families are comfortable with that quite yet. Therefore, in planning for next school year, the district will plan to provide an online educational option. However, it will not look the same as this year. Currently, we are researching multiple online curriculum providers, and will be able to provide more details in the future before any potentially interested family has to make a decision.



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Student Services Update

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

As a reminder, Columbus School District will be participating in the Dane County Youth Assessment this year. 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 contact the building principal to review the survey. If you prefer your child not participate, you may opt out by contacting Lisa Blochwitz at lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us

Black History Month

The Columbus School District honors the unique experiences and contributions of the Black community in America, past and present.

We wanted to also share some fun, family-friendly resources for you all! Google has paired with museums throughout the country to provide free virtual exhibits, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, we've linked a few that are fascinating to explore:

- [The King Center](#) in Atlanta, GA
- [Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) in Washington, D.C.
- [The Museum of African American Art](#) in Los Angeles, CA



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

Career & Technical Education Month

According to the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#), Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares students for a variety of postsecondary outcomes in the changing workplace. CTE helps students to be both college and career ready, with opportunities for making a future workforce that's skilled, productive, and competent. The Columbus School District's CTE program starts at a young age and includes components of academic and technical skills, leadership opportunities, and work-based learning.

National School Counseling Week: February 1-5

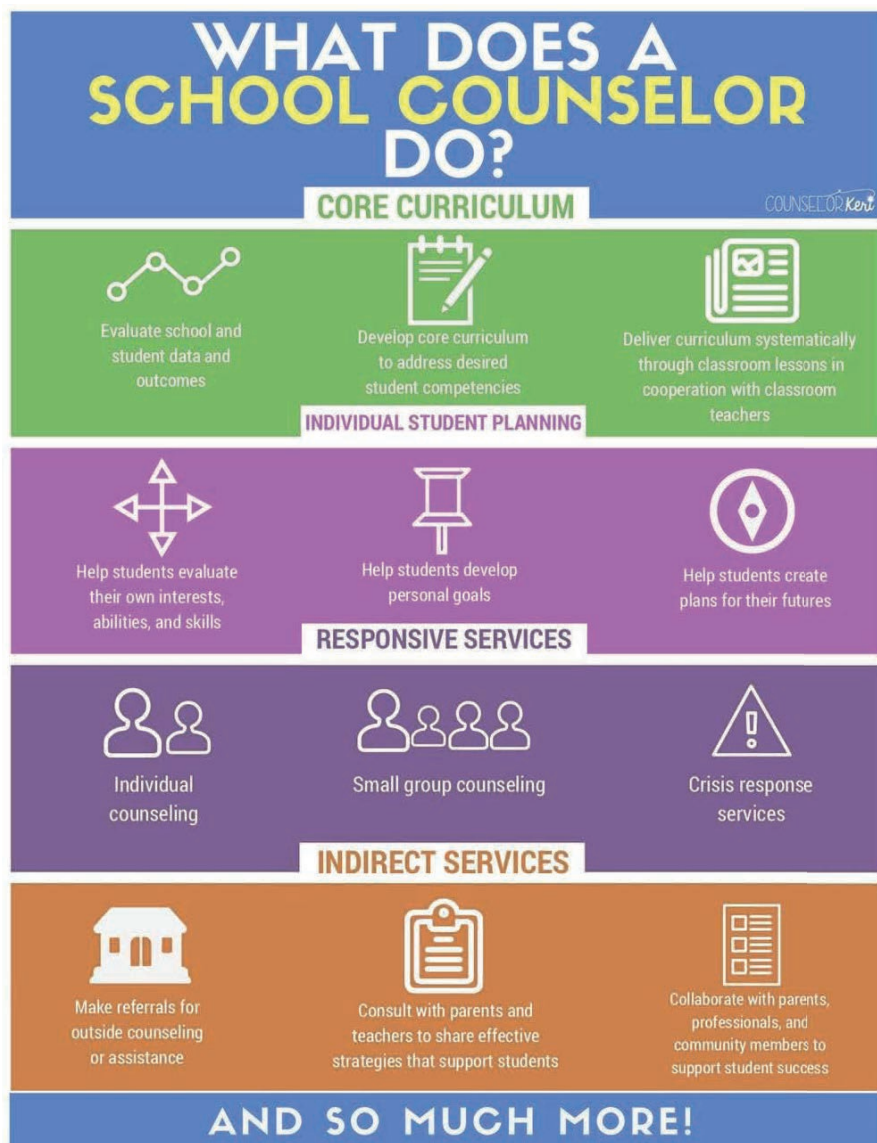
When we celebrate National School Counseling Week, we focus on the unique contribution of school counselors to the student experience. School counselors are educators with a master's degree in school counseling and a state-specific license. Their training and experience make them an integral part of the total educational program.

Until the 1990s, school counselors were dubbed "guidance counselors." The role changed with the terminology! Instead of only working to get students into college, school counselors have a comprehensive role in advocating for and educating the whole student. School counselors work with students for social/emotional support, academic guidance, and career planning! You can find more about the role of the school counselor [here](#).

With effective and comprehensive school counseling programs in place, we see the following positive student outcomes ([source 1](#) and [source 2](#)):

- Improved behavior
- Improved feelings of safety and positive climate at school
- Improved learning and academic outcomes
- Improved feelings of satisfaction with school
- Reduced disparities in Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Reduced achievement gaps for English language learners
- More support for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Higher graduation rates
- Higher likelihood of college enrollment

If you have specific questions about school counseling programs, contact the school counselors at the contact information above. More general information can also be found on the American School Counselor Association's website, www.schoolcounselor.org.





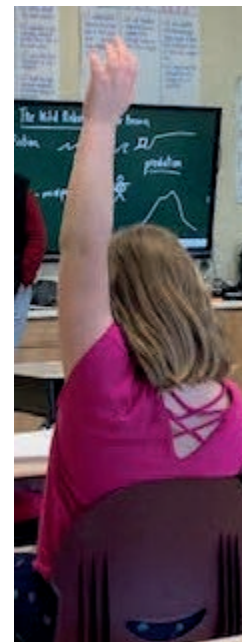
Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

Message from the Principal,

2nd semester has begun, parent conferences are over, the snow is flying and that can only mean one thing...it's crunch time! This time of year, often known as assessment season, is when the staff have learned a lot about their students. They have formed good relationships, have learned their cues and have found out what makes them "tick". This is actually when the magic happens! We see a tremendous amount of student growth in this time of year, and this is where the window of learning opens up for many students and teachers are able to drive our students to the next level. Our staff do this by analyzing student data, creating short term goals, finding research based strategies to support and making the goal come to fruition. Goal setting is one of the most effective ways to get students to improve, especially when the goal is known and shared with the student.



4th grade students in Mrs. Ott's class are enjoying the read aloud "Fox" by Margret Wild and Ron Brooks.



CES/DCS students have rolled out the school wide character education program called CARES. Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control are the characteristics we focus on. Students learn specific ways to act using CARES and staff give positive reinforcement to students who are showing this in school.



Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal

Message from the Principal,

February 8th: All 6th, 7th and 8th graders that are participating in blended learning will be back in the building four days a week. Students will be virtual on Wednesdays. If you wish to change your child's learning environment please contact me at cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us

MAP Testing: Students are finishing up their Winter MAP testing. Please have students look at Google Classroom for any changes to testing schedule.

Scheduling for Next Year: In January, students were given the opportunity to sign up for classes for the 2021-2022 school year. We are in the process of reviewing all requests so that we can build a master schedule and give students classes that they have requested.

Helpful Study Skills:

At School:

- Pay attention in class
- Take good notes
- Write homework in planner
- Ask for help when needed (email, Google Hangout, or in person)
- Review your work to catch careless mistakes
- Know the purpose of each assignment
- Ask questions in class
- Check Infinite Campus for grades and missing work weekly
- Monitor Google Classrooms for assignments and due dates
- Email teachers if assignments are turned in after due dates

At Home:

- Keep a daily routine
- Plan a definite time and place to study each night
- Eat a snack before you start and have water when working
- Attend live classes or watch the videos and take notes
- Do your homework at a desk or table
- Study a little bit each day
- Ignore or remove distractions
- Set cell phones away from study area
- Review, Review, Review
- Don't cram for hours before a night of a test
- Take 10-15 minute breaks between classes (stretch, walk, relax)
- Think positive thoughts



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Message from the Principal,

Happy February from Columbus High School! We have had a successful transition back into our hybrid model. CHS students continue to do a great job of following our practices and routines in the building. We very much appreciate their cooperation! It's been positive for all of us to be able to connect more personally with many of our students.

Scheduling

Students have recently completed the course selection process for the 2021-22 school year. We will be using this information to create our master schedule for the next school year. If you have any questions about class choices or academic/career planning, please reach out to Mr. Crombie (jcrombie@columbus.k12.wi.us) in our Student Services office.

Continue to emphasize...

This list has not changed because it continues to be vitally important for student success. We appreciate your support in communicating these things at home with your student(s).

- -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](#)

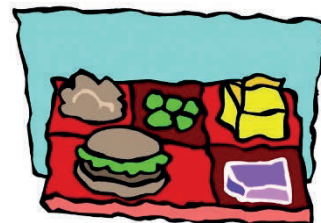
Jon Rouse
CHS Principal
jrouse@columbus.k12.wi.us

Joe Schneider
9-12 Assistant Principal
6-12 Activities Director
jschneider@columbus.k12.wi.us

Food Service News, Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

Get "Vocal for Local" at the 3rd Annual WISCONSIN Chili Lunch

The Columbus Food Service Department along with the Columbus FFA are excited to announce that our schools will be participating in the 3rd Annual



Wisconsin Chili Lunch on February 25, 2021. The Wisconsin Chili Lunch is a great way to highlight our farm to cafeteria efforts, encourage the use of Wisconsin grown foods, and support local farmers.

In 2019, there were 48,454 bowls of chili served on the first celebration of this day in the state of Wisconsin. Students will not only enjoy a great bowl of chili, but can also expect to have learning opportunities. Fun materials have been created by our FFA students! In the past, the school district has also participated in the Great Lakes Apple Crunch each fall where students crunch into a delicious crisp apple on the same day as other schools around the Great Lakes region.

Our menu for this exciting day includes a steaming bowl of chili, fresh warm cornbread, carrot sticks along with hummus, a tossed salad, apple slices, and a choice of Sassy Cow milk. This recipe was selected by Jackie Price, Kitchen Lead at Intermediate/Middle School. Jackie chose this recipe due to the amount of fresh items that would be included in this hearty healthy dish. There is no scrimping on flavor or ingredients. Remember that this meal is served free of charge to all students at lunch on this day.

Help us to get “Vocal for Local” foods on February 25th!

Keep Foodborne Illness Away from Your Super Bowl End Zone

(Washington, D.C., February 3, 2021) – Score a touchdown this year with your Super Bowl LV snacks by keeping bacteria out of the end zone. While your Super Bowl traditions may look different this year given COVID-19 and the need to maintain social distancing, your plans probably still involve food. Whether you are cooking your favorite munchies from scratch or ordering from a nearby restaurant, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) wants you to remember to follow safe food handling rules.

“As Americans prepare their Super Bowl food, protecting loved ones from foodborne illnesses is essential,” said USDA Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Paul Kiecker. “Millions of people get sick from food poisoning each year. Following guidance on proper handwashing and avoiding cross-contamination can keep your family safe.”

Check out USDA’s game plan to avoid these personal fouls.

Agree to a Clean Game: Do wash your hands. Washing your hands protects you from harmful bacteria that can cause foodborne illness and make you sick. In a recent USDA study, participants failed to wash their hands correctly 99 percent of the time. Make sure you wet your hands with warm running water and lather them with soap for a full 20 seconds. Time yourself by singing the Happy Birthday song twice. Then rinse and dry with a clean towel or paper towel.

Don’t wash chicken wings, other poultry products or meats. Many people who wash or rinse meat and poultry do so out of habit or because it’s how they learned to cook. USDA

research found that washing or rinsing these items greatly increases the spread of germs by splashing bacteria onto kitchen surfaces and other food items.

Keep Opposing Teams Apart: Don't cross contaminate. When you're shopping at the grocery store, keep raw meat, poultry, eggs, and seafood in separate plastic bags to prevent their juices from dripping onto other foods. Always remember to use separate cutting boards – one for fresh fruits and vegetables, and another for raw meats. Keep raw meats away from ready-to-eat foods.

Cook the Opponent: The only way to kill bacteria is to cook raw meat, poultry, seafood, and egg products to a safe minimum internal temperature. Use a food thermometer to ensure food has reached the recommended temperatures, which will kill any harmful bacteria that may be present. Ground meats should reach 160 F, whole cuts of meat should reach 145 F with a three-minute rest time, and chicken wings should reach at least 165 F. Take the temperature of multiple wings in the thickest part of the wing, being careful to avoid touching the bone, which can skew the reading.

Throughout the game, keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Keep hot foods above 140 F in a slow cooker or chafing dish or keep half of the food in a warm oven. Keep cold foods at 40 F or below by placing salads, dips and salsa in a tray of ice. If serving food throughout the game, keep two separate portions on hand for easy swapping. Serve one portion as the game starts and keep another portion in the refrigerator or oven to set out after half time to prevent dangerous bacteria from growing.

Chill Out: Most bacteria grow rapidly at temperatures between 40 F and 140 F, also known as the [Danger Zone](#). Don't leave food sitting out at room temperature for more than two hours. Before those two hours are up, place small portions of leftovers in shallow containers and refrigerate them promptly. When reheating leftovers, make sure they reach 165 F.

If you have questions, contact the USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) to talk to a food safety expert or chat live at ask.usda.gov from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

#

Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry: **Thank You** to all who have donated to the Food Pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We are well stocked and financially solid! **If you need assistance** with food during the month of February, please call Columbus United Methodist Church at 920-623-3625 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.

FFA Update



FFA T-shirts: FFA members make sure you are getting your FFA apparel ordered online! The order closes on Wed. Feb. 10! Order before Feb. 10th! Here is the link to the online store

<https://columbusffa21.itemorder.com/sale>

Important Dates:

February 8 - Wisconsin FFA State Degree Applications Due

February 12 - Wisconsin FFA Honors Band and Chorus Applications Due - All students must complete the application and entry fee. Students who were selected to participate last year do not have to submit a recorded audition.

February 24 - State FFA Proficiency Award Applications Due

March 5 - American FFA Degree Applications Due

March 15 - Wisconsin FFA State Scholarship Applications Due

April 15 - Middle School/Junior High Essay Contest Entries Due - Theme "Unstoppable"

April 20 - National Chapter Award Applications Due

April 22 - State Talent Applications Due

April 30 - State Officer Applications Due

May 3 - Food for America Award Applications Due

May 3 - Agriscience Fair Applications Due

Strawberry Sale: The FFA strawberry sale has started here is the link to the classmunity page

https://www.classmunity.com/columbuswi/view-fundraiser.php?fundraiser_id=1443 Students may also pick up a form from Mrs. Crook. Order forms are due Feb. 12 and the strawberries will be delivered the week of March 8-12.

Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

Hello from the Business Office! The biggest thing from January was completing the 2nd Friday count. In September and January, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requires districts to submit how many students are at school. These count dates are pretty important to the district, to say the least. State funding is directly tied to the number of kids we have in our classroom seats. A lot of schools this past year saw their enrollments drop because of the pandemic, so that is something we are keeping an eye on. Otherwise, the end of the calendar year and the start of the next are generally pretty quiet in the Business Office. We are beginning the process of building next year's budget, so I will keep the administrators and the community posted as that process comes along. In the meantime, stay warm and safe as we hopefully don't have too brutal of an end to winter!

Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services

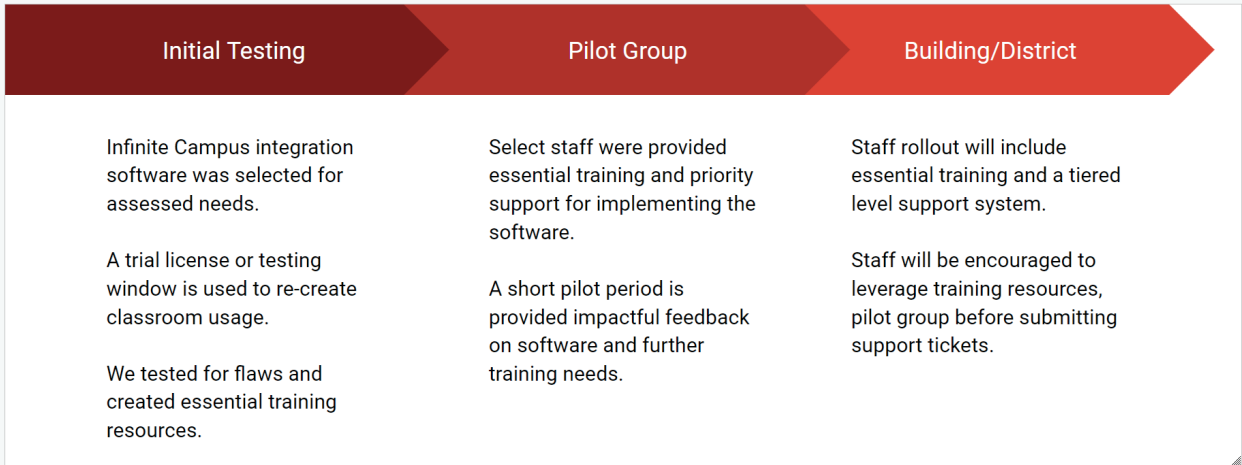
New Capability Infinite Campus to Google Classroom Integration (Campus Connect)

First and foremost: A shout out to Michael Ziegler and Keegan Shaw

What is happening: Google Classroom integration with Infinite Campus continues to roll out.

Why: This is a new capability that allows teachers and staff to be more efficient. In this process teachers can sync their Google Classroom(s) grades and assignments into infinite Campus.

The process: The District’s Technology Integrator did a pilot project with 10 individuals and the follow up included the following:



We surveyed the group:
Would you like to continue this software?

- 66.7 % yes
- 33.3 % no

What we learned:

- It is not a universal fit for every situation. Where it is a fit it was a significant time saver.
- Some of the challenges were related to how accounts and classes were initially setup.
- And lastly from a parent - this will/did help provide consistent information between Google Classroom and IC with, for example, missing or blank assignments.

Next steps:
The Technology Integrator will be following up based on the school – starting with The High School where this will have the most impact and aligns better with their trimester system.

Process Improvement Challenges

The problem: Institutional knowledge has been lost with people transitioning departments and responsibilities.

Our response: We need to redevelop some of our internal and external processes including how teachers and staff requesting hardware, software, and support.

Why is all of this important?
IT has three dedicated tech staff (including me), one admin support, and co-leads in academic technology and classroom coaching for the entire district. The more we can streamline tasks, the more responsive we can be. For example, this past month I received several requests for software. How many folks knew we had 5 places to check for existing software?

<https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/Page/498> (more than 50 Packages)
<https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/Page/47> (9 student Links)

<https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/Page/60> (3 Pages of CES student links – 59 Total)
<https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/Page/59> (CMS – 50+ quizzes practice items etc.)
<https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/domain/36> (CHS student Links -- 6)

Several of these links do not work anymore. Who is responsible for identifying those for corrections or how do they get cleaned up? The same question was asked of the staff directory where some folks are no longer here, others have moved into new positions, and new folks have onboarded. How would we as a school/district know these things?

The technology department is working with staff to ensure an efficient and timely process so that teaching and learning is enhanced throughout the District and across our stakeholders.

Finally, so as not to be too serious –

Communication is imperfect art.

We can strive to get better knowing similar things happen everywhere. Imagine you're working at an airport and have been asked to fix a situation for a pilot (link to a few examples of pilot humor):

<https://aviationhumor.net/pilots-vs-maintenance-engineers/>

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

The custodial department has been working in preparation for bringing all students back four days a week. On February 8th, the department will work harder than ever to ensure a clean and safe learning environment for staff and students. The staff has also been working closely with the referendum project engineering team, doing on site verification of existing conditions.

The Columbus Middle School currently has an opening for a full-time, second shift custodian. Work hours are Monday through Friday, 2:00pm - 10:30pm. Applicants should apply at wecan.education.wisc.edu. Vacancy ID# 96397


Calendar / Upcoming Events

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 K-8 Conferences – No School	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
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March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5 End of Trimester
8 Trimester begins School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	9	10 Late Start	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	23	24	25 End of Quarter	26 Early Release – 1:15 p.m.
29	30	31		

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