



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 elementary and high school projects were presented to the Columbus Plan Commission and Committee of the Whole meetings. The projects were reviewed and permitted to proceed to the next step, which is seeking final approval at the March plan commission meeting.
- Construction documents were completed by the Bray team on February 19. These will be issued to bid by C.D. Smith Construction.


WHAT'S NEXT?

- C.D. Smith Construction will be organizing the bidding process. Bids are due March 11.
- Construction is planned to begin in early April, weather permitting.

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.






**APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM**

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

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



**CD SMITH
CONSTRUCTION**

February 2021



APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM

Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Elementary School
Collaboration
Rendering



New Elementary
School Logo
"Little Charlie"



Created by Sue Reese
Graduate and Resident of
Columbus School District

Elementary School
Classroom
Collaboration
Rendering



Elementary School
Gymnasium
Rendering



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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



News from the Nurse, Brittany Bayer, RN

Hello families,

As Spring Break approaches, I wanted to use this as an opportunity to remind you of our travel guidelines for returning to school after traveling. Students who it is deemed necessary that they should quarantine upon returning from vacation/travel may come back to school using one of the two criteria:

-Student receives a viral test 3-5 days after travel, self-quarantines for 7 days, and can return on day 8 if the test is negative. If the test is positive, please isolate immediately and update the school.

-Student does not receive a viral test, self-quarantines for 10 days, and can return on day 11.

-If at any time your child develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during their self-quarantine time period, please contact their healthcare provider, as well as the school to receive guidance on next steps.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us

Thank you,
Brittany Bayer, RN



Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction March Updates

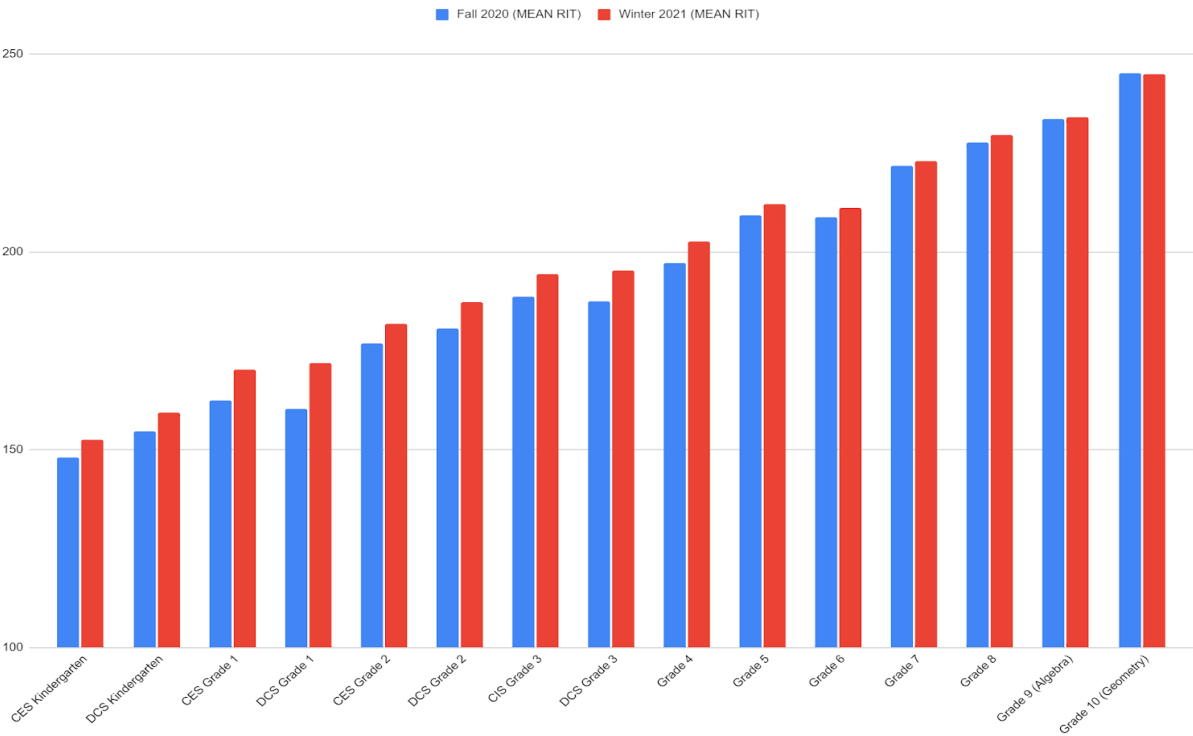
Student Growth During the Pandemic?

A big question looming on some minds is have students continued to grow academically during the pandemic? Certainly, instructional delivery has looked different at times, and there is no doubt that students have gone through a lot. While there is no exact science to measuring how much a student has learned or what they would have learned without all the twists and turns the pandemic has forced us all to endure, what we can share is growth data from our standardized, district assessment- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP).

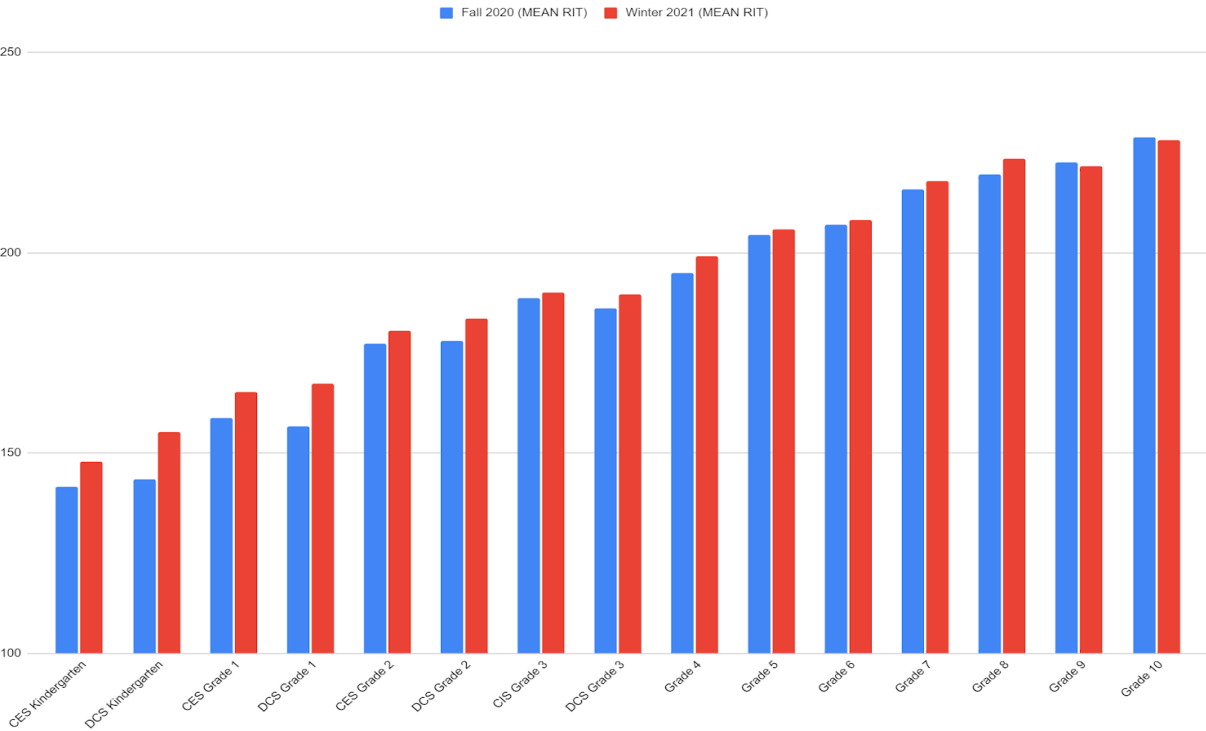
Every student, virtual and in-person was asked to complete MAP testing in reading and math this past fall and winter. In the Columbus School District, **ALL** grades K-8 demonstrated growth this school year. Grades 9 & 10 had a bit more mixed results.

MAP measures student progress on a scale using RIT points. RIT is short for Rasch UnIT. It is an estimation of the student's instructional level and it is used to measure progress and growth in learning. The average RIT score for each grade level may be found at <https://teach.mapnwea.org/impl/MAPGrowthNormativeDataOverview.pdf>.

MATH GROWTH: Fall 2020 to Winter 2021



READING: Fall 2020 TO Winter 2021



MAP tests were also given last year at CES and DCS (not at CIS, CMS, or CHS during the 2019-20 school year). **Not only did all of our elementary student grade levels show growth this school year, but our cohorts of students who were at CES and DCS last school year also showed growth from Winter 2020 to Winter 2021, even though schools were closed to in-person instruction last spring.**

MATH- Cohort Growth Winter 2020 to Winter 2021

	Winter 2020 (MEAN RIT)	Fall 2020 (MEAN RIT)	Winter 2021 (MEAN RIT)	Difference Winter '20 to Winter '21
Class of 2032- CES	150.1	162.6	170.2	20.1
Class of 2032- DCS	154.4	160.4	172	17.6
Class of 2031- CES	171.9	177	181.9	10
Class of 2031- DCS	181.6	180.8	187.3	5.7
Class of 2030- CES/CIS	193.1	188.7	194.4	1.3
Class of 2030- DCS/CIS	193.9	187.6	195.4	1.5

Reading- Cohort Growth Winter 2020 to Winter 2021

	Winter 2020 (MEAN RIT)	Fall 2020 (MEAN RIT)	Winter 2021 (MEAN RIT)	Difference Winter '20 to Winter '21
Class of 2032- CES	150.7	158.7	165.2	14.5
Class of 2032- DCS	151	156.7	167.4	16.4
Class of 2031- CES	169.5	177.4	180.5	11
Class of 2031- DCS	177.6	178.1	183.7	6.1
Class of 2030- CES/CIS	185.3	188.6	190.1	4.8
Class of 2030- DCS/CIS	187.9	186.1	189.6	1.7

The school district is taking several steps to address learning gaps.

- New math curriculum. Bridges also includes intervention materials that staff have available for use as needed with small groups.
- Staff were trained in the new math curriculum over the summer and K-8 staff were just given additional training on the Feb. 22nd inservice. 9-12 math staff receive continual professional learning on their curriculum throughout the school year.
- Teacher collaboration with instructional coaches for mathematics and literacy.
- Literacy- Intentional planning to embed essential standards staff have identified students need additional work in into upcoming units
- Resources for our parents, guardians, grandparents, etc. who support students at home.
 - [Bridges in Mathematics \(4K-5\)](#)
 - [Carnegie Learning Mathematics \(6-8\)](#)
 - [CPM \(Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra\)](#)
 - [Literacy Resources](#)
- Summer school. ALL K-8 students who attend summer school in 2021 will receive practice in math and literacy skills every day.
- Additionally, we will identify missed learning standards and adjust our scope and sequence accordingly in planning for the beginning of next school year.



Planning for Summer School

Columbus School District is busy making plans to run in-person summer school. This year, there will be two sessions offered.

Session 1: June 14- July 1

Session 2: July 12- July 30

*CHS sessions may have alternate dates. Please see course descriptions for specifics.

Summer school registration will be open from **March 15th-May 1st** in the Infinite Campus portal. For more information, please see our [Summer School 2021- Parent/Student Working Draft](#). Please note, the district will continue to update this document as more information becomes available.

State Testing- Spring 2021

On February 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education issued a letter to chief state school officers that the new Secretary of Education will NOT be issuing waivers from federal assessment requirements.

As a reminder, these are the assessments 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
- **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 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.



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Columbus School District Has Joined the Dane County Equity Consortium

This school year, Columbus School District joined a group of Dane County District representatives that make up the Dane County Equity Consortium. The Consortium is committed to creating equitable opportunities and taking collective action to eliminate barriers associated with the predictability of success based on race, ethnicity, gender

identity, first language, income or ability statuses.

The Dane County Equity Consortium meets monthly on a virtual platform to make progress on the following outcomes:

- Build on the momentum and cross-district relationships from the past two years to fulfill the consortium's goal.
- Develop as a community of practice through continued networking and support.

- Participate in ongoing action research focused on a district-specific problem of practice, resulting in sharing across the consortium.
- Continue to accomplish projects and offer learning opportunities through work groups.
- Learn about applied equity practices from school and district case study examples.

Stay tuned for future articles about the action research Columbus is focusing on to an identified problem of practice within our district.

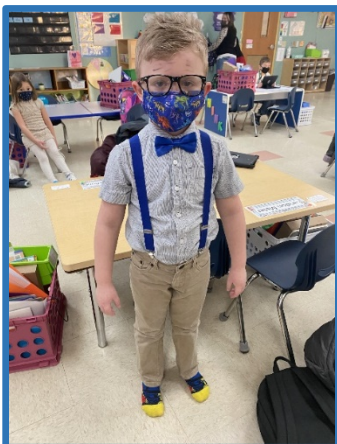


Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

Message from the Principal,

March is music in our school's month, this celebration is very near and dear to my heart. I taught elementary music for 10 years prior to my principalship and in that time I found the true love of teaching, relationship building and the importance of music in a young child's learning experience. Music education is so much more than the squawking sound of a recorder or a belting solo from the bathroom...it's about creation, expression and in some cases, showing a talent when you feel talentless. Let me tell you a story about a young girl with little confidence, who academically struggled and found music.

This little girl was quiet, very quiet, so much that she didn't want her teachers to notice her, until her 2nd grade teacher (The Great Mrs. Dart) noticed her inability to keep up with class work and recommended her parents to hold her back in 2nd grade again. Although it worked out in the long run; this bruised the confidence of her learning abilities and made her even more quiet and less likely to share any academic needs with her peers or teachers. As the elementary years went on, she began to come out of her shell, finding that singing in church was something she was actually good at, then that confidence started to transfer over to school, soon she was sticking her neck out there and trying out for auditioned choirs, dance teams and dramas. Although she lacked academic confidence, she shined in the limelight through music. She later went to college for music education and continued to get a master's degree and shows up to school every day as a principal who is eager to show others how to find their own confidence as well. You may be wondering who this girl was? You guessed it...it was me. If it wasn't for music I would never have learned how to be confident, and most importantly, I would not be able to share with others how to find confidence in themselves as well. So this month let's celebrate what music can bring to a person's life, in my case it was perseverance, grit, and confidence.



100th day of school!

The CES Kindergarten students celebrated their 100th day of school by dressing up as if they were 100 years old! One of our favorite days of the year!





Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal

Message from the Principal,

We are so happy to have students back in the building four days a week. The students and staff have been doing an amazing job transitioning to our new normal.

Spring is right around the corner! We will have snow melting and students outside divided by cohort, please make sure your child has the appropriate outside clothes for the season.

Forward Testing: State testing season is approaching. I want to share with you the set testing dates for each grade and subject. This way students can be present in school and ready to test.

March 22-26 English Language Arts 7th & 8th

April 7-9 Social Studies and Science for 8th

April 12-16 English Language Arts for 6th

April 12-16 Math for 7th

April 19-23 Math for 6th & 8th

3rd-8th grade Forward Testing Plan for Virtual Students

Test location CES library

Students can enter the Seldon Street Doors.

One staff member will be there for check in

Students will need to bring laptop and charger

Testing schedule will follow

3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th graders will start with ELA and take a break and test in Math

4th and 8th will test ELA and Science on their first day and Math and Social Studies on second testing day.

3/22	3/23	3/24	3/25	3/26
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	

Pre-Arranged Absences

If a student has a known absence coming up, we ask that you call into the office to let us know ahead of time. This allows our teachers proper notification so that they can prepare work for a student, and discuss with them strategies on how to make up any missing work.

8th Grade Social Studies and English Language Arts

In February and March, 8th grade Social Studies and Language Arts are working together to learn about the United Nations Goals to improve our world. Students are choosing a goal, such as Zero Hunger, Quality Education, or Gender Equality, to study in an African country. 8th graders are looking to the past and

comparing it to what's happening today. Finally, students are doing presentations to argue what could be done to help this country achieve this goal.

Help Your Child Get the Sleep They Need

The transition back to four days a week in person has left some kids tired and exhausted. Here are some guidelines that the CDC has recommended for students.

Children and adolescents who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk for many health and behavior problems.

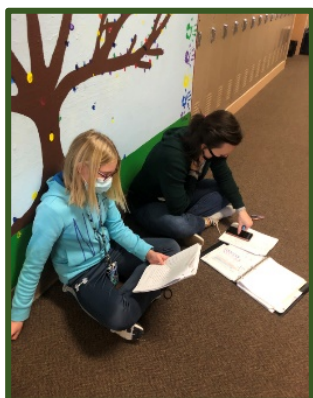
Parents can support good sleep habits such as:

- Sticking to a consistent sleep schedule during the school week and weekends. This means going to bed at the same time each night and getting up at the same time each morning. Adolescents whose parents set bedtimes are more likely to get enough sleep.⁶ To help decide on a good bedtime for your child, go to the [Bedtime Calculator](#).
- Limiting light exposure and technology use in the evenings.
 - Parents can limit when their children may use electronic devices (sometimes referred to as a “media curfew”).
 - Parents can limit where their children may use electronic devices (for example, not in their child’s bedroom).
 -



<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/features/students-sleep.htm>

Our CMS students are continuing to learn and grow!



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Message from the Principal,

Happy March from Columbus High School! We have been busy at CHS preparing for spring and the beginning of the third trimester.

FFA Week This Past Week

FFA recently held their annual FFA week activities. For the first time in 26 years of teaching, Ms. Crook drove a tractor to school and had fun! Thanks to CHS Student Garret B for getting Ms. Crook to do it!

[Photos from FFA Week](#)

Practical Law Mock Trial

Members of Mr. Williams' Practical Law class completed their end of term Mock Trial recently. Law students played roles of Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Judge, Witnesses, Bailiff and the Accused. Members of Mr. Kube's US Government class served as Jurors. After a two day trial the Jury took just a few moments to return a verdict of GUILTY. A sentencing hearing is pending.

[Photos from the Mock Trial](#)

4 Day Instructional Model - March 8

On Monday, March 8th, we return to an instructional model that includes all grades in the building four days a week. For the week of March 8th, we will have all grades in the building Monday, Thursday, and Friday. After that, it will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday through Spring Break.

During this transition into including more students in the building, we will continue to mitigate risk when possible. All individuals in the building are required to wear proper face coverings over their nose and mouth. Areas will be wiped down frequently. Students will be encouraged to distance when possible with designated sides of the hallway to walk on. Students also are encouraged to use the many hand sanitizer stations placed around the building.

ACT Information

Our juniors will be taking the ACT on **Tuesday, March 9**. On this day, only juniors will be in the building. Freshmen, sophomores, and seniors will have an asynchronous learning day. All juniors, including virtual students, will need to come into the building that day to take the test. We are working on the details of test day, but our intent is to create the best testing environment possible for our students. If your student is interested in preparing for the test ahead of time, please follow this [link](#). On this site you will find practice tests and sample test items. We will be sharing more details in the near future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

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

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.

Food Service News, Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

March: Celebrate National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month was initiated in 1973 as National Nutrition Week, and it became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing interest in nutrition. This year's theme, *Personalize Your Plate*, promotes creating nutritious meals to meet individuals' cultural and personal food preferences. During National Nutrition Month, everyone is encouraged to make informed food choices and develop sound eating and physical activity habits they can follow all year long.



"America is a cultural melting pot, so you can't expect everyone's food choices to look the same," said registered dietitian nutritionist Su-Nui Escobar, a national spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in Miami, Fla. "Eating is meant to be a joyful experience. As supermarkets increasingly diversify their shelves to meet the needs of their customers, it's becoming easier to create nutritious meals that align with a variety of cultural preferences."

Encourage your children to try new foods. Ideas from 'BBC good food' bloggers include:

1. Get them in the kitchen

There's nothing like handling and combining ingredients to help children understand about the foods they eat and to inspire them to be inquisitive about the ingredients being used. Younger children can help with weighing, mixing and measuring jobs, gaining more responsibility as they get older. The more invested they are in preparing the meal, the more likely they are to eat it!

2. Try to offer a choice

Allow your child to choose between several different ingredients (try to include a familiar one) or a few different forms of the same ingredient – for example raw apple, dried apple or canned apple. Encourage them to look, touch, smell and, if they want to, to try eating it. Ask them to tell you what they think at each stage – talking about food and having a conversation is key.

3. Be a good role model

Let children see you eating new ingredients, preferably at the dinner table alongside them. Say out loud what you think about the new flavors and why; this will help them to communicate their own preferences. Also, as tempting as it is, try not to edit out ingredients just because you don't like them!

4. Never force or bribe a child to eat something

If you want positive results at the dinner table, the atmosphere needs to be relaxed and enjoyable. Try to avoid using food as a reward system for unpleasant tasks and don't force them to eat food they don't like – this will only cause them to be more reluctant to try new foods in the future.

5. Be mindful of portion sizes

A large portion of something unfamiliar on their plate might put the child off more than the actual ingredient. You can always use small pots or egg cups to serve new items; try including them on the table instead of directly on the plate.

An extra tip is to remember that if you don't provide new foods, your child will not know they exist. It doesn't have to be at every meal, but their ingredient and taste repertoire will be limited if you don't help them explore the options.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics states, “Developing healthful eating habits does not require drastic lifestyle changes. Spice up your menus with the foods and flavors that you enjoy and add new flavors to add excitement.”

Consider trying a new food or recipe this month with your family and get outside to enjoy spring in Wisconsin.



The Columbus Food Service Department along with the Columbus FFA were excited to serve 508 bowls of Chili at 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. Placemats, designed by the FFA were distributed at CES, CIS, and CMS, along with soybean crayons. Some high school students also received locally donated prizes when they chose special

pre-stickered cartons of milk.

Recipes for both the [Wisconsin Chili](#) and the [White Chicken Chili](#) are included after many students and staff requested them.

Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry: If you need assistance with food during the month of March, please call St. Jerome Catholic Church at 920-623-3753 ext. 242 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. Monetary donations may be sent to Farmers & Merchants Union Bank.

Food donations may be dropped off in the bin at Columbus Pick 'n Save. Contact Colleen at 920-210-6266 with questions. Thank you.

FFA Update



Important Dates:

March 5 - American FFA Degree Applications Due
March 15 - Wisconsin FFA State Scholarship Applications Due
March 25 – Registration for LDE due
April 15 - Middle School/Junior High Essay Contest Entries Due - Theme "Unstoppable"
April 8 – LDE District Contest
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

National FFA Week was February 20-27. The FFA participated in various activities throughout the week.

Tuesday- Chili lunch and FFA prizes for CHS- The FFA gave out 10 prizes to 10 lucky winners
Tractor Drive in Day for 9/10 grade – Morgan B and McKenzie P drove their red tractors
FFA T-shirt Day

Wednesday- FFA Trivia- online CHS Google Classroom- Winner was Hillary K!

Thursday- Chili lunch for CES, CIS, CMS and CHS – Morgan B, Kayla H and Corrina L helped hand out 400 placemats and soybean crayons to 4K-8th grade students.
FFA prizes on the milk cartons at CHS- 10 prizes were awarded to 10 winners!

Friday- FFA T-shirt day

Tractor Drive in day for 11/12 grade- Garret B, Nick S, Corrina L, Hannah D and Mrs. Crook drove in their tractors!

Hannah D and Corrina L conducted radio interviews for National FFA Week on the Daily Dodge.



Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

Looking back, February has flown by quickly! In the Business Office, February is a time to look ahead. The work really begins on planning for next year's budget. We are receiving quotes and bids for services for next year already. The district has scheduled debt payments to go out in the first week of March. On top of all of that work that we'll see come to fruition in the future, there's the day to day operations that help support the teachers, administrators, and other staff here in the district! In the upcoming months and as things come up, I will be talking more about how the district crafts its budget, how property taxes and mill rates work, and all sorts of other fun things that we worry about here in the Business Office. For now, though, this month in recap has been laying the groundwork for the rest of this year and the start of the next.

Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services

Another month has passed us by! This is the conclusion of month three for me! It has been exciting and I cannot wait to see what the spring, summer, and next year brings!

The Technology team continues to address our ticketing order system and work on closing and addressing the needs of students and staff as quickly as possible. This month 444 new tickets opened, while we closed 385. We provided 70.4 hours of service just to tickets and addressed everything from server warnings, to phone calls (that got logged into the system), some sales pitches that come in via email, and more!

These stats do not include some of the "other duties as assigned" where our responses require more hands-on approaches - like cleaning out closets, setting up furniture surveys, etc. For me the keys are Opened, Closed, Assigned and Overdue as we try to keep pace with student needs the best we are able.

What's Happening

We are moving into a rebuilding stage of the District IT team.

Our IT technicians, Justin Tenpass and Keegan Shaw, are moving onto other opportunities. We wish them well and thank them for their service to students and staff. Both positions are posted on WECAN and on Indeed if you know folks who might be interested in the position.

As I begin to learn more about the community and the District, one of my goals is to engage more people. Oscar Wilde said that "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery that mediocrity can pay to greatness."

In a recent conversation with Beth Hellpap, Columbus Elementary Principal, as she was addressing some of my thoughts and questions, she gave a little tilt of the head to the right, with a little smile, and understanding eyes and stated, "Ohhh, We're going to have to teach you a little more about K-8."

"Yes! Yes, you will Beth!"
(Used with her permission.)

Please feel free to reach out and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you!

Thanks all!

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

Facilities Update For March 2021

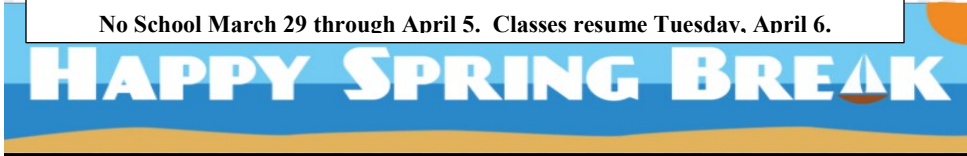
March has certainly come in with some great weather so far. The snow is melting and Spring is just around the corner. This means there will be places on the sidewalk that will be wet during the day and will freeze again overnight. Please be cautious in the morning when approaching the school buildings.

The upcoming referendum project is ramping up. Contractors have been on site to tour the facilities in preparation for bid day. There has been a great turn out so far for those tour days.


As we phase into bringing students back to the classroom for four days a week, our custodians will be ramping up the disinfecting strategies. Sanitizer will be readily available for staff and students, and the fogging of spaces will be crucial to ensure mitigation strategies are being met. We are excited to see more faces every day. Stay safe and Go Cards!

Calendar / Upcoming Events

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	 <p>No School March 29 through April 5. Classes resume Tuesday, April 6.</p>	

April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <p>No School March 29 through April 5. Classes resume Tuesday, April 6.</p>				
5 No School	6	7	8	9
12 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	13	14 Late Start	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	27	28 Grade 9-12 Parent Teacher Conf.	29	30

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