



# Columbus School District

Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

# E- NEWSLETTER

April 2021

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## WHAT'S NEW?

- Bids from interested contractors were submitted March 11. The projects came in under budget! This is great news, as it provides options for the District.
- Currently, the District is reviewing pricing for the proposed bid alternates, which are pre-designed options for additional work.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- The groundbreaking ceremony for the elementary and high schools will be held on April 14. The elementary school ground breaking will be held first, at 2:30 pm, followed immediately by the high school ceremony.
- This event is invite only due to space restrictions. The ground breaking will be filmed for the community and shared on social media.

## PLANNING + DESIGN UPDATE

- Furniture planning meetings have continued to progress with the Core Planning Team (CPT). The final selection of furniture is now complete.
- Bray and the Core Planning Team (CPT) have continued to meet regularly to finalize environmental branding design. The design phase is now complete. Bray will facilitate production and installation of the branding elements.
- The Bray team and the Core Planning Team (CPT) have been collaborating with the Columbus Historical Society to gather content for the "History of Charlie" timeline graphic, which will be located at the High School.



**APRIL 2020  
REFERENDUM**

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

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

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**bray**  
architects

**CD SMITH**  
CONSTRUCTION



## APRIL 2020 REFERENDUM

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

March 2021

# PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

## DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

C.D. Smith Construction has arrived on-site and is preparing to break ground. Work will commence in April.

Construction will be completed in phases at the elementary, middle, and high schools, beginning this April and continuing until August 2022.

High School  
History of Charlie  
Graphic



Elementary School  
Curriculum Wall



### QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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





## COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic



A large number of District staff participated in a two-part vaccination clinic on March 17th and April 7th. Teachers, support staff, substitutes, coaches, and food service received the vaccine from vaccinators from Forward Pharmacy on-site in the Columbus Middle School gymnasium. The District appreciated the cooperation and flexibility of our families as we provided virtual instruction on April 8th and 9th in anticipation of possible side effects due to the vaccine. For staff reporting side effects, about 20 to 25% of staff experienced side effects after the second dose of the vaccine.



### Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

#### Curriculum & Instruction April Updates

##### Parent/Guardian Feedback

As part of our continuous improvement planning, the district is collecting parent/guardian feedback

on how the school year is progressing. We use this information to make adjustments as we are able in order to better serve our students and families. Please take a moment to fill out a feedback survey for each grade band in which you have at least one student. The feedback surveys will be open through April 14th.

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

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

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

#### 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.



## Planning for Summer School

Summer School registration is open through April 23rd.

- **Session 1:** June 14- July 1
- **Session 2:** July 12- July 30

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

Students may only attend sessions intended for the grade level they will be entering next school year. If you accidentally sign up for a session not intended for your child's grade level, we can help unenroll them from the incorrect session. Please see the [2021 Summer School Catalog](#) for more details.

These are also quick tutorial videos on how to go through the Summer School registration steps in Infinite Campus.

[Registration Video \(English\)](#)  
[Video de registro \(español\)](#)

## 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**

The district held specific dates in March for all K-8 virtual students to take the Forward test. If your child has not taken Forward and is all virtual, the school will be in touch in order to set up an arrangement that works for you. Grade 10 virtual students will take the Forward Social Studies test at CHS on **April 8th**.

### **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**

The initial ACT testing date and make-up date were held in March. Any virtual Junior who still has not taken the ACT will need to plan on reporting to CHS on **April 13** for the statewide emergency date ACT administration.

### **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 12-** Grades 3 & 6 (ELA) and Grades 5 & 7 (Math)
  - **Week of April 19-** Grades 3, 4, 6 & 8 (Math)
  - Week of April 26th- Grades 4 & 8 (Science and Social Studies Assessments)
  - **April 28th-** Grade 10 Social Studies

### **ACT Aspire**

- **Week of April 19th-** will be scheduled to be taken during regular school hours during appropriate classes.

### **ACT w/ Writing**

- April 13th is a mandatory emergency date set by the state. Grade 11 students who were unable to test on the original and make-up dates in March will be in person and testing must begin first thing in the morning.

### **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**

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### **Columbus School District Transition Program**

The Columbus School District provides special education services to students ages 18-21 of all abilities through our Transition Program. These services focus on life skills, employment, daily living and independent living skills. The district purchased a home on Richmond Street in 2014 for the Transition Program. This setting allows students to practice skills related to lawn care, laundry, personal hygiene, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, recreation, wellness and various household duties all within an authentic environment. The programming is individualized based on each student's specific needs and is also available to students from neighboring districts that may not offer their own 18-21 year old program. All students in the program are employed by local area businesses and work with a job coach on vocational skills. The Transition Program partners, for both employment and volunteer opportunities, with local businesses such as BP, Subway, Culver's, Julie's Java House, Prairie Ridge, POSH Nails, True Value, St. Vincent De Paul, Pick 'N Save, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Hurley's Auto, Gates Auto, Drexel, and St. Joseph's Church. The program also supports students who attend Madison College. The primary goal of the program is to prepare students to be independent adults; therefore we partner with local service providers such as DVR and ADRC to connect students with resources and support they may need after they age out of the program. Recently, the District was awarded a \$25,000.00 grant for the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van. This van will allow the District to expand the program by offering the opportunity for students who use wheelchairs to access services within this great program.



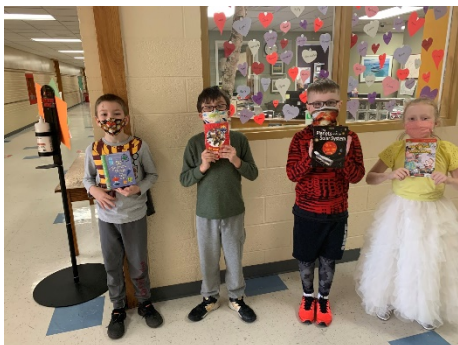
## **Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal**

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### **Message from the Principal,**

Construction excitement is in the air! Our students are eager to watch the day to day hustle and bustle of the new construction for the Columbus Elementary Building. Fences have been installed, playground equipment has been removed and the landscape is starting to look ready for the new addition! Since outdoor play is so vital to a child's development, we have created plans to support that growth by sharing the public playground at Washington Park! This beautiful playground allows for social distancing, new play areas and a fresh new approach to outdoor play. The students at CES/DCS love playing in one of Columbus's gorgeous parks! What a great community to be a part of!





### **A huge thanks to Columbus Nutrition for donating books!**

Columbus Nutrition did a book drive and donated BEAUTIFUL books to our K-5 students. Each student was able to choose a book and keep thanks to the generosity of Columbus Nutrition!



## **Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal**

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### **Message from the Principal,**

I can't believe that it is already April! The second half of the school year is really flying by. We are about to transition to five days a week of in-person instruction and we are looking forward to getting students back into a normal routine during our last two months of school.

We are going to be spending the last few months focusing not only on academic instruction but on the social and emotional learning for all students.

We have seen an increase in students being unkind to one another. At Columbus Middle School, we want to foster a positive school climate where all students feel safe, included, and accepted, and are able to learn and grow. In April and May, we will talk about our expectations at Columbus Middle School and how we expect students to act and behave respectfully to each other. Here are a few things that we will be focusing on in the next few weeks.

1. We will expect students and staff to start paying attention to what and how they say things. Commonly used words such as “gay,” “crazy” or “dumb” are actually exclusionary, offensive and derogatory.
2. We will expect students and staff to listen to all voices. We want to make sure that all students and staff have a voice and are able to feel safe expressing their voices.
3. We will ask students and staff not to be a bystander when they see or hear things that are derogatory or offensive. The risk of staying silent is sending the message that discrimination and intolerance are acceptable and tolerated within school and society.
4. We will ask students to be willing to accept correction if they say or do something that is offensive and learn from their experiences.
5. We will be asking students to learn from one another and have an open mind in the conversation that we will be having. We can learn a lot from each other and the experiences we have each had.

Please have conversations with your students in the coming week about how we can be accepting and tolerant of all people. It can be helpful to monitor social media and phone use at home and to engage in conversations about acceptable use and acceptable language towards others. If you need any additional information or resources to help guide your conversation please feel free to reach out.



## **Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal**

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Upon returning from Spring Break, we are 8 weeks away from the conclusion of our 2021-2022 school year. Our staff and students have done amazing work adapting to the shifting and demands of a unique year. We can't thank you enough for your support as we finish out this school year!

### **Graduation and Prom Update**

We are in the process of planning a graduation ceremony for the evening of Friday, May 28. The plan is to hold this event outdoors on the football field. This will allow for appropriate physical distancing of our graduates and guests and create a safer environment all around. Obviously, the biggest variable will be weather. We will also have an alternate plan in case of inclement weather. We will share details as they become available.

We are also working on a plan for a prom event to be held in early May. Again, as details are figured out, we will be sharing those. As you can imagine, the craziness of this year has presented a number of roadblocks for us in planning large gatherings like graduation and prom. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we map out the details of each of these events.

### **Spring Assessment Season**

While the ACT is mostly behind us, we still have a few other assessments coming up as we finish out this school year. I wanted to provide some information in regards to what to expect from the various assessments.

#### ***Forward***

Forward testing in high school is administered to our 10th grade students, and just consists of Social Studies content. The test will be completed during the course of a regular school day, with some exceptions for our virtual students. The test is done through the student Chromebook, and takes approximately 70 minutes for the students to complete. Students will be receiving information regarding Forward testing specific to them as we return from Spring Break.

#### ***ACT Aspire***

ACT Aspire is another statewide mandated test. The ACT Aspire is administered to our 9th and 10th grade students. The ACT Aspire measures what students have learned in the areas of: English, Reading, Science, and Writing. It is an online assessment that must be administered in person.

The current plan is to get our Freshman/Sophomore students tested in ACT Aspire the week of April 19th through some alterations in our bell schedule. Details on that will be forthcoming after Spring Break.

#### ***Spring MAP Window***

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for students will be conducted the week of May 3rd. 9th and 10th grade students in English 1, 2, Algebra, and Geometry will be completing that testing during their regularly scheduled class periods. This testing allows us to measure growth in our 9th and 10th grade students in the areas of English, Algebra, and Geometry.



## CHS Activities Updates

### Cardinals in Action

Since this past winter, Mr. Schneider has been meeting with a group of nominated students from a variety of our Activities at Columbus High School. The nominated students have been participating in monthly meetings/discussions. The monthly meetings revolve around one central topic, What it takes to be a Leader in Columbus High School.

Cardinals in Action devotes roughly 45 minutes per month to allow students to discuss their struggles and their growth towards improving their leadership skills. Cardinals in Action also work on defining what it takes to do something the Cardinal Way. The Cardinal Way emphasizes that students are honest, accountable, choose discipline, and embrace commitment.

Cardinal Activities believes in intentionally promoting a positive culture within our community. Our Cardinals in Action are taking intentional steps towards that, for the betterment of all students/community members.

### Athletic Schedules

If you are wondering about schedules for Columbus High School athletics, see the Capitol Conference website for details.

[Capitol North Conference](#)

If you're interested in getting real-time notifications of schedule changes/additions, sign up at the below link.

<https://www.capitolnorthconference.org/public/notify/genie/522/school/1>

From there, you create an account and specify the notifications you would like to receive.

## Food Service News, Laura Austin, Director of Food Service

The Columbus School District Food Service is Celebrating!

From the return of Spring Break 2020 to the beginning of Spring Break 2021, the Columbus Food Services Team served a total of 115,400 meals. The Food Service team is very proud of this statistic and were extremely pleased to partner with the USDA to provide all of those meals at NO CHARGE during the pandemic. Meals were served in-person, via mobile bus routes, as well as, a variety of pick-up locations during this time. Meals will continue to be served at no cost to families until the end of this school year on June 4, 2021

There has been some confusion regarding student meal accounts. ALL breakfasts and lunches are served at NO CHARGE. Milk breaks for students K-5 are 50 cents per day unless the family qualifies for Free/Reduced meals. A student that chooses to bring a lunch from home will be charged for milk (50 cents) should they want one with their packed lunch. High School students will be charged for any ADDITIONAL items (ie: extra portions, chips, cookies, beverages, etc.). Please bring your meal accounts current by logging into Infinite Campus or by sending a check to the office at your child's school.



Food Service will still be providing breakfasts on the LATE START day, April 14th. Elementary/Discovery School will have breakfasts available for those students that come early for childcare. Intermediate and Middle School will still have the breakfast carts right as the students arrive. At the High School, students only need to walk by the hall entrance to the cafeteria to pick up a readymade breakfast.

Thank you for supporting the Food Service Team at the Columbus School District. It is our pleasure to feed the youth of Columbus.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry: If you need assistance with food during the month of April, please call Faith Lutheran Church at 920-623-3610 to schedule an appointment. Si Ud. necesita ayuda con la comida, favor de llamar al 920-287-8122 y pida Marcos para programar una cita. We are well stocked and financially solid. Thank you for all the generous donations! Contact Colleen at 920-210-6266 with questions.

## FFA Update



### **Important Dates:**

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

## Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

### Federal Stimulus Money: What's the Scoop?

Within the last year or so, the federal government has passed 3 different stimulus packages. With each package, there has been some money earmarked for K-12 Education. The question you may be wondering is: What has Columbus done with their stimulus money?

One thing to note that with each stimulus package, there is considerable lag from when the bills get passed to when the districts across the state can start claiming their allotted funds. To give you a frame of reference, the first stimulus package, the CARES Act (also referred to as ESSER I), was passed in March 2020. The Columbus School District didn't know their final allocation until September. Once the district had access to its funds, the district received around \$70,000. This money helped offset the costs of providing hotspots to students and for cleaning supplies to keep our buildings safe, clean, and open.

The second round of stimulus, passed in late December, known as ESSER II, is a little different than the first round. Even though that legislation was passed a few months ago, Columbus is awaiting to hear what the final

amount is. A chunk of what Wisconsin received to allocate to all K-12 schools in the state is going to be divided up by how much in person learning schools offered throughout the year. So, while the district doesn't know how much it will be receiving, the district is planning to spend those funds on related COVID costs that we are incurring from this year and into next.

With the third round of stimulus, the American Rescue Plan Act, or ESSER III, the allocation Columbus School District will receive is even more unclear. Initial estimates said double what you received in ESSER II... but as mentioned above, that amount is still pending. Double of an unknown is... a lot more questions. The details on this are few and far between. Considering the district is still waiting on ESSER II allocations, I anticipate knowing the ESSER III allocation after ESSER II.

To summarize, with the stimulus money, it's more complicated than it appears on the surface. It's easy to jump to conclusions based on news reports that announce how much districts are receiving. In reality, the district is making sure it is optimizing the stimulus dollars to the benefit of the kids in our district and making sure they are able to receive in person education.

I've included links to the Department of Public Instruction and their info on each of the stimulus packages.

ESSER I Information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/cares/esser-grants?scrlybrkr=a3d2bfd5>

ESSER II Information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/administrators/e-mail/esser-ii-funds>

ESSER III Information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/administrators/e-mail/american-rescue-plan-act>

Nathan Knitt  
Director of Business Services

## **Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services**

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### **Preparing for Construction.**

District staff went through the server rooms in the High School and the Middle School. We are organizing and cleaning out these spaces for the construction projects coming up – a spring cleaning if you will. Some of our spaces will move after construction, so we are excited to have a jump on the process.

IT also will be a large part of new spaces and developing the technology needs once construction is complete. The team looks forward to providing assistance and feedback to the process.

### **Supporting State Assessment**

Chromebooks for our students were updated during the break for testing as this past week testing continued. The team continues to support technology and staff during the state assessment period.

### **Technology Priorities**

The technology team priorities right now are to ensure a smooth transition for students and staff to the end of the school year. As devices are ready for turn in, we will be communicating processes to students and families to foster a seamless process. Please begin to find items that come with the Chromebooks and/or iPads (charging cables) so that if your student's device needs to be turned in, all items are ready. We are proud to provide one to one devices as a service to our community.



## Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

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April is shaping up to be a very busy month for the facilities staff. Some work has already begun on the CES site in preparation for groundbreaking of the building project. The playground equipment has been dismantled and a new emergency egress door has been installed. Temporary fencing will go up on the front of the building to create safe recess green space. In the coming weeks, excavating crews will begin demolition of blacktop, stockpiling of topsoil and installing new storm water retention. We ask the public to please stay outside of any fenced off areas. It is now a construction site and safety protocols have to be followed. Warning signs will be posted along the fences.

Also taking place this month are a number of sporting activities. This spring we are also playing fall sports. This promises to be a very busy year for field preparation.


You may have already noticed a number of practices are taking place at this time. Please be aware of increased traffic around the schools as these activities take place. We wish all of our competitors good luck. Go Cards!

## Calendar / Upcoming Events

### April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div>12</div> <div>No School March 29 through April 5. Classes resume Tuesday, April 6.</div> <div>HAPPY SPRING BREAK</div>				
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

## May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
10 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	11	12 Early Release	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
22	25	26	27 End of Quarter	28 Early Release – 1:15 p.m.
31 No School 	1 June	2	3 End of Trimester/ End of Quarter	4

**Contact Information** [www.columbus.k12.wi.us](http://www.columbus.k12.wi.us) **Phone Number: 920.623.5950**

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