



Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

Project Progress Report	1
Curriculum News	3
Student Services News	5
Columbus Elementary School/ Discovery Charter School/intermediate School	7
Columbus Middle School	8
Columbus High School	9
Food Service News	10
FFA	11
Business Services Update	12
Technology Update	12
Facilities Update	13
Calendar/Upcoming Events	13
Contact Information	14



WHAT'S NEW?

- Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the elementary and high schools on April 14. The District streamed the ceremonies on their social media platforms for those who were unable to attend.
- Building permits have been issued by the city, allowing construction to officially commence.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- The existing playground has been removed at the elementary school. Students will temporarily use the playground across the street, and a new playground location will be included in the final site plan.
- Site clearing and grading has commenced at the elementary school to prepare for construction of the new addition.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Construction at the high school will begin this summer. Phase 1 of construction includes the new cafeteria addition.



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



CD SMITH
CONSTRUCTION



#CommunityLed



APRIL 2020
REFERENDUM

Community-Led Process.
Community-Led Solution.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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



April 2021

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

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

Elementary School
Site
Preparation



Elementary School
Site
Preparation





Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Columbus School District Joins JEDI Virtual School Consortium

Students who choose will have all virtual option in 2021-22

Approximately 20% of parents and guardians who took the January Parent/Guardian feedback survey indicated interest in Columbus having an online virtual school option for next school year. Columbus School District is excited to share that the district has been accepted into the JEDI Virtual Charter School Consortium as of June 1st, 2021. What this means is that for resident students for whom learning in a virtual school is the best option in the 2021-22 school year, they will be able to attend JEDI Virtual School through Columbus School District while still remaining full time students of Columbus School District.

[JEDI](#) is a fully accredited 4K-12 Virtual Charter School. As full-time Columbus School District students, virtual students enrolled in JEDI remain eligible to receive student services, special education services, IT support, as well as be able to fully participate in all Columbus School District activities and athletics. For graduation, Columbus students attending JEDI will also earn a Columbus diploma and will need to meet all district requirements.

Some may wonder why the district is joining the JEDI Virtual Charter School Consortium instead of continuing on with the set-up the district had this year. There are two reasons. 1) The Department of Public Instruction notified all school districts that next school year, the only way to offer a fully virtual option for students is to have a virtual charter school or to join a virtual charter school consortium. 2) The “double-duty” of teaching both in-person and fully virtual students simultaneously that many staff have been doing all year is not sustainable long-term.

In the coming weeks, the district will be putting together a page on the Columbus School District website for our virtual charter school through JEDI, and will also publish a JEDI student handbook. In the meantime, please learn more about the courses offered through JEDI in 2021-22, please visit <https://jedivirtual.org/upcoming-school-year-2021-2021/>. (Note: Please disregard the parts of the JEDI webpage that talk about open enrollment. If Columbus resident students are interested in JEDI, we will enroll you directly.)

The district knows how important your child’s education is to you. We are excited to provide an option for students for whom virtual learning is the best choice while we continue to provide excellent in-person instruction in our brick and mortar buildings. The district will keep you informed as resources are developed specifically for Columbus students.

Two Additional Summer School Options that are Opening Soon

Summer School 2021 registration closed on April 23rd. What this means is that the district has determined the final number of sections we are offering this summer based on summer school enrollment as of April 23rd. However, it may not be too late to sign your child up for summer school if the section they want to attend still has space available. Please contact your child’s principal if you have any questions.

There will be two additional summer school options that we now know will be available to students.

1. CHS students may sign up for one or two online classes FOR CREDIT through JEDI. Any course marked as “Singleton Available” in the [2021-22 JEDI high school course catalog](#) is available during summer. Each course is worth a .5 credit. JEDI summer school dates run from **June 14-August 13**. Students who may be interested should speak to Mr. Crombie for more details.
2. CMS students who will be taking band next year will have the option to attend a summer camp in August. Dates and times will vary based on the instrument, but this is the general plan. More information will be coming directly from Mr. Hammer in the near future.

	Tuesday (Aug. 3 and 10)	Thursday (Aug 5 and 12)
8:30-9:30	Flutes	Trumpet/Horn
9:30-10:30	Clarinet	Trombone/Baritone
10:30-11:30	Saxophone	Tuba
11:30-12:30	Oboe	Percussion

WEDC invests in Columbus School District for Fab Lab Equipment

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) announced May 5th that Columbus School District is the recipient of a state grant to fund new fabrication laboratory (fab lab) facilities, which will equip Wisconsin students with essential skills for the 21st century’s global economy. Columbus School District was awarded \$25,000 to create a fab lab.

“WEDC has invested over \$3.4 million for the past six years to provide 95 school districts across the state with the equipment necessary to help students learn high-demand skills, including technology, manufacturing and engineering,” said Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of WEDC. “Fab labs benefit not only the students themselves with important technology and career skills, but they also benefit Wisconsin employers, who will be able to find workers with the right skills to allow their companies to grow and thrive.”

Including Columbus School District, 28 school districts throughout the state are being awarded a total of \$635,089 in Fab Labs Grants this year to establish or expand their fab labs.

WEDC’s Fab Labs Grant Program is designed to support hands-on learning in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) by assisting public school districts with equipment purchases such as 3D printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers and plasma cutters for instructional and educational purposes.

Superintendent Annette Deuman stated, “The grant money Columbus School District received from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to help in the creation of a Columbus High School Fab Lab is coming at the most opportune time. As part of the recent referendum, the CTE Department at the high school has been redesigned with the input of the Manufacturing and Agri-Science Advisory Committee, which consists of business representatives and staff from the high school. The WEDC grant will help to provide equipment inside the newly renovated space. We are excited to have the opportunity to grow our facilities in tandem with the skills and futures of our students and communities.”

Fab labs have the potential to benefit individual students, school districts, the surrounding community and Wisconsin's economy as a whole. For more information, visit WEDC's fab lab resource page or follow #WIFabLab on Twitter.



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Columbus School District and Community CESA 5 WCASS Award Ceremony

On April 23rd, two Columbus School District staff members and one Columbus Community Business were recognized at a virtual awards ceremony hosted by CESA 5. Each year CESA 5, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS), seek regional nominations in the following categories:

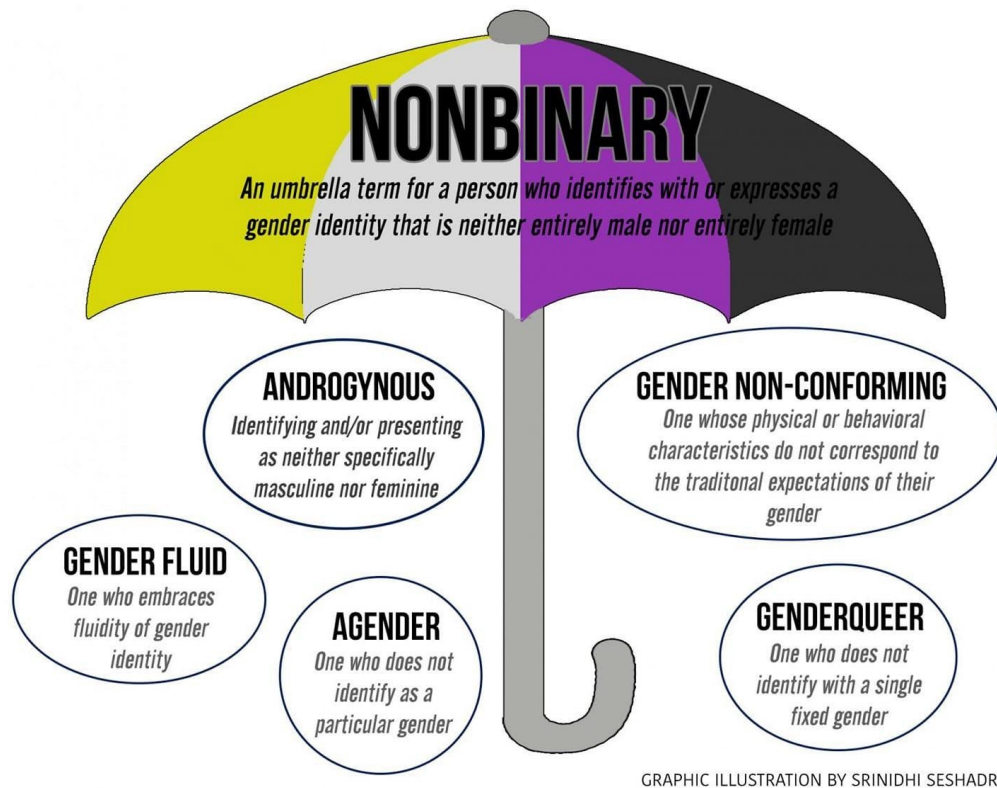
- Personal Achievement Award (student with disability award)
- Mainstream Teacher Award or Integration Team Award
- Administrator Award
- Special Education Teacher Award
- Pupil Services Award (nurse, social worker, psychologist, counselors, at-risk teacher)
- Special Education Paraprofessional Award
- Related/Support Services Award (OT, PT, Speech & Language, Interpreter, Adaptive PE)
- **NEW! Unsung Hero Award (community members, business partners, anyone or entity that supports students with disabilities)**

This year, Leah King received the Special Education Teacher Award, Yael Sumberg received the Special Education Paraprofessional Award and Drexel Building Systems received the Unsung Hero Award. Congratulations to all!

Dane County Social Justice Youth Forum

This month, a group of leaders at Columbus High School attended the Dane County Social Justice Youth Forum to further their education on social justice topics, and participate in discussions around advocacy. Students gained knowledge on celebrating other cultures, cultural appropriation, white privilege, the history of systemic racism, how to be an activist, supporting LGBTQ students, and had a respectful discussion about the socially charged topic of defunding police. There are a few key takeaways that our students would like to share with the community:

- White privilege means that overall, there are advantages that white people have in life that people of color don't receive. While many white people do face struggles and have to work hard, they still have privilege. We encourage you to reflect on your privileges and how you can use them to uplift others.
- The history of systemic racism clearly shows that discrimination throughout history continues to hurt marginalized groups of people, especially the African-American community. When learning about history, think about how the cruel treatment of people of color still affects those discriminated against today.
- Cultural appropriation may look like "cherry picking" certain aspects of a culture. In order to appreciate the culture, you should be seeking to gain knowledge and a deeper understanding.
- To be an activist, follow your passion first. Don't focus on changing the WHOLE world, focus on changing the mindset you bring to each day, and see where that can take you.
- Respecting pronouns and students' preferred names is vitally important to ensure a sense of belonging and safety within our schools.



The Transition Program is Growing

The Columbus School District has had the great fortune to operate a lucrative 18-21 year old Transition Program since 2014. The program is offered in a home setting where students learn essential independent living skills and in our community at job placements. The current program environments are looking to expand as the students and curriculum are becoming more diversified.

Students who use wheelchairs access programming in the community through the wheelchair accessible van purchased with a grant received during the 2020-2021 school year; however, they are not able to access all amenities within the charming 1940 house purchased by the District. This limits what we are able to offer students who use wheelchairs when it comes to activities of daily living, leisure skills and independent living skills.

It is crucial the District stays current with curriculum and technology, so we want to look at settings that will provide



students with updated, accessible, and reliable appliances and assisted technologies to best prepare them for independent living and vocational training.

The program is also interested in expanding job opportunities for students, so the District is again applying for a grant to receive money toward the purchase of another transport vehicle. This additional vehicle will allow for more flexibility in taking students to job placements outside of the Columbus area. Having this flexibility will allow us to market the program to area Districts that do not have 18-21 year old programs. Access to more variety in volunteer opportunities and job placements will allow us to place students based on interests rather than what is available in the city of Columbus.



Throughout the summer, we will explore alternative settings that will still provide a sense of home to the students in the transition program, but will better fit the diverse needs of the students who have interest in attending the program.

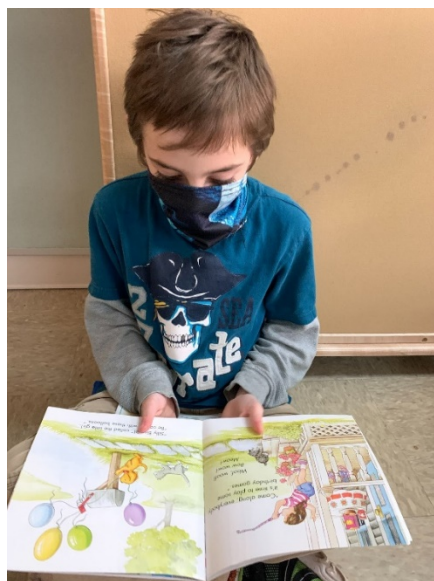


Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

Message from the Principal,

It has been a month of exciting learning happening at CES/DCS/CIS. The following pictures show some of the hard work our students have been doing this last month. It is great to see the growth with our students in all areas!

Mrs. Hallman engaged the elementary students in kinesthetic drumming. Students made a “joyful noise” while drumming on the balls to the music.



2nd grade students work on independent reading and building stamina while reading!

Columbus Water and Light offered to share what it means to be a line worker to our k-2 students. Our students received a book and learned about the importance of electrical wire safety



1st grade students are writing series books and created a book holder for their series so they can hold ALL their books in one place.



Columbus Middle School, Coreen Denk, Principal

We are in our last month of the school year. It has been quite a year. We started in our hybrid model and returned to five days a week of in person learning. Our staff have done double duty most of the year with virtual learning and in person learning at the same time. We have had a lot of new learning take place everyone. We have had growing pains but also many successes. We are all looking forward to finding some normalcy for our next school year.

Teacher Appreciation is the first week of this month and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our teachers for going above and beyond this and every school year. Their flexibility, kindness, and patience is appreciated more than they know. Without your willingness to be understanding and ability to adjust to change on the fly this year wouldn't have been possible or successful. It has been quite a year but I can't believe it is already the last month of the year. I THANK ALL OF THE STAFF AT CMS!

We have been experiencing an uptick of behaviors, disrespect and inappropriate language. Please be aware that we are addressing all of these issues and being responsive to all kids' needs. We are committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment. Please continue to have conversations with your child about appropriate behaviors in school.



Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Things have been, and will continue to be, very busy at CHS...in a good way! The school year is quickly approaching its end. There are a lot of events/celebrations coming up.

Graduation Update

As shared previously, our graduation ceremony will be held on May 28 at 7:00 PM. We are excited for this ceremony to be held outside on the football field! Planning is well under way and seniors are hearing updates daily over the announcements. We are working on proper spacing for those in attendance and are working out the details. More information to follow soon!

AP Testing

Many of our CHS students are participating in Advanced Placement testing this month. This is the culmination of a year of hard work and dedication. If you know one of these students, wish them well. We are very proud of them!

Prom

We are excited to host an outdoor prom this month. The theme is “Under the Stars.” Our junior and senior classes have been working hard to plan this fun event. It will hopefully bring back a sense of normalcy that has been missing for much of the year.

More than athletes...

Within our athletics and our activities, the goal of our programs always boils down to making more well-rounded individuals. An example of this occurred this past weekend during the Capitol Conference Cross Country meet. A parent from Belleville gave a social media shout out to our head cross country coach, Marlin Hensler.

With permission to use the words of the parent in our communications, this is what was said about Marlin:

Today at the Conference Cross Country meet, I overheard the Columbus coach talking to his team during the race. He told some of his runners that he wanted them to go over to a certain section and cheer for their teammate, but then “more importantly I want you to go over by the bridge and cheer for the Belleville athlete that’s coming this way and support them.” It made me tear up, as I thought how cool of him to instill and encourage these great life lessons of sportsmanship and kindness.

Continue to emphasize...

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

- Choosing to be disciplined
 - Discipline is a choice. It means sacrificing some short term satisfaction for long term gain, and being intentional about that. This time of year, it can be easy to lose sight of the big picture and what we are looking to achieve. Emphasize to students how in this final stretch, we need to be intentional about our decision making.
- Sportsmanship & Kindness
 - As emphasized by Coach Hensler, it’s important in all aspects of our lives to demonstrate sportsmanship and kindness. Root for everyone’s success, and be encouraging. The 2020-2021 school year is wrapping up, and there is no better time to be kind to everyone.

Alternative Fall Seasons Wrapping Up

Congratulations to all of our alternative fall teams as they wrap up their seasons. This is an incredibly busy time as we already have all of our spring athletic activities up and running! Special congratulations to Girls Volleyball for winning a share of the conference title, and a regional championship this season. Alyson T qualified and competed in the sectional tennis competition. Jaiden D, is a cross country state meet qualifier. Our football team completed the season 5-1. Boys soccer is entering into playoff competition after a competitive season.

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

Summer Meals

It is exciting to announce that Columbus School District will once again be partnering with the US Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP provides federal reimbursements to support the importance of offering nutritious meals to children during the summer months. The meals are provided **FREE to all children 18 years of age and under** throughout the summer when children would not typically have access to school nutritional opportunities.

Breakfast and lunch will be served at the Columbus Elementary School and also the Columbus Intermediate/Middle School. The program is set up to coincide with summer school, although all community youth are encouraged to come for meals regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability and there will be no discrimination in the course of meal service. The Columbus School District desires to assist households in meeting the nutritional needs of our area youth.

The program will coincide with summer school as follows:

LOCATIONS	DATES OF OPERATION	BREAKFAST HOURS	LUNCH HOURS
Columbus Elementary School & Columbus Intermediate/Middle	June 14 – July 1	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Columbus Elementary School & Columbus Intermediate/Middle	July 12 – July 30	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

This is a great opportunity and we are excited to partner with the USDA to provide “SUMMER FOOD – SUMMER FUN!” Come on down for breakfast and/or lunch and bring a friend.

During the remainder of the summer and when Summer School is not in session the community organization, Loving Lunches, will be providing meals for area youth. Registration is required for participation in the Loving Lunches program. Please call 920.210.4048 for more information and to sign up. Dates: June 7-11, July 5-9, and in August.



Food Service Account Balances

As the end of the school year approaches, we ask that families check their meal accounts on Infinite Campus. Although meals have been served free of charge all year, many students have charges that have accrued on their accounts for milk breaks and ala carte items. Please bring your child's account current. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at

laustin@columbus.k12.wi.us or call 920.623.5950 extension 2190

We truly love serving your children!

COLUMBUS/FALL RIVER FOOD PANTRY

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We have enough to help everyone.

For those in need of food during the month of May, please contact Columbus Assembly of God at 920-344-8025 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.

Thank you for all the donations! We are currently well stocked and financially solid. Call Colleen @ 920-210-6266 with any questions.

FFA Update



Important Dates:

May 10th LDE will be Quiz Bowl, Prepared Speaking, and Exempt.

May 11th LDE will be Employability Skills, Discussion Meet, and Creed.

May 20 - Food for America Award Applications Due

July 5-8- State FFA Convention, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

FAIR UPDATES: Columbus FFA members show in multiple fairs and I receive multiple emails about due dates, registration, etc. I forward these updates to FFA members that have talked to me about showing at these fairs. Some FFA members have discontinued involvement in 4-H, they need to talk to me if they are going show under the Columbus FFA at any fair. I will generate a spread sheet with FFA members and contact information as to who should get which fair updates. If parents would like these notifications they should also email or call me to tell me which fairs they are interested in. You can reach me at gcrook@columbus.k12.wi.us or my ext. 2112 at 920-623-5956 (CHS)

Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

School Finance 101: Revenue Limits

In late April, the district presented its preliminary budget to the School Board. One of the most talked about topics was the revenue limit. Your first question is probably something along the lines of, "What is a revenue

limit?” The short comparison I would make is the revenue limit is to schools as the salary cap is to some professional sports’ teams. The more textbook definition: The revenue limit, or revenue control, is a measure installed by the Wisconsin legislature that puts a cap on the amount of money school districts can receive in state aid and levy through property taxes.

Every school in the state is subject to a revenue limit. The size of the limit is dependent on the size of the district, measured in student count. More students counted on the 3rd Friday of September, the higher your limit. The breakdown of the revenue limit between state aid and property taxes is dependent on the equalized property value per student member. That’s a fancy way of saying the breakdown is measured by how “property rich” a district is. A quick example would be to compare the Wisconsin Dells School District compared to Columbus. Property Taxes count for almost 95% of the district’s revenue limit. Property taxes account for about 45% of our revenue limit. There’s not a right or wrong number to hit for that breakdown, it’s all about context.

The taxes levied and the aid received within the revenue limit finance the general operations of the school. This goes from staff salaries and benefits, maintenance of our facilities, technology throughout the district, to name a few things.

One thing to note is districts can go to referendum to exceed this limit. The two scenarios to exceed the revenue limit are for large scale construction projects and for non-recurring general operations. Columbus just did the former and now are in the process of financing our big construction project.

The revenue limit really drives the budget process for schools throughout the state. Projecting what that limit is depends on student enrollment and the state budget. Right now, schools across the state are awaiting to see if the revenue limit per student member will be increasing. This is something the legislature and the governor work on within the biennial budget. The district, for purposes of our preliminary budget, are assuming similar enrollment numbers and a similar revenue limit per student member for next year, at least until we hear differently from the state.

Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services

Welcome to Tom Meixner, our newest IT Technical Consultant!

Tom started with Columbus School District on 5/3/2021 and we wasted no time utilizing his talents. Tom has two associate degrees. He has a background for laptop provisioning and repair after working for a technical support firm after college.

Tom is originally from the greater Sun Prairie area with family and friends. Tom and his wife currently reside in Waupun, Wisconsin.

Tom and Dan are currently tag teaming many IT projects and are sharing offices and work spaces to provide coverage where we can.

Reminder:

With both our levels of district familiarity – Please make sure you’re including Building and room numbers in your IT support tickets as we rebuild a knowledge base.

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager


May is here and more than the weather is heating up. Construction is in full swing at CES, and the site has transformed dramatically in the past couple of weeks. All topsoil has been stripped and stockpiled off site. Utility crews have started excavating for future underground utilities. In the weeks ahead, crews will be working towards footings being poured for the new addition.

The CHS project is set to begin the week after school is out for summer. Some preparations have already begun to take place. Areas are being emptied to accommodate abatement that needs to happen before demolition can begin.

As a reminder, please be aware of traffic and pedestrians while traveling down Fuller, Dickason, School, and Seldon streets during pick up time. There may be some inconveniences during construction, but in the end it will all be worth it!

Calendar / Upcoming Events

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	28
31 No School 				

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 End of Trimester/ End of Quarter	4
7	8	9	10	11
14 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	15	16	17	18

21	22	23	24	25
28 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	29	30		

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

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

###