E- NEWSLETTER



Columbus School District

September 2021

Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

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Welcome New Staff 2021-2022 - Mission: Community, Career & College Ready

Meet our new staff by going to:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TAWD9Mm1wMZP0XUH5V90L9RJq 5K9ueD/view?usp=sharing

Laura Austin	Jay Freerking
Michaela Daane	Marcus Hensler
Ally Dowdell	Michelle Hoppe
Brooke Eder	Brett Johnson
Jenna Feyen	Jill McRoberts
Melanie Fischer	Blake Nelson

Cassandra Sauer Andrew Selgrad Abigail Stangler Chase Steiner Jane Wall





APRIL 2020 REFERENDUM

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

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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





PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



WHAT'S NEW

- Phase 1 work is wrapped up for the start of the school year.
- Construction will continue in phases, which will allow students to occupy other areas of the building.
- The concrete masonry firewall between the existing building and the new addition is being constructed.
- Foundations for the new cafeteria addition are nearly complete.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Elementary School

- Structural steel construction for the new addition has continued. The first and second floors are nearly complete.
- Installation of face brick at the walls facing the courtyard has commenced.
- The concrete slab on grade has been poured for the new addition.

Middle School

- Tile, ceilings, and plumbing fixtures are being installed in the bathrooms.
- Mechanical rooftop units are being installed.

High School

• In Phase 1 areas ceiling installations are being finished.

- · Hallways are being painted.
- The bathrooms are being tiled in the Phase 1 area.
- The concrete tiers have been removed from the music rooms. Level concrete slabs have been installed in these rooms, and new acoustical wall panels have been installed.

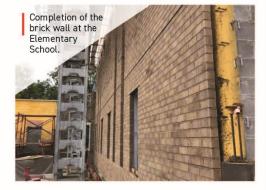
WHAT'S NEXT?

Elementary School

- Exterior metal stud framing will begin to enclose the new addition.
- Interior metals stud partitions will begin to shape the interior spaces.

High School

 The next phase of construction will include the new cafeteria addition.





APRIL 2020 REFERENDUM

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

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

Construction will complete in phases at the elementary, middle, and high schools by August 2022.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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









Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

During the 2021-22 school year, the district's <u>2021-22 Columbus Continuity of Learning Plan</u> may be used as a reference to understand how the district will service students through inperson, concurrent, or virtual instruction, all dependent on what the situation allows.

If a student will be quarantined for more than 3 days, the district will offer concurrent instruction to students. If a student is out for 3 days or less, they may keep up on assignments and some resources through Google Classroom.

In general, if a student is eligible for concurrent instruction, this is how it works.

	<u>-</u>
Grades K-5	K-2 Students who are out for longer than 3 days will get a packet of work including their device. Google Meets will be invited for daily morning meetings and a number corner to follow. Paper packets can be handed in upon return to the building and work can be saved or posted in google classroom as directed. Students will get a recorded video lesson for reading. 3-5 Students who are out for longer than 3 days will get a packet of work including their device. Google Meets will be invited for daily morning meetings and a math lesson. Work will be posted in google classroom and students will turn in their work on that platform. Students will get a recorded video lesson for reading.
Grades 6-8	If a middle school student needs to be quarantined for three or more days due to Covid the family will get an email from Cori Denk the CMS principal to let you know what classes the students will have synchronous learning for and when it will start. In general, the plan will have most classes going virtual except for physical education. If there are different instructions for a class that teacher will notify your student via email to let them know the plan.
Grades 9-12	Students will attend class concurrently through the Google Meet link in their Google Classroom, especially during any whole class instruction. When possible, staff will also connect students concurrently with small groups when appropriate. If this is not feasible, class will be delivered asynchronously through Google Classroom (ex: all physical education courses.)

If you have questions about your child's specific instructional situation, please reach out directly to their principal.

Beth Hellpap, CES/DCS/CIS Principal- bhellpap@columbus.k12.wi.us or 623-5950, ext. 1111 Cori Denk, CMS Principal- cdenk@columbus.k12.wi.us or 623-5950, ext. 3220 Jon Rouse, CHS Principal- jrouse@columbus.k12.wi.us or 623-5950, ext. 2101

For resources on using our technology at home, please go to our Curriculum & Instruction Resources & Tutorials for Families- Technology page.



Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

Columbus School District Pupil Services Department Awarded Grant

The Conlin Family Fund was established in 2009 in memory of all the Conlin family members and ancestors that have lived in the Columbus, WI area since 1848. This endowment was

created to honor Conlin family members and recognize the Columbus community for its support to the Conlin family through the generations. It is also in recognition of what they gave to the Columbus community in many ways, to make this place on earth a better place, and for the community for supporting their efforts.

Five Conlin families emigrated from County Sligo Ireland and settled in the Columbus area in 1848. The Bernard Conlin branch of the family descendants has been part of the Columbus, WI community continuously through 2018. This fund has been established through the Columbus Area Endowment which is an affiliate of the Madison Community Foundation. The first grants were awarded in 2013.

The pupil services department was awarded \$10,000.00 from the Conlin Family Fund to be used to support students in the district with social, emotional and mental health needs. Money is being used to pay for continued universal screening of social emotional and behavioral needs in our students, curriculum to support the social emotional learning competencies of students in grades K-8 and professional development in all buildings.

The Columbus School District and the Pupil Services Department thanks Dr. Joe Conlin and the Madison Community Foundation for their continued support of the growing mental health needs in students in the Columbus Schools.



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

Message from the Principal,

Greetings 4k-5 families! I would love to say that it has been a perfect start to the school year, but I have come to realize that

perfection just isn't going to be possible...ever! The picture perfect back to school with brand new clothes, the smell of freshly sharpened pencils, and smiling students with cute matching backpacks is an image that most of us have when it comes to a "perfect" back to school experience. Well this year was different as expected, with students adjusting to wearing masks again, a change in the pick-up line and bees on the playground!

Sometimes our world in the elementary school could be a great script for a comedy movie because all well laid out plans seem to change in the blink of an eye. However the year started for you, I can't help but stand back and look at

the big picture. Kids are in school, the plans that have changed seem to be working out, and our students and staff are adjusting and making the best of it. When the big picture is set, we really have a lot to be proud of and appreciative of for this community! Our k-3 kids can use the city's beautiful parks while we patiently wait for the construction to finish, we have supportive parents who try their hardest to keep students safe and in school,

and we have an amazing staff that can model what flexibility looks like. So in a "less than perfect" situation it is still a "perfect" time to be a Columbus Cardinal. Here's to a great 2021-22 school year.

Beth Hellpap CES/DCS/CIS Principal

Students are loving the school lunches!



Kindergarten students are working hard on learning beginning letter sounds!



Columbus Middle School, Cori Denk, Principal

We are so excited to have kids full time in our building. We love seeing all the smiling eyes as we finish up our first month of school. Kids are getting back into the groove of school and relearning school expectations.

Teachers have been working hard at reinforcing school norms and reminding students about the behavior expectations. We would love your help in reminding students to bring and wear their masks appropriately.

MAP Testing

Students are finishing up their MAP testing this month. After students receive their scores their teachers will work with them to set goals for their academics as well as where we would like to see their next testing score be at.

Volleyball and Cross Country

Sports are in full swing and our student athletes are doing a wonderful job in learning new skills. For many of our middle schoolers this is the first time that they have been able to participate in school activities so this is a wonderful opportunity for them to build on their sportsmanship and how to work together as a team. Thank you to our coaches for all their hard work. Mr. Benisch, Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Burckardt.

Student Council

Activities will be starting soon. If your child is interested in being part of our CMS leadership team please have them listen to announcements for when the Student Council will start.









Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

We are several weeks in and it has been a good start to the school year! Students have come back with a lot of energy. They have definitely been enjoying the new spaces at CHS, particularly the two lounge areas. Teachers have been working extremely hard to serve the needs of all of our students. Please don't hesitate to thank a teacher.

Homecoming Update...

The decision was made to postpone our Homecoming activities until the week of October 11-15. This was a joint decision between a group of senior students and CHS administrators. There are many students currently out of school due to COVID-19, both positive cases and quarantine situations. The students and administrators want to do anything in our power to make sure as many students as possible are able to participate in Homecoming this year. The hope is that we will be in a better place four weeks from now, and that all students will be able to enjoy Homecoming.

Staff Shout Out...

Mrs. McGee is an English teacher at CHS. She has been organizing our Homecoming activities. This is a very time consuming job, but one she has done with a great deal of excitement. We thank Mrs. McGee for the effort she is putting into this on behalf of CHS students.

Continue to emphasize...

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

- Physical distance when possible
 - We know it is not always easy to do, but it is very important to maintain distance between people.
- Mask etiquette
 - While eating/drinking are acceptable times to have masks down, as soon as those activities are completed the expectation is that they go back on.

Athletics/Activities Message

All fall activities have been underway to start the school year. The high school football, volleyball, cross country, tennis, boys soccer, and marching band have all been practicing and playing since August. Middle school volleyball and cross country began their seasons in September. Please check the district's Facebook page for daily events that are occurring.

We have welcomed back spectators to our home events. Please remember that we ask you to space out as much as possible, and that masking is required for all of our indoor events. It has been great to see our student section back in action. As a friendly reminder, we want everyone to cheer loud and proud for the Cardinals and not to focus on the other teams.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jon Rouse CHS Principal Jay Freerking CHS Assistant Principal 6-12 Activities Director

FFA Update



FFA Meeting: The first FFA meeting will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school ag room (Room 107).

<u>National FFA Convention:</u> The convention will be on upcoming School Board agenda for approval. Once approved, permission slips will then be available for those that have signed up to attend the convention.

This is a great opportunity for FFA members to plan their futures and to meet new friends from other FFA chapters. The Columbus FFA will be recognized on stage for their 3-Star Gold National Chapter Award! This is the highest award a chapter may receive for their program of activities. Columbus was one of 26 chapters representing

Wisconsin out of over 260 chapters in the state. There are over 7,000 chapters in the country! Way to go!



Fall Leadership Workshop (formerly SLW): Columbus FFA has been approved to attend the FLW in Marshall. The FLW will be on Monday, Sept. 27th. This is a no school day due to Parent Teacher Conferences. The bus is scheduled to leave at 3 p.m. and return between 7:30 and 8 p.m. depending on when the workshops finish. Get a permission slip if you would like to attend. Officers are required to attend. Any FFA member can attend! Official Dress is required for this workshop. This is a great kick off workshop for the school year.

FFA Homecoming Float: Homecoming is postponed until October 11 so float building will resume that week. Thanks to our Public

Relations Committee and especially Claire Keip for putting the plans into place. We will have an amazing float!

<u>212/360 Conferences have new names= Mission and Impact!</u> Nov. 12-13 at Stevens Point There is an all new curriculum for these conferences! Sign up with Mrs. Crook if you would

School Nutrition



On September 15th the district served a Hispanic inspired menu of Pork Carnita Tostadas, refried beans, rice, elotes off the cobb, and Tajin tropical fruit salad. The elementary kids were served blue corn chip Pork Carnita Nachos. The kids were crazy about the corn that is usually served by street vendors in Mexico.Cotija is a Mexican cheese similar to parmesan cheese readily available at larger grocery stores or a Mexican grocer. This is our adapted school version for you to try at home.

Elotes Sauce (makes 1-3/4 cups sauce)

1/2 cup Mexican crema, or sour cream
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup chopped cilantro
½ tsp granulated garlic
1/4 tsp smoked paprika
2 TBS lime juice, from 1 lime
1/2 cup cotija cheese, crumbled

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix to combine. After corn has been cooked stir in sauce. The amount of sauce to corn is personal preference. We suggest about 5lbs cooked corn for this recipe.



Some students have noticed new vegetables being served at lunch! What is that yellow? It is carrots! Carrots come in a variety of colors including purple. Same great carrot flavor in fun colors.

Our next Heritage Day will be October 21st featuring cuisine from the Hmong culture inspired by La Crosse Local Cooking with Bao. Did you know, Wisconsin is home of the 3rd largest Hmong population in the United States. The Hmong are members of an ethnic group that have not had a country of their own. During the Vietnam War, the Hmong in Laos aided and partnered with American forces to fight Southeast Asian Communists. After the United States pulled out of Laos, Communist forces retaliated against the Hmong causing thousands to flee and find refuge in refugee camps, many located in rural Wisconsin. Many families relied on their agricultural heritage to make a living growing produce and flowers for local farmers markets making it a perfect fit to highlight during National Farm to School Month. We will be serving up a delicious Ginger Chicken Stir Fry and Purple Sticky Rice.



Supply chain distribution disruptions continue to challenge our ability to always serve what is on the posted menu. We are dedicated to ensuring that we get that proper food for the students so they can have a healthy meal to fuel learning minds. We are working on communicating these changes to students when possible through morning announcements. A new breakfast menu for CES/DCS/CIS/CMS has been updated on the school website after many products on the menu were suddenly unavailable. We are continuing to do our best to substitute a similar product if there is a product shortage.

Importance of the Free and Reduced Lunch Application (It's not just about lunch!)

Currently, all Columbus School District students receive the option of free breakfast and lunch every day as a benefit of a waiver through the USDA. Unfortunately, that has led to a steady decline in eligible families filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals application.

If you qualify, these are benefits and opportunities that may have a direct correlation from filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals program application and Consent for Sharing Information form:

P-EBT benefits	Waived School Registration Fees	May be waived: Extra- curricular participation fees
Wisconsin School Day Milk Program (elementary students receive free milk during milk break)	Waived Fees for Courses Required for Graduation	May be waived: Elective Course Fees
Reduced pricing from some field trip venues	Entry/admission to some events	Reduced fees for Advanced Placement testing

District Programs Impacted by the Free and Reduced Price School Meals program:

- Title 1 funding (CMS lost qualified status and funding in 2021-22 due to low percentages of qualified applicants.)
- ESSER stimulus funding (based on Title 1 data)
- Summer meals program (Free breakfast and lunch to all children under age 18 in the summer months.)

Who Qualifies and How to Apply

Information on the program, frequently asked questions, and the application are available at https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/mealbenefits

As always, if you have questions or would like some assistance with the Free and Reduced Price Meals program application and Consent for Sharing Information forms, please contact Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services at (920) 623-5950, ext. 3154.

like to attend. This is another great opportunity to develop your leadership skills and personal growth.

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 September, please contact First Presbyterian Church at 920-623-3350 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.

Business Services Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

The start of school has been quite the whirlwind! Schools across the state are working on their annual audits throughout the summer. With school starting early this year, it was unusual to be switching from the audit straight to kids coming back in the course of about a day or two.

The late summer and fall are hectic times in the Business Office (but I mean, who isn't busy in the fall when the school year starts?). Our 3rd Friday count is underway as you read this, and that directly affects how much money the Columbus School District receives in state aid and how much we can levy in property taxes.

The numbers from the 3rd Friday count impact every facet of the district's budget, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting on October 11. The more kids we count this week, the more money that flows into the district and our classrooms. In addition to the budget presentation, the community will vote on the tax levy at the Annual Meeting. Look forward to next month's article where I'll talk more about the results of the 3rd Friday count and more previews to the Annual Meeting.

BUS DRIVERS WANTED!!

Are you parent, who has children that participate in athletics, or other after school activities? Do you like children? Lamers Bus Lines in Columbus is looking for a few good people to help transport for school, sports, and other activities.

You can go to the website below, or contact Jerry Nitzh at 920-250-0909 x14112

WHAT LAMERS OFFERS:



Comprehensive school bus CDL training program

High hourly wages. Experience pays more. Part time, flexible hours

Mid-Day opportunities available

Child ride-along program for school bus route drivers

401(k) and profit sharing programs Nights, weekends, holidays off for route drivers

Afternoon, evening and weekend charter work available

Drivers can qualify for health insurance after meeting requirements.

Lamers Bus Lines is a family-focused

company that takes pride in being a part of your community. Together we work to provide our passengers safe and worry-free transportation every time they step on board one of our buses. Lamers Bus Lines is an EOE/AA employer.

Technology Update, Daniel Parizo, Director of Technology Services

Welcome back to a new school year!

We're a couple of weeks in for the technology department.

During the month of August 19th to September 19th the district has worked through Help desk tickets from staff and students to ensure a seamless transition for the teaching and learning in our classrooms and the one to one environment.

The team has also helped families in parent portal during registration and late registration to create new IDs.

Tech Tip Helpful Reminder:

When you or your students are updating a password, please remember that you cannot use any part of your name, must contain one upper case letter, and one number. We have been encouraging students and staff to use pet's names, sports teams, favorite phrases, and the like.

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

Construction projects at CES, CIS/CMS and CHS have been moving along. At CIS/CMS, our two sets of bathrooms have been completed. The students were very excited on the first day to see what was done over summer break. New rooftop air handling units are set to be installed September 25th, 26th, and 27th. Then again, we will install the remainder of these units on October 29th, 30th, and 31st.

At CES, the progress is very visible. Masonry is plugging away on the exterior walls of the gymnasium. There are also crews framing interior and exterior walls in the new classroom area. Next month we will be seeing roof trusses installed and the building getting dried in. It's amazing to watch progress.

At CHS, students were excited to see the completion of new bathrooms, new student lounge, new collaborative area, flooring, and two new single use bathrooms at the south end of the building. The focus of the current phase is now all on the commons/cafeteria/kitchen area. Walls have gone up, and the kitchen is starting to take shape.

Please follow all traffic signs when dropping off or picking up your students. There has been an abundance of illegally parked vehicles around CES and CIS/CMS since the beginning of the school year. Columbus PD will be writing tickets to anyone illegally parked.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
_		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13 School Board	14	15	16	17
Meeting 7 PM, City Hall				
20	21	22 Late Start	23	24
27 School Board Meeting	28	29	30	
7 PM, City Hall	20	2)	30	
No School – PT				
Conferences				

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting, CMS Gym 7:30 Annual School Board Meeting, CMS Gym	12	13 1:15 Early Release	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25 School Board Meeting 7 PM, City Hall	26	27	28	29 1:15 Early Release

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 **Becky Schmidt Director of Curriculum/Instruction:** bschmidt@columbus.k12.wi.us **Director of Technology Services:** Daniel Parizo dparizo@columbus.k12.wi.us **Facilities Manager:** tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us Troy Marshall **Food Service Director:** Irene Pawlisch ipawlisch@columbus.k12.wi.us

