



# Columbus School District

# E- NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Learning Today; Leading Tomorrow

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## News from the Nurse, Brittany Bayer, RN

Hello families,

There have been a few changes to our COVID-19 testing at school.

- We will continue to offer free COVID-19 testing, Monday through Friday, at the following locations:
  - o Columbus Middle School: Door #2 on W. School Street from 8:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
  - o Columbus Elementary School: **Door #11** (previously location was door #10) on Fuller Street from 12: 15 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.
- Pre-registration is REQUIRED prior to being tested. The **NEW link** to register is [www.LifePointLink.com/NOAH/outreach](http://www.LifePointLink.com/NOAH/outreach)
- Registration only needs to be completed ONCE. This means that you do not have to register, or complete a questionnaire (as you previously did with COVID Connect), each time you need your student to be tested. You can just show up without doing anything ahead of time!
- Registering using the link provided will allow you to provide demographic information, give consent, and create an online patient portal to view test results.
- You will receive an email notification when new results are available.

A friendly reminder that if you have received an email or a letter sent home with your student regarding immunization requirements for school, please get back to me as soon as possible. If you have any questions on what is needed, let me know. I can be reached at [bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us](mailto:bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us) and am more than happy to help in any way that I can!



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**

## 2020-2021 Report Cards

DPI has announced that "the public release of 2020-21 report cards is planned for Tuesday, November 16."

Provided the public release happens on that date, Columbus School District will host a Community DPI Report Card presentation on Thursday, November 18 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Columbus High School LMC.



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

Interior construction of the new addition at the Elementary School.



## WHAT'S NEW

- At the high school, Phase 2, which includes the new cafeteria and kitchen construction, is continuing. The exterior of these is nearing completion, and construction crews are also working on interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical.
- The elementary school addition is moving ahead full steam. It's nearly fully enclosed, and interior partitions are more than half complete.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

### Elementary School

- New play equipment for younger students has been installed in the courtyard. The existing playground equipment will be relocated to the main playground area in order to serve the older students.
- All roof decking has been installed and is waiting for roofers to complete the roof installation. In the new cafeteria construction of concrete learning stairs has begun.
- The gym floor prep has begun. First, a waterproof membrane was placed in preparation for pouring the concrete slab.
- Interior metal stud framing in the new classroom wing is approximately 50% complete.

### Elementary School

- Interior plumbing and electrical rough-ins are continuing now that the interior metal stud work is finished.

### High School

- All roof decking has been installed and is waiting for roofers to complete the roof installation.
- Roof and wall parapet wall construction is continuing.
- All interior concrete slabs have been poured.
- Interior masonry work is nearly complete.
- Plumbing and electrical rough-in work is continuing.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The following work is scheduled to take place in the coming month:

### Elementary School

- Installation of roof insulation and membrane.
- Completion of interior metal stud framing in the classroom wing.
- Continuation of interior plumbing and electrical rough-ins.

### High School

- Installation of roof insulation and membrane.
- Completion of the exterior of the cafeteria and kitchen.





APRIL 2020  
REFERENDUM

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920.350.0365



November 2021

# PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

## DISTRICT-WIDE UPDATES

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

New playground equipment for the interior atrium at the Elementary School.



New cafeteria addition at the High School.





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

### How Are We Doing?

With Quarter 1 having recently ended, the district wants to check in and see how things are going instructionally. Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback. The district will use this feedback for continuous improvement and development of our plans should we need to call a virtual learning day due to winter weather.

[K-5 Parent/Guardian November 2021 Feedback](#)

[6-8 Parent/Guardian November 2021 Feedback](#)

[9-12 Parent/Guardian November 2021 Feedback](#)

### CMS Social Studies Textbook Pilot

Columbus Middle School is piloting a new Social Studies curricular resource, called [TCI](#). As part of the textbook adoption process, sample copies are available in the District Office the month of November for the parents/guardians to review and provide feedback on. Currently, 7th and 8th graders are focusing the pilot on *Geography Alive! Regions and People* units. If you would like to review the materials and provide feedback, the district office is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30-4:00 and Friday from 7:30-3:45.

### News from the Columbus School District Library

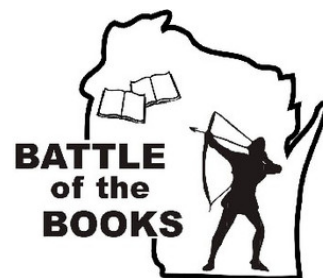
- CES/DCS Students are enjoying read-alouds of our 5 [Golden Archer](#) Nominees:
  - o The Pigeon Has to Go to School by Mo Willems
  - o The Bad Seed by Jory John
  - o The Paper Kingdom by Helena Ku Rhee
  - o Llama Destroys the World by Jonathan Stutzman
  - o The Panda Problem by Deborah Underwood



Here's a [video montage](#) of this year's nominees.

Students are keeping track of their favorites and will have the opportunity to vote at the end of this month. Which book will win this highly sought-after state book award? We'll have to wait until April to find out!

- CIS/CMS Students in grades 4 and up have the opportunity this year to participate in the Battle of the Books, a statewide competition that encourages a lifelong love of reading! Each division (Elementary, Middle, Senior) features 20 diverse titles, and students joining the battle in teams. Each team member shares the reading and then prepares to take a battle "test" to determine our school winners for each division. Those teams will then move on to the final state competition against other districts' winners. More information and registration forms can be found by clicking on the following links.
  - o [CIS/CMS \(Elementary & Middle\) Battle Promo](#)
  - o [CHS Battle Promo](#) (Senior Division)





## **Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services**

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### **Dane County Youth Assessment- 2021**

Columbus students in grade 7th-12th participated in the Dane County Youth Assessment in the Spring of 2021. Results of the assessment were analyzed and shared with participating districts in the Fall of 2021. Approximately 26,000 7th-12th students completed the survey. Topics in the survey included alcohol, drugs and tobacco, nutrition, exercise and health, home life, community involvement, sexual behavior, working and volunteering, extra-curricular activities, life at school, future plans, emotional/mental health, and COVID impact. A summary of results is outlined below.

#### **Alcohol Use**

- High school alcohol consumption (last 12 months) has decreased county wide from 2012, 2015, 2018 and now in 2021 (43%, 35%, 31% to 23%)
- 38% of HS seniors have been drinking in the last 12 months, down from 51% in 2018

#### **Marijuana Use**

- 16% of HS girls used marijuana (last 12 months) and 12% of boys (22% of boys and 20% of girls 2018)
- Marijuana use highest among multi-racial students at 20%. White, Hispanic and African-American all about 15%
- 63% of kids who've used marijuana (or THC) have used it in a vaping device

#### **Other Drugs**

- Use of non-prescription and prescription medication abuse has gone down from 2015
- 75% of HS students with prescription drugs in their home, say they are kept in a place they can easily access them (78% in 2018)

#### **Student Sleep**

- 42% of 9th graders, 50% of 10th graders, 52% of 11th graders, and 57% of 12th graders are up past 11pm every night
- 71% of students are awake past 11pm 3+ school nights per week compared to 59% in 2018

#### **Anxiety**

- 53% of females say they are anxious always/often (23% of males)
- 64% of LGBTQ say they are anxious
- 51% who struggle with homework are anxious
- 50% of students from lower income families are anxious
- Reasons for anxiety:
  - Pressure to perform in school- 60%
  - Too much homework- 57%
  - Problems in the US/world- 30%
  - Concerns about COVID- 27%
  - Social pressure to be popular, look good- 17%
  - Pressure to have money, things (phone, clothes)- 12%

### Mental Health

- 22% of students are receiving mental health services (about 3500 students)
- 58% of students who say they have long-term, emotional or mental health issues are not getting services
- 54% of students who describe more frequent suicide ideation are not getting mental services

### School and Academics

- 51% of students say they fell behind in school during COVID
- 54% said they struggle getting homework done (44% in 2018)
- 33% of students missed or cut a scheduled class (19% in 2018)

### Home Life

- 10% of students say they have a parent with a mental health problem that worries them
- 93% say their parents encourage them to do well
- 51% say their parents talk to them about things that bother them
- 2% of students said there was violence in their home during COVID

### Family Financial

- 28% of students say financially “things are tight” but their families are doing OK. 2% say their family is struggling financially (34% and 4% in 2018)
- 7% said they had to skip meals because their family didn’t have enough money (10% in 2018)
- 8% say if school didn’t provide breakfast and lunch, most days, they would have no food at all (14% in 2018)

*2021 Dane County Youth Assessment, Dane County Youth Commission, Madison, Wisconsin.*

**Dr. Joe Conlin and the Conlin Family Foundation Matching Grant Challenge** - Dr. Joe Conlin and the Conlin Family Foundation donated \$5,000 to the Columbus School District to help support the Student Services department in the area of student mental health and mental wellness screening. At the time of the grant, Joe also issued a matching grant of an additional \$5,000, challenging the community to contribute to the programming for all students as well. If you are interested in helping reach this match goal, please contact, Lisa Blochwitz, Student Services Director at 920-623-5950. Dr Joe and his family have been long-time supporters of the District and we thank them for their support and donations.





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

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### **Message from the Principal**

It's report card time!!! Our staff have been working on making sure our report cards are giving our families the best communication possible on the most important aspects of their learning.

So what is a standards based report card you ask? Well let me share!

The K-5 staff have spent countless hours reviewing and debating all the Wisconsin State Common Core Standards for the past few years. Within that time, they have learned how to determine what is essential and when a standard reaches student mastery. Once the essential standards are determined the team will create parent friendly language to include on the report card. Next the team determines what assessment can be used for each standard and what criteria a 1,2,3 or 4 would entail. Just like A,B,C,D and F's, these numbers do not tell a parent too much unless they understand the rubric for each number. 1's are going to be for students who are not able to show this skill yet, 2's are given when a student may show it sometimes but have inconsistencies and still need support. 3's are going to be for the students who can do the skill without support and can consistently show their teacher they can do the standard. 4's are for students who can show the standard at an entire grade level above their expectation.

After all this work, what we have found most important is the teacher's comments! Much like myself, when my children's report cards come home, I quickly scan the report card and go right to the teacher comment section. This is where I seem to find the best feedback and can get support in the work we do at home with our children.

If you ever have any questions about the report cards, reaching out to your child's teacher is going to be the best way to learn more about their skills and areas to grow.

Beth Hellpap  
K-5 Principal



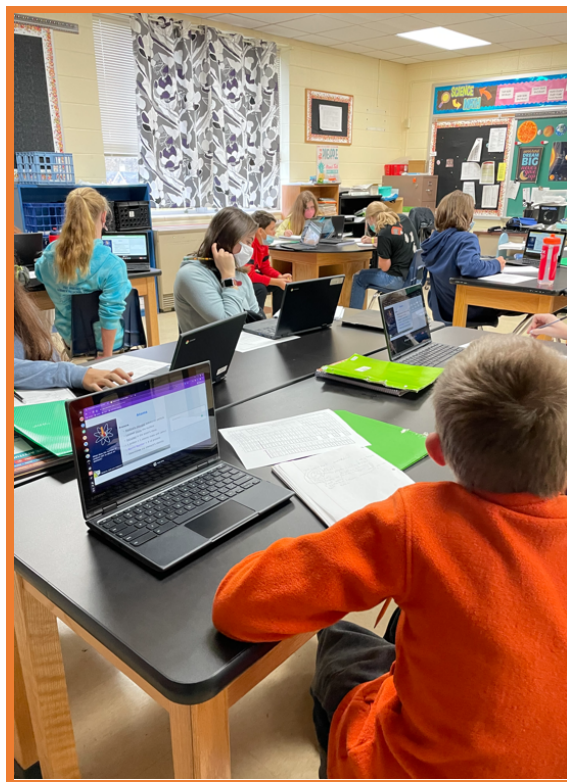
## **Columbus Middle School, Cori Denk, Principal**

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### **Columbus Middle School**

Happy November! We started our second quarter at the end of October and students seem to be transitioning well to their new classes. These past months we focused on Responsibility in September and on Respect in October. Students engage in Social and Emotional Learning once a week and these are surrounded around our monthly theme. This month our focus is Caring. The lessons will focus around empathy (walking in others shoes) and treating others how you want to be treated. Please continue to have conversations with your child about how to care for all individuals.

**Eighth Graders Transition to High School:** We will begin to discuss the transition to the high school with our 8th graders. Students will have some wonderful opportunities to learn about classes at the high school, engage in a Q&A with current students, and start preparing for next year.



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

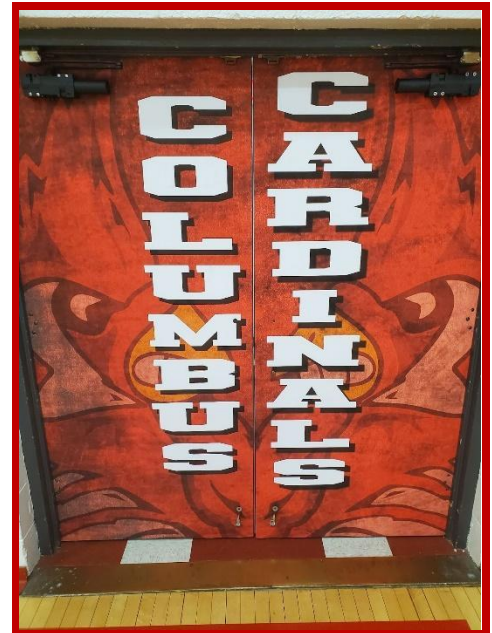
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The end of the trimester is just around the corner at CHS. For many, the first 12 weeks of the year have flown by. Overall, it has been a great start to the year. We have had to re-learn some habits and reacquaint ourselves with the expectations of the building. There are many students who have stepped up and led their classmates through this transition back to “normal” school life. We have so much to be proud of at CHS and know that we will only continue to get stronger as a community as the year progresses.

### **Staff Shout Out...**

Tim Dworak is a technology teacher at CHS. He and his students do some pretty awesome things in class. One example is a vinyl decal they printed for the doors leading into the gymnasium. This adds a great amount of Cardinal pride to our building. Thank you Mr. Dworak and students!





### Homecoming 2021...

On October 23, our students were able to enjoy the first formal dance in a couple years. The energy was excellent and the behavior was exceptional! Many students helped with planning, decorating, and cleaning up afterwards. For the adults involved, it was so wonderful to see the students authentically enjoy themselves. It feels like it has been a long time coming!

### Continue to emphasize...

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

- The most important thing right now is for our students to finish the trimester strong. Please reinforce this message at home. Teachers are more than willing to work with their students, but the students have to meet them in the middle with their effort.
- Encourage your students to reach out to their teachers for support.

### Athletics/Activities Message

The high school 3-Act play will be performing "Clue" on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Mark your calendars as more information will be coming....

Winter sports are going to be starting soon. If any student is interested in participating in Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Wrestling, or Dance, they will need to make sure they have all of the necessary paperwork filled out and returned to the office. Please have your student stop by the main office or student services to find out what paperwork is needed. (Note: if a student has already participated in a fall sport, then they already have all necessary paperwork submitted).

### Start Dates

Girls Basketball: November 8, 2021

Dance: November 8, 2021

Boys Basketball: November 15, 2021

Wrestling: November 15, 2021

[Columbus High School Activities/Gym Space Calendars](#) - This link takes anyone to our school district athletic and facilities calendar.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jon Rouse  
CHS Principal

Jay Freerking  
CHS Assistant Principal/6-12 Activities Director

## FFA Update

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**Fruit Sale:** The fruit forms are here and the sale has started! This is the major fundraiser for the Columbus FFA Chapter. The funds raised allow the chapter to host its agricultural literacy programs. The funds also provide personal growth and leadership development opportunities for FFA members. Please place an order for fruit, cheese and/or sausage with an FFA member! If you have questions feel free to email [gcrook@columbus.k12.wi.us](mailto:gcrook@columbus.k12.wi.us) Your support is greatly appreciated!

**National FFA Convention:** Ten FFA members attended the 94<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN from October 26-30, 2021.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> the FFA members toured the McFarlane Pheasant Farm, the largest pheasant producer in the U.S. They also stopped at Albanese Candy where they specialize in gummy bears and chocolate. The third tour was of the Fair Oaks Swine facility. The students were able to observe different pens of farrowing sows and piglets. The students ended their first day with dinner and some games at Dave and Busters.

On Wednesday the FFA members toured the Catacombs under the City Market in Indianapolis and were able to choose their lunch from a number of food vendors at the market.



The FFA members attended the Opening Session Tuesday afternoon and listened to the keynote speaker known as the “Fancy Lady Cowgirl” and heard her message to let your “mess become your message.” She also told FFA members to stay true to themselves. The students ended Wednesday with a Brett Young concert.

On Thursday the FFA members were at the Convention Center most of the day visiting the Expo Hall and the FFA Shopping Mall. The members were able to visit with agricultural industry exhibitors and colleges and universities that had booths displaying their agricultural programs. The Columbus FFA members attended the

2<sup>nd</sup> Session to receive their 3-Star National Chapter Award on stage. This was a great experience for our members to be recognized in front of thousands of convention participants!



On Friday the Columbus FFA attended the morning session to see Mrs. Crook receive her Honorary American FFA Degree. This is the highest honor bestowed upon a teacher by the National FFA. The award is based on the teacher's service and assistance they have provided to students and teachers in their own state and across the country. Mrs. Crook was the only Wisconsin teacher to receive the award this year. After the session the students were able to go back to the Expo to visit more exhibitors and to finish up any shopping. The members attended the rodeo Friday evening and watched bronco and bull riders compete.

On Saturday, the Columbus FFA Chapter attended the final session to hear the National FFA President's retiring address and to watch the announcement of the new National FFA Officer Team. Wisconsin's very own Cortney Zimmerman was announced as the Central Region Vice-President! It was a great moment for Wisconsin FFA.



The FFA members had a great week learning about agriculture, FFA opportunities and the many careers in the agricultural industry. See Photos!

**Mission and Impact Conference Nov. 13 at Stevens Point** This is a one-day leadership conference presented by National FFA staff. Eleven Columbus FFA members have signed up to attend. Eight are attending the Mission Conference and three are attending the Impact Conference. They will learn great leadership skills to bring back to the chapter and Columbus High School.

## Food Service News, Irene Pawlisch, Director of Food Service



### **Heritage Day November 18<sup>th</sup>**

We will be serving up a 3 sisters stew with turkey thigh meat.

3 sisters are a combination of corn, squash, and beans.

Indigenous people would grow these three items together for better crop production.





Many indigenous people refer to corn as “our relative.” Many scholars tie population growth and related development to the success of corn on every continent. Today’s corn has been modified to suit the needs of industrial agriculture. In the past few years the Indigenous Corn Restoration Project has helped begin reinstatement of traditional corn varieties in reservation communities in Wisconsin. Corn is treated with Cal or hard wood ash in a process called nixtamalization. This process releases the nutrients from the corn. Students will get a taste of hominy in the stew.

Manoomin, often translated as “good seed” is wild rice. Not all wild rice is Manoomin. Manoomin is labeled with “hand harvested” or “paddy rice.” In addition, it must be harvested by traditional methods in a canoe using sticks or poles called knockers. Color, texture, aroma, and shape of manoomin varies widely. Students will get a sampling of manoomin mixed in with brown rice to compare textures.

Wojapi or thick berries will be dessert. Blueberries will be combined with maple syrup then thickened over heat. Sometimes it is called “berry soup.” Savory versions are often served with meat like a cranberry sauce. The Garlic Ginger Chicken from Hmong Heritage Day and Elotés Corn from Hispanic Heritage Day were so well liked we put them on the winter cycle menu!

### **Meal Account Balances**

As a reminder milk break, milk only purchases, and extra entrees are not included in the free breakfast and lunch programs. Students must have a positive meal account balance to participate in milk break, purchase milk only for cold lunches, and for purchasing of extra entrees. We are continuing to do audits on individual accounts. Negative balance calls/emails are being sent out every Sunday. Meal account reminder texts are going out every Thursday. Please make a payment if you are receiving these messages.

### **Free & Reduced Benefits**

For those that qualify for free and reduced benefits the milk break is free. To apply for benefits, go to <https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/mealbenefits> for more information and applications in English and Spanish.

### **Milk Bundles**

Students that have a negative balance are being offered milk bundles that include a grain, fruit, and milk to qualify as a meal without taking the main lunch entrée. We automatically offer students that are in this category a milk bundle option when they ask for milk only. For additional information, contact food service director, Irene Pawlisch 920-623-5958 ext. 2190.

### **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 November, please contact 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 a volunteer organization and 100% of your donations go towards feeding people in our local communities. Please remember us during the holiday season. Monetary donations may be dropped off at Farmers & Merchants Union Bank. Non-perishable, non-expired food donations can be dropped off in the bin at Columbus Pick n Save. Call Colleen @ 920-210-6266 with any questions.

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

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The Business Office made it through October! Last month I highlighted all of the dates and deadlines we'd be seeing and things got along just fine. The big news is the mill rate for the district went down compared to last year. In 2021, the mill rate was \$10.10 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This year, the mill rate is \$9.64 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or a decrease of 4.7%. The 2 big drivers of the decrease are the aid the district received from the state went up and offset some of the levy and that assessed property values went up by 3.8%. These are positive indicators for the district now and looking ahead to the future.

Now that the levies have been set, the Business Office has officially gotten through the most hectic time of the year. For the rest of the calendar year, we are looking to tackle ad hoc projects, wrap up calendar year items for federal and state reporting, and review/improve current processes until things pick up starting in 2022.

## **Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager**

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November has snuck in on us and with it comes cooler temperatures. Custodial staff is preparing for the upcoming weather change, and are working to make sure all equipment is ready to go. As we transition from fall activities to winter activities, please be careful when attending events. Winter brings on slippery conditions and daylight fades faster. Please take all precautions when attending after school activities.

Projects at all three buildings are continuing to progress. At CES, crews are preparing for closing up the building and starting temporary heat for the winter months. The courtyard continues to draw closer to completion. The playground area was finished up the last week in October. At CIS/CMS, new rooftop air handling units were installed. The oldest units on the roof are now only six years old. At CHS, crews are also working towards closing up the addition for winter. Roofing is being installed. Electricians are also pulling new feed wiring from the back of the building to the new addition. We are very excited for the new cafeteria and commons to open in January.

## **Technology Corner, Michael Ziegler, Technology Coach**

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Show your Cardinal Pride by helping to promote Digital Citizenship with your student by bridging the gap between home and school. One way you can actively do that is to access your parent portal provided by our web filter software Securely. It allows you to view your student's online behaviors and trends. You can even browse it specifically by a selected date. To access this tool, you can go to <https://useast-www.securly.com/parent-login>. For more information please see the following resources provided by Securely.


[Parent Portal Walk Thru](#) - 2 Min Video

\*Note we currently do not support Parent Portal Rules as mentioned in the video.


[Parent Web Portal FAQs](#) - Quick Read Article

## Calendar / Upcoming Events

### November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b> 6:00 p.m. Title I Parent Meeting – via Google Meet  <b>No School</b> - Inservice	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b> 7:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, CHS Library	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> End of Trimester 1:15 Early Release
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Community DPI Report Card presentation 6:30 p.m., CHS Library	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b> 7:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, CHS Library	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:15 Early Release	<b>25</b> No School 	<b>26</b> No School
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

### December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Late Start	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b> 7:00 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting, CHS Library	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> End of Quarter	<b>24</b> No School 
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
-----Holiday Break-----				



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

<b>Superintendent:</b>	Annette Deuman	<a href="mailto:adeuman@columbus.k12.wi.us">adeuman@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>
<b>Director of Business Services:</b>	Nathan Knitt	<a href="mailto:nknitt@columbus.k12.wi.us">nknitt@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>
<b>Director of Student Services:</b>	Lisa Blochwitz	<a href="mailto:lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us">lblochwitz@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>
<b>Director of Curriculum/Instruction:</b>	Becky Schmidt	<a href="mailto:bschmidt@columbus.k12.wi.us">bschmidt@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>
<b>Director of Technology Services:</b>	Daniel Parizo	<a href="mailto:dparizo@columbus.k12.wi.us">dparizo@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>
<b>Facilities Manager:</b>	Troy Marshall	<a href="mailto:tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us">tmarshall@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>
<b>Food Service Director:</b>	Irene Pawlisch	<a href="mailto:ipawlisch@columbus.k12.wi.us">ipawlisch@columbus.k12.wi.us</a>

