



E- NEWSLETTER

Columbus School District

April 2022

Learning Today; **Leading Tomorrow**

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News from the Nurse:

Hello families,

While we are seeing a significant decline in the number of COVID cases, we have also noticed an increase in students who are absent due to gastroenteritis (i.e. the “stomach flu”), as well as influenza A. The symptoms of these illnesses often overlap with those of COVID-19.

Symptoms of gastroenteritis, or the “stomach flu”, typically affect one’s gastrointestinal system. Common symptoms of this illness are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps/pain, and occasionally a low-grade fever, muscle aches, or headache. Many viruses can cause gastroenteritis, such as noroviruses, rotaviruses and adenoviruses.

Symptoms of influenza A mainly affect the respiratory system and may include coughing, runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat, fever, headache, fatigue, chills and body aches.

While these illnesses are unpleasant, care can often be managed at home through the use of over-the-counter medications and getting plenty of rest. Dehydration is one of the main concerns for someone who has gastroenteritis so increasing fluids is also important. Pedialyte is a great option for those who are experiencing vomiting or diarrhea as it replaces water, salts and minerals that are lost. You might also try clear soda, chicken broth, noncaffeinated sport drinks, or ice chips.

Just as the symptoms of these illnesses are similar to that of COVID-19, so are the preventative strategies. These include vaccination, proper hand hygiene, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, disinfecting hard surfaces, avoid sharing personal items with others, avoid close contact with those who are ill and remembering to stay home if you are not feeling well.

As always, those who are sick should remain out of school for at least 24-hours since experiencing symptoms such as fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at bbayer@columbus.k12.wi.us

Thank you,

Brittany Bayer, MSN, RN



Curriculum News, Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Summer School Updates

Summer School Registration

Summer School registration is officially open through **April 11th**. After April 11th, the district will finalize summer school staffing. Families wishing to enroll in summer school after the registration deadline should contact their child's principal directly; the district will allow enrollment for students as long as we still have open spots in the sections.

- **Session 1:** June 6-June 24
- **Session 2:** July 11- July 29

*Cardinal Conditioning and high school credit recovery 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 [2022 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 \(español\)](#)

Summer School Bussing

Exciting news! This summer, the district is going to be able to take advantage of federal ESSER III funding that will enable the district to provide bussing for summer school! We are so excited to offer this service and hope that it opens the doors for families who might not otherwise be able to participate in summer school to do so. If a student would be eligible for bussing during the regular school year and signs up for summer school by April 11th, they will be eligible for bussing during summer school. Summer bus routes will be built after summer school enrollment is confirmed.



Summer School Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast (8:10-8:30) and lunch (11:30-12) will be available during summer school.

While the District of Columbus has enjoyed being able to provide meals at no cost for our students with the pandemic waivers, they are ending the last day of school, May 20th. In addition, the Columbus community no longer qualifies through census to provide free summer meals. That means we will be returning to paid meals starting in summer school.



As costs for everything are on the rise, our main concern is helping our families stretch their home budgets by providing nutritious meals to students registered in summer school. Let us help your family by completing the meal benefits application prior to summer school if you have not already during the regular school year. If you would like assistance in completing the form please call Stacey Post 920-623-5950 ext. 3152 for an appointment.

Online meal benefit application link: <https://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=441>

Summer Meal Costs

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary	\$1.85	\$2.90
Middle	\$1.85	\$3.15
High School	\$2.05	\$3.30

State Testing- Spring 2022

A lot of state and district assessments happen in a school district during the Spring months. With Columbus School District student's last day of school being May 20th this year, that makes this year's timeframe even more condensed. It is really important that students are in school on assessment days and appointments are scheduled for before and after school when possible.

Columbus JEDI families are reminded that participation in state assessments is still required at the school district; school principals will be contacting you to make arrangements.

School principals will be communicating specifics on state assessment testing in each school. As a reminder, these are the state assessments taken at each grade level:

- **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



Individual student results of spring state assessments will be sent by mail sometime this summer. Individual student spring MAP results will be sent in the mail with end of year report cards.

In addition to state testing, these are other important assessment dates to keep in mind:

- **April 18-May 6** Spring MAP window (Grades K-10)
- **April 18-May 6**- Spring F&P window (Grades K-5)
- **April 29**- High School Civics Test (Students must pass by end of high school by law in order to be granted a high school diploma)
- **May 4**- AP English Literature & Composition Exam
- **May 6**- AP United States History Exam
- **May 9**- AP Calculus Exam
- **May 10**- AP English Language & Composition Exam
- **May 11**- AP Biology Exam AND AP Spanish Language & Culture Exam



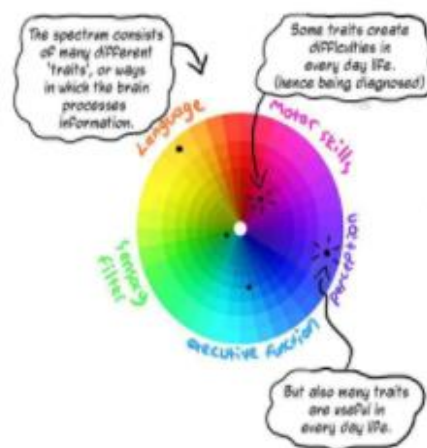
Student Services News, Lisa Blochwitz, Director of Student Services

April is . . . **World Autism Awareness Month**

I would like to share with you some “new” ideas about how to think about autism and those that are on the spectrum. The biggest thing to remember is that every person is unique, whether they are on the spectrum or not. This article will share some useful tips that generally help, especially children on the spectrum, and address some common myths.

Ways to help:

- Be consistent. ...
- Stick to a schedule. ...
- Create a home safety zone. ...
- Look for nonverbal cues. ...
- Figure out the motivation behind the behavior. ...
- Make time for fun. ...
- Pay attention to their sensory sensitivities.



A few Myths and Stereotypes

If someone can't speak, it means they can't understand.

For a long time, doctors thought that if someone couldn't speak, they couldn't possibly be intelligent. Now we know that many non-speaking individuals are very smart, they just have trouble getting their bodies to obey their minds. You can show respect to non-speaking autistic people by talking to them like you would talk to anyone else their age.

Autistic people are "in their own world."

People often mistake common autistic behaviors, like fidgeting, covering ears, and lack of eye contact as signs that autistic people are spacing out. Actually, these behaviors do the opposite.

Autism is more common than it was in the past.

Autism used to be very rare because it was only diagnosed in children who showed an exact list of challenges. Today, the autism spectrum is much broader, ranging from those who need a lot of help to those who need a little extra help in certain areas. It's not that there are more autistic people, we've just gotten better at identifying it.



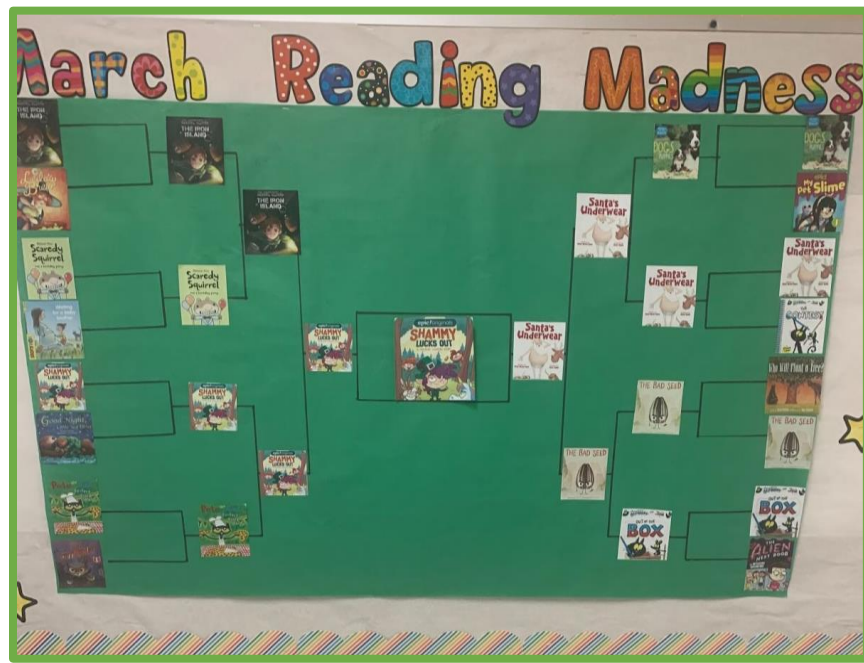
Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School/Intermediate School, Beth Hellpap, Principal

It's crunch time! This time of year, is a great time for student growth. We see students taking on reading and math strategies and doing them independently, their reading and writing stamina has grown longer and longer and students are staying engaged in their reading and writing! With this final push in the 4th quarter it is also a great time to reach out to your child's teacher to inquire about their goals. Goal setting in the classroom is a great way to get students moved ahead to their end of year goal, whether that be a reading proficiency, math fact fluency, sight word recognition, the list is endless. If you want to know more about your child's end of year goals, ask them! If they are not sure, you can always reach out to their teacher.

Getting ready for Kindergarten or 4k next year?

Simply click [here](#) for the kindergarten information.

Here is the [4k Virtual Orientation Video](#) and [2022-23 4k Registration Form](#) . If you have any questions regarding the enrollment process please feel free to contact me at bhellpap@columbus.k12.wi.us



The CES 2nd grade students participated in a “Book March Madness” bracket where students voted on their favorite book. “Shammy Lucks Out” was the finalist!



The CES hallways continue to be beautified with amazing student artwork!



Columbus Middle School, Cori Denk, Principal

Happy Spring! We are moving into April and we are focusing on the character trait of INTEGRITY!

Integrity is a character trait that is important in life. Integrity means that you do what is right even when no one is watching. As we move through the month of April we will be talking with CMS students about INTEGRITY and how we can foster this trait as we grow and learn.

Forward Testing: State testing season is approaching. I want to share with you the set testing dates for each grade and subject. This way students can be present in school and ready to test. Students having a good night's sleep and a well-fed mind can help them remain focused and ready to test.

8th Grade Social Studies: April 5th and 7th

6th-8th Grade English Language Arts: April 11th, 12th, and 13th.

6th-8th Grade Math: April 18th, 19th and 20th

8th Grade Science: April 22nd, 25th and 26th.

Track

Get ready to run! Track season starts the first week of April. Make sure that you have all the necessary paperwork in. Please call the office if you need any of the information.

Pre-arranged Absences

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

School Start Time and Attendance

Just a reminder that Columbus Middle School starts at 7:45 am. We are seeing students start to trickle in later and later as we move through the year. It is important for students to be in school and on time so that they don't miss out on important learning opportunities.





Columbus High School, Jonathan Rouse, Principal

Staff Shout Out...

The new construction at CHS, as exciting as it is, has displaced a couple of our teachers. Tim Dworak, technology education teacher, and Jolene Schwoerer, art teacher, have had to pack their things up and begin to move to temporary spaces. Both have been wonderfully flexible in working with us through this. Thank you to Mr. Dworak and Ms. Schwoerer for being so helpful during this process!

Calendar Change...

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 and Wednesday, April 13, 2022 will be late start days for Juniors and Seniors. Freshman and Sophomores will start at their normal time. Buses will run at their normal time. Freshmen and Sophomores will be taking the ACT Aspire State Test from 7:48 am to 10:00. All students will then follow the late start schedule for the rest of the day. If any Junior or Senior has to be in the building before 10:00 am we ask that they work quietly in the Cafeteria. By doing a late start schedule it will allow the optimal testing environment for the Freshmen and Sophomores.

ACT Aspire Testing: All Freshmen and Sophomores...

Wisconsin requires that all Freshmen and Sophomores in the state take the ACT Aspire Standardized Test. This assessment tests in the areas of Math, Science, Reading, Writing, and English. All Freshmen and Sophomores will report on April 12, 2022 and April 13, 2022 by 7:48 to complete these tests. The data gathered from these tests are used in a few ways including the school state report card, a data point to help identify students at risk, and a precursor for how well the students might complete the ACT Test taken their Junior year.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Next week Wednesday, April 6 from 5-8pm is our final Parent/Teacher Conferences for the year. These will be virtual meetings set up through Google Calendar. If you would like to schedule a meeting with your student's teachers please use the link below, move the calendar to April 6, and select a time.

[CHS P/T Conference Link - April 6](#)

Graduation Cap and Gown

All caps and gowns were delivered and handed to each senior. If your graduate does not have a cap and gown ordered yet, please contact the office. Students were asked to try their gowns on at home as soon as possible in the event an exchange of size is needed.

CHS Open House...

CHS will be celebrating our new spaces with a community open house on April 18 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

FBLA Celebrations...

Several of our students recently participated in a state Future Business Leaders competition in Madison. Two of our students placed 8th in state. Two of our students placed 4th in state and qualified for Nationals in Chicago this summer! Congratulations to all of our FBLA students and especially to these four students for their hard work!

Athletics/Activities Message...

There have already been a few spring sport season games moved due to the weather and fields. Please check the activities calendar for the dates of upcoming or rescheduled events.

Link to Activities Calendar: <https://www.capitolnorthconference.org/public/genie/522/school/1/>

Events held on the high school main gym are live streamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqfJDNzRTD-Yc8T45DyjjA>

Boys Basketball...

Congratulations to the boys' basketball team on their successful season. They are Capital North Conference Champions and Regional Champions! AJ U. was first team all-conference and WBCA Honorable Mention All-State. Jack F. and Mason C. are second team All-Conference. Nathan C. earned honorable mention All-Conference. Congratulations to the boys and coaches and on a tremendous season.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jon Rouse
CHS Principal

Jay Freerking
CHS Assistant Principal
6-12 Activities Director



FFA Update

FFA Banquet: Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 24 at 1 p.m. for the Columbus FFA Banquet. It will be held in the new cafeteria at CHS. Awards and recognitions will be presented.

FFA Officer Elections: The 2022-2023 officer team was voted in at the March 14th meeting. Congratulations to the new team! President- Hillary K., Vice-President- McKenzie P., Secretary- Zoe G., Treasurer- Ty T., and Reporter- Kailee Y.

CDE- Career Development Events: Congratulations to all 5 teams! Columbus FFA members did very well at the South-Central Career Development event on March 16th. Results are not official at this time; however, all 5 teams have placed in the top 10! Several individuals also have placed well, Aren E. in Wildlife, Emma P. in Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Morgan B. in Veterinary Science.

Food Service News, Irene Pawlisch, Director of Food Service

Heritage Day

Our last Heritage Day is India. The high school students chose Chicken Tikka Masala as the main entrée. It is chicken thighs slow roasted in a tomato sauce full of flavorful spice and yogurt. I went to a cooking demonstration and fell in love with Aloo Chaat. Chef Rageev Patgaonkar filled the room with magical smells as he combined redskin potatoes with spices which included mango powder. Then at the end he garnished the

hot potatoes with mint and cilantro. It is traditionally topped with red onions and chickpeas. I have held onto this recipe to use in school because it was an amazing bite! Ours will be served as a cold potato salad.

In India they have a saying, “Unity in Diversity.” The soul of India resides in their pluralism and tolerance. It is said to be the strength of India. I believe it is our diversity in the Columbus School District that gives us strength as well.

On the table, Shashi Tharoor said, If America is a melting pot, then India is a selection of scrumptious dishes in different bowls. Each taste different and does not necessarily mix with the next but they belong together on the same plate and they complement each other.



Home Grown Picnic

May 12th we will be having a homegrown picnic. We purchased two whole hogs from the Klubertanz Farm and will be cooking up some tasty meats from all the cuts for a school picnic. If you are interested in helping us grow our farm to school opportunities for next school year, please contact Chef Irene to figure out a supply chain process.

Thank You Green House Management!

Yes, thanks to Mrs. Crook's the Green House Management Team we can now say our students grow food for the meal program. This is a huge milestone and food service staff look forward to partnering with more FFA district programs to support student grown food in our meal program.



Business Office Update, Nathan Knitt, Director of Business Services

April Showers bring budgetary updates? That doesn't have the same ring to it... anyway, the Business Office is knee working hard on next year's budget.

From a budget timeline perspective, we are in the process of receiving renewals from many of our business partners and putting those numbers into the budget. The preliminary budget and preliminary staffing plan are going to be presented this month to the school board as well. The final budget will not be approved until the fall, but the preliminary budget helps drive business decisions between now and then. When I previously worked at Sentry Insurance, we called this point of the budget process the "wet cement" budget. It has taken enough shape that we have a good idea where we are at, but things aren't set and solidified quite yet.

Another budget piece that is floating out there is Open Enrollment. The Open Enrollment application window closes at the end of April, so that affects the number of kids educated here in Columbus. In years past, we've had more kids come into Columbus than kids go out. That is an encouraging trend we hope to see continue, especially with our construction projects moving along and opening up.

While the school year is starting to wrap up for the kids, it's just getting to ramp up for the Business Office!

Facilities Update, Troy Marshall, Facilities Manager

Construction is continuing at CES and CHS, and things are going quickly. CHS will be transitioning this month to Phase 4, and that means we will have new spaces to be used at that time. The new fitness/weight room has really taken shape and will open around April 15th. The new health classroom (old kitchen) is already being used by our Tech Ed class. A new conference/flex space has also been finished. Demolition of the old Tech Ed

classroom has already started and the restrooms by the CHS office are being demolished as well. We are looking forward to our soft opening this month.

The CES addition is receiving many finishing touches. We are getting really close to the final details on that phase. This month the gym will start receiving flooring, as well as the cafeteria/commons. We will also start seeing grading work starting in the back playground area.

Custodial and teaching staff affected by the upcoming summer construction are starting to box up materials in preparation. Libraries, classrooms and offices will all need to be emptied for the summer. April and May will definitely be busy at CSD.

Technology Corner, Michael Ziegler, Technology Coach



Digital security is increasingly important for schools, family and communities. Remembering to have conversations with students and families about how to be safe and secure as possible when using connected devices is important for all ages. [Here are a few simple points](#) to keep the conversations happening. Some of the tips to highlight are that most Wi-Fi Routers include safety tools to allow you to filter or review the web traffic your household is utilizing. This information is included in the user's manuals. Also, respecting age ratings that are placed on streaming content and websites in some cases will give you an idea of whether your kids are using age appropriate media.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6 Late start	7	8
11 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	12	13	14	15 No School
18	19	20	21	22
25 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	26	27	28	29

May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
9 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	10	11 Early Release	12	13
16	17	18	19	20 Last Day of School
23 7:00 Regular School Board Meeting CHS Library	24	25	26	27
30	31			

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

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