



New District Office Entrance

Visitors to the District Office are encouraged to use the door near the bike racks on the Middle School playground. The ADA entrance is available at the Middle School front door.



The Food Forest & Wildlife Class at Columbus Middle School studied worms and their moist, smooth, and dark environment.

Columbus Education Endowment is seeking volunteer Board Members. If interested, please contact 920.623.5950.

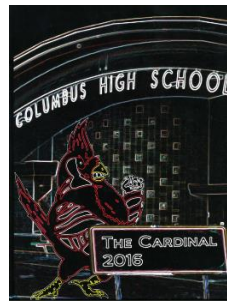
District Assessment Data

On October 18, the Wisconsin Department of Instruction released 2016 assessment data, including the Forward Exam, statewide ACT plus Writing, and Dynamic Learning Maps. Annual state assessments help all stakeholders – parents, teachers, districts, school boards – see a clear picture of how well they are preparing students to be college and career ready. The Wisconsin Student Assessment System exams accounted for in this release of annual statewide assessment data include:

- **Wisconsin Forward Exam:**
 - Grades 3-8; measures performance in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
 - Grades 4 and 8; measures performance in Science
 - Grades 4, 8, and 10; measures performance in Social Studies
- **ACT:** grade 11; measures performance in ELA, mathematics, and science (same college admissions exam taken by students nationwide)
- **Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM):** grades 3-11; alternate assessment in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies for students with severe cognitive disabilities

Yearbook Receives National Award

Jolene Schwoerer, Columbus High School Art Teacher, and the yearbook staff have received an award from Jostens for the work they completed on the 2015-2016 yearbook. Mrs. Schwoerer and the following students presented at the October 24th Board meeting: Natalie Derr (designed cover), Sarah Zittel, Carlie Brunell, Kayla Hein, Brianna Farrington, and Mikayla Armatoski. Columbus High School was only one of four schools in approximately 200 within the region that earned this national recognition from Jostens. This is the first time that the high school has ever received this award. The award is based on coverage (all students in the book at least three times), sales (70%), and meeting deadlines.



Meningococcal Disease: Protect Your Child



Public health authorities recommend that teenagers and college-bound students be immunized against a potentially fatal bacterial infection called meningococcal disease, a type of meningitis.

Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection that can cause severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or a serious blood infection (meningococemia). Nearly 30 percent of the cases are among teenagers and college students.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all 11-12 years olds should be vaccinated with meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). A booster shot is recommended for teens at age 16 to continue providing protection when their risk for meningococcal disease is highest. Teens who received MCV4 for the first time at age 13 through 15 years will need a one-time booster dose at 16 -18 years of age.

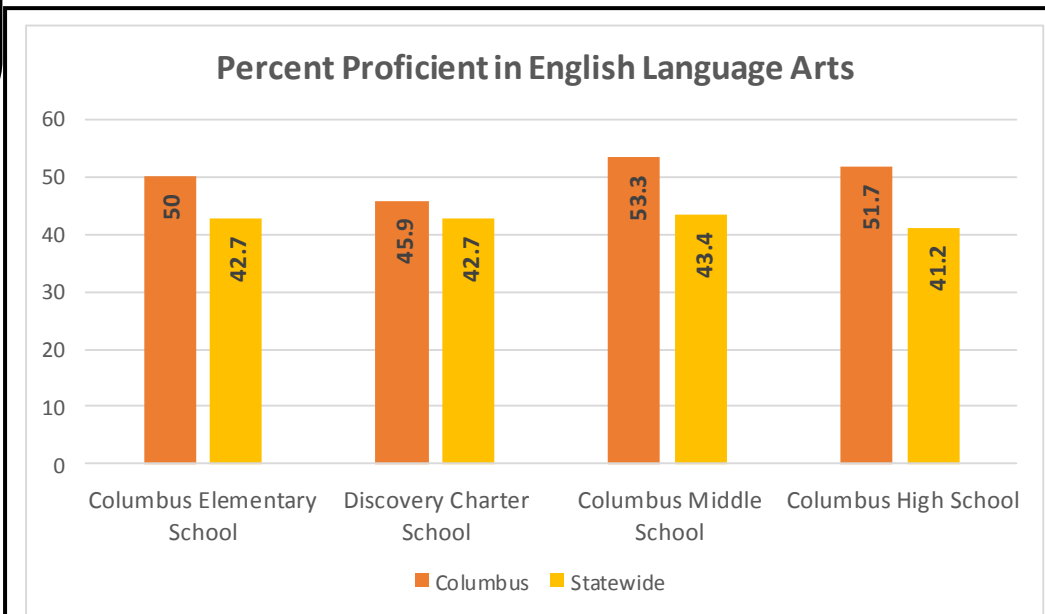
High School Students Experience October Manufacturing Month

On October 4th, Introduction to Engineering and Basic Auto Care classes visited Madison College to attend the School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology event. Students observed a panel of local businesses explain opportunities available to the students. A question and answer session followed. Students selected and attended two presentations: Automotive Technology, Robotics, Construction specialties, Electrical & HVAC, Welding & Metal Fabrication, and Veterinary Technician. The students toured Webcrafters, a nationally recognized leader in 4-color printing and book manufacturing in Madison.

On October 20th, Aerospace Engineering and Materials & Processes classes toured manufacturing plants in Beaver Dam. Two classes were able to tour Breuer Metals and Mayville Engineering Corporation. The students attended a luncheon at Savannah Oaks along with students from Fall River and Randolph/Cambria. The luncheon was hosted by E.K. Machine and had a variety of manufacturing leaders from the area there to share information about their company. The students participated in the Marshmallow Challenge. They were given 18 minutes to create the tallest structure they could with 20 spaghetti sticks, tape, and it had to hold the marshmallow on top. The winning (tallest) structure was over 25 inches tall.

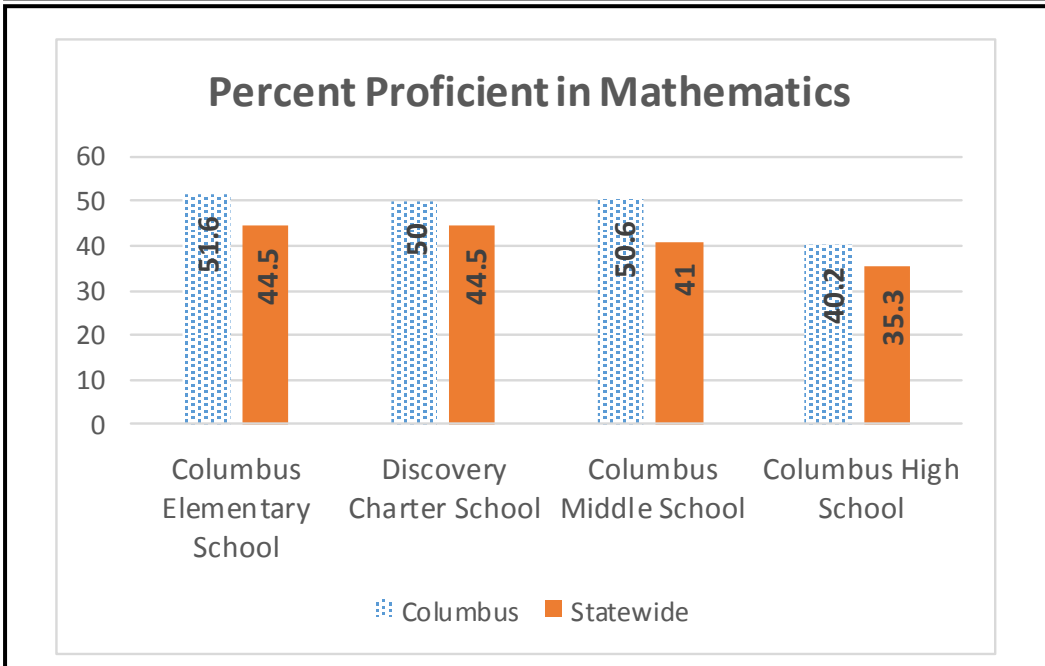
On October 25th Project Team-up members visited Lyco to work with employees to fabricate parts for the grill for this year's project. C.A.D. components for the grill developed by Kwon Black were used in the process. Metal was cut using their laser cutting machine and bent to specification on the metal brake. The group will now get to work on assembly and welding of the parts.

The Basic Autocare class toured Sherwood Automotive on October 31st and Countryside Ford on November 1st. Students learned about new and used car purchasing and repair as well as learning about career possibilities in the automotive industry. Madison Technical College brought their mobile workshop truck to the high school to work with the students on a/c training labs and engine cutaways. Ed Schellin spoke about auto insurance with the students.



Proficiency cut scores for the Forward Exam and ACT were rigorous, and many districts (including Columbus) showed a general decrease in the percentage who were considered “proficient” and “advanced”. The Forward Exam results are based on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) proficiency levels. ACT results are based on the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.

While Columbus is **above** state average, some of the ways the district is working towards continuous improvement include the development of a strategic plan based on community feedback at the recent Launching a New Legacy event, a regular curricular review cycle, and ongoing professional development for staff on strategies to provide a more equitable education for all students.



The data charts show Columbus performance in English Language Arts and Mathematics, the two areas that schools are held accountable for in the anticipated November 17 release of school and district report cards.

Information on Columbus' science and social studies performance as well as grade level specific performance can be found on the Wisedash Public Portal at <http://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash>.

November, 2016

Message from Superintendent
Annual Meeting

The District held its annual meeting on Monday, October 24th. The agenda included the approval of a total operating budget of nearly \$13.9 million, the school tax levy for the 2016-2017 school year of \$6,880,068, which is 1.07% less than last year.

The 2016-2017 tax rate is \$9.89 per \$1,000 of equalized value. This represents a 5.98% decrease from the 2015-2016 mil rate, due to increased property values.

This budget is a culmination of our efforts to improve in the areas of curriculum and instruction, facilities, human resources, professional development, family and community, technology, finance and co-curriculars.

I invite you to visit 200 West School Street or call 920-623-5950 at any time with questions or concerns regarding the District's budget or finances.

The taxpayers' investment in our students learning will help us live our daily purpose – Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow.

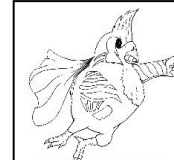
ANNETTE DEUMAN



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We Have Launched!



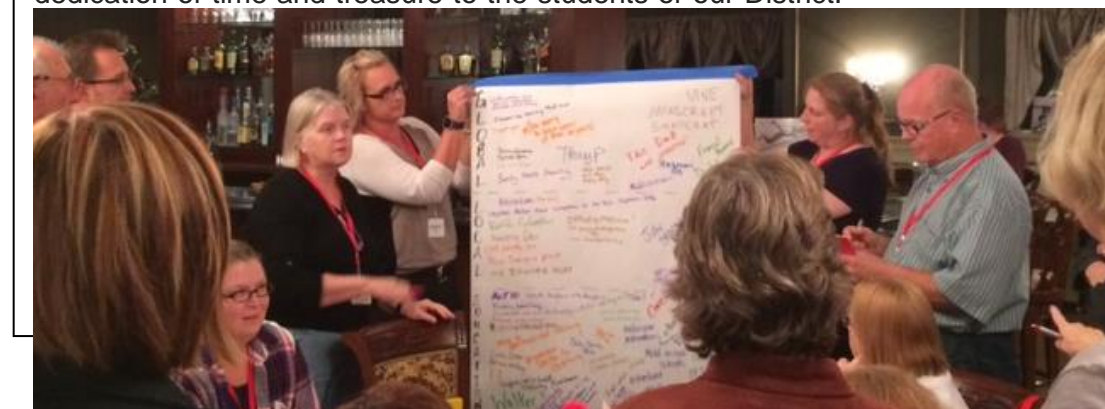
LAUNCH ed

We would like to thank the 110+ participants for their involvement in the Launching a New Legacy discussions on October 6, 7 and 8th. The event engaged the Columbus School District's stakeholders in conversations that created a shared understanding and clear vision of our future in education.

The three day conversation was led by consultant Drew Howick from Patina Solutions. The participants engaged in activities that focused on the past, present and future of CSD. Each participant identified with their role in the district from students, parents, staff, business owners, or seniors and contributed to the various activities with those roles in mind.

As the event progressed, voices were heard as participants talked about their experiences with the District in the past, the current issues and trends in education, and the skills and attributes desired for all future graduates of Columbus. The final activity asked the participants to describe through a presentation a clear vision of education in our community in the year 2030. The themes of these presentations were identified and prioritized. These themes and priorities are currently being defined and prioritized by the School Board so that the administration can begin to put together a communication and action plan.

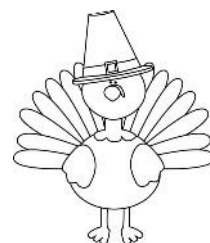
We will share more of these results once the prioritization is complete. The Board will also present further communication to their linkages in late January/early February. Once again, we thank the participants, and their families, for the dedication of time and treasure to the students of our District.



Upcoming Events

November, 2016

- 4 Music Service & Goods Auction at Kestrel Ridge – 7 PM
- 9 Late Start – Classes Begin at 10 AM
- 14 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 21 School Board Retreat – Superintendent's Office – 7 PM
- 23 Early Release – Classes dismiss at 12:30 PM
- 24 & 25 No School – Thanksgiving Break
- 28 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM



December, 2016

- 3 Music Department Craft & Vendor Fair in Middle School Gym
- 7 Late Start – Classes Begin at 10 AM
- 8 Middle School Winter Concert – 6:30 PM
- 12 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 20 High School Winter Concert – 7 PM
- 23 Early Release – Classes dismiss at 12:30 PM
- 26 – 30 No School – Christmas Break

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



Mission

Columbus School District empowers students to be community, career, and college ready.

