



Donors were recognized at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new playground equipment and materials at Columbus Elementary, Discovery Charter, and Columbus Middle Schools. Thank you to the Columbus PTO, Temkin Iron & Metal, Andy & Laura Bussian, Columbus Water & Light, and Mid-State Equipment.



## Columbus High School Giving

Tis the season and time of year for giving and giving back to others. While there is no requirement for community service at Columbus High School, students are always very busy throughout the school year helping younger students, local businesses, and the community as a whole, and December is no different. The Columbus girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams, along with the Interact club, recently helped with this year's Rotary's Kids Against Hunger workshop, in conjunction with Fall River students, to package over 40,000 meals. Most likely the food will go to the School for the Children of the Dump in Chinandega, Nicaragua. This school serves the children of families who live near and make their livings in the municipal dump where they scavenge for recyclable bottles, food and whatever else of value they can find.

The National Honor Society also just recently assisted with the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce's Breakfast with Santa. These students helped serve and clear meals for the community members who attended the breakfast. The Columbus High School Choir will also be out and about in the community in the near future. They will be caroling at The Meadows and The Larsen House on December 11<sup>th</sup>. As always, CHS students are willing to help out and give back to the community.



## Academic Bowl Competition

Columbus High School recently took first place in the Capitol Conference Academic Bowl competition. Teams of 15 students with representatives from grades 9-12 compete in both individual and team tests in the areas of English, Science, Social Studies, and Current Events. Columbus took first place, 39 points ahead of second-place Watertown Luther Prep, and Belleville finished third. Schools from both the Capitol North and Capitol South participate.

Top individual finishers for Columbus included: Trey Hensler, first in Biology; Ben Waldo, tied for first in U.S. History, Frank Roelke, tied for second in Biology; Isaac Kianovsky, second in Chemistry; Karson Klink, tied for second in Physical Science; Brett Scraufnagel, tied for second in U.S. History; Jaden Buske, second in Geography; Austin Lietha, third in Geography; and Lauren Kirchberg, tied for third in English 12.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
ABOUT COLUMBUS, GO TO:  
[WWW.COLUMBUS.K12.WI.US](http://WWW.COLUMBUS.K12.WI.US)

**MISSION:**  
Career, College & Community Ready

## Columbus Elementary & Discovery Charter Schools Learn About Empathy

The Columbus Elementary School and Discover Charter School is embarking on their next C.A.R.E.S. character trait; EMPATHY. Teaching empathy is vital to students social and emotional learning. One activity that accompanies our education of empathy is our coin drive. We are collecting money until Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> to support the program "Blessings in a Backpack". This program offers students additional food for the weekend. Helping our students in need is just one way to teach empathy. Please feel free to send any denomination, for every penny counts!

## Launch Priority #3 – Mental Health

By Brandon Tewalt, Student Services Director

Columbus School District seeks to empower students to be college, career and community ready by creating a global learning experience in rural Wisconsin. In order to appropriately align administrative workflow and budgeting to this mission, the district and community has identified six Priority Areas. These Priority Areas were assigned to administrative staff, who are charged with coordinating their efforts to meet the goals and objectives identified in each priority area. Priority Area #3 addresses students' social needs (i.e.: poverty, mental health, social skills, etc.). It was determined that between 2017-2020, the Columbus School District in collaboration with the Columbia community will take the following action steps:



1. Determine social needs of students in Columbus School District
2. Determine gaps in resources
3. Define current resources to address social needs within the Columbus School District
4. Explore resource opportunities within the Columbus community
5. Implement resources addressing gap areas.

Currently, a Columbus School District Mental Health and Wellness report is in the process of being developed. This report will summarize data collected from the 2017-18 Columbus Mental Health and Wellness survey, the 2017-18 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) "Mental Health Needs Assessment" for each of our Columbus Schools. This report will be released to the public at some point during the second half of the 2017-18 academic year, with the intent that it will guide decision made for the following year and beyond.

In addition, the District has engaged in multiple conversations regarding bringing mental health resources on-site in the school district for not only our students and staff but for the greater Columbus community. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, health professionals and school district personnel spoke of the vision and a mission to address the mental wellness of our families. Those in attendance included:

♦ **M3:**  
Breanna Hellenbrand, Account Executive  
Kristin Verstegen, Sr. Account Manager

♦ **SSM Health:**  
Katie Beals, Director of Client Services  
Lynn Grover RN, Program Manager  
Matthew Bagley, Clinical Manager

♦ **Columbus Community Hospital:**  
Andrea Link, Director of Clinic Operations & HIM  
LuAnn Reuter RN, ER Department Manager

♦ **Columbia County:**  
Dawn Woodard, Health/Human Services Director

♦ **Columbus School District:**  
Annette Deuman, Superintendent  
Janel DeZarn, Business Manager  
Roxanne Ayer, Accountant  
Cori Denk, Assistant Principal/Community

♦ **The Standard Insurance** (Disability Carrier)  
Alaina Dearing

♦ **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**  
Morneau Shepell:  
Elizabeth Aljets

♦ **Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC)**  
Louis Wenzlow, Director HIT & Strategic CIO

Please contact Superintendent, Annette Deuman, if you would like to join this team in the efforts to affect this mission of bringing on-site mental health services to the Columbus School District.

December, 2017

## Systemic Change in Columbus School District Curriculum

The mission of Columbus School District is to empower students to be community, career, and college ready. In order to be these things, students must be strong in literacy and math. This requires educating students with best practices and providing students with updated curriculum; therefore, the district is implementing a three year systemic overhaul of the literacy and math curriculum and instruction.

The District adopted a Balanced Literacy framework as its instructional approach to literacy K-12. Reading and writing are important to each other. Students who read more, write better. Students who write more, read better. Speaking, listening and language (including spelling, grammar, etc.) will be taught in context to the reading and writing students are working on.

In K-5, components of a student's instruction will include word work, which is a variety of hands on activities including studying of letter patterns in words to help students understand the spelling system and how to use the word knowledge they develop to support their spelling attempts in writing. Other K-5 components include shared reading (K-2), reading workshop, writing workshop, and interactive read alouds.

In grades 6-12, balanced literacy instruction means there is a balance and natural relationship between reading and writing lessons in the classroom. Students will spend more time engaging in real-world reading and writing experiences, and teachers will spend more time conferencing with students to help them meet their individual goals. Students writing products could include resumes, analysis reports, business email, conference report, expense report or a brochure copy, to name a few.

Also, in grades K-8, Units of Study in Reading and Writing has been adopted as the new literacy curriculum. Units of Study is backed by over 50 years of research from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University. The District purchased curricular materials, is training staff, and is implementing Units of Study (UoS) Writing curriculum during the 2017-18 school year. The District will do the same for Units of Study Reading curriculum during the 2018-19 school year. More information on Units of Study may be found at <http://readingandwritingproject.org/>.

In grades 9-12, Columbus High School English department staff will be working through a process of curricular revision. All Grades 6-12 teachers are required to teach students the reading and writing skills necessary for people in their content field in the real world. For example, science might teach students how to properly write a lab report or research journal article. In 2017-18, science and social studies teachers have been receiving training and coaching support to help them revise their curriculum and practice around writing standards in those disciplines. In 2018-19, they will also receive training and support around disciplinary reading standards.

Math will also be systemically overhauled K-12. Across the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, building level and district level teams will analyze data to target areas where the greatest curricular revision is needed. Staff will be realigning course sequencing. Pre-algebra aligns to middle school standards; it will be eliminated from high school course offerings in 2018-19. Middle school and high school staff are working together to develop supports for students who need a little extra assistance in order to be successful in algebra. The district will budget for potential significant purchases of new math curricular resources, along with training and coaching for successful implementation in the 2019-20 school year.

Literacy and Math follow the Common Core State Standards. The standards may be accessed at <http://www.corestandards.org/>. These standards guide the skills students are taught, but are independent from the curricular resources the district uses to do so.

Columbus School District is committed to continuous improvement in literacy and math. The District recognizes that results from change in practice takes time but is committed to educating students with best practices and standards-based curriculum.

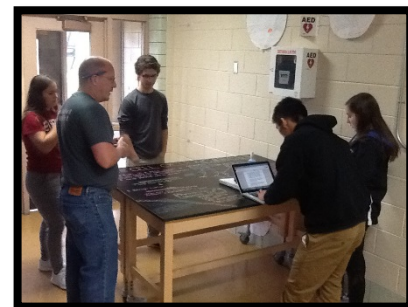
## Upcoming Events

### December, 2017

- 6 Late Start; Classes begin at 10 AM
- 6 High School Parent Conferences
- 11 School Board Meeting at City Hall; 7 PM
- 14 CMS Grades 6-8 Christmas Concert
- 18 School Board Retreat at 6:30 PM; Finance 101
- 19 CHS Winter Concert in Gym at 7 PM
- 22 Early Release at 12:30 PM
- 25-31 **No School**; Christmas Break

### January, 2018

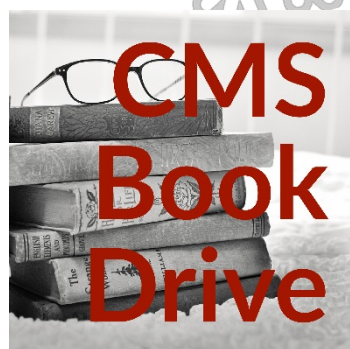
- 1 **No School**; Holiday
- 2 Students return to school!
- 8 School Board Meeting at City Hall; 7 PM
- 18 End of Quarter
- 19 **No School**; Teacher Work Day (Grading)
- 22 School Board Meeting at City Hall; 7 PM
- 31 Late Start; Classes begin at 10 AM



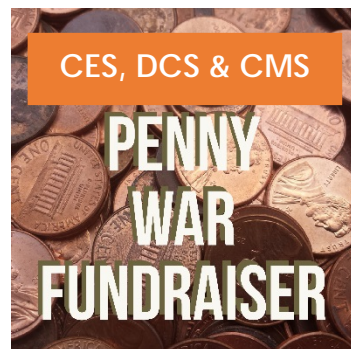
CHS AP BIOLOGY STUDENTS SHOWN DRAWING, FILMING, AND UPLOADING PRESENTATIONS



Three Columbus High School athletes signed Letters of Intent to Play in College last month.



FOR NICC FOUNDATION  
DECEMBER 4 - 11



FOR BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM  
DECEMBER 11 - 15