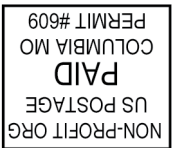


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Automotive Technology teacher awarded \$100,000 teaching prize

October 4, 2022, will be a day Jared Monroe won't soon forget. The Columbia Area Career Center automotive technology teacher was surprised with the 2022 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence, which included a check for \$100,000. CACC will receive \$70,000 to use for its high school skilled-trade program and Monroe will receive \$30,000.

Monroe returned to CACC, where he attended classes during high school, after nine years working in the automotive industry. A graduate of Nashville Automotive Diesel College, he worked in dealerships and independent repair facilities, quickly gaining experience with a wide range of vehicles and obtaining his Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Master Certification and advanced level certifications.

Monroe teaches a Maintenance and Light Repair ASE/NATEF-accredited program at CACC, which prepares students for entry-level careers in transportation mechanics and repair. To help connect students to additional education and career opportunities, Monroe works with industry partners in the local community. He facilitates job shadowing, an industry speaker series and career showcases.

"As I reflect on my first few years of teaching, I can't help but see the similarities between how I felt walking into my classroom for the first time and how many students must feel at the beginning of each year," Monroe said. "Not only have they just walked into an environment that can be demanding, intimidating and dangerous, but they are surrounded by cars, tools and equipment that are all new to them. I love being the individual who gets to introduce them to the unique experiences of working in a shop environment."

"I love being the individual who gets to introduce them to the unique experiences of working in a shop environment."



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Opening dates of CPS Elementary Schools

- 1896** First Elementary School (Benton)
- 1902** Jefferson School
- 1904** Lee Elementary School (Locust Street Expressive Arts)
- 1910** Grant Elementary School
- 1916** Field Elementary School
- 1923** Ridgeway Elementary School
- 1927** New Benton Elementary School
- 1935** New Lee Elementary School (Locust Street Expressive Arts)
- LATE 1930s** Kindergartens established across CPS
- 1950** West Boulevard Elementary School
- 1954** New Haven Elementary School (annexed in 1980)
- 1956** Midway Heights Elementary School (annexed in 1982)
- 1957** Rock Bridge Elementary School (annexed in 1967)
- 1958** Parkade & Russell Boulevard elementary schools
- 1963** Two Mile Prairie Elementary School (annexed in 1972)
- 1966** Blue Ridge & Fairview elementary schools
- 1968** Shepard Boulevard Elementary School
- 1978** Cedar Ridge Elementary School (formerly New Haven North, annexed in 1980)
- 1988** Mill Creek Elementary School
- 1991** Derby Ridge Elementary School
- 2001** Paxton Keeley Elementary School
- 2010** Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School
- 2015** Beulah Ralph Elementary School
- 2016** Eliot Battle Elementary School
- 2018** New Cedar Ridge Elementary School
- 2024** New elementary school slated to open

The majority of the **Rock Bridge Elementary School** addition and renovation is complete and a dedication ribbon cutting was held Wednesday, August 31, to celebrate the \$6.2M addition. Final touches include finishing installation of playground equipment.

Work on security upgrades, ADA improvements and an addition at **Jefferson Middle School** is nearing completion. The elevator was installed in the new elevator tower. The new gymnasium is slated for completion at the end of the year. The athletic field has a retaining wall addition and work on the new fields will begin once the drainage system is finalized. The staff parking lot has been repaved.

Several schools have undergone security and accessibility upgrades to the main entrances, including **West Boulevard, New Haven, Two Mile Prairie, Shepard Boulevard, Parkade and Derby Ridge** elementary schools; **Gentry, Smithton and Lange** middle schools and **Battle High School**.

HVAC replacement and repairs took place this summer at **Shepard Boulevard Elementary School, Oakland Middle School** and **Hickman High School**.

The lighting upgrade at the **Hickman High School** Little Theater is nearing completion as crews install mounting pipes and finalize new electrical provisions.



The family that teaches together

For the Floyds, teaching in CPS is the family business

Kristin Floyd has nurtured her love of teaching for 29 years, and now that love has spread to all three of her children. Her son is in his second year at Cedar Ridge Elementary School and her twin daughters began teaching this year in the same building as her, at Shepard Boulevard Elementary School.

“It has been an exciting time having all my kids teaching at CPS,” Kristin said.

Kristin’s son Jake teaches physical education at Cedar Ridge Elementary School and also coaches track and football at Rock Bridge High School, where he, his dad and both his sisters graduated. Last year, Jake was recognized at Cedar Ridge Elementary School as the 2022 Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence Outstanding Beginning Teacher of the Year, and said that recognition “meant everything.”

“Having your students and fellow staff recognize your passion and hard work is such an honor,” Jake said.

Megan and Allison, Kristin’s twin daughters, both started teaching 2nd grade this year at Shepard Boulevard Elementary School, in the same classrooms where they were once students.

Kristin just began her 20th year teaching kindergarten at Shepard Boulevard Elementary School.

“Mom was never like ‘You should be a teacher,’” Allison said. “It’s just what we grew up with and what we know.”

Kristin said when her children were growing up, she had a large group of teaching friends with children of similar age, and so teaching was always in their world.

“My kids grew up at Shepard surrounded by the ‘teacher kids’. They loved hanging out at Shepard both before and after school,” Kristin said.

Allison did her student teaching with a 1st grade class at Rock Bridge Elementary School and Megan student taught 5th grade at Cedar Ridge Elementary School. During the hiring process, both girls were excited for the opportunity to interview with Jill Edwards, principal of Shepard Boulevard, and even more excited to accept a position at the elementary school they attended.

Allison and Megan have connecting classrooms, which is fitting for these sisters who went to college together, played the same sports together and still live together. They both agree that having their mom as a mentor makes their first year of teaching easier.

And it’s not just their mom that is a resource. Kristin said that many of the teachers her kids had growing up have become professional mentors to them and that makes Shepard Boulevard unique and special.

“ From an early age I knew my mom was a positive role model for so many kids. I have always admired her teaching and try to emulate her as much as I can. ”

Kristin is pleased to serve in a mentoring role for her children. They have a nightly call to check in with each other and prepare for the following day, and the girls and Jake say they never have to be shy about asking their mom for advice.

Although Kristin and her children all agree they have different approaches when it comes to teaching, there are some things they share.

“I’ve definitely taken things from her,” Allison said, “like my ‘teacher voice’ or things she says.” Kristin confesses that her “teacher voice” never really turned off when the kids were growing up, so that makes a lot of sense.

“I remember when I was in 2nd grade at Shepard,” Jake said. “All the big 5th grade students would come see my mom and hang in her class. From an early age I knew my mom was a positive role model for so many kids. I have always admired her teaching and try to emulate her as much as I can.”

Shepard students are enjoying having the three Floyd teachers in one school and have taken to calling Kristin the “Real Mrs. Floyd”. Sometimes a kindergarten student in Kristin’s class has a second-grade sibling in Megan or Allison’s class, which students find “kind of cool.”

Megan and Allison agree they are both still finding their bearings but being at Shepard Boulevard Elementary School feels like home with family.

“It’s a good school and the people make it a great place,” Megan said.

Both Allison and Megan are committed to teaching long-term, with plans of obtaining their master’s degrees and seeing where their own passion for teaching takes them. Jake is working on being the best physical education teacher he can be and says he would love to present at the MO-Shape Conference someday and create a platform for sharing physical education lessons.

Kristin’s advice to her children?

“Remember, it’s a hard profession and at the end of the day, you have to make time for yourself,” Kristin said. She urges balance and reminds them to keep those things that are important to them prominent in their lives.

Megan says her favorite days are when everything comes together in her classroom. “The kids are working hard and everything is as it should be. At least once a day I shout out ‘I love it!’ and the students call back.” She says the sisters always celebrate Friday with a coffee stop on the way to school. Allison agrees that Fridays are the most fun with her class, allowing a little time to celebrate their accomplishments from the week.

Both Allison and Megan say that one thing that hasn’t changed at Shepard is that things are still done “The Shepard Way”.

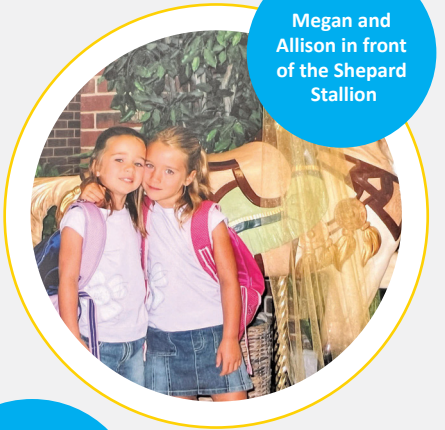
“Treating everyone with kindness, always a friendly face around the corner – that’s what it was like when I went to school here and that’s the way it is now,” Allison said.



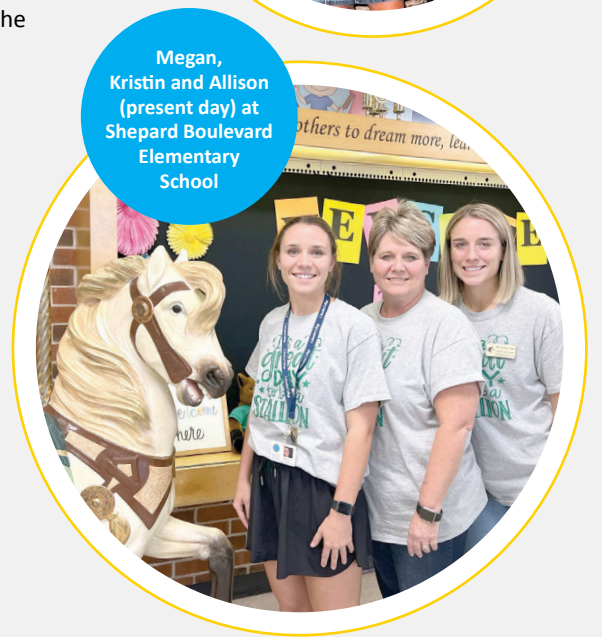
Allison,
Megan and Jake
as students at
Shepard Boulevard
Elementary
School



Megan and
Allison in front
of the Shepard
Stallion



Megan,
Kristin and Allison
(present day) at
Shepard Boulevard
Elementary
School



RIBBON CUTTING

Columbia Public Schools celebrated the completion of the Rock Bridge Elementary School classroom addition and renovation project with a ribbon cutting on August 31. The \$6.2 million construction project began in 2020 and was completed in time for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The project was paid for with funds from the 2018 voter-approved bond issue.



STAY INFORMED

Parents and guardians are automatically signed up to receive text, phone and email messages from your child's school and the district via the district's parent messaging system. If you are not receiving text messages and emails, please contact the registrar at your child's school(s) to update your contact information. E-mail and text messages will be sent in the event of a weather cancellation to parents with correct contact information on file with their child's school.

Check the school district website at www.cpsk12.org.

Tune in to CPS-TV on Mediacom 81, CenturyLink 97 or Charter 985 or view live and on-demand streaming on the CPS-TV Web site at www.cpsk12.org/cpstv. CPS-TV is also available on Roku, AppleTV and FireTV.

Download the free CPS mobile app on iTunes or GooglePlay. Search for Columbia Public Schools. www.cpsk12mo.org/App.

When it snows

As winter weather approaches, we want our families to know how snow days will be handled. School will be canceled, or a 2-hour delayed start implemented only after roads are tested. Should cancellation or a 2-hour delayed start be necessary, efforts will be made to notify radio and television stations by 6 a.m. If a decision can be made earlier than 6 a.m., the district will make every effort to do so. Information will also be sent via the district's parent messaging system, posted on the district's website and on CPS-TV.

Parents may make the final decision regarding a child's attendance. If the parent views the weather too severe or the road conditions too dangerous, absences will be excused. Difficulty in contacting parents usually prevents early dismissals, but under appropriate circumstances the district may dismiss early. On inclement weather days, please continue listening to local radio and television stations for news of early dismissal. Additionally, information will be sent via the district's messaging system.

Your child's school will provide direction and updates on specific after-school activities in the event of inclement weather, as each school building will have different scheduling and rescheduling needs.

www.cpsk12.org

Standards Referenced Grading

Columbia Public Schools uses Standards Referenced Grading (SRG) to gauge what a student knows and is mastering. Although SRG may be new to your family, Columbia Public Schools has been implementing this systematic, K-12 standards-based learning and grading since 2016.

The implementation of SRG began with a review of district data followed by several years of investigation, reading, studying, discussing, planning and professional learning. The resulting conclusion was that grades should focus more on learning and knowledge of the standards and growth vs. work completion. Not only have previous grading systems remained virtually unchanged for more than 100 years, but evidence also showed that those grading practices demonstrate distinctly unfair aspects for students.

Traditional grading methods included teaching through a single textbook, grading everything from homework to quizzes and tests and class participation. It involved giving points to somewhat unrelated items and creating a percent from those points. Students were graded compared to other students (often called “grading on a curve”), and grading was often inconsistent across different classes and schools.

SRG differs in that it focuses on grading learning skills, separating grades from student behaviors, and allowing students multiple opportunities to show proficiency. Student learning is measured using 4-level scales, where Level 3 is the level of meeting the grade-level standard(s) through aligned learning targets. Only academic achievement is ultimately assessed. Student behavior is measured and communicated separately from academic progress.

There are many benefits to this new grading system for parents, students and teachers.

Using the SRG system in classrooms draws students into partnerships with teachers, encourages them to keep track of their own learning and progress, and helps them to think about their learning and what they need to do to improve. It clarifies for teachers the state learning standards, for which they are accountable, calibrates the expectation for scoring, and ensures commonality, consistency and fidelity in grading. For example, if a scholar earns a “3” for their work in one teacher’s class, that same level of work will be scored as a “3” by another teacher, in another school.

Families will be able to clearly see what their student is learning and what level they are mastering. Grading will be consistent for every scholar, no matter the school they come from.

Scholars will have the opportunity and time to take academic risks, make mistakes and learn from them. They will have multiple opportunities to show proficiency and will know exactly what they have to do to get to the next level. Because all students are learning by the same standards and being evaluated in the same way, those who take more time to learn aren’t penalized through grades if they acquire concepts and skills a little later. This system honors learning, growth and mastery - not speed.



SRG

Standards Referenced Grading bases grades on the student’s proficiency on major standards in the course as defined by course proficiency scales.



PROFICIENCY SCALE

Rubric-like page that explains what is needed to earn a 1,2,3 or 4 for a given standard. This will be shared with students.



BODY OF EVIDENCE

An artifact that demonstrates the level of proficiency earned on a particular proficiency scale. Multiple opportunities will be given to demonstrate mastery.



CRITICAL CONCEPT SCORE

This is the current “score” or “grade” on this particular proficiency



REPORT CARD GRADE

All the Critical Concept Scores for a grading period will be averaged to a single score then converted to a letter grade (A, B, C, D, F)

PROFICIENCY SCALE	
Score Using Prof. Scale	Percent Entered
4	100
3.5	96
3	94
2.5	85
2	75
1.5	65
1	62
.5	55
0	IE

Letter grades will still be given and GPAs still calculated as normal as explained in the conversion scale above.

www.cpsk12.org/SRG



Parents are encouraged to attend Parent/Community University (PCU), which provides opportunities for parents and community members to learn more about the programs, supports and long-range planning of Columbia Public Schools in a smaller classroom-like environment.



5:30 p.m. (Dinner) | 6:00 p.m. (Program)
Battle High School

Jan Hoegh from Marzano will host a session on Standards Referenced Grading.

Event Information: www.cpsk12.org/pcu