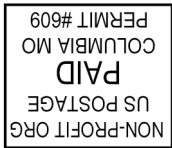


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Aslin Administration Building
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Columbia, MO 65203



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★ FALL 2022 ★

QUARTERLY CONNECTION



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Board of Education



Columbia Public Schools celebrates 150 years



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

For a century and a half, Columbia Public Schools has educated children. In this time, the number of students has grown from a little more than 300 to nearly 19,000 – making it the fifth largest school district in Missouri.

The first real public education in Columbia began in 1872. In January of

1873, the first Columbia Board of Education organized and classes began at a temporary school building located near what is now the intersection of Providence Road and Broadway. In 1881, knowing a permanent building was desired, the board presented a bond issue for the construction of a school building on a “wooded tract” at the corner of 8th and Rogers streets, across from what is now Columbia College.

In 1909, as the district continued to grow, a new building was needed. In 1910, Columbia High School, now known as Jefferson Middle School, was built and welcomed 290 students and 11 teachers.

A school called “Cummings Academy” was built in 1866. It was later replaced by the Excelsior School, standing where Douglass High School now stands. Excelsior School was later called Frederick C. Douglass School. The old building was torn down in 1917 and replaced by the present school building. The school underwent a major renovation that was completed in 2017.

In December of 1925, a bond issue was passed to provide for the construction of Hickman High School, Benton School (now Benton STEM Elementary School) and additions to Douglass School. At the time, citizens in the community felt the intended location of Hickman High School was “way outside of town” and that the 40 acres secured was more than needed, doubting the growth of Columbia would ever reach that far north.

By 1973, Columbia Public Schools had grown from 340 enrolled students to more than 11,000 and expanded from an ungraded elementary program to a comprehensive kindergarten through 12th grade program. In that same year, Rock Bridge High School opened. The school is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

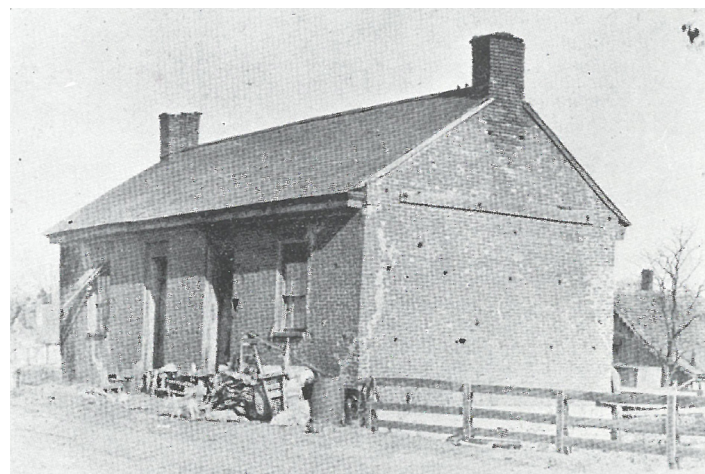
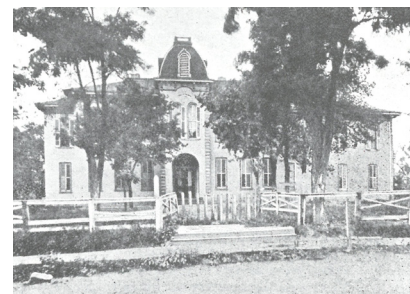
By the early 2000s, it was time to again begin thinking about adding

another high school to the school district. In 2010, the school district broke ground on the construction of its fourth high school, Muriel Williams Battle High School. The school was completed and dedicated in June 2013.

Because of the support of our community, Columbia Public Schools has built seven new schools and added on to six existing buildings since 2010. Today, Columbia Public Schools is comprised of 42 buildings and includes specialized learning for early childhood education, gifted education and career education.

During the 2022-23 school year, CPS will celebrate this historic milestone. At the January 2023 board meeting, the board members will officially recognize the 150th anniversary.

CPS families, students, staff and the community can view a dedicated page on our website where more history and information about the last 150 years of Columbia Public Schools will be available. Visit cpsk12.org/CPS150.



GET THE SCOOP

There are numerous ways to get information on happenings in Columbia Public Schools.

CPS MOBILE APP

Download our app to get a personalized window into the latest news and information about the district and your student's school. Available for free via the App Store or Google Play. Search for Columbia Public Schools.

CPS-TV

CPS-TV, the channel dedicated to showcasing news and events happening within Columbia Public Schools, has a variety of videos and live events to keep you informed, including Board of Education meetings and news and information about our schools and students. CPS-TV is viewable on several easy-to-watch platforms. Watch on Mediacom channel 81, CenturyLink channel 97 and Charter/Spectrum channel 985, or connect to the live stream at www.cpsk12.org/cpstv. Viewers can also download the Cablecast Screenweave app to their Apple TV, Roku or FireTV device and search for the CPS-TV channel. Visit www.cpsk12.org/cpstv for more details.

PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

Parents and guardians receive important messages from CPS and Student Transportation of America via the contact information on file at your student's school. Be sure to keep your contact information current with the school to receive these important messages. You can also access messages through the district's mobile app. More information is available at www.cpsk12.org.

PEACHJAR ELECTRONIC FLIERS

Check out the PeachJar icon on the school district homepage to access fliers for community events and activities provided by local organizations.

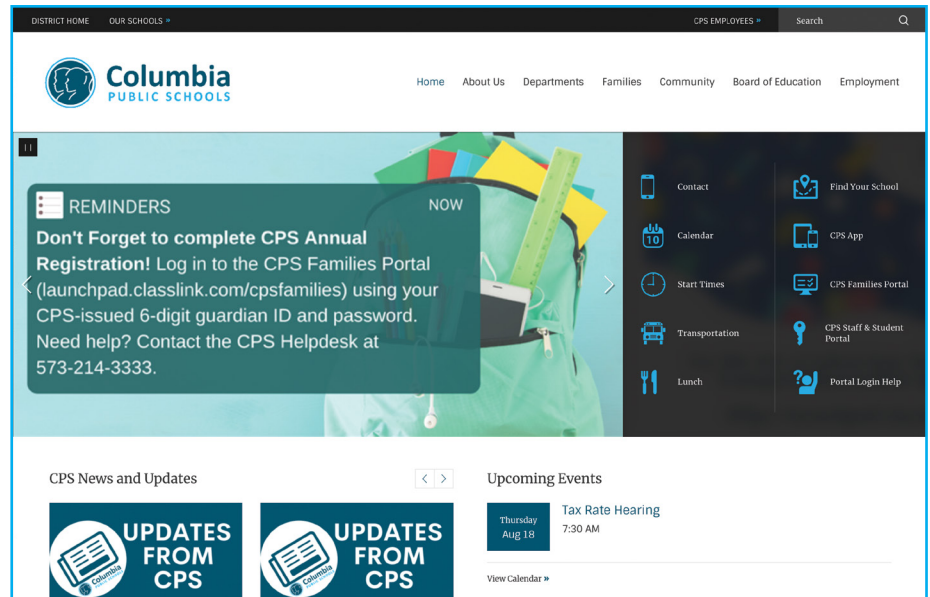
CPS FAMILIES PORTAL

Access all CPS apps through CPS Families Portal using your assigned ID and password, including:

- **Home Access:** A web-based, real-time tool allowing families to check their secondary student's current attendance, scheduled courses, grades and more. Please contact your school directly for more information.
- **Schoolology:** Allows access to course materials and assignments at school and at home.

CPS launches new website

For the first time in seven years, Columbia Public Schools unveils a new website.



This is no small undertaking for a district of our size with a website of more than 35,000 pages and 2.5 million pieces of content.

The primary goal is to create a more user-centric and responsive website for families to access across all platforms and devices, including a more mobile responsive layout. The focus is to make it easier for families to locate the information they need, when they need it, without having to resort to the search bar.

Throughout the 2021-22 school year, subtle changes were made and older content was cleaned up. Once we the research portion of the project was complete, feedback from stakeholders was gathered.

Much of the design and content on the district and school homepages are a direct result of our stakeholder surveys. Families indicated they want easy access to calendars, forms and contact information. An in-depth look into the website's usage and the most accessed pages via Google Analytics provided the redesign framework.

Information has been reorganized on the CPS home page and 10 global navigation icons have been added. The new home page also features a tabbed content organizer to help families find information quickly. This mobile-friendly format enables users to see additional content without leaving the homepage.

All pages also include a high contrast toggle, designed to aid users with vision impairments. When turned on, this toggle enables users to switch to a black and white, high contrast version of the website. The website also includes built-in translation tools in a variety of languages to translate every page instantly.

New to the team



Helen Porter

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

Porter served as interim assistant superintendent for secondary education for the 2021-22 school year. She began working for CPS in 1997 as a teacher at Oakland Junior High School, and later served as a teaching fellowship mentor, administrative assistant, assistant principal and principal. She holds bachelor's degrees in English and English education, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, a specialist's degree in educational leadership and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis.



Tina Woods

Derby Ridge Elementary School Principal

Woods most recently served as the program director of the district's Quest Program, which serves students with special needs. Prior to that she was the administrative assistant for both Smithton and Oakland middle schools. She began with the district as a special education teacher in 2007 and has taught at multiple schools across the district. Woods holds an educational specialist degree in educational leadership from St. Louis University and a master's degree in teaching from Columbia College.



Carlei Wies

Cedar Ridge Elementary School Principal

Wies has 17 years of educator experience as a teacher and assistant principal. She spent eight of those years in Columbia Public Schools, most recently as assistant principal at Eliot Battle Elementary School. Wies holds a bachelor's degree from Central Methodist University, as well as master's and educational specialist degrees from the University of Missouri.



Tyler Simmons

Fairview Elementary School Principal

Simmons has 13 years of educator experience as a teacher and school building leader in Columbia Public Schools. He most recently served as the assistant principal at Fairview Elementary School. Simmons holds a bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State University, as well as master's and educational specialist degrees from the University of Missouri. He holds a doctorate in educational leadership.



Mary Grupe

Hickman High School Principal

Grupe most recently served as assistant principal at Rock Bridge High School. She has spent nearly her entire educational career with CPS and is a 2001 graduate of Hickman High School. She has been a teacher, learning specialist, case manager, instructional aide and served in administrative roles in the district.



Michelle Holz

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Holz has been the director of certificated and salaried personnel for CPS since 2018. She began her career as a bilingual self-contained teacher at Northwood Junior High School in Highland Park, Illinois. She has nearly 15 years of teaching and school leadership experience. Holz holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a minor in Spanish, master's degrees in teaching and in administration and supervision from National Louis University. She will complete her doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri in December 2022.



Amanda Minear

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School Principal

Minear previously served in a leadership role as the administrative assistant at Lange Middle School. She has 11 years of educational experience. She holds four degrees from the University of Missouri, the most recent being her doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis.



Dominique Falls

Lange Middle School Principal

Falls has 12 years of educator experience as a teacher, coach and school leader. He spent eight of those years at Lange Middle School and most recently served as the assistant principal at Jefferson City High School. Falls holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in human and environmental studies, as well as master's and educational specialist degrees from William Woods University, where he also earned his doctorate in educational leadership.



Kerri Graham

Russell Boulevard Elementary School Principal

Graham most recently served as the assistant principal at Jefferson Middle School. She has 20 years of educational experience working as an administrator and teacher. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology and theatre arts education from Marquette University, a master's degree in secondary administration from William Woods University, and will complete her doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri in 2024.

SAVE THE DATE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31 • 4:30 PM

Rock Bridge Elementary School
RIBBON CUTTING AND FACILITY TOUR

Ribbon Cutting and facility tour to celebrate the completion of the school addition. The community is invited to attend.

Columbia Public Schools receives national communications awards



The National School Public Relations Association recently recognized the Columbia Public Schools' Community Relations Department with several national communication awards.

Columbia Public Schools received three of this year's 74 Golden Achievement Awards, which recognize outstanding, strategic work in all aspects of school public relations, communications, marketing and engagement.



The award categories included Sharing Classroom Activities, Expanding Community Outreach and District Financial Aid and Budget Transparency.

The Community Relations Department also received 16 Publications and Digital Media Excellence Awards, which recognize outstanding education publications, e-newsletters, digital media programs, marketing materials, videos, social media, websites and more.



These awards are in the categories of Annual Report, Blog, Internal Newsletter and External Printed Newsletter and Video (Produced In-House).

CPS RECOGNIZED BY WHITE HOUSE



Columbia Public Schools is one of eight school districts nationwide to be recognized by the White House for its best-in-class efforts in the category of Efficient HVAC for Indoor Environmental Quality. The award is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Efficient and Healthy

Schools campaign and recognizes the substantial HVAC upgrades made throughout the district. CPS Facilities and Construction Services has worked over the last several years to earn this award and recognition. The improvements will not only provide for better air quality for students and staff, but also make buildings more energy-efficient, resulting in long-term savings.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

The gymnasium and storm shelter addition as well as the ADA improvements and upgrades at Jefferson Middle School continue. The construction has gone smoothly and remains on-time and will be completed by the fall of 2023.

Masonry for the gymnasium and storm shelter are nearly complete. The hallway connecting the auditorium to the new gymnasium is also nearing completion.

The elevator tower for all three floors of the school is complete. The elevator tower will allow for improved ADA access for all six tiered levels of the school building.

RUSSELL BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Progress continues on the addition and renovation. Site and foundation work are underway and construction will continue through 2023.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Final design and concept development for the renovation of and addition to the Columbia Area Career Center are underway. The construction project, which was approved by voters in 2022, will take place in two phases with a final completion date expected in 2025.

Later this fall the final design phase for the new elementary school located on Sinclair Road next to John Warner Middle School will begin. The design phase will include stakeholder input as the district works to design a facility that will meet the district's needs and consider future continued growth.



Hours, bus, and lunch information



www.cpsk12.org/schoolcalendar

SCHOOL HOURS



Classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 23, for grades 1 – 12 and Thursday, Aug. 25, for kindergarten.

7:55 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
8:05 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Preschool: Center for Early Learning – North
Preschool: Center for Early Learning – North
Preschool: Center for Early Learning – North
Preschool: Center for Early Learning – North

7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Eliot Battle, Benton STEM, Locust Street Expressive Arts, Midway Heights, New Haven, Ridgeway, Rock Bridge and Two Mile Prairie elementary schools

8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Alpha Hart Lewis, Beulah Ralph, Blue Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Derby Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Mill Creek, Parkade, Paxton Keeley, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard and West Boulevard elementary schools

7:30 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Gentry, Jefferson, John Warner, Lange, Oakland, Smithton and West middle schools

8:55 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

Battle, Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools

9:05 a.m. – 3:46 p.m.

Douglass High School

7:40 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Quest - South at Bethel Street Center
Quest - East at Roseta Avenue Center

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Early Childhood Special Education morning class – North
Early Childhood Special Education morning class – Discovery Center
Early Childhood Special Education afternoon class – North
Early Childhood Special Education afternoon class – Discovery Center

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BUS SCHEDULES



Bus information is available at www.cpsk12.org/transportation.

Families may select bus transportation during the annual school registration process. Please note, students in grades kindergarten through eight who live within one mile of their school and students in grades nine through twelve who live within two miles of their school are not eligible for bus transportation. Bus transportation is not generally provided for any preschool students. If you have additional questions, please contact your student's school. For information concerning school transportation routes and schedules, contact Student Transportation of America at **573-214-3860**.



Menus available online at www.cpsk12.org/nutrition or follow us on Twitter [@CPSlunch](https://twitter.com/CPSlunch).

MEAL PRICES

*Parents may
also pay for school
meals online via the
CPS Families Portal or
family.schoolcafe.com.*

*For any questions
about meal services,
visit our website at
cpsk12.org/nutrition,
email lunch@cpsk12.org
or call 573-214-3480.*

STUDENTS GRADES K–5

Breakfast: \$2.00 | Lunch: choice of garden bar, hot lunch with garden bar or sack lunch: \$2.95 | Additional milk: \$0.50 each

STUDENTS GRADES 6–12

Breakfast: \$2.00 | Lunch: choice of garden bar, hot lunch with garden bar or sack lunch: \$3.15 | Additional milk: \$0.50 each

ADULTS

Breakfast: \$2.40 | Lunch: \$4.15

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS

A new application must be filled out every year to qualify. Students from families properly approved to receive food stamps or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TANF) benefits may be automatically approved to receive free or reduced-price meals.
Breakfast: \$0.30 | Lunch: \$0.40