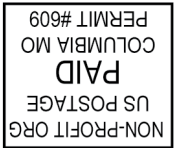


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QUARTERLY CONNECTION

★ SPRING 2024 ★



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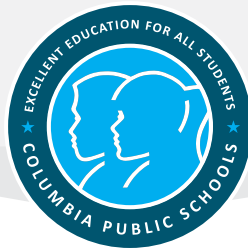
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Celebrating 40 years of Partners in Education

Columbia Public Schools' Partners in Education (PIE) program celebrates 40 years of fostering relationships between schools and the Columbia business community this year.

The PIE program brings schools, businesses, and the community together to share resources, strengthen school programs, and enhance economic growth. PIE pairs a local business or community organization with an individual school, curriculum department, program, or grade level.

Designed to be a long-term commitment, each partnership identifies a steering committee, consisting of both school and business personnel to meet on a regular basis and each partnership establishes a mission statement, objectives and activities. Partnerships may include activities such as guest readers, business tours, student and/or teacher recognitions, career fairs, classroom presentations, school activity volunteering, and more.

PIE also supports partnership friends. Partnership friends are community organizations or business that make a yearly significant contribution through time commitments, services, products or donations to an individual school, department, or classroom. Many of the businesses involved cite a desire to give back to the community and support Columbia's future.

Partners in Education began with Russell Thompson, Jim Ritter and Jolene Schulz studying "adopt-a-school" programs, which they then refined to benefit Columbia Public Schools.

"It was a vision of Dr. Russ Thompson, our superintendent at the time, to build a bridge between the world of work and the world of education," Schulz said in a previous interview.

As the program went from vision to reality, maintaining that PIE is more than a financial commitment was important to the founders.

"We were a handshake, not a handout," Schulz said. "We wanted people to know that we didn't want money, but that we wanted the resources that we have here in our community."

What started as nine charter partnerships has grown to 150 Partners and more than 100 Partnership Friends from a variety of Columbia businesses and organizations.

"Through these partnerships, students learn about education and life through enriching programs that use real-world problems and experiences, which is invaluable," Chief Communications Officer Michelle Baumstark said.

Partners also help CPS communicate what they see as important for future success.

"Our partners tell us what scholars need to know to be successful in the real world," Superintendent Brian Yearwood said. "It's about all of us working together to make sure our scholars receive an excellent education and that they continue to grow academically through innovative opportunities and quality teaching and learning."

For more information or to become involved in the Partners in Education program contact the school district's Community Relations office at **(573) 214-3960** or visit **www.cpsk12.org/pie**.



SCHOLAR CLINIC DEDICATION

On January 30th, Columbia Public Schools, in conjunction with Clarity Healthcare, held a dedication ceremony to celebrate the new Scholar Clinic. The clinic, located in the Eugene Field Center, embodies Columbia Public Schools' dedication to realizing its mission, vision and values, and purpose with the ultimate goal of becoming the top school district in the state. Thanks to this partnership with Clarity Healthcare, students have access to health and optometry services they might not otherwise be able to access.

Musical inspiration at all levels

**COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STUDENTS HAVE
MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE
AND CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR MUSIC.**



From classes during the school day to special events and activities, Columbia Public Schools' students at all grade levels have multiple opportunities to experience and cultivate a love for music.

CPS Director of Fine Arts Breana Kavanaugh said it starts at the elementary level, where all students take general music.

"The district is extremely supportive of music and the arts, more so than I've experienced elsewhere," she said. "The staff here really come together to volunteer their time and provide extra-curricular activities to ensure all kids have musical experiences."

For those who find their passion and talent early, there are auditions for extra-curricular involvement in Fifth-Grade Honors Choir, with more than 100 student participants each year.

All fourth graders experience hands-on practice with a musical instrument with recorders, provided for each student by the school district. At some schools, the recorders span fourth- and fifth-grade. For many students, this is their first experience reading music and translating notes to sound.

In middle school, students can begin instrumental music instruction through band and orchestra electives. Middle school students can also take general music and have several choir options, including the opportunity to audition for extra-curricular participation in Honors

Award Band and Honors Orchestra. Also, middle schools host "Try Me Out" nights where students can test available instrument choices such as clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, percussion, violin, viola, cello, and bass.

At the high school level, students can take band, orchestra and choir as elective classes. A music basics course is also available and includes some guitar instruction. For those more interested in the digital components of music, CPS offers a music production course that explores elements of making and mixing music digitally. Also, each area of band, orchestra and choir offers specialized sub-groups such as concert band, marching band, youth orchestra, jazz band, show choir, and more.

Through community partnerships, CPS engages in special events designed to generate an interest in and a love of music for all students. For example, each year all third-grade students visit the Missouri Symphony, and fifth graders participate in the annual Fifth-Grade Extravaganza, which takes place at Jesse Auditorium or the Missouri Theatre.

Kavanaugh said that for many, these opportunities are the first time that students are exposed to a performance space.

"They get to see orchestras and bands perform," Kavanaugh said. "They can see and hear different instruments and think about what they might want to play."

Introducing students to music early and often has resulted in some accomplished musicians over the years, producing award-winning bands, orchestras, trios, show choirs, and more. In 2023, three ensembles were selected to perform at the MMEA (Missouri Music Educators Association) conference. The selected ensembles were the Rock Bridge High School chamber orchestra, the Rock Bridge High School wind symphony, and the Fairview Elementary School choir.

"It is always such an honor for these groups to be selected to perform at the MMEA conference," Kavanaugh said. "For these musicians, it is comparable to athletes competing at the state championships. It is the highest level they can achieve in music as a student."

In addition to MMEA recognition, bands from Hickman, Rock Bridge and Battle high schools placed in several statewide and regional competitions in 2023, and 45 students received all-state recognition.

Still other students have enjoyed unique opportunities to showcase their talent and 45 students received all-state recognition.

Recently, Shelby Cooper of Mill Creek Elementary School entered a songwriting contest at the University of Missouri and was one of the student winners. She received \$800 for her school's music program.

Mill Creek Vocal Music Teacher Jordin Walker said Shelby is a very kind, thoughtful, and creative musician and student.

"Her skill with her voice and guitar is exemplary, and with training and guidance she will only become a better and more refined musician and songwriter," Walker said. "She is a gifted and driven student and performer."

Kristen Yu of Rock Bridge High School was accepted into the MAFME All-National Honors Symphony Orchestra during her sophomore year in 2021. She was selected a second time for the same ensemble her junior year and was selected as assistant principal viola. This year she was selected a fourth time, making the Missouri All-State Orchestra four years in a row.

Rock Bridge High School Orchestra Director Alison Lankheit said Kristen is one of the hardest working students she has ever had the privilege to teach.

"She is humble, kind, and has a strong work ethic," Lankheit said. "Kristen has consistently shown to be a natural leader throughout her four years in the Rock Bridge Chamber Orchestra. It is truly an honor to have her as a member of our orchestra program."

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MUSIC EDUCATION?

Learn more on the cps website: [cpsk12.org/finearts](https://www.cpsk12.org/finearts)



EVERY DAY COUNTS!

SCHOLARS WHO ATTEND SCHOOL
EVERY DAY ACHIEVE AT HIGHER LEVELS.



90% of students / 90% of the time

Here are a few facts about attendance:



- Missed school days can significantly impact a child's learning and overall health.
- Students who attend school regularly perform better on exams and assessments.
- Missing two days a month—excused or unexcused—can add up to a child being considered chronically absent.
- Students who miss 9 or more days of school each year may not be on track to graduate.
- If a student has a doctor or dentist appointment during the day, parents are asked to have their children attend the rest of the day. This reinforces the importance of going to school and attending classes.
- Schools lose revenue when students don't attend.



2024-25 KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT



Countdown to Kindergarten!

To be eligible for kindergarten in 2024-25, a student must be five years of age before **August 1, 2024**. For additional information visit www.cpsk12.org/kindergarten or call Columbia Public Schools at **573-214-3437**.

News You Can Use

RBHS BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **Rock Bridge High School Boys' Cross Country** team won the MSHSAA Class 5 State Championship. This is the third state championship in the sport in school history. The previous two state championships were in 2011 and 2020. The team is coached by Neal Blackburn.

Trey Clervi of Rock Bridge High School won the individual state championship in the 100m breaststroke at the MSHSAA Class 2 Boys' Swimming and Diving State Championship meet. Trey swam the event in 55.98 seconds, which also set a new school record.



Trey Clervi

Luke Sievers, a sophomore at Rock Bridge High School, won the individual state championship in the MSHSAA Class 5 race with a course record time of 14:51.9 and his teammate Andrew Hauser, a senior, took third with a time of 14:58.4.



Coach Neal Blackburn with Luke Sievers

Rock Bridge High School Cross Country and Track Coach **Neal Blackburn** was recently inducted into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (MTCCCA) Hall of Fame.

CPS SCHOOL NURSE OBTAINS NATIONAL NURSE CERTIFICATION

Fairview Elementary Middle School's **Rachel Willenberg** recently obtained her Nationally Certified School Nurse certification through the National Board for Certification of School Nurses.

CPS TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Jesse White, a physical education teacher at Battle High School, received certification as a nationally Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). This highly rigorous certification is earned through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and is held in high regard across the nation as the elite standard in strength and conditioning training for individuals.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG EDUCATOR AWARD

Hannah Aubry, West Middle School vocal music teacher, has been chosen as the recipient of the Missouri Music Educators Association 2024 Outstanding Young Educator Award.

MIDWAY HEIGHTS HONORED WITH NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MISSOURI PROGRAM AWARD

Midway Heights Elementary School has been honored with the prestigious "Nationally Recognized Missouri Program (NRM)" award

by the Missouri School Counselor Association (MSCA). This remarkable state achievement recognizes the school's fully implemented comprehensive school counseling program and its impact on student success and the school community.

CPS AWARDED MERITORIOUS BUDGET AWARD

The Association of School Business Officials International has awarded **Columbia Public Schools** with the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2023-24 budget year. The award promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and is only given to school districts whose budgets have undergone a rigorous review by professional auditors and have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria.

SCHOLASTIC AWARDS PROGRAM MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Jason Stephen and **Ben Stephen**, students at Hickman High School, have achieved National Gold Medal and National Silver Medal recognition, respectively, through the 2023 Scholastic Awards program. In this program, 260,000 works of art and writing were submitted and assessed by leading figures in visual and literary arts.

REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

Hickman High School student **Saathvik Kannan** was recently named a Scholar in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2024. The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair is the world's largest global science competition for high schoolers. Participants were evaluated based on their projects' creativity, innovation and level of scientific inquiry. The competition featured over 1,600 young scientists representing 49 states and 64 countries, regions and territories across the world.



Saathvik Kannan

MSBA'S BOARD SECRETARY ACADEMY

The Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) recognized **Noel McDonald**, Board of Education secretary, as one of the first in the state to complete the initial level of MSBA's Board Secretary Academy.

NORTHEAST REGION ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

West Boulevard Elementary School Assistant Principal **Sammy Adams** has been named the Missouri Elementary School Principals Association Northeast Region Assistant Principal of the Year.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR RECOGNITION CANDIDATES

The following students have been recognized as 2023 Presidential Scholars candidates: **Paris Fang**, **Shubha Gauta** and **Julia Kim** (Rock Bridge High School) and **Saathvik Kannan** and **Augustus Lookingbill** (Hickman High School).



2024 Summer School Programs

MAY 30 – JUNE 26

Columbia Summer SUNsations offers free summer school for students entering kindergarten through 8th grade.

Gifted Education (EEE) for grades 2-5 at the Gifted Center, and 6-8 at West Middle School.

Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) with home building.

Summer Expeditions is a six-week program at Jefferson Middle School for high-potential multicultural students grades 5-8 who have been under-represented at the college level not enrolled in gifted education.

Early Childhood Special Education and Deaf Hard of Hearing is at the Early Childhood Education Center, 901 Rain Forest Parkway.

Early Childhood Special Education is at the Center for Early Learning North (CELN), 2191 Smiley Lane.

The Secondary Summer School High School Credit Advancement program is available for Columbia Public Schools students entering grades 9-12. This program offers opportunities for credit advancement in the form of online, blended or classroom course options.

The Secondary Summer School High School Credit Recovery program allows students to make up credits to stay on track for graduation. Successful completion of a credit recovery class results in the grade of P and .5 credit.

MAY 30 – JULY 26

FUN CITY Youth Academy partners with Columbia Public Schools to offer half-day summer school curriculum (math, science, social studies, reading and writing) and half-day FUN CITY programming. The program is located at Blue Ridge Elementary School.

The Columbia Summer Enrichment Preschool at Center for Early Learning North is a tuition-based program available for students ages three-five. It runs from 8:30-11:30.

JUNE 10 – JUNE 26

Arts Explorers' Program is at Smithton Middle School for selected elementary students entering grades 4-5. Enrollment is by recommendation only.

JUNE 2 – JUNE 12 (Overnight program)

MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy is an academic and enrichment experience for high-potential multicultural students entering 10th grade. This program is a partnership with the University of Missouri.

JULY 1 – JULY 16

Secondary Choral and Instrumental Music at West Middle School offers enrichment instruction in choir, orchestra and band courses for secondary music students entering grades 7-9.

www.cpsk12.org/summerschool

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

Adventure Club is an extended day program at elementary schools provided by the University of Missouri - College of Education. It provides a supervised before- and/or after-school program during Summer SUNsations and Summer Enrichment programs. A non-refundable registration fee is required. Enrollment flyers are available at the elementary schools and via a link on the CPS website under Summer School. The Adventure Club website is: education.missouri.edu/adventureclub/summer-program

A+ TUTORING

Opportunities for tutoring in summer school may be arranged for secondary students enrolled in the A+ program. A+ students should contact the A+ coordinator in their high school building for additional information.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Information regarding summer camps/programs sponsored by various organizations, colleges and universities is available in school counseling and/or principal offices and via the Peach Jar electronic flyer system for families.