



Columbia

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

SUMMER



FALL



WINTER



SPRING 2019





Walls are up at new middle school, renovations continue for other CPS projects

In April 2018, voters approved a \$30 million bond issue for Columbia Public Schools, which includes funds for new construction; building additions; building improvements; and safety, security and technology.

The school district plans to issue the full \$30 million in March 2019 from the 2018 authorization.

Projects allocated include completion in 2020 of the new middle school in southwest Columbia, located on Sinclair Road. The building exterior walls are underway and the lower-level of the classroom wing is in progress with interior ground face block. Footings and slab work will continue once the wall block is completed on the school’s upper-level.

Six million dollars in bond funds will go toward a classroom addition and renovations at Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School, where seven trailers will be eliminated. Construction will begin in June. Locust Street Expressive Arts will temporarily relocate students and faculty to Cedar Ridge Elementary School next year while renovations are underway.

The district is in the process of annexing Rock Bridge Elementary School into the city, as it is being considered for the next classroom addition. Renovations are also being planned for Jefferson Middle School, which will transition to a science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) focused middle school in 2020.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

High school students perform at All-State Ensemble

Thirty-six band, jazz band, orchestra and choir students from Battle, Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools participated in the All-State Ensemble in January.

Battle High School Carly Ochoa and Ben Sexton; **Hickman High School** James Langen, Jonah Larsen, Cole Galbraith, Tyler Martindale, Wyatt Moore, Noah Stoker, Jackson Huenefeldt, Marcelo Zvanut-Till, Alex Ossana-Galen, Luca Morpurgo, Caden Smith, Solveig Geenen, Nicole Parker, Sophie Thorpe, Matthew Barnes, John Yoo and Isaac Stiepleman; **Rock Bridge High School** Jordan Kuhnert, Venice Villescas, Jackson Dampier, Anthony Wu, Jarett Ren, Kailey Beaty, Sarah Keely, Greta McNamee, Mary Kate Grossmann, Grace Dablemont, Hope Keithahn, Ryan Choe, Emily Lee, Sejoon Jun, Eric Kwon and Brandon Kim.

Rock Bridge Bruin Girls dance team wins national championship

The Rock Bridge High School Bruin Girls dance team won the Team Performance National Championship at the National Dance Alliance competition in Orlando, Florida. The team performance division requires teams to combine four different disciplines of dance—pom, kick, jazz and hip hop. It's not only a challenge from a choreography perspective, but each also requires well-rounded skills and specialized execution and technique in each area. The Bruin Girls rounded out their experience at the national competition by also winning the Sportsmanship Award and a second place finish in the pom category.

District honors retiring board members



Jan Mees, Columbia Board of Education president and 12-year board member, will retire this year, leaving behind a legacy of love and service for Columbia Public Schools and its students.

Mees, a nearly life-long resident of Columbia, began volunteering in the district when her children were in school, she said. She also worked for the school district as support staff and as a school media specialist for 17 years. Volunteering and working for CPS is the “heart of my existence. I’m pretty passionate about Columbia and the Columbia School District,” Mees added.

She said what she is most proud of in her career as a board member is keeping the children at the heart of her decisions. “Everything I’ve done as a board member, I’ve done for the benefit of the children.”

Jim Whitt is finishing up his 10th and final year on the Columbia Board of Education.

He began his service as a board member while his children were in CPS, but he also saw a need to help youth as part of his work with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), which is a nationwide organization for amateur athletics in multiple sports.

“Back then, I was working with CPS kids in every economic situation you could imagine – well-to-do families, poor families. I had to do a lot of work with kids to make sure they maintained grades. I represented AAU kids within Columbia Public Schools. As a result, when a seat on the school board opened, I made sure to throw my hat in and was elected.”

Whitt says he’s enjoyed his decade on the board and added it was run with financial stability. He said his focus was on closing the achievement gap so all youth could be successful, reducing class sizes, encouraging reading, furthering growth in new facilities, decreasing out-of-school suspension, and more.





Battle High School's "Tiny House Project" engages students, helps community

When Battle High School Principal Kim Presko has an idea, she doesn't sit on it. She is one of several masterminds behind the Tiny House Project in Columbia, where students construct a small house for the benefit of a low-income individual or family.

Battle High School students participate in a course titled 'Geometry in Construction,' and receive a "profoundly unique learning and giving experience," said Kristi Shinn, CPS curriculum and instruction coordinator. "The merging of geometry and construction instruction allows students to apply their math lessons with carpentry skills, resulting in a new home that is being built and donated to Central Missouri Community Action."

"Our kids really bought into the classes," Presko added. "Attendance has improved with these kids, as well. They look forward to coming to school and being involved. It's really awesome how it engages them. You ask them about this project and they are enthusiastic and excited. It's really nice to see."

"We added [the class] to make math more

relevant for our kids," Presko continued. "We're trying to make math more applicable to real-world experiences."

Presko said the school district received a grant of more than \$50,000 from the Columbia Public Schools Foundation to run the program. 'Geometry in Construction's' purpose is two-fold – academically, to meet the goals of a geometry course in a relevant way, but also to give back to the community. We want our kids doing community service work," Presko said.

Darin Preis, executive director of Central Missouri Community Action, said it will apply for a central city lot and funds to place the building. "Ultimately, we expect to rent it at below-market rates to people who are below 80 percent of the median income," Preis said.

The home should be move-in-ready by mid-summer. CMCA will accept applications for renters and make a decision based on income eligibility, Preis said.

Dana Hibbard, district math curriculum coordinator, said the students working on the project are also learning important life

skills such as how to work together and work with the community.

She says teachers play a critical role: putting in extra hours for prep time and training. "They believe in the success of this project," she said. "They put in a lot of additional hours the entire year to make this possible," Hibbard said.

The 'Geometry in Construction' course was developed by two Loveland High School teachers in Colorado in the early 2000s.

"'Geometry in Construction' has impacted countless students and community members over the years, with many students going on to pursue advanced studies and careers in the fields that (the class) addresses," Shinn said. "Additionally, the Loveland-Berthoud community continues to benefit from new, safe and affordable housing options available for residents in need, with the ninth home there presently being built." Shinn said there are more than 100 schools in the U.S. adopting the contextual curriculum and project-based approach to learning.

There are 22 students involved in the project at Battle High School. Once completed by the students, the home will be finished by a contracted builder who will ensure compliance with existing codes.

"A student measuring and placing insulation one day remarked to me how they take pride in their work," said Preis. "The student continued to explain, 'I am exact with my measurements. I know that as I do this, I am making certain that someone will have a warm place to live in the winter.'"

CPS offers fifth graders trip to the Great Smokey Mountains

Classroom is 500,000 acres of exploration

Columbia Public Schools provided 240 fifth grade students the opportunity to take a short trip to the Great Smokey Mountains in Tennessee for the educational experience of a lifetime as part of the Treemont School Program.

With greater than 500,000 acres as a classroom, these children went on a science trip with lessons on how geology connects to the ecosystem, weather and more.

"It's located inside the Great Smokey Mountain National Park, run by a nonprofit organization," said Mike Szydlowski, Columbia Public Schools' science coordinator. "[Treemont's] whole job is to bring students in. Columbia Public Schools teaches half the programs and they teach the other half. We try to let the students see how great it is to be outside and spark an interest in science for later in life. The first trip we had rain and rain and rain, but it was still amazing."

Twenty-eight CPS staff (22 teachers, two science coordinators, two principals and two nurses) attended the two trips. Trip no. 1 occurred Oct. 25-29, and trip no. 2 occurred Nov. 15-19. Highlights included ecosystem discovery, salamander searching and discovery (catch, observation and release), an all-day waterfall and geology hike, a night hike, folk dancing, camp fire songs and games, and stream physics and ecology.

Szydlowski said there are two main goals for each trip: 1) to interact with place-based education, and 2) to get kids to explore the outdoors in their natural environment.

"There's lots and lots of team building and observation," he said. "While this is a 'science trip,' we emphasize leadership, responsibility and kindness just as much. The students were fantastic."

Middle school and high school students have had multiple enrichment experiences like this, going to the Grand Teton and Yellowstone. Up to 720 children have attended the upper level trips each year, said Szydlowski.

"We definitely needed something to offer elementary children," he added. "Something to get their toes wet a little bit."

The 2019 program will include four trips in October and November – Thursday through Monday. The cost is \$415 per student, and there are scholarships available.

"Any kid who wants to go can go," said Szydlowski. "Columbia Audubon Society provided two full scholarships. There's been lots of fundraising internally for others." He added, the children love getting away

from the traditional classroom environment. "They learn so much. There is quite a bit more responsibility and leadership. They thrive because they are more engaged."

Sign-up for the 2019 trip begins in August. For more information, contact the CPS Science Department at 573-214-3945 or visit www.cpsk12.org/science.



2019 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

JUNE 3 – JUNE 27

Columbia Summer SUNsations offers free summer school to students entering kindergarten through eighth grade.

JUNE 3 – JUNE 27

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

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

Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) is at Rock Bridge High School.

Early Childhood Special Education Hearing Impaired is at the Early Childhood Education Center, 901 Rain Forest Pkwy.

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

JUNE 3 – 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 West Boulevard Elementary School.

JUNE 10 - 27 & JULY 9 – 26

The Columbia Summer Enrichment Playschool at Center for Early Learning North (CELN) is a tuition-based program available for students ages 3-5. It runs 8:30a.m. - 11:30a.m.

JUNE 12 – JUNE 27

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

JUNE 17 – AUGUST 2

The Columbia Area Career Center Summer Enrichment Experience for Youth at the Columbia Area Career Center is a tuition-based program for youth ages 10-14. No sessions held the week of the July 1-5.

JUNE 24 – JUNE 28

STEMette is a week-long program designed to empower 7th-8th grade middle school girls in the areas of science, technology, math and engineering. The program meets at the University of Missouri College of Engineering from 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

JULY 1 – JULY 16

Secondary Choral and Instrumental Music is at Smithton Middle School and offers enrichment instruction in choir, orchestra and band courses for secondary music students entering grades 7-9. No classes July 4 - 5

JULY 9 - JULY 26

The Columbia Summer Enrichment K-8 program at Fairview Elementary School is a tuition-based program. Students participate in courses selected from a wide variety of offerings. Sessions are 8:00 - 10:00a.m. and 10:15a.m. - 12:15p.m.

2019 MAC SCHOLARS SUMMER PROGRAMS

MAC Scholars Honors Summer Academy is an academic and enrichment experience for high-potential multicultural students entering 10th grade. June 10 - 19 at the University of Missouri.

Summer Expedition is a four-week program for high-potential multicultural students entering fifth through eighth grade who have been historically under-represented at the college level and not enrolled in the gifted program. This program is June 3 - 27 at Hickman High School. Enrollment is by invitation.

Anytown Leadership Institute for High School Youth (10-12) is a collaborative partnership with the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan, St. Louis, focusing on student leadership to help address issues of social justice in our community and our schools. July 9 - 14 at SLU School of Pharmacy. This program is limited to 10 students.

BEFORE- & AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

Adventure Club is an extended day program at elementary schools delivered 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 full-day program is available during the month of July. A non-refundable registration fee is required.

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 guidance and/or principal offices.

LEADERSHIP INTERN – CAMP INVENTION

Perfect for high school and college-age students – gain leadership skills, learn about entrepreneurial and intellectual property concepts, strengthen college applications and complete required volunteer hours in a meaningful setting. Selected participant will fulfill the role of a leader while making the Camp Invention Experience memorable for participants. Intern will also earn up to 40 community service hours in a STEM educational program.