



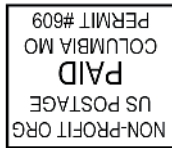
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QUARTERLY CONNECTION

★ WINTER 2021 ★

INSIDE ISSUE:

Early College Students Thrive
Bond Updates
Reading Across CPS
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Early College Program Roadmap





Early College Students Thrive

The first year of the Columbia Public Schools' Early College Program saw many successes.

"Our students didn't just do well, they thrived," Program Coordinator Dru Nash said.

The program, which is the result of a partnership between CPS and Moberly Area Community College (MACC), allows current high school students to enroll in a minimum of 12 college credit hours per semester while concurrently satisfying high school graduation requirements. Students can make substantial progress toward their college degree or may even complete an associate degree by high school graduation. CPS pays for tuition, books and college fees for all students in the program, and students must maintain a C or better in all classes.

"I couldn't be more impressed with the response and support," Nash said. "It requires two large systems to coordinate. The MACC support of students day by day and programmatic approach has been wonderful. It has been very student focused, and our students have, in turn, impressed them in every way possible."

The inaugural class of students were pleased with the experience overall, and many said they felt that an unexpected advantage of the program was additional supports while learning to manage complex schedules.

Early College Program participants learned to juggle high school and college while also balancing other commitments such as athletics, part-time jobs or other after-school activities, but had the benefit of high school supports such as parents, counselors, teachers and MACC advisors.

"The students get to take full advantage of all the services provided at MACC as well as the existing supports through CPS," Nash said. "They get the best of both worlds."

The program is available to CPS juniors and seniors with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher, cumulative attendance of 90 percent and who meet college-readiness scores (ACT or ACCUPLACER).

SEE INSIDE ...

Roadmap for the 2022-23 programs

Important deadlines for the 2022 program

25

early college students
made the fall MACC
Dean's List
3.5 to 3.99 GPA

51

early college students
made the fall MACC
President's List
4.0 GPA

32

early college students
made the spring MACC
Dean's List
3.5 to 3.99 GPA

41

early college students
made the spring MACC
President's List
4.0 GPA

155

early college students
started fall semester
2020

143

early college students
started spring semester
2021

3,824

total credits earned by
CPS early college students
in 2020 – 2021
school year

47%

of early college
students participated
in a MSHSAA activity

Bond Project Progress: Building and grounds improvements throughout the district



Jefferson Middle School renovation



New turf at Rock Bridge High School



Rock Bridge Elementary parking lot improvements

- **Jefferson Middle School** renovation is underway including construction of the new gymnasium and elevator installation in the main part of building as well as other ADA enhancements. This is a large project that will span a couple of years.
- High school athletic field projects are near completion including turf installation on the practice fields at **Battle**, **Hickman** and **Rock Bridge** high schools. Work at the softball and baseball fields at **Rock Bridge High School** are complete.
- Several HVAC projects are ongoing while many were completed over the summer. Projects include HVAC replacement at **Ridgeway Elementary School**, a new cooling tower at **Lange Middle School**, ventilation system improvements at **Rock Bridge High School**, improvements to the chilling and cooling tower at **Hickman High School** and replacement of the original HVAC units at **Oakland Middle School**.
- Tuckpoint work was completed this summer at **Mill Creek Elementary School** along with masonry restorations. Additional masonry work is scheduled to begin at **Gentry Middle School** and **New Haven Elementary School**.
- Safety and security enhancements continue, including construction of additional secure vestibule single points of entry for buildings that don't currently have them in place. Work at **West Boulevard**, **New Haven** and **Two Mile Prairie** elementary schools and **Roseta Avenue Learning Center** are nearly completed. An additional seven vestibule projects are slated for 2022.
- ADA exterior pavement improvements are in progress at **Two Mile Prairie Elementary School** and **Roseta Avenue Learning Center**.
- Kitchen renovations are underway at **West Boulevard** and **Rock Bridge** elementary schools as well as restroom renovations at **Smithton** and **Lange** middle schools.
- Projects at **Rock Bridge Elementary School** saw substantial progress this summer, including improvements to the building exterior and parking lot, installation of a new fire suppression system in the existing building and work on the kitchen renovation and building addition. Additional projects scheduled to be completed this fall include the east addition along with replacement of the playground asphalt. Work on the additions is expected to be completed this spring.

GROWTH. ACCESSIBILITY. SAFETY. SECURITY.

Reading programs across CPS make reading fun for scholars, families and the community

COLUMBIA ONE READ

The One Read program began in elementary classes during the 2020 – 21 school year as an opportunity to reach out to families at a time when they couldn't be in buildings. The program provides shared experiences through group readings of the same books. Because the program provides all books and planned activities to reinforce the reading, students and families can enjoy the fun and engagement of the program together.

Library media specialists select the books based on the criteria of accessibility and wide readability, with themes that encourage discussion. Columbia Public Schools provides books for each student and teacher and activities focus on three components: schoolwide, classroom and home.

Most classrooms feature a guest reader for at least one day of reading per book, along with regularly featured discussions and writing activities.

Schoolwide activities include incorporating a quote of the day and vocabulary words that relate to the reading into morning announcements, as well as special themed days that encourage dressing like characters from the stories. There are also opportunities for students throughout the schools to participate together in Q&A with authors via Zoom.

Teachers provide families with the reading schedule along with suggested activities that can be executed at home.

A donation of 2,600 books from the Heart of Missouri United Way, who partnered with Gary and Missy Pinkel of the GP MADE Foundation, 3M and Joe Machens dealerships, enhanced this year's program. The donated books were divided into 650 literacy kits, which also included a free book from the Columbia Public Library and a library card application. This year the literacy kits were provided to first and second grade students at Parkade, Benton STEM, Blue Ridge, Derby Ridge and Alpha Hart Lewis elementary schools.



One Read at
Benton STEM
Elementary School
*The Miraculous Journey
of Edward Tulane*

STORYWALKS

StoryWalks are an outdoor learning activity where each page of a book is incorporated into a display and spread out along a walking trail. Some stops include interactive activities that coincide with the story.

At Benton STEM Elementary School, a StoryWalk hangs on the fences of the nature play area on the north side of the building. The first story for the 2021-22 school year is *Say Something!* by Peter Reynolds, which is a book about empowering kids to find their own voice and use it. Benton will display different stories throughout the year, and community members are invited to participate in the walk.

Last year, Paxton Keeley Elementary School created a StoryWalk that incorporated aspects of all specialty content – art, music and physical education.

Grant and Paxton Keeley elementary schools are working together on StoryWalks for the fall and spring. The fall StoryWalk features *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins. The book includes collage illustrations of animals in actual size, which students used to launch investigations into relative size, scale and measurement with different tools. In addition to connecting students to the natural world, the StoryWalks are connecting the Grant and Paxton Keeley elementary school communities as they explore and share the results of their investigation.



StoryWalk at
Benton STEM
Elementary School

AUTHORS IN SCHOOLS

This year marks the fourth year of the Authors in Schools program, which introduces multiple authors to students in kindergarten through 12th grade as a component of the Unbound Book Festival.

The program is based on the concept that a literate community is good for everyone and many community organizations working in conjunction with one another lead to success.

In the fall of 2018, author Tiffany Jackson visited and ate lunch with students at Douglass High School. Authors in Schools now hosts multiple author visits each year.

During the 2020 – 2021 school year the program was virtual, which meant all teachers in the classroom could access more events. More than 10,000 students attended sessions and even more watched recordings afterward.

CPS media specialists lead the promotion and execution of the program throughout several buildings, working in conjunction with classroom teachers and students. Media specialists choose books and authors based on popularity, quality of literature and author availability and the books are read in the classroom prior to the author visit. Media programs often offer book conversation lunches and other activities surrounding the author visits.

Columbia Public Schools Foundation, Columbia Public Library, Assistance League of Mid-Missouri and CPS fund the book and author events.

In 2018 and 2019, 15 authors participated in 29 events at 20 CPS schools, reaching more than 10,000 students. In addition, a larger event was held for middle schoolers in 2019 at the Missouri Theatre featuring young adult author Jaqueline Woodson.

This year's event will take place online in the spring due to the success of that format from the 2020 – 2021 program.

Author
Tiffany Jackson
with Rock Bridge
High School students
(2018 - 19)



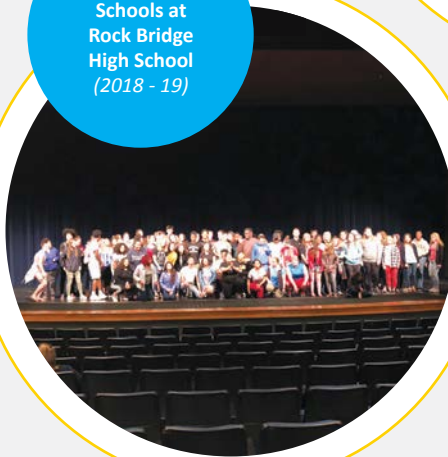
Cedar Ridge
Elementary School's
first grade students
enjoy author
Minh Le virtually
(2020 - 21)



Author
Tiffany Jackson
with Rock Bridge
High School students
(2018 - 19)



Authors in
Schools at
Rock Bridge
High School
(2018 - 19)



2021-2022 School Year Calendar Updates

The Board of Education approved a revised 2021-22 school year calendar in September. The calendar accounts for changes in the school calendar laws regarding the number of hours school districts need to have built into the calendar. In Columbia Public Schools, the number of hours built into our school year calendar exceeds state standards. This means that while we **will** still have inclement weather days (traditionally referred to as snow days), those days **will not** cause the school year to be extended. The last day of school is **May 26, 2022**.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

- Last day of school is May 26
- Summer school start date moved to June 2
- Summer school end date moved to June 29
- Juneteenth federal holiday added
- Elimination of extended school year days due to inclement weather



The revised school year calendar is available on the school district's website at www.cpsk12.org/schoolcalendar. Additionally, revised AB and ABCD calendars are also available on the same page. Please replace the new calendars with any previous calendars you may have at home.

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.

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

NEWS YOU CAN USE

CACC STUDENTS OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION

More than 200 Columbia Area Career Center students were awarded professional industry certificates in their career pathways as a result of their 2020-21 coursework. More than 16 different types of certificates were issued to students, including certifications in computer programming, video production, automotive services, 3D animation, architectural drafting, welding, agriculture, certified nursing and emergency medical technician.

CACC is committed to students graduating from high school college- and career-ready. Professional industry certifications aid in post-secondary success such as employment and post-secondary advancement and scholarship eligibility.

CPS EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to the following Columbia Public Schools' educators who were recently recognized for outstanding service.

- Columbia Area Career Center's **Jeaniene Thompson** received the 2021 Missouri Council of Career and Technical Administrators—Assistant Administrator of the year award.
- Battle High School's **Hannah Nandor** received the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Education 2021 Midwest Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.
- CPS Health Services Coordinator **Lori Osborne** has been nominated for the 2021-2022 National Life Group's LifeChanger of the Year award.

22 CPS NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Twenty-two Columbia Public Schools students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists. About 16,000 finalists will advance to the finalist stage and 8,300 scholarships totaling about \$32 million will be awarded in the spring.

Rock Bridge High School

Abigail Bridgeman
Akhilan Elangovan
Bethany Eppinger
Mallory Gard
Genevieve Harline
Emma Howell
Brandon Kim
Maggie Lin
Peter Popescu
Rohan Rao
Edward Shang
Benjamin W. Xu
Zihao Zhou

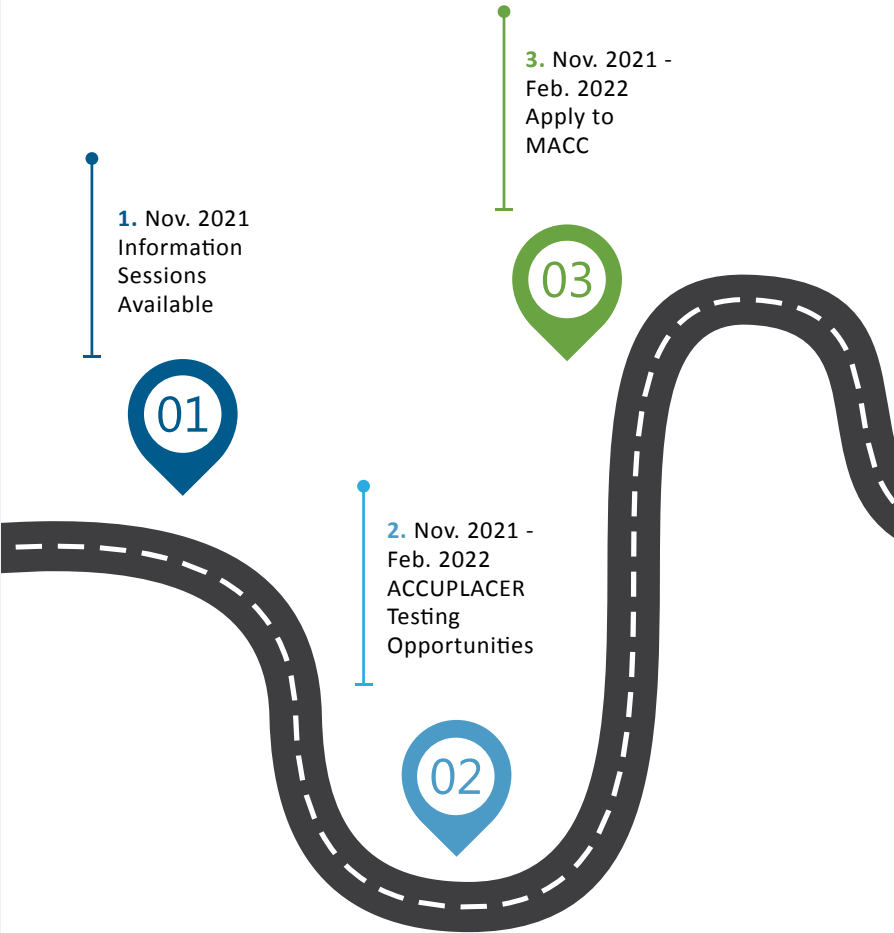
Battle High School

Jasper Holland

Hickman High School

Ryan Banks
Henry Huff
Joshua Kome
Elliette Orr
Ethan Sims
Stanley Thorpe
Jessica Xie
Stephen You

Roadmap





Columbia
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MACC
the college for you.

CPS EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

