News You Can Use

Boys and Girls Club at Ribbon Cutting Eliot Battle Elementary On Monday, January 4, representatives from CPS and Boy and Girls Club cut the ribbon officially opening the newest Boys and Girls Club after-school program location. Story to air on CPSTV soon!

JWMS Students Place Second in the Fall 2021 Stock Market Game (linked) A team of sixth grade John Warner Middle School students recently placed second in the Stock Market Game, outperforming the Financial Markets.

CPS Students Win Inaugural AdZou Challenge (linked) A team from Columbia Public Schools Columbia Area Career Center and Hickman High School won “Overall Team Champion” and “Best Tactics” at the recent inaugural AdZou Challenge.

CPS Teacher named as Central District Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2022 The Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators (MOSHAPE) recently announced Columbia Public Schools teacher, Ryan Armstrong, has been named as the nine-state Central District Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2022.

In the Classroom and CPSTV Highlights

Battle Buddies Celebrate the Holidays (linked) Usually, the BHS students walk over to Battle Elementary to meet with their designated Battle Buddy, but this week the elementary students visited the high school.

RBE Nature Playground Improvements (linked) Russell Boulevard Elementary School students took advantage of the unusual weather and with the help of CPS Science Coordinators, Mike Szydlowski and Ragan Webb, cleaned up and made changes to the Russell Nature Playground.

Russell Elementary Students Shine during Fall Concert (linked) RBE Students showcase musical talents during fall concert.

Holiday Festival of Music 21 (linked) Performances from the Fine Arts Departments at Battle, Hickman, and Rock Bridge high schools.

Blue Ridge Fancy Lunch (linked) Fancy lunch is an annual tradition at BRE.

Somethings Fishy at Two Mile Prairie (linked) Conservationists from the US Fish and Wildlife Department recently visited students at Two Mile Prairie Elementary school.
Jefferson students learn skills taking care of their zoo, but really it's fun, too
From guinea pigs to snakes, the zoo at Jefferson Middle School has it all — or a lot of it, anyway.
The zoo, which has 46 animals, opened at the start of the fall semester at the direction of Mike Szydlowski, science coordinator for Columbia Public Schools. Read more (linked).

Paxton Keeley students put the 'I' in kind with kindness wall
For the past few weeks, students at Paxton Keeley Elementary have showered each other in compliments and kindness.
School counselors Karen Eagle and Sarah Sadewhite collaborated on the schoolwide project to emphasize the importance of kindness and gratitude. Read more (linked).

Why a tournament title in Naples is significant to Rock Bridge girls basketball in January
There isn't another high school team in Boone County that's carrying as much momentum into 2022 as Rock Bridge girls basketball.
The Bruins enter the new year undefeated and with some hardware from winning the Naples (Fla.) Holiday Shootout 2021 American Division over the holidays. Read more (linked).

20 under 40: Amanda Ruyle
Kindness matters to Amanda Ruyle.
"Every decision I make as a wife, daughter, friend, educator, and school leader is impacted by that simple guiding value," says Amanda, the principal of Two Mile Prairie Elementary School. Read more (linked).

Learning music at Locust Street Elementary comes with joy and jingle bells
When Claire Majerus announced the lesson that day would be an instrument scavenger hunt, her class of kindergarteners erupted in cheers. "Let's go find maracas!" one boy shouted. Majerus tries to create joyful musical experiences as she teaches music at Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School. Read more (linked).
Social Media Posts of Note

MAESP
@MoAESP

Congratulations to new @MoAESP President elect @clmagers and @MoAESP Vice President @RyanRLink and NAESP Representative @drmcclard on today’s election/appointments! You will be excellent leaders for @MoAESP!!

6:15 PM · 12/15/21 from Missouri, USA · Twitter for iPhone

CPS Athletics
@athletics_cps

Final day of one of the best High School sporting events in the country - the Wonder Woman Girls Wrestling Tournament! Head out to Battle HS and cheer on the Battle, Hickman, and Rock Bridge grapplers!
Columbia Public Schools

Sharing the Gold: Putting Scholars First

News and Updates from the District Office - February 2022

News You Can Use

2022 February Board of Education Recognition Recipients (linked)
Congratulations to the 22 Columbia Public Schools staff members who received recognition for their work.

5 CPS Students Win Gold Key Awards in the 2022 Missouri Writing Region of the Scholastic Writing Awards Contest (linked)
Congratulations to the following students for receiving the 2022 Missouri Writing Region of the Scholastic Writing Awards Contest Gold Key winners: Jenna Lin (John Warner Middle School) Wilma Boyce, Dejanai Johnson, Kathryn Myers and Ariel Schachtman (Hickman High School)

Two CPS Athletes Receive Gatorade’s Player of the Year Award (linked)
Gatorade recently announced two Columbia Public Schools athletes received Player of the Year. Andrew Hauser of Rock Bridge High School is the Cross Country Player of the Year and Ella Swindle, also of Rock Bridge High School, is the Volleyball Player of the Year. Since 1999, CPS has had 10 Gatorade Player of the Year recipients.

HHS Sophomore Assists in COVID-19 Variant Research (linked)
Saathvik Kannan, a Hickman High School sophomore, worked with a professor in the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine to show the impact of COVID-19 mutations on pre-existing antibodies among vaccinated individuals and those who previously tested positive.

In the Classroom and CPSTV Highlights

WMS AVID Community Service Club (linked)
WMS scholars shared their appreciation of the health care workers at the University Hospital ER department.

Boys & Girls Club @ Eliot Battle Elementary School (linked)
Boys and Girls Club opens a site at Eliot Battle Elementary School

West Boulevard Elementary Steam Day (linked)
West Boulevard Elementary School students observed a surgery, built bridges, worked with clay and learned to think like a scientist and more during the annual STEAM day
Started at Gentry, Kindness Clubs expand in Columbia middle schools

The Kindness Club at Gentry Middle School received a standing ovation from the Columbia Board of Education Monday following a presentation by Sarah Greenlee, special education department chair at the school. Greenlee started the Kindness Club at Gentry a few years ago and it now has the cooperation of the Columbia Special Education Parent-Teacher Association and Children’s Grove, a not-for-profit organization promoting kindness. Read more (linked).

Green future: Students 'build houses' to understand eco-friendly architecture

The school bell rings, and sixth-grade students fill the class. Anderson Stephens, 11, and two of his classmates gather around the table with scissors, tape, colorful pens and paper. "We are making an energy-efficient house," Anderson said. He takes a piece of white tape and attaches two green, rectangular cardboard sheets that represent the high insulation walls on their little 3D house. Read more (linked).

Jefferson Middle School robotics team, the Ant Colony, brings home awards

Jefferson Middle School's robotics team, the Ant Colony, took home second place with its alliance in the final round of the FIRST Tech Challenge STL North League Tournament on Sunday. It was the only middle school to make it not only to the finals but also the tournament’s semifinals. Read more (linked).

'We better have fun': Mike Szydlowski, Columbia's own science guy

Mike Szydlowski’s job title is officially the science coordinator for the Columbia Public Schools. He trains teachers about the world of science, writes lesson plans, keeps up with assessments and purchases supplies. A better job title, though, might be “supporter of wild ideas.” Szydlowski’s day begins at the computer, checking to see if any science teachers have reached out about a current topic to use in a lesson plan that day. Read more (linked).

One stem at a time, Columbia students get ready for their big Valentine’s Day sale

The scent of roses and carnations filled the Horticulture Center Building on Friday as high school students prepared for one of their busiest days of the year. On Thursday and Friday, students at the Columbia Area Career Center spent their days making bouquets for Columbia residents to buy for Valentine’s Day on Monday. Read more (linked).
Social Media Posts of Note

Seth Woods @BEUDrWoods · Feb 9
We have some very excited @BeulahRalphElem 5th grade Timberwolves headed to the Great Smoky Mountains! Have a fantastic time!

Brian Hancock @BattleTRKcoach · Feb 15
How it started...How it's going!!! So proud of our Battle Geometry in Construction class! Tiny Home is coming along! @MurielBattleHS #spartan_strong #cpsbest

Michelle Baumstark @mbaumstark
Superintendent @Byearwood1 joined #CPSBest scholars on the African American Heritage Trail walk. Did you know in the 1900s, Columbia was home to one of the wealthiest, self-made women in the nation? One of the world’s leading composer-musicians lived here, too. #BlackHistoryMonth 🎵

Marekka Nickens @teachnickens · Feb 9
We had the head honchos at BEU today! Thank you @Byearwood1 and @Mr_MooreCPS for visiting and speaking with our faculty. #CPSBest

HickmanHSBand @HickmanHSBand
Congratulations to our 3 Hickman HS band members on their marvelous performance with the 2022 Missouri All-State Band today! The Kewpie Nation is proud of you!! @PandGNews @KewpieMedia @HickmanPTSA @cpsfinearts #mnea2022
Congratulations to the following Columbia Public Schools staff who received recognition for their work during the March 2022 Board Meeting.

12 CPS Students to Compete at the NSDA Speech and Debate Nationals in June
CPS students recently competed at the NSDA Speech and Debate districts and 12 individuals qualified to compete at the NSDA Speech and Debate Nationals in June in Kentucky.

CPS students announced as National Merit finalists
Twenty-two Columbia Public Schools students have been named National Merit finalists.

CPS Hosted the 2022 MSHSAA District 18 Large Ensemble Festival
Columbia Public Schools hosted the MSHSAA District 18 Large Ensemble Festival beginning on Wednesday, March 16 and ending on Friday, March 18. For many schools, this was the first contest experience in two years.

BHS Senior Receives Stamps Scholars Award
Congratulations to Battle High School Senior, Jasper Holland for receiving one of the 2022-2026 University of Missouri Stamps Scholars awards.

RBHS Senior Receives Stamps Scholars Award
Congratulations to Rock Bridge High School Senior, Genevieve Harline for receiving one of the 2022-2026 University of Missouri Stamps Scholars awards.

Three CPS Employees Receive Women Doing Good Honor
On Tuesday, February 22, the Salvation Army hosted the Women Doing Good Recognition Breakfast, spotlighting 20 local women for exemplary service to the community. Of those 20 women, three were Columbia Public Schools employees.

Four CPS student-athletes recently won individual state championships.
Four CPS student-athletes recently won individual state championships for wrestling and diving.

CPS teacher honored with Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching
President Joe Biden named 117 teachers, mentors, and mentoring organizations as recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) including Cassidy Urie, a 6th-grade math teacher at Jefferson Middle School.
CPSTV Highlights

**Shadow Puppets Theater**
Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary students showed off their storytelling, artistry and acting skills with a shadow puppet show in the school’s Black Box Theater.

**Paxton Keeley Elementary School Technology Museum**
If you’ve never seen a rotary phone or a landline phone, would you know how to use it? For students at Paxton Keeley Elementary figuring out how to use the phones showcased in the first Technology Museum was just one way they began thinking about how technology has impacted society.

**Blind Date with a Book**
If you’re like most readers, you don’t often venture away from your favorite genre. Librarians at Rock Bridge and Battle High Schools created an unusual way to entice readers to try something new.

**African American Heritage Trail walk**
Superintendent Dr. Brian Yearwood recently joined the Elementary mini MAC Scholars as they participated in a shortened version of the African American Heritage Trail in downtown Columbia.

**Ella Swindle**
Congratulations to Ella Swindle, Missouri’s Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year.

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**In the Classroom Highlights**

**Celebrating Math Week in CPS**
Elementary students from across Columbia Public Schools participated in a Virtual Math Week from March 7-11.

**CACC Students Participate in Public School Student Showcase at Missouri State Capitol**
Columbia Area Career Center Civil Engineering students had an engaged audience as they explained their AR Topographical Map during the 2022 Public School Student Showcase at the Capitol Rotunda earlier this month.

**Gentry Students Celebrate Read Across America with Costumes and a Book Tasting**
To continue the year-wide reading focus goal, Gentry Middle School celebrated Read Across America Week with a variety of activities, including dress-up events, pop-up bistro and more.

**Sewing for Literacy**
When Books N Bags co-leaders Beverly Borduin and Nancy Adrian approached Rock Bridge High School Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Lisa Kurzejeski, about creating bags for the books, she immediately said yes and put her Sewing 1 and Sewing 2 students to work.
Jefferson Middle School RISE program makes $800 donation to Love Coffee

Columbia’s Love Coffee spent its Wednesday morning welcoming students and staff from Jefferson Middle School’s RISE program for a donation presentation of $800. The RISE program, which stands for Reaching Independence through Structured Education, teaches students with special needs various skills, while Love Coffee provides job training and employment to individuals with disabilities. Wednesday’s presentation included Love Coffee board members and employees.

Robotics push aims to attract kids sooner and keep them involved

Ethan Lauchstaedt plans to major in electrical engineering next year at Missouri University of Science and Technology. A senior at Rock Bridge High School, he said his involvement in a community robotics team helped him determine his major. His interest is especially personal. Lauchstaedt was born with part of his right femur missing, and he’s had a prosthesis since he was 3. He said the knowledge he gained from being on the Army Ants robotics team has helped him understand it better.

After three-year hiatus, students compete in state chess championship

The Missouri Chess Association hosted the Missouri State Scholastic Chess Championship on Saturday at Battle High School in Columbia. Ranging from kindergartners to seniors in high school, more than 200 students from across the state dueled with chess pieces in-person for the first time since 2019.

Boone County’s nature school will be accessible to all fifth-graders in the county

The Columbia community is close to raising its goal of $1.5 million for the 111-acre Boone County Nature School. The school involves a partnership between Columbia Public Schools (CPS) and the state Department of Conservation. Columbia’s school board heard a presentation on the finances for the nature school at Monday night’s meeting. Construction on the project is set to begin this summer.

Prize-winning math teacher aspires to learn and grow — for her students' sake

Can I take a picture with Joe Biden?" One after the other, eager sixth graders in Cassidy Urie’s math class asked if they could have a selfie with a cutout of the president at the front of the classroom. Colleagues at Jefferson Middle School gave it to Urie last month after she won the 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. It is the highest national honor for K-12 teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
Social Media Posts of Note

Liz Flippin @msflippin · Mar 21
What a weekend! @CpSdb8 had not 1... not 2... but ELEVEN students qualify for the "National" Speech & Debate Tournament!! Battle, Hickman, and Rockbridge will all be represented in Louisville. ♥️❤️💛💚 #CPSB

Mr. Ray @MrRay_Media · Mar 21
Enjoyed a successful launch to Mars with @CarrowHive’s 5th graders. Now we need to build our base, smelt some sand for the greenhouse, not starve, and minimize exposure to radiation. We got this! #cpsbest #BentonBold

Miss Rivers @tawnya_rivers
Another amazing day of #guestreaders for #ReadAcrossAmericaWeek2022 Thank you @Byearwood1 @MsCramerAHL @BeccaBesaw @MrsIsengle_AHL for visiting us today! We loved it! This class is amazing! #1Team1HartAHL #CPSBest

Amanda Ruyle @PrincipalRuyle · 1h
Reading week continues with a celebration of first responders @twomileprairie! Thank you @BooneHealth for the sharing your EMTs for read aloud. Plus we loved our ambulance tour! #scholarsfirst #cpsbest #prairieproud

Michelle Baumstark @mbaumstark · 1h
This makes my heart so happy. #CPSBest loves its safety and security team.

Amanda Ruyle @PrincipalRuyle · 4h
Thank you to these #cpsbest guys who keep us safe every day! We are celebrating them during our “Salute our Heroes” reading week @twomileprairie! Thanks Mr. Logan and Mr. Gregory! #scholarsfirst #prairieproud