



Columbia
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

SUMMER 2019



FALL



WINTER



SPRING



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2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14
Jump Start Day (Grades 6 & 9)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15
Opening Day of School
(Grades 1-12)

MONDAY, AUGUST 19
First Day for Kindergarten

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
Labor Day; school not in session

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session
Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Elementary and Middle Schools)

NOVEMBER 27 - 29
Thanksgiving Break;
school not in session

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 2
Winter Break; school not in session

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session

MONDAY, JANUARY 20
MLK Day; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Presidents' Day;
school not in session

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session
Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Elementary and Middle Schools)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session

MARCH 23-27
Spring Break; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal
Built-in snow day

FRIDAY, MAY 22
Douglass High School
graduation; morning
Hickman High School
graduation; evening

SATURDAY, MAY 23
Battle High School
graduation; morning
Rock Bridge High School
graduation; evening

MONDAY, MAY 25
Memorial Day;
school not in session

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal
Closing Day of School

MAY 20-27
Built-in snow days

JUNE 2 - 26
Summer School

VALEDICTORIANS

2019



BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Left to right: Lauren Naeger and Adam Lake



HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Back: Bradley Frederick Nicklas, Guthrie Lawrence Stroh, Benjamin Lyndon Rosenblad, Stephen Gray Gaunt

Front: Teresa Shurong Tang, Emma Elizabeth Servey, Emily Justine Deutschmann, Solveig Margaret Geenen, Erica Haishiao Lim, Katherine Rose Neff



ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Left to right: Louise Elisabeth Schul, Allaire Catherine Pigg, Anna Kathryn Sundvold, Kavin Anand, Jia Leo Zhuang, Emily Reese Litton, and Natalie Anne Wohlgemuth



DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

2019 Graduating Class

BOND UPDATE

This summer will be one of the busiest for Columbia Public Schools' construction projects, with more than 100 in progress.

"Not all of those are huge, but when you put some of the bigger work and that many projects together, we have a busy summer ahead of us," said Randy Gooch, CPS chief operations officer.

Some minor projects include boiler replacement for energy efficiency, upgrades to HVAC systems, flooring and masonry work, and technology updates across various schools.

Some major summer projects include:

Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School

The district will begin construction on a two-year renovation project shortly after school is out. The project will include an addition to the building for more classrooms, which eliminates seven trailers, and significant upgrades to the existing building.

Students and faculty will temporarily relocate to Cedar Ridge Elementary School, which opened in Fall 2018 and has a capacity of more than 650 students. While the district originally thought students would be displaced for two years, they evaluated the project and found a way to move quicker so students can return to the building in the 2020 school year.

"Columbia's east side is growing and we think Cedar Ridge will need some of that capacity the following year. So that's one of the driving things for us to see if we could move that project quicker," Gooch said.

When students return to Locust Street Expressive Arts in 2020, the project will not be 100% done, but completed enough that students and staff can occupy the building while the project wraps up.

Oakland Middle School

This two-year construction project will be completed over two summers with the first phase to begin in June 2019. Work will suspend in August once students return, and the more extensive project will begin the following summer. The project includes an upgraded security entrance, which is completed in all renovation projects, as well as remodeling the ceiling and kitchen, replacing the boiler and flooring, asbestos abatement, and significant exterior masonry repair.

Midway Heights and Blue Ridge elementary schools

Some of the district's oldest buildings have been well used over the years and are getting a much-needed facelift this summer. Some planned improvements for Midway Heights Elementary School include asphalt repairs, parking lot upgrades, asbestos abatement, new flooring, masonry and HVAC work. The Blue Ridge Elementary School remodel includes security updates, asbestos abatement and security lighting for the parking lot, as well as new flooring, ceilings, case work and doors.

New Middle School

Despite the rough winter, the new middle school on Sinclair Road in south Columbia is still on schedule to be ready for students by August 2020. The 126,431-square-foot building will have capacity for 700 to 750 students.

Partners in Education celebrates 35 years

Partners in Education began as a simple vision of Russell Thompson, Jim Ritter and Jolene Schulz. Together they studied an “adopt-a-school” program in Tennessee and molded the idea into one that would benefit Columbia Public Schools and local businesses. Thirty-five years later, CPS has seen tremendous achievements by local youth because of the involvement and dedication of partnering businesses. The original nine charter partnerships have multiplied to a remarkable 150 Partners in Education and more than 100 Partnership friends.

Partners in Education joins a local business with an individual school, curriculum department, or grade level. Each partnership establishes a mission statement, objectives and activities specific to the business’ and schools’ needs and abilities. Over the years, partnership activities have expanded and now include opportunities such as a satellite school located within a business, job shadowing and business tours, classroom presentations, banks within schools, mock trials and mentoring.

“With over 250 businesses and organizations involved, our students and teachers are able to build strong connections to our community,” Superintendent Peter Stiepleman said. “Our partners tell us what children

need to know in order to be successful in the real world. And they’ve become a part of our district belief system ‘We Are One.’ It’s about all of us working together to make sure our children receive an excellent education and that they have access to achievement and enrichment opportunities.”

The district and community celebrated partnership anniversaries at a special breakfast May 10th. The original nine partnerships celebrating 35 years are:

Blue Ridge Elementary School and Landmark Bank
Columbia Area Career Center and MFA Inc.
Grant Elementary School and Central Bank
Columbia Public Schools and KOMU 8 & Mid-Missouri CW
Jefferson Middle School and Boone Hospital Center
Parkade Elementary and Commerce Bank
Rock Bridge High School and State Farm Insurance Company
West Middle School and Shelter Insurance Company



Landmark Bank and Blue Ridge Elementary School

Landmark Bank employees participate in events and teach lessons about how money works to Blue Ridge Elementary students. In addition to supporting the school’s needs, Landmark is present in the building—volunteering for ice cream socials, attending readings or helping with graduation.

“Our employees are fulfilled knowing they’re making a positive impact. It’s just as much fun for us as it is for the students,” Sherry Wyss, Landmark Bank co-coordinator for Partners in Education said.

CPS Athletics and KOMU 8

KOMU 8 and Columbia Public Schools Athletics partner to provide community access to high school sports, while also teaching MU broadcast students. KOMU students are able to practice their skills and film high school sports for broadcast. The reporters also get exclusive interviews with coaches.

“It’s nice to see young students producing film and using our sports to showcase their skills,” Bruce Whitesides, district athletic director said.

Jefferson Middle School and Boone Hospital Center

Boone Hospital Center provides guest speakers, and free health screenings and flu shots for Jefferson Middle School staff. Students volunteer at the hospital and help employees raise money for their Relay for Life team, among other activities. The hospital supported establishing a nurse’s office at the school and regularly supplies items to stock it.

“We hear about the difference the provisions have on their daily routine, and it’s an important part of the relationship to know we’re having a direct impact on the students,” said Michelle Zvanut, Boone Hospital Center vice president of human resources.

Standards Referenced Grading

In taking another step toward ensuring students achieve academic progress and graduate college- or career-ready, the district will be phasing out the traditional grading system and transitioning to Standards Referenced Grading (SRG), which measures proficiency on well-defined course objectives. In SRG, assessments reference established learning standards and are clear indicators of what students are expected to know at a certain stage in their learning. It also separates academics from behaviors in that elements like participation or timeliness are not intertwined with academic evaluation.

Columbia Public Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kristi Shinn prefers to describe the system as standards-referenced learning, since the model is really about the learning environment.

"When we look at a standards referenced learning environment, it is all about feedback," Shinn said. "We want students to know where they are within the learning progression and be able to communicate the next step for them to get to an agreed upon standard for learning that."

The standards referenced model gives educators and students a clear roadmap for what students should be learning, as well as what they will need to do to get to the next level. Teachers can easily evaluate critical concepts to implement in their teaching, and

students will know how to be successful in the next course of study or grade level with consistency.

"We've been talking about standards in education for a long time, but what standards referenced learning will allow us to do is bundle all those priority standards together into critical concepts and have clear progression of skills that articulate themselves well over the year," said Lindsey Troutman, CPS' K-12 social studies coordinator and language arts coordinator for secondary education.

"Parents can really see those spots where students have room to grow or where they're really excelling."

- Lindsey Troutman

K-12 social studies and
language arts coordinator

The district has taken a three-year approach to phasing out the traditional grading system and aligning assessments with agreed-upon standards. There has been a "soft rollout" approach focused on integrating standards referenced learning principles, primarily at the elementary school level, but standards elements have also been introduced at the secondary level.

"When we talk about soft rollout, one of the things we say is that teachers will never be expected to implement (SRG) without having a year to practice that integration," Shinn said. "With each content area, we give a practice year

and get feedback from teachers. Then the next year they will bring on more standards referenced assessments and then eventually the grade card."

CPS hopes to implement standards grade cards in elementary schools during the 2020-2021 school year, with middle schools to follow the next year. It's hard to put a firm date on full integration of SRG in high schools because there are more curriculum areas and different electives and factors such as advanced placement, dual credit and Career Center classes.

"High school grade cards will be mixed for quite some time as those courses are rewritten, so that will take a number of years" Shinn said.

What excites Troutman and Shinn most about standards referenced learning is clarity of expectations and transparency of student progression. Instead of focusing on student deficits, the model focuses on evaluating what students know, which allows them to set goals, track their progress and really take ownership for their own learning.

"Standards referenced learning is really a mind shift," Shinn said. "The world is ever changing. So, to be able to teach concepts that promote that growth mindset and that perseverance in students to learn new things is really the way to go."

Students and parents will appreciate the clarity and consistency in what's expected from students, and in seeing their progress, Troutman said.

"Students will know where they're at with analyzing text, and writing claims, evidence and reasoning," she said.



Columbia Public Schools recognizes outstanding educators

Each year, Columbia Public Schools recognizes seven outstanding educators as Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence honorees. Superintendent Peter Stiepleman traveled from school to school to surprise each teacher in their classroom with the announcement and a bouquet of flowers.

Selected from nominations submitted by parents and peers, outstanding educator recipients receive a \$1,500 cash award and an engraved silver tray at a special banquet held in their honor.

This year's banquet was held April 19th. The honorees and their respective categories were:

Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades PreK-2
Destiney Concannon, Beulah Ralph Elementary School

Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades 3-5
Ann Alofs, West Boulevard Elementary School

Outstanding Middle School Educator
Julia Ross, Oakland Middle School

Outstanding High School Educator
Michael Bostwick, Battle High School

Outstanding Educator in a Specialized Area
Shay Wisham, Hickman High School

Outstanding Beginning Teacher
Loren Howard, West Middle School

Outstanding Administrator
Blake Tekotte, CPS Transportation Coordinator

Since its inception in the 1979-80 school year, the Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence has served to recognize more than 250 educators in Columbia Public Schools for their outstanding teaching, leadership and support for students.

The fund began through the work of Ray and Jeanne Lewis, with an initial contribution and extensive fundraising efforts. The late Mr. Lewis was a local attorney and former Board of Education member. Mrs. Lewis is a former teacher. Thanks to the contributions and support from individuals, businesses and organizations, Columbia's best educators continue to be recognized each year for their contributions to students.