Students in Columbia Public Schools get a top-quality education, and along the way are awarded with opportunities allowing them to give of themselves and their time volunteering throughout the community.

Hickman High School held a service day this spring for its senior class. Students volunteered at over a dozen locations, including Meals on Wheels, Rainbow House, Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the food bank and a number of other schools in Columbia. Those included volunteering with the Smithton and West middle school bands and with beautification projects at Hickman High School.

“We wanted to show the community our appreciation for helping our seniors get to this important part of their lives,” said Eric Johnson, Hickman principal. “We have set up 13 service projects in which students can engage. Additionally, students were able to set up their own alternate service project, which increased the total number of projects to over 20. This community is great because of the generations of Kewpie alumni who have left their mark on our school and who have continued to invest in our growing city. The educators in our building stress that being a Hickman Kewpie is about more than the excellent education you receive. We strive hard to ensure our Kewpie graduates are not only exceptional students, but also well-rounded individuals, which includes serving the community. Our seniors are excited about their opportunities to serve Columbia as one united class. My hope is that the passion and fire they have ignited thus far will continue to burn even after they graduate.”
Columbia College Partners with District

After a successful partnership with Field Elementary School ended when the school became a district location for gifted education and Title I Preschool, Columbia College was looking for a new partner, and they found one, a big one — the district as a whole.

“When we redeveloped the partnership agreement in 2011, we decided to focus on district-wide connections,” Teresa VanDover, associate professor of education at Columbia College, said. “All of Columbia Public Schools have been receptive to having students visit our campus and including us in their activities. Therefore, the partnership continues to grow.”

In its district-wide partnership, Columbia College works with many of the schools, with nearby schools Jefferson Middle School, Hickman and Douglass high schools visiting Columbia College’s campus for learning experiences.

Columbia College also works with Ridgeway Elementary School. Every Columbia College education student has field student teaching experience at Ridgeway, and Columbia College sponsors a summer professional development for Ridgeway teachers,” VanDover said.

Students from the high school AVID classes visit Columbia College, touring the campus and learning what Columbia College has to offer. Additionally, the Summer Expeditions and MAC Scholars programs have held parts of their summer offerings at Columbia College. Summer Expeditions students can earn scholarships to attend the college and the MAC Scholars program has expanded so that the MAC Achievement Conference will again be held on campus in October.

Hickman High School and MU Health Care

For 30 years the relationship between Hickman High School and the University of Missouri Health Care has been providing Hickman students with the ability to work and learn first-hand in the medical field.

“MU Health has been very generous in their support of Hickman High School in general,” said Tina Warder, committee chairperson at Hickman. “They ask us what they can do to help us.”

One of the big projects that MU Health has undertaken at Hickman High School is the health sciences club. The club members can job shadow at the university, volunteer at the hospital and learn about future career paths.

The program also allows students to spend part of their day in a classroom learning environment and part of their day working at the hospital, earning knowledge, experience and money along the way.

“They also fund a lot of small projects here at Hickman,” Warder said. “Many projects would not happen without their assistance. I get a real sense they want to help out Hickman High School.”

Russell Boulevard and the Callaway Bank

The partnership between Russell Boulevard Elementary School and The Callaway Bank has reached 15 years with the bank looking to teach skills that will help the students live better lives after they leave the district.

“We are all about supporting the Columbia Public Schools,” said Debbie LaRue, The Callaway Bank’s director of public relations. “We always have one or two of us who make sure are there for all of their events.”

The Callaway Bank is also there with the Junior Achievement program. It was a pilot program at Russell Boulevard that the bank has been using to teach the students financial skills.

“It is definitely making a difference, teaching our young people financial skills so as they become young adults they will be in a better position to provide a lifestyle they choose for themselves and their family someday rather than having to settle.”

In addition to the financial knowledge given, students come to the bank and get a tour. They get to see how a transaction is made and talk to the bank president as well.

“We very much appreciate our partnership with Russell Boulevard,” LaRue said, “as we work together to prepare young people for successful futures. The better prepared they are, the stronger community leaders and family members they will become.”

Smithton Middle School and Quaker Oats

Smithton Middle School and Quaker Oats have a partnership spanning back to the school’s inaugural year in 1995-1996. In the 20 years Quaker has been a Partner in Education with Smithton, it has assisted with manpower, monetary support and also provides what might first come to mind when one thinks of Quaker: snacks.

“They have provided snacks for after-school programs,” said Christine Reynolds of Smithton. “They have also assisted with funding for school supplies, supplied readers and have attended our ‘Student of the Quarter’ breakfasts and awarded the winner with a prize-filled backpack.”

While Quaker provides nourishment for the belly, among other things, Smithton supplies Quaker with nourishment for the eyes and ears, as they provide art for the facility and the Wildcat choir students perform during Quaker’s holiday parties.

“We have really appreciated their support,” Reynolds said of Quaker.
Parents As Teachers & Daniel Boone Regional Library

In their 10 years of partnership, the collaboration between the Parents As Teachers program (PAT) and the Daniel Boone Regional Library has flourished based on the shared goal of increasing early literacy experiences.

“Partnering with the library helps us to fulfill our vision that all children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential,” said Belinda Masters, coordinator of the Parents As Teachers program for Columbia Public Schools. “We share the mission of early literacy experiences.”

Those experiences have been developed through the partnership with the help of Sarah Howard with the library. From parent events at the library to PAT representatives going to the library to engage parents in activities, the partnership has a decade of learning behind it. “They allow us space for family events, as well as an opportunity to reach out to families who are not enrolled in our program,” Masters said.

“For several years we worked on a project that provided our parents coupons for free books that they could pick up from the library. We encourage all parents to have a library card and to take one out on behalf of their children. We developed bookmarks that both of us distributed that highlighted our partnership, as well as giving parents tips for what they can do to help their child become a reader.”

“Sarah Howard and the Children’s Library do an outstanding job of reaching out to our community of parents who have preschool-age children through many avenues—story time events, guest authors and many other activities that promote an early love of books through stories, song and read-alongs.”

- Belinda Masters

Beulah Ralph Elementary School nears its August completion goal. The school, located at the intersection of Scott Boulevard and Highway KK, was funded by the 2012 voter-approved bond issue and has a total construction cost of about $20 million.

The Early Childhood Learning Center, located next to Lange Middle School, is a $9.5 M million project that is due to be completed in December/January 2017.
Since its inception during the 1979-80 school year, the Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence has been recognizing outstanding educators in Columbia Public Schools. The fund began through the work of Ray and Jeanne Lewis, with an initial contribution and extensive fundraising efforts. Each year, educators are selected from nominations submitted by parents and peers. Honorees receive a $1,500 cash award and an engraved silver tray at the annual banquet ceremony.

This Year’s Honorees:

**MOLLY WELKER**  
Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades Pre-K – 2  
Parkade Elementary School, Second Grade Teacher

**NICOLE BURKS**  
Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades 3 – 5  
Paxton Keeley Elementary School, Fourth Grade Teacher

**TAYLOR DRENNAN**  
Outstanding Middle School Educator  
Gentry Middle School, English and AVID Teacher

**MICHELLE EBBERTS**  
Outstanding High School Educator  
Rock Bridge High School, Mathematics Teacher

**ANNE SCHOELZ**  
Outstanding Educator in a Specialized Area  
Russell Boulevard Elementary School, Media Specialist

**DAN BRAUN**  
Outstanding Beginning Teacher  
Hickman High School, Learning Specialist

**DANA CLIPPARD**  
Outstanding Administrator  
Deputy Superintendent
STUDENTS PLACE AT SKILLSUSA COMPETITION
Columbia Public Schools Columbia Area Career Center SkillsUSA members participated in the SkillsUSA Missouri’s 50th State Leadership and Skills Conference. These are the CACC secondary students who placed in the top three spots of the state contest: Dzung Nguyen and Joanna Yu, 3-D Visualization and Animation, First Place; Nicholas Gray, Pranav Kumar Patel and John Seina, American Spirit, First Place; Embrasha Mathies, Commercial Baking, Third Place; Devish Kumar, Arlie Nole and Matthew Vincent, CPS-Science, Technology & Math, First Place; Jasmine Foly, Culinary Arts, Third Place; Giovanni Bartolacci, Culinary Arts, First Place; Thomas Jurczyk, Internetworking, Third Place; Justin Hanks, Job Skill Demonstration Open, Third Place; Siddhant Chaurasia, T-Shirt Design, Third Place.

YOUNG COMPOSERS EARN TOP HONORS
Six students placed in the 2016 Creating Original Music Project competition conducted by the University of Missouri’s Mizzou New Music Initiative: Judah Robbins Bernal of Russell Boulevard Elementary School, first place in the Elementary School - Instrumental category for "Sounds of Life." Yueheng Wang of Grant Elementary School, second place in the Elementary School - Instrumental category for "Miserable Me." Hyunjun Yoo of West Middle School, second place in the Middle School - Fine Art category for "L.C. Clown." Brandon Kim of Jefferson Middle School, third place in the Middle School - Fine Art category for "Time Travel." Mary Park of Hickman High School, second place in the High School - Fine Art category for "Dream of Life." Sarah Meadows of Hickman High School, third place in the High School - Popular category for "Tomorrow’s Gonna Change." 

CPS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN TECHNOLOGY
Columbia Public Schools has been recognized by the National School Boards Association and the Center for Digital Education for exemplary and innovative use of technology. Columbia Public Schools earned a top 10 national ranking among school districts with more than 12,000 students. The award considers districts that are helping expand student and parent engagement, use of data, digital literacy training and support, and systems that support classroom teaching and learning.

ROCK BRIDGE STUDENT EARNS STATE HONORS
Rock Bridge High School Junior Ben Knoesel was awarded Missouri’s top prize in the 2016 InvestWrite competition. The InvestWrite competition is sponsored by the Missouri Economics Education Council and SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association). His essay was judged by members of the securities industry and was scored based on the understanding of the subject matter, rationale, concept knowledge regarding researching, and planning an investment strategy. Learn more about InvestWrite: http://www.investwrite.org

LOCAL HOSA MEMBERS SHINE AT STATE CONFERENCE
Columbia Public Schools HOSA members participated in the 2016 Missouri HOSA State Leadership Conference. The district has three local HOSA Chapters located at Battle High School, Columbia Area Career Center and Hickman High School. The advisors include Monica Duemmel, Mike Giblin, Karen Hirst, Bobby Horn, Christine Roberson and Deb Wilson. The following students were awarded medals, and qualified for the 2016 International HOSA Leadership Conference: Kathleen Meineger, Behavioral Health, Gold, CACC; Bryanna Arnold, Transcultural Health Care, Gold, HHS; Chris Smith, Medical Reading, Gold, CACC; Jerica Mahaney, Nursing Assisting, Silver, CACC; Matthew Burns, Sonya Hu, Yash Khanna and Michael Pennella, Biomedical Debate, Silver, CACC; Tanya Ramadoss, Healthy Lifestyles, Bronze, CACC; Mackenzie Crabtree and Rory James, EMT, Bronze, CACC.

COLUMBIA WATER & LIGHT PARTNERS WITH CPS
Columbia Water & Light won the 2016 Inspiring Efficiency Education award from the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance for developing and implementing an educational marketing campaign on energy efficiency. Columbia Youth Teaching Efficiency, the educational marketing program, teaches middle-schoolers about energy efficiency and incorporates student ideas and creativity to enhance its messaging. The program has reached more than 4,200 Columbia Public Schools students through its marketing contests and other educational programs. Learn more: http://columbiapowerpartners.com/efficiency-tips/columbia-youth-teaching-efficiency/

TEACHER SELECTED AS OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR
Angie Rogers, a special education teacher at Rock Bridge Elementary School, has been selected as the 2016 Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Professional Development, Standards, and Ethics committee of the Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD). The award recognizes the contributions of educators who work with students with learning disabilities.

TEACHERS TO FLY ON NASA’S AIRBORNE OBSERVATORY
Two Columbia Public Schools teachers are among 22 educators selected to fly on NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), the world’s largest flying telescope in 2016. Rex Beltz, a science teacher at Rock Bridge High School, and Melanie Knocke, Columbia Public Schools’ planetarium supervisor, will join the SOFIA team as Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors.

CPS NAMED DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION
Columbia Public Schools has received national recognition as a District of Distinction by District Administration magazine for its efforts related to student achievement. The recognition honors school districts that are leading the way with new ideas that work. Columbia Public Schools was selected for its work to improve student outcomes, streamline operations and meet the needs of our community.

STUDENTS WIN STATE PERSONAL FINANCE CHALLENGE
Congratulations to Rock Bridge High School students Nathan Kempf, Catherine Maring, Boon Palipatana and Grant Sykuta on winning the Missouri State Personal Finance Challenge. These students had an outstanding performance on a series of tests administered through the Missouri Economics Education Council, competing against more than 2,452 Missouri high school students. They now advance to nationals.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>First day of classes for grades 1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>First day of classes for kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Labor Day: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Teacher collaboration: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Teacher collaboration: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Election Day: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving vacation: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21 – January 2</td>
<td>Winter recess: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>Teacher collaboration: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Martin Luther King's Birthday: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Teacher collaboration: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Parent/teacher conferences: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Presidents' Day: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27 – 31</td>
<td>Spring recess: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Early dismissal for staff planning and collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Memorial Day: school not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>First day of summer school 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Last day of summer school 2017</td>
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</table>

Six snow days are built into the calendar (May 24 – June 1). If the district uses fewer than 6 inclement weather days during the year, the unused days will be removed from the end of the school year. If 6 snow days are used, the high school summer school program will begin on June 6 and end on June 30.