

YEARBOOK 2016

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WE ARE ONE
COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



2016

ACHIEVEMENT

WE ARE ONE
COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ENRICHMENT

OPPORTUNITY

THE STEAM BUS

Helping to spark creativity

The STEAM Bus had a very busy year, as it visited at least one school practically every day of the school year, providing students with a makerspace lab space for hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

“My vision for the STEAM Bus has always been for it to be a tool to help spark creativity in the classroom,” said Craig Adams, Columbia Public Schools’ practical arts coordinator, also known as the STEAM bus conductor. “Creativity for teachers, creativity for students, and creativity across the district. We are taking the resources and the people we have and putting that into a system that can go out and bring all of these things to every school in the district.”

The bus is decorated on the outside with a pipe theme, representing the pathways to careers that the STEAM areas can lead a student toward, such as forestry, arts or communication.

Technology, such as Ozobots, lets students learn coding and other disciplines by programming robots. LittleBits are electronic building blocks that teach students about circuitry. The 3-D printer on board is always a popular technology for students to observe.

“We can come out and show them a new way to do something using a piece of technology the classroom may not have,” Adams said. “This way a set or two of a technology can travel across the district and not just be located at one school. The benefits of the technologies in the bus are spread district-wide.”



Thank You

Thank you to our community for supporting the \$30 million no-tax-rate-increase bond issue and the 65-cent operating levy increase.

HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD MEMBER VOTED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Columbia Board of Education member **Jan Mees** was recently elected to serve as the president-elect of the Missouri School Boards Association at the association's annual delegate assembly and leadership summit. She will serve as president-elect for one year and then move into the role of president for 2017-18.

WEST STUDENT EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MUSICAL COMPOSITION

West Middle School eighth grade student **John Yoo** earned an Award of Merit in the National PTA Reflections Arts competition. John was honored for his original musical composition "I, Clown." He is one of 206 award winners recognized from across the country and has been invited to attend the National PTA awards ceremony at the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, Florida.

CPS STUDENTS SHINE AT FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS COMPETITION

More than 20 students qualified for the next stage of the Future Problem Solving Program competition. Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) stimulates critical and creative thinking skills, encourages students to develop a vision for the future, and prepares students for leadership roles. FPSPI engages students in creative problem solving within the curriculum and provides competitive opportunities. CPS Senior Division Missouri FPSPI Qualifiers are: From Battle High School - **Mikhail Bell-Oetting, Claire Bilyeu, Marc Chauvin, Riley Cole, Sterling Humberg-Cage, Dillon McCann, Aly McKee, Trenton Marks** and **Madi Null**. From Hickman High School - **Nick Edgar, Logan Garton, Amanda Sun** and **Sherry Xie**. From Rock Bridge High School - **Brady Hughes, Stephanie Kang** and **Dzung Ngyuen**. CPS Senior Division Missouri FPSPI Alternate Qualifiers are: From Battle High School - **Sarah Grant, Gillian Schulte** and **Sloane Scott**. From Hickman High School - **Gabe Calvin, Leo Ewing** and **Logan Garton**. CPS Middle Division Missouri FPSPI Qualifiers are: From Hickman High School: **Skylar Asbury, Laura Frymire, Stella Heflin, Sophie Thorpe** and **Michael Zou**.

HICKMAN WINS DISTRICT ACADEMIC TEAM TOURNAMENT

The Hickman High School Academic Team won the recent MSHSAA District 8 Tournament at Rock Bridge High School. **Alex Harmata** placed third and **Dinis Trindade** placed fifth in the individual awards. Along with Alex and Dinis, the team included **Veer Sangha, Amanda Sun** and **Franziska Weston**.

HICKMAN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM PLACES FOURTH IN STATE

The Hickman High School Science Olympiad Team placed fourth in a field of 32 teams at the state competition. Hickman team members placed in nine of 23 events. Anatomy and Physiology, fifth place: **Dishti Goyal** and **Veer Sangha**; Cell Biology, fifth place: **Veer Sangha** and **Amanda Sun**; Dynamic Planet, first place: **Alex Harmata** and **Amanda Sun**; Disease Detective, fourth place: **Dishti Goyal** and **Veer Sangha**; Fossils, third place: **Amanda Sun** and **Teresa Tang**; Geologic Mapping, first place: **Stella Heflin** and **Nila Palaniappan**; Green Generation, second place: **Stella Heflin** and **Michael Zou**; Hydrogeology, fifth place: **Stella Heflin** and **Michael Zou**; Write It, Do It, first place: **Rebecca Shyu** and **Teresa Tang**. Team members are **Alex Harmata** (co-captain), **Amanda Sun** (co-captain), **Pete Canfield, Dishti Goyal, Stella Heflin, Alec James, Joe Lawson, Nila Palaniappan, Mary Park, Veer Sangha, Rebecca Shyu, Teresa Tang, Jate Vardihanabhuti, Daniel Yoon, Michael Zou, Kritika Sigdel** (alternate) and **Zhourui Xie** (alternate).

BOND UPDATE

Projects and Renovations

The approval of the 2014 bond by the voters of Columbia is beginning to bear fruit. The 2016 bond issue has also led to a slew of summer projects, including multiple paving projects, roof work and greenhouses. In addition, there are two new large projects on the Columbia Public Schools' agenda: an almost total renovation of Douglass High School and building an elementary school in east Columbia.

Douglass High School, built in 1916, will undergo a \$6.2 million renovation, closing to students for the entire school year. Students will move to the Cornerstone Building for classes in 2016-17. When students return to Douglass, they will find a building with new fixtures and features. It will also include new space for culinary arts education among many other upgrades.

The new elementary school, which had a groundbreaking in June, will be built near the Vineyards neighborhood, helping ease some overcrowding at Cedar Ridge Elementary School, which currently has multiple trailers. The project will cost around \$22 million and is set to open in the fall of 2018. K&S Construction will build the school, the same builder as Battle Elementary School. The same design will be used for the new school as was used for Battle and Beulah Ralph elementary schools.

Two large projects are also nearing completion. The Early Childhood Learning Center is a \$9.5 million project located on the same property as Lange Middle School. Columbia Public Schools will be able to get into the finished building around the first of the year. Beulah Ralph Elementary School will be dedicated in August.

Some of the shorter-term projects the Columbia Public Schools is undertaking over the summer include:

- Partial roof replacement at Jefferson Middle School. The cupola, which dates back to the building's construction in 1910, will also be replaced. The project will cost \$308,000.
- Paving work at several elementary schools will be taking place. "That is huge for families," said Linda Quinley, Columbia Public Schools' chief financial officer/chief operations officer. Quinley said the district does the paving work on a rotation, tackling five or six schools a year. The cost will be \$233,000
- New greenhouses at Hickman and Battle high schools will have a combined cost of around \$350,000, with some vocational matching funds coming from the state.
- New gym flooring for Midway Heights and Mill Creek elementary schools will cost around \$80,000 each.
- The complete replacement of the electricity and sound systems in the Hickman High School gym will be a \$350,000 project.
- The Aslin Administration Building ground source HVAC system will be expanded.



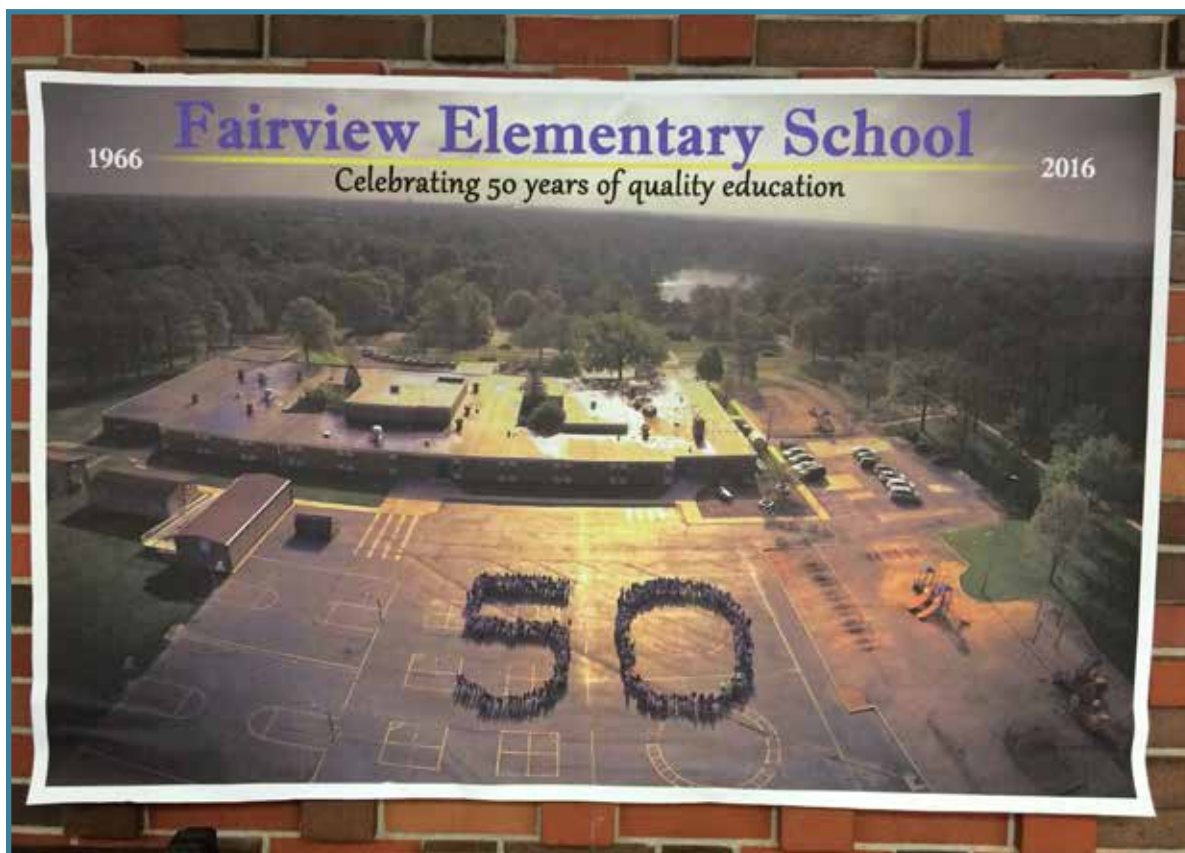
Columbia Public Schools held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new elementary school in east Columbia, set to open for 650 students in August 2018.

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Fairview Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary this spring, with Falcons past and present. A big accomplishment for a school whose first description was: “A 13-acre site on Fairview road, south of Rollins Street, was purchased for \$2,000 per acre from Mrs. Ollie Grant.”

“Everyone pitched in - staff, PTA, students, families and our partners from Veterans United Home Loans and Hy-Vee to make it a great event,” said Diana DeMoss, Fairview’s principal. “All former students and faculty were invited and we had a phenomenal turnout. Many enjoyed just visiting with others or looking through yearbooks from the past.”



HIGHLIGHTS

PAXTON KEELEY TEACHER EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Mary Paxton Keeley Elementary School fifth grade teacher **Shelli Thelen** has been named a 2016 recipient of the Joy of Teaching Award as part of the World Language Umbrella Awards from the National Council of Teacher of English. The award honors a preK-12 teacher that inspires authentic progressive literacy learning.

ROCK BRIDGE GRADUATE WINS SKILLSUSA CULINARY ARTS NATIONAL COMPETITION

Giovanni Bartolacci, a 2016 graduate of Rock Bridge High School, placed first in the SkillsUSA Culinary Arts national competition for secondary students. He trained through the Columbia Area Career Center’s culinary arts program. The competition culminated at the 52nd Annual SkillsUSA awards ceremony on Friday, June 24, in Freedom Hall at the Kentucky Exposition Center located in Louisville, Kentucky.

ROCK BRIDGE STUDENTS TAKE THIRD IN NATIONAL PERSONAL FINANCE CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Rock Bridge High School students **Nathan Kempf, Catherine Maring, Boon Palipatana,** and **Grant Sykuta**, who earned third place in the national Personal Finance Challenge competition. The team won the Missouri State Personal Finance Challenge, earning the opportunity to compete in the national competition. After completing a series of critical thinking tests, the top three teams were nearly neck-and-neck, with a very small point spread. Rock Bridge impressed not only the judges, but also their peers from other competing teams. The team was coached by Rock Bridge teacher **Susan Lidholm**.

JEFFERSON TEACHER SELECTED FOR HEINEMANN FELLOWSHIP

Jefferson Middle School teacher **Anna Osborn** has been selected as one of 11 Heinemann Fellows nationwide. Chosen from a host of highly qualified candidates, the educators will use their fellowships to engage in individual research projects that address challenges faced by schools across the country. These research projects will be informed by their own personal experience as teachers.

As part of the two-year Heinemann Fellowship program, members will also have the opportunity to enhance their own schools and communities through collegial interaction with other fellows. The group will meet regularly through their fellowships to share findings and feedback. Together, they will refine data gathering, inform further research plans, and help interpret results. Their work will then be shared through Heinemann’s various publication channels.

TWO ROCK BRIDGE STUDENTS EARN 36 ON THE ACT EXAM

Rock Bridge High School students **Paul Cover** and **Nathan Kempf** have earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT exam. Paul and Nathan will both be seniors in the fall. The ACT exam is a college admissions test used to measure what a student has learned in high school to determine academic readiness for college.

CPS RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS A DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION

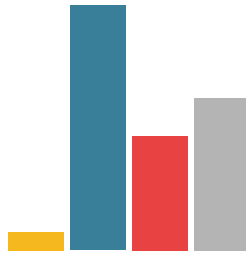
Columbia Public Schools has received national recognition as a District of Distinction by District Administration magazine for its efforts related to student achievement. The recognition honors school districts that are leading the way with new ideas that work. Columbia Public Schools was selected for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

STUDENT FACTS

Enrollment

Preschool.....	628
Elementary.....	8,326
Middle School.....	3,879
Senior High.....	5,182

Total..... 18,015



Special program enrollment

Adult education.....	3,764
English Language Learners.....	1,249
Gifted education.....	1,658
Parents As Teachers children served.....	1,147
Special education.....	1,816
Career education.....	2,262

Demographics

White.....	61.2%
Black.....	20.3%
Asian.....	5.1%
Hispanic.....	6.4%
Multi.....	6.5%
American Indian.....	0.4%
Pacific Islander.....	0.3%
Students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.....	42.04%

STAFF FACTS

Staffing ratios

Students to all teachers.....	13 to 1
Students to administrators.....	237 to 1
Students to classroom teachers.....	18 to 1

Teachers

Full-time equivalent (FTE)..... 1,374

Average salary (includes extended contract, career ladder and extra duty pay)

Columbia.....	\$48,429
Missouri estimate.....	\$48,494

Average years of experience

CPS.....	12.2
Missouri.....	12.2

Teachers with a Master's degree or higher

CPS.....	70.3%
Missouri.....	59%

Administration

Principals, assistant principals, directors, supervisors, coordinators, central office staff (FTE)..... 121

Average Salary

Columbia.....	\$86,862
Missouri estimate.....	\$88,823

STUDENT SUPPORT

Secretaries, aides, food service, guidance, transportation, security, PAT, nurses, mental health, custodians, technology staff (FTE)..... 902

FINANCIAL FACTS

*Figures are final budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Total revenue (budgeted).....\$271.85 million

Budgeted sources of revenue

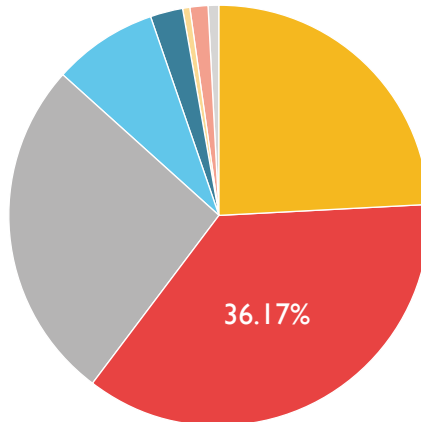
Local.....	55.75%
Intermediate.....	0.79%
State.....	22.74%
Federal.....	5.86%
Bonds.....	13.45%
Other revenue sources.....	1.4%

Total expenditures.....\$313.27 million

Estimated expenditure per pupil.....	\$11,000
Student attendance rate (K-12).....	94.3%

HOW FUNDS WERE USED

Incidental fund.....	24.31%
Teachers fund.....	36.17%
Capital projects.....	26.43%
Debt service.....	7.93%
Nutrition services.....	2.61%
Student extracurricular fund.....	0.6%
Grants & donations.....	1.29%
Adult education.....	0.66%



2015-16 Property tax rate..... 5.4656 (per \$100 assessed valuation)

Tax levy uses.....	\$1.9413 operating fund
	\$2.4788 teachers fund
	\$0.9719 debt service fund
	\$0.0736 capital fund

WHERE DO GRADUATES GO?

College.....	76.5%
Employment.....	11.4%
Post-secondary.....	1.6%
Military.....	1.1%
Other.....	9.3%

College Enrollment

78.1% of the district's students attend college or a postsecondary institution compared to 68% statewide.

MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Columbia's students continue to perform well on formal standardized tests and the school district is accredited by the state of Missouri.

American College Test (ACT)

The American College Test (ACT) measures a student's academic readiness for college. In 2014, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education began providing support for all high school juniors to take the exam. Summary scores are then used as part of the school district's annual performance report and district report card.

Columbia students' average ACT scores exceeded state and national averages on all assessed areas. Approximately 74 percent of the district's high school students take this college admissions test each year.

Advanced Placement Exams (AP)

Taken each May by students all over the world, the AP Exam is the final step after a year of hard work in an AP class. These standardized exams are designed to measure how well students have mastered the content and skills of the course — a successful score could even earn the student credit and advanced placement in college.

The number of Columbia high school students taking AP Exams continues to grow. More than 2,500 students took AP courses. Students took a total of 1,774 course exams with 74.3 earning AP credit.

STAR Assessments

Columbia Public Schools uses STAR assessments to monitor individual student growth throughout the year and to estimate a student's understanding of learning standards. The tests, conducted in early literacy, reading and math, help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

STAR district summary results indicate 78.3 percent of students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade. Nearly 82 percent of elementary students demonstrate proficiency in math.

STUDENTS SURPASS *National Averages*

ACT



SAT writing



SAT critical reading



SAT math



■ COLUMBIA ■ MISSOURI ■ NATIONAL

CONGRATULATIONS *G&D Graduates*



The Adult Learning Center at the Columbia Area Career Center held the HSE (High School Equivalency) graduation this summer, honoring those who have completed their degrees this year. Twenty-one graduates were presented with diplomas at the ceremony, which was held at Jesse Auditorium on the University of Missouri campus. In addition, 11 students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society and seven received Outstanding Student Awards.

ACHIEVEMENT, ENRICHMENT, OPPORTUNITY

Vision

Our desired future state

To be the **best school district** in the state.

Mission

Why we exist

To provide an **excellent education** for all students by adhering to our organizational goals.

Purpose

What we do

To be a **valuable asset** for our community by preparing our children so that they will be competitive in our ever-changing, unpredictable world.

Values

The non-negotiable principles that guide us

- Honesty
- Focus on what works
- Transparency
- Teamwork
- Mutual respect
- Persistence
- Adaptability
- Positive approach
- Commitment

CLASS OF 2016 *Leaders Speak*



I feel like my time here at Columbia Public Schools has really given me a passion for serving other people, and I have definitely gained leadership skills. I am really excited to practice in the future.

- *Brooke Bassett*

When I was at Hickman I got to participate in theater and choir, which I feel helped me see the beauty in a lot of the littler things that I may not have noticed before.

- *Katarina Peterson*

My time at Hickman has allowed me to get involved with a lot of different activities; one of which was DECA, and that really showed me my passion for business and marketing.

- *Kay Frymire*

I have really enjoyed my stay here at Hickman. The amount of diversity in classes and extracurricular opportunities has been really great.

- *Amanda Sun*

I don't think that Columbia Public Schools could have prepared me any better for the future. I can name a dozen or so teachers that have helped me achieve, not only what I have already accomplished, but also helped me with where I want to go in the future.

- *Sherry Xie*

I loved being in the district because they gave us Battle and it was great to make all of our memories and leave the traditions at Battle.

- *Katherine Dempsey*

Columbia Public Schools has introduced me to a lot of inspirational teachers who have opened new paths for me in careers and interests, and I am very grateful for that.

- *Alice Yu*

Columbia Public Schools has offered me so many opportunities to pursue what I truly love and want to do in life.

- *Hannah Chen*

I think my time in Columbia Public Schools has really opened so many doors for me and also introduced me to such wonderful people. It has inspired me to continue pursuing my education.

- *Nicole Schroeder*

It has been an incredible opportunity for an incredible education.

- *Javan Whitney-Warner*

There are a lot of extracurricular activities at Rock Bridge which has helped me grow as a person.

- *Arnold Chen*

Columbia Public Schools has been one of the greatest experiences in my life. It has been an amazing community and I will surely miss it moving on to college.

- *Muhammad Salim*

Columbia Public Schools is honestly one of the best districts in Missouri and it has given me the opportunity to take classes that have enlightened me and shown me what I want to do with my life.

- *Abigail Kempf*

I really like the freedom with responsibility that Rock Bridge has to offer. It really prepared me for the future.

- *Zhiruo Wang*



Hickman High School Valedictorians



Front row, from left: Brooke Bassett, Katarina Peterson and Kay Freymire // **Back row, from left:** Amanda Sun, Rachael Sherman, Alexander Harmata and Sherry Xie

Rock Bridge High School Valedictorians



Front row, from left: Marilise Stamps, Hannah Chen, Nicole Schroeder and Javan Whitney-Warner // **Back row, from left:** Arnold Chen, Muhammad Salim, Abigail Kempf, Danielle West, Emily Getzoff and Zhiruo Wang

Battle High School Valedictorians



Abigail Ries, left, and Katherine Dempsey

DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL *Class of 2016*



Douglass High School's 2016 graduating class. The 119 graduates marks the largest graduating class in the history of the school.

AVID PROGRAM

Passes Major Milestone

As it begins its fourth school year, the AVID program in Columbia Public Schools passed a significant milestone - its first graduating class. Twenty-eight seniors graduated in May who took part in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), with that figure probably set to triple in the 2016-17 school year.

“We saw an achievement gap about five years ago,” said Shanna Dale, Columbia Public Schools’ AVID coordinator. “It was the academic middle: students who were doing okay and not having issues in school, but not taking the courses needed to prepare themselves for college. They were not going on to college at the same rate as the other students.”

AVID prepares students for 21st century careers each day by providing the academic and behavioral skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. Organization, time management, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving are strong components of the AVID System. Teachers also have an AVID curriculum, including the 2016 AVID Summer Institute and the Critical Reading Training in September. Columbia Public Schools will have 241 AVID-trained teachers and administrators this fall.

Columbia Public Schools’ AVID program also employs 30-40 college students to work in classrooms each year. These students serve as near-peer mentors, leading collaborative study groups and participating in the AVID classroom community in many other ways.

“This is not a study hall,” Dale said of the AVID class. “We have our own curriculum and they work collaboratively with the college students.”

This upcoming school year, the AVID program will see classes at Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools reach graduation, a big milestone as it gives the program a large class of students to track as they go on to college. With last year’s expansion into seventh grade, AVID students in grades seven through 12 will number approximately 600 at the start of the 2016-17 school year.

Traits of the first AVID senior class include:

- 11% of the 2016 AVID seniors at Battle High School were first-generation high school graduates
- 57% have parents who did not graduate from a college/university
- Battle High School AVID seniors received a total of \$720,000 in college scholarships and/or aid
- 100% of the graduates plan to attend either a four-year or two-year college/university in the fall
- 100% took at least one Advanced Placement course

HIGHLIGHTS

CPS 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. Exact flight dates have not been announced. The observatory flies from its home base in Palmdale, California, and the Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors will work side by side with astronomer teams witnessing all stages of scientific research, from preparations to observations to data analysis and publication. They will normally fly aboard the observatory twice, and then implement classroom lessons and public outreach programs based on their experiences. SOFIA’s Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program began in 2010 and has flown 106 educators from 31 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, as well as eight from Germany, on science flights from 2010 through 2015.

CPS TEACHERS SELECTED FOR C-SPAN CONFERENCE

Gentry Middle School social studies teacher **Joy Bess** and Battle High School social studies teacher **Rob Taylor** are two of 30 teachers nationwide selected to participate in the 2016 C-SPAN Summer Educators’ Conference in Washington, DC. The conference will bring together middle school teachers from across the country to learn firsthand about C-SPAN and its television programming, websites, and free educational resources.

CPS EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INNOVATIVE USE OF 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 awards consider districts that are helping expand student and parent engagement, use of data, digital literacy training and support, as well as systems that support classroom teaching and learning.

RUSSELL MEDIA SPECIALIST TO ATTEND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUMMER INSTITUTE

Anne Schoelz, media specialist at Russell Boulevard Elementary School, has been selected to participate in the 2016 Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute.

HICKMAN RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY SUPPORT OF STUDENTS

Hickman High School has been named a Professional Learning Communities Exemplary School by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The school is being recognized for its outstanding performance in promoting collaborative learning and effectively using data to increase student achievement. Hickman was recognized during the state’s Powerful Learning Conference January 25-26. Professional Learning Communities is a process for schools to use in order to develop a comprehensive level of support for all students. This support system promotes school teachers and staff working together to identify essential learning, developing common assessments to support the continued success of each individual student. The continual screening and monitoring process of students is systematic throughout the school year and provides interventions that are timely and specific and applied to students when needed and appropriate for each student. Hickman participated in a thorough evaluation and selection process to achieve this honor. The process included meeting achievement performance growth benchmarks set by the state, demonstrating evidence of implementation of the PLC concepts and an on-site evaluation.

