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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.
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 at 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.”
**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: $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, aids, 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%

**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.
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.

The non-negotiable principles that guide us

- Honesty
- Focus on what works
- Transparency

- Teamwork
- Mutual respect
- Persistence

- Adaptability
- Positive approach
- Commitment
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 little 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 Freymire

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

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