

April 30, 2016

## Principal Update

If we had a teacher for every child, think of what we could do. The achievement gap would most likely be gone in less than five years. Our universities would need to double their enrollment, maybe more. Students at all levels would exceed the expectations for growth we have come to see as standard and predictable. The human capacity for learning would astound us all.

Since it is utter fantasy to think we could ever provide this level of service to all students, why waste time thinking of it? For me it is a reminder of two important points that are far too easy to miss in the midst of our busy lives. First, the learning capacity of any individual student is unknown to us. Intelligence grows with effort; it is not set at birth. Likewise, the most difficult adolescent can develop life-skills needed to be positive leaders as adults. Not one of us can know the potential for good that lies within an adolescent. We must never stop believing in the capacity of all our students to learn and develop into amazing adults.

Public education is a big system approach to an individual process. For it to work, parents and schools must work in tandem to provide our adolescent learners with a consistent set of high expectations grounded in this belief of their capacity to achieve and mature. Strengthening the connections between school and home will improve the culture of learning at Columbia Academy and the academic success of your child. We invite you to provide input over the months to come on how we can improve our partnership. We share your goal of helping your child live a long and rewarding life filled with doing good work.

**Together we will RISE UP!**

# RISE UP

RESPECT  
INTEGRITY  
STRENGTH  
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING  
PRIDE



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Academy

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Principal  
Duane Berkas

Assistant Principal  
Jon Moberg

Assistant Principal  
Rick Ostby

Dean  
Camille Erickson

### OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools create **worlds of opportunity for every learner** in partnership with supportive small-town communities by challenging all to discover their talents, unleash their potential and develop tools for lifelong success.

# Columbia Academy News

## College and career readiness

Columbia Academy is committed to helping all students have the opportunity to pursue a degree beyond high school whether that be in a trade school, community college, or a university. Our mission is for "all students to have worlds of opportunities" throughout their lives because their educational foundation is strong. We want our middle school students to picture their future and commit to doing good work each and every day in school in pursuit of a dream. Of course the most important component to college readiness is the daily work our students do in school and at home. Visits to the University of MN (UMN), Medtronic, and door decorating contests also help.



## History Day Competitors visit UMN

The CA History Day teams were hosted by the University of Minnesota with visits to TCF stadium, Coffman Union and more. Seeing our students in their UMN t-shirts with matching backpacks made it easy to picture them some day walking this campus as college students. We know they can do it!

## College/Career Door Contest

Our STAR classrooms competed for the best College door. Our esteemed judges selected four winners, but we have enjoyed the colorful college theme

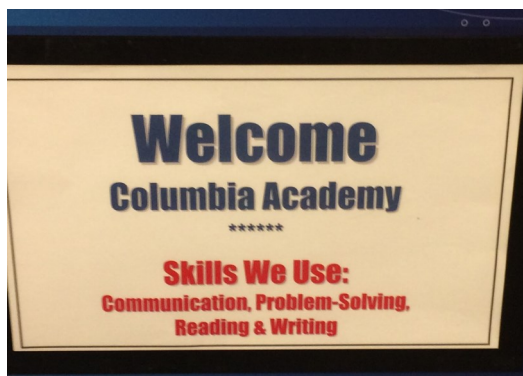
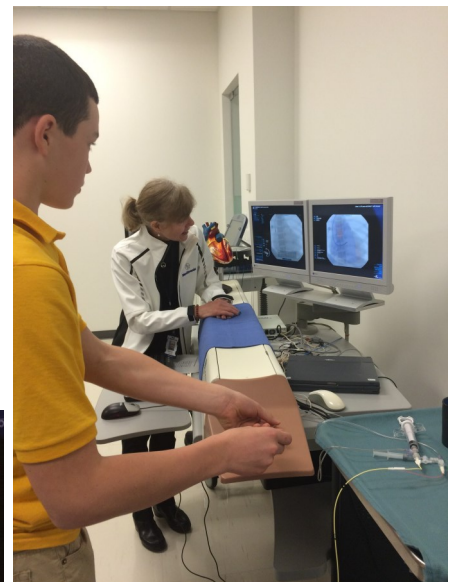
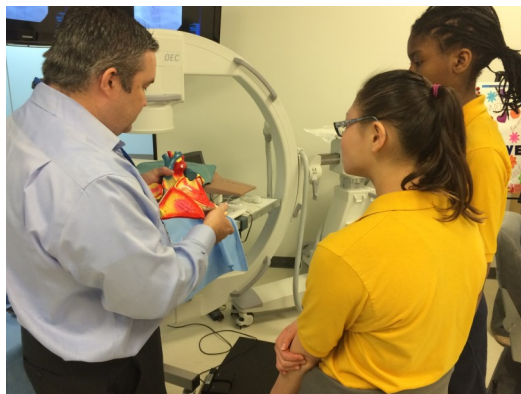
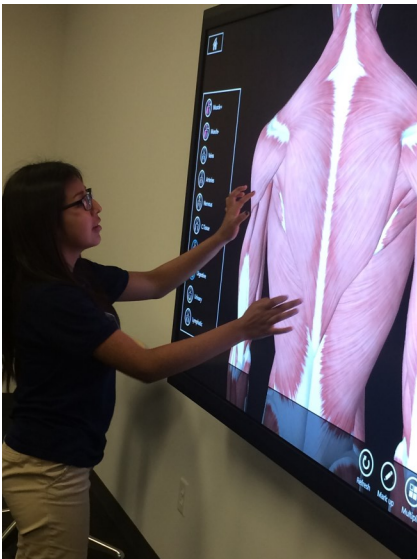
across the building. Go Gophers!)





# Columbia Academy News

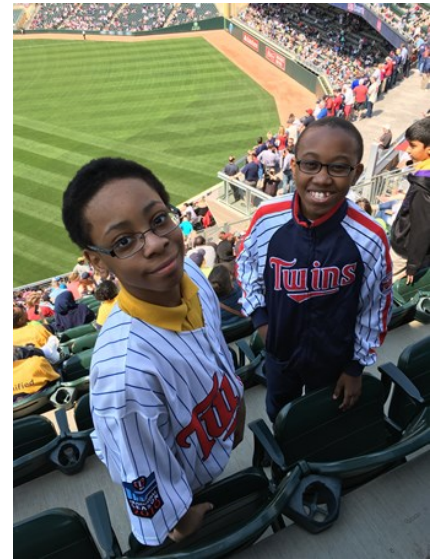
## College and Career: CA students visit Medtronic





## Columbia Academy News

### RISE UP at Columbia Academy



### Team United RISE UP together

Team United enjoyed a beautiful day at the Twins game and were complimented on their good behavior by stadium management. This may be one reason then were featured three different times on the Jumbo-tron screen. We are proud that our students RISE UP at school and in the community.

### CA students playing spring sports in large numbers



Columbia Academy has a large number of students playing spring sports including baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse, track, and synchronized swimming. We also have many teachers coaching including PE teacher Scott Opatz coaching baseball, PE teacher Allicia Anderson coaching track, and 6th grade teacher Lindsey Kamp coaching synchronized swimming. The spring season is shorter but the enthusiasm in all sports is very high!



# Columbia Academy News

## CHPS Teacher of the Year Alison Humpal

Columbia Heights Public Schools celebrated its 2016 Teacher of the Year Alison Humpal. We are very proud of Ms. Humpal and her commitment to our students and her hard work to give them her very best. CA is lucky to have her!



Teacher of the Year Alison Humpal and Supt. Kelly

## RISE UP award winners

We proudly celebrated our third quarter RISE UP award winners in April. Students are nominated by staff for actions they have taken that have shown respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding or pride in our school. We have included pictures of just some of our winners.



# Columbia Academy News

## Honoring American Indians

Columbia Academy will celebrate American Indian month in May. Students will receive daily messages regarding American Indian history, culture, language, and heroes. Displays will be up around the building and David Larson (CA Check and Connect) will help us learn from his life experiences and wisdom. Columbia Heights Public Schools is dedicated to making sure we honor and support our American Indian population through recognition, education, and celebration.



## CA tournament tradition continues

Columbia Academy has a tradition of student tournaments in basketball and soccer in the last week of school. Art teacher Mr. Hamel and PE teacher Mr. Opatz are promoting the tournament again this year. Students organize their own teams and single elimination brackets are drawn up with the championships coming on the second day. There will trophies for the winners and of course 2016 bragging rights. We look forward to lots of fun competition!



## 8th grade celebration

Columbia Academy's 8th graders will celebrate the end of middle school and the beginning of high school on Thursday, June 2nd at 4:00 in the CA gymnasium. Students will have the opportunity to change into more formal clothes at the end of school so they do not have to return home first. We ask you assistance in making sure that students dress appropriately for this event. Our students deserve a ceremony that reflects respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding and pride. Let's RISE UP and celebrate!





## Important Dates:

May 1st	History Day State Tournament
May 3	Mid-Quarter grades sent home
May 4 - 11	MCA Science
May 6	Grade 6 Field Trip to Base Camp
May 12	CA Choir concert
May 13	Media Art and Engineering Field Trip
May 17	Kuglin Blue Minnehaha Falls Field Trip
May 18	7th Grade H. SS Science Museum Field Trip
May 18	Kuglin Gold Minnehaha Falls Field Trip
May 19	WEB Feed My Starving Children Field Trip
May 19	Silverwood Arts Celebration 5-7:30 (CA performing from 5:00 - 6:00)
May 20	Art Field Trip to Franconia
May 20	Spanish Heritage Field Trip to Augsburg
May 24	RISE UP breakfast
May 25	CA Band concert
May 27	Grade 7 Field Trip
May 24	RISE UP Breakfast
May 31	CA Basketball and soccer tournaments
June 1	CA Basketball and soccer tournaments
June 2	8th grade ceremony and last day

## District News

Dr. Hala Asamari received the Oath of Office as the newest Columbia Heights School Board Director at the April 26, 2016 Business Meeting. Asamari accepted the Oath, administered by Chair John Larkin, with family and well-wishers in attendance. She was elected April 5, 2016 in a Special School Board Election. She fills the duration of a four-year term vacated by the resignation of former Director Grant Nichols.

Asamari joins Chair John Larkin, Vice Chair Laura Palmer, Treasurer Molly Lewis, Clerk Ted Landwehr and Director Naty Severson on the School Board. Three of the six positions will be on the November 2016 ballot. .

## Columbia Heights High School wins national honor

The College Board has selected Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) as the 2016 Advanced Placement (AP) District of the Year. The College Board is recognizing CHPS for being the national leader among small school districts and for expanding access to AP Program courses while simultaneously improving AP Exam performance. Approximately 290 Columbia Heights High School students (35 percent) are enrolled in at least one of 17 AP courses offered.

Columbia Academy offers Pre AP classes to help prepare students for these rigorous high school courses. Our schools have a strong college and career readiness pathway that students can follow throughout our school system. AP not only prepares students for college; it can also save parents money by satisfying as college credit with high enough test scores.

We congratulate our high school on this great honor. It is exciting to have CHHS recognized nationally for excellence in preparing students for college!