

October 31 2015

RISE UP

RESPECT
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING
PRIDE



Principal Update

October was a busy and productive month at Columbia Academy. With the first parent-teacher conferences, we had the opportunity to speak directly with parents of over 400 students. In each conversation, we heard the clear message that parents want their child to be safe, successful, and happy in our schools. We share this desire and welcome the chance to work with you to make sure this is the case for your child. Please stay in touch with any concerns or suggestions you may have.

As part of RISE UP, your child participated in a series of lessons on bully prevention over the past week. Students discussed the seriousness of this issue and how we will work as a school to protect students from bullying. RISE UP lessons will continue to provide daily community building activities that build positive relationships among students. We share your expectation that Columbia Academy be a safe and welcoming place for all students.

Columbia
Academy

900 49th Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
763-528-4700

colheights.k12.mn.us/ca

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

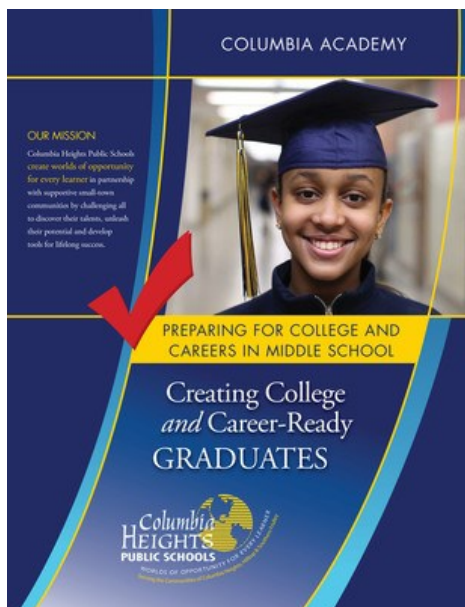
Is Your Child on Track for College and Career?

Did you know that economists predict that over 70% of jobs in Minnesota by 2020 will require a diploma beyond high school? It's never too early to begin thinking about what happens after high school with your student! REACH is a 6 week course for parents that will provide you with information on making sure your child is prepared for College and Career. REACH classes start on Tuesday, November 10 at Columbia Academy and will continue each week on



Realizing Educational Achievement at Columbia Heights

Tuesday from 5:30-8:00 pm. We provide dinner and child care. Please call Victoria at 763.528.4426 to register or with any questions. You can also let her know if you need transportation. We look forward to seeing you at REACH!



CA College and Career Guide

With the start of the second quarter, your child will bring home the Columbia Academy College and Career Readiness Guide. This guide contains useful information on how to support your child's academic success in middle school and to help him/her begin to think about their future. The guide contains goal setting activities that you and your child can use to build a measureable plan for attaining college and career readiness. We hope that you will use this guide to make college and career something your child thinks about in middle school. Dreams for the future help drive students forward in the present. It is never too early to have conversations on what your child may one day hope to do with their life. Give your child the message that education is the key to a bright future.

8th Graders EXPLORE College Readiness

The EXPLORE test is given to 8th graders in schools throughout the country in November. The test contains two major sections. The first is an inventory of a students' interests and aspirations and is used to help identify possible fields of study and future careers. The second section is a standardized test of students' proficiency in math, science, English, and reading. Columbia Academy will use the results of these tests to discuss college and career readiness with you and your student. We will also use it as a way to inform ongoing work to improve learning in our building as a whole. The EXPLORE is scheduled for November 11th and 12th with individual results anticipated in early January.



Columbia Academy News

CA Bowlers RISE UP!

Columbia Academy students in special education from Ms. Chloe Bluth's class and 8th grade WEB leaders had the opportunity to bowl together as a Unified Doubles team in October. Unified Bowling creates a welcoming environment that uses sports as a tool to defeat intolerance. Students that participated in Unified Bowling were not required to have a background in bowling to participate. This was an opportunity for students to work together, mentor each other and to have fun bowling! Columbia Academy's Unified Bowling team was recognized for showing the most team spirit. Our Unified Bowling Athletes and Partners proudly wore their team t-shirts this past Friday to school. Congratulations to our proud Unified Doubles Bowling Team members. This is what it means to RISE UP!



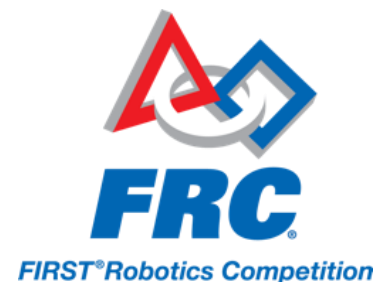
CA Athletics Update

Fall sports have ended with much success to celebrate at Columbia Academy. Congratulations are in order to each of our teams. Girls' volleyball lost only one match the entire season ending with two big wins over St. Anthony and Fridley. Boys' soccer went undefeated with large wins over all of their opponents. Boys' football had many hard fought games with much individual and team success to celebrate. We congratulate all of our students who played for Columbia Academy as well as those who competed for Columbia Heights High School teams! Alex Salchow (picture with Coach Megan Nelson)) was a varsity goal-scorer for the CHHS Strikers! Girls' basketball will take place this month and next with boys' basketball beginning in January. We encourage your student to consider participating!



CA Activities Update

The CA Robotics team continues to design and build robots for upcoming competitions. The Lion King cast continues to rehearse and will begin stage building soon. The CA Yearbook team has begun meeting with CA Media Arts teacher Julie Fowler. Lots of great activity beyond the school bell at CA!

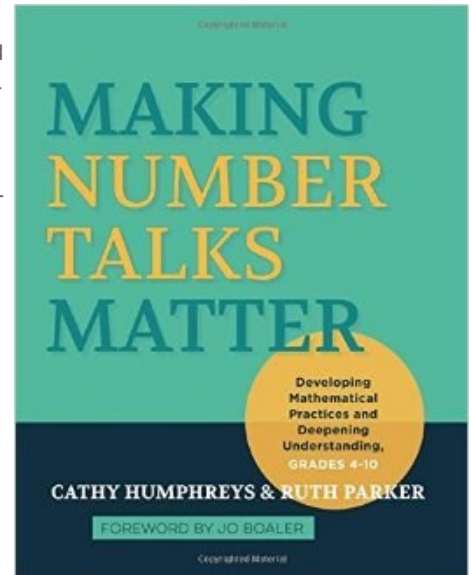


Columbia Academy News

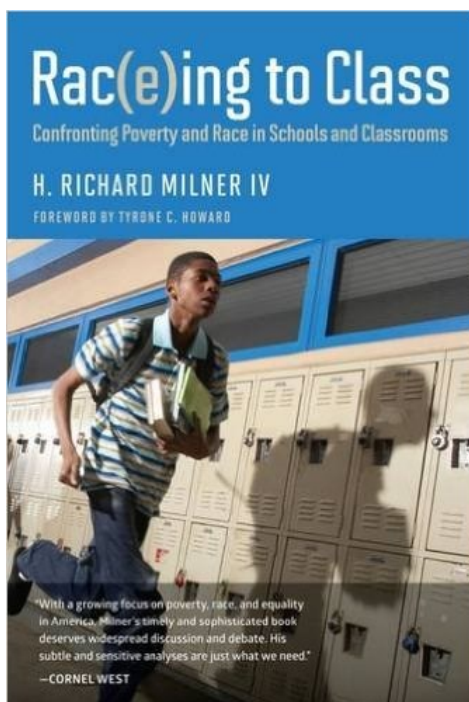
Talking about Math

How quickly can you solve $67 - 28$ without using a piece of paper? How did you get the answer? This year Math teachers at Columbia Academy are learning how they can use *Number Talks* to help students learn to think mathematically. Number talks are short, just 5 to 15 minutes of class time, but powerful mini-lessons on thinking flexibly and gaining confidence in one's ability to think mathematically. As students solve problems on their own and discuss their process for doing so with classmates, they learn that there are always many different ways to find solutions and gain confidence in their ability to understand and do math. Here is an example of a student talking about how she solved a problem quickly in her head:

I changed 67 to 70 and 28 to 30. $70 - 30$ is easy, 40. Then I remembered that I had used 5 more so $40 - 5$ is 35.



Columbia Academy math teachers, along with Columbia Heights High School teachers, are reading *Making Number Talks Matter* and working with University of Minnesota math education professor Terry Wyberg. Dr. Wyberg conducts workshops on math talks across the state and we are very fortunate to have him working with our teachers here at CA this year. We want our students to be able to be confident in their mathematical ability and to see math as more than just a set of procedures to memorize. Math talks are showing our students that math can make sense!



Talking about Race

There is much talk of the achievement gap that exists in Minnesota. Columbia Academy is confronting this challenge through the work of its Equity Task Force and ongoing professional development. Dr. Richard Milner, Director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Pittsburgh, will discuss his newest book *Racing to Class* with Columbia Academy staff this month. Dr. Milner worked with teachers and administrators at the start of the school year and challenged our district to develop the understanding and commitment necessary to meet the needs of students who have suffered the most from racism and poverty. Columbia Academy is committed to having high expectations for learning as an institution. This includes teachers and administrators learning how to be more impactful with our African American students. The academic achievement gap is a challenge our school will work together to overcome.



Multi-Cultural Community Resource Fair



Winter Safety

& so much more



Thursday, November 12, 2015
10:00 am - 12:45 pm

Blaine Human Service Center
3rd Floor
1201 89th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55434

- * SafeLink Wireless Free Phone Program
- * Child care information
- * Community resource information
- * Health and immunization information
- * Help with paperwork and reading letters
- * Home safety information
- * Library information

Interpreters provided for:
Spanish, Russian, & Arabic

- * معلومات عن الحضانه و رعايه الطفل
- * معلومات و موارد في المجتمع
- * معلومات عن الصحة و اللقاحات
- * مساعدة مع الأوراق و قراءة الرسائل
- * معلومات عن السلامة المنزلية
- * معلومات عن المكتبة

متوفر مترجمين للغه العربيه

- * Информация об уходе за ребёнком
- * Сведения о ресурсах в обществе
- * Здравохранение и информация о прививках
- * Помощь с письмами и оформление документов
- * Информация о домашней безопасности
- * Информации о библиотеках

РУССКИЙ ПЕРЕВОДЧИК ДОСТУПЕН

- * Información del cuidado de los niños
- * Información de recursos de la comunidad
- * Información de salud e inmunización
- * Ayuda con el papeleo y la lectura de cartas
- * Información de seguridad en el hogar
- * Información de la biblioteca

Intérpretes españoles disponibles



❄️ FREE ❄️

Winter hats
and mittens for
children while
supplies last!

Walk-ins Welcome
Open to the Public

For more information contact:



child and
teen checkups
763-422-6932

Columbia Academy News

Thank you!

We are grateful for donations of time and money that help improve the learning experience of our students. A big thank you to the following people and organizations:

- Thank you to Marta Melin and the League of Catholic Women for their donations of food to support Arnie Hamel's Morning Basketball. Mr. Hamel (picture) and Mr. Bolemen host before school basketball every Friday.
- Members of the CA Parent Advisory Council who donated time and energy to feed our teachers prior to Parent Teacher Conferences
- St. Phillips Lutheran Church for their gift of winter clothing.



Important Dates:

- November 6: CA 1st quarter ends
- November 6: 8th Grade Field Trip (Parent signature required. Uniform shirt and sweat pants.)
- November 6: CA Fall Dance (School uniform only)
- November 9: No School (Grading day)
- November 10 & 11: 8th grade EXPLORE test
- November 10: REACH begins at CA
- OLPA Math: November 10 –12; or 17 to 19
- November 20: RISE UP breakfast
- November 17: REACH continues at CA
- November 24: REACH continues at CA
- November 26: No School (Thanksgiving)
- November 27: No School

Reminders!

- Please let us know if your **home address, email address, or phone number changes.**
- **Free and reduced lunch applications** must be filled out annually. The deadline has passed—please act quickly.
- **Proof of immunization** must be provided to our school by parents. The deadline has passed, so please act quickly.

Questions? Call us at 763-528-4700.

School Board Candidate Forum

A School Board Candidate Forum, open to the public, is scheduled for 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 9 at the District Center. This forum is tied to a Special Election to fill the vacancy created by the resignation from former Director Lori Meyer.

After School Activities Bus

Columbia Heights Public Schools have activity buses each night after school that leave Columbia Academy at 5:30. These buses are for Columbia Academy students who are in Robotics, athletic programs (currently Girls' Basketball), Theatre, Yearbook, WEB, or Student Council. It does not transport students home from Open Gym on Tuesdays. The activity bus drops off students at designated stops requiring students to walk some distance from the bus to their home. With darkness coming earlier, please make sure that your child will be safe and can find their way home before having them ride the activity bus. There is also a 4:30 bus on Mondays and Thursdays that provides transportation to designated stops for students in detention.