



COLUMBIA ACADEMY

# Columbia Academy News

## Principal Update, June 2016

Thank you for a great school year. Our theme at Columbia Academy is to RISE UP and I believe our school did so in many ways this school year. It was a year of establishing a dual focus on academics and character. We know that both are important for success in life and that a culture of learning requires addressing them together. We want our students to be successful learners here at Columbia Academy so that they are prepared for high school, college, and career. RISE UP encompasses both.

Our students felt the change in expectations in our school, and while this was not always easy, it did establish a greater sense of importance to what we do each day when we enter our school. Next year we will build on this and work very hard to make sure all of our students know and feel they belong to part of the CA team; that we value them and see their potential for good. We will increase the rigor in our academics and work to show students that they have the capacity to become smarter every day through hard work. We will continue to work to develop personal pride in doing good work along with a collective pride in being Hylanders and part of great school district.

What makes this a great school district? I believe it is our unwavering commitment to our diverse community of students. We believe in building friendships rather than walls between the cultures, religions, languages, and races that are part of our community. Together, we RISE UP knowing that it is through our understanding of others that the world becomes a better place for all of us. Our school and our district is committed to creating worlds of opportunities to every learner.

Thank you. I wish you a great summer!

**Together we will RISE UP!**

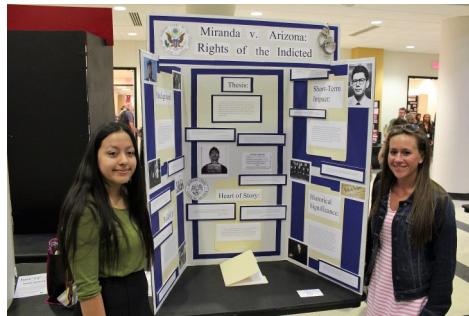
Columbia Academy	<a href="http://colheights.k12.mn.us/ca">colheights.k12.mn.us/ca</a>	Assistant Principal Rick Ostby
900 49th Ave NE Columbia Heights, MN 55421 763-528-4700	Principal Duane Berkas	Dean Camille Erickson
	Assistant Principal Jon Moberg	OUR MISSION Columbia Heights Public

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## CA Students Compete in State History Day Competition

Seven Columbia Academy students competed in the annual Minnesota State History Day Finals at the University of Minnesota in May. Participants qualify by winning at regional competitions across the state. We are very proud of our students who were part of this competition and we want to thank our social studies teachers, Ms. Mason and Ms. Student for helping our students succeed. Congratulations to:

Renee Booth	Brianna Jorgenson
Gisselle Castillo	Morgan Lyons
Gissel Inamagua	Britany Sanchez



## CHPD donates bikes to CA



Seven lucky students from Columbia Academy now have a bicycle to ride during the summer thanks to the kindness of the **Columbia Heights Police Department**. Pictured here are the police and the lucky students who received the bikes. We deeply appreciate the work our police do to create positive relationships with our students through after school open gym, mentoring, and the donation of bikes. It takes a village to raise a child and we appreciate working collaboratively with our city and our police.



## Columbia Academy News

### Celebrating the arts in the month of May

The end of the year Band and Choir concerts took place to large audiences in May. Our students have practiced hard all year and it showed! Essence, the Columbia Heights Public Schools Spring Arts Festival, provided another opportunity for our art and drama students to show their work alongside our music department. Recitations, songs, and artwork were all part of this annual celebration of our students' work in the arts. In Columbia Heights Public Schools, our hearts are truly in the arts!



### American Indian month at Columbia Academy

During the month of May, Columbia Academy celebrated American Indian month. Activities included daily messages on American Indian culture and presentations to classes by our American Indian Liaison Mr. David Larson. Our students learned about the languages, religions, and music of different American Indian tribes as well as information about famous modern day and historical American Indians. On the last day, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Larson organized an opportunity for our band students to play the American Indian love flute and hear traditional songs.



# Columbia Academy News

## Columbia Academy math in the spotlight

This year our math department chair, Mr. Nick Rohne, presented at the annual state math convention alongside Dr. Terry Wyberg from the University of Minnesota on the use of daily number talks at Columbia Academy. With the assistance of Dr. Wyberg, our teachers learned how to include time for students to apply their own thinking to solve math problems without relying on rote procedures. After solving problems individually, students shared their thinking with the class. Here are examples of the kinds of questions students practiced solving in their heads:

Which is greater  $86 \times 38$  or  $88 \times 36$ ?

What is  $0.52 \times 789$ ?



We are proud of Mr. Rohne and his leadership in our math department. Interest in the state is very high in the daily math talks that take place at Columbia Academy. Ask your child to show you an example or two!

## Quarter 4 RISE UP students celebrated

Here are our students who we recognized for showing respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding and pride. We are proud of each of them!





## Columbia Academy News

### Mr. Moberg—life saver—and the amazing three



Mr. Moberg, Ms. Erickson, and Mr. Ostby

When Assistant Principal Mr. Moberg noticed a student in the lunchroom having difficulty breathing, he performed the Heimlich maneuver freeing her blocked airway. Mr. Moberg then quickly went about the job of keeping the lunch room safe for all students. Mr. Moberg—life saver!

Our admin team of Mr. Moberg, Ms. Erickson, and Mr. Ostby, along with Ms. Welter and Mr. Allen have had a watchful eye on the lunchroom all year. We thank them

for helping our students stay safe throughout the school year in the lunch room and our school as a whole. They have been an amazing admin team!

### Big participation in end of year sports

The annual end of the year sports tournament took place again at Columbia Academy this spring. Champions were crowned in soccer, basketball, and tennis. Over one hundred students competed in this after school event organized by Mr. Hamel. Congratulations to our winning teams and to all of the participants who exhibited such great sportsmanship!

We had many other students participate in Spring sports including playing for JV and Varsity teams. Congratulations to Peter Heryla for being part of the high school tennis team that qualified for the state tournament!



### Memorial bench in honor of Samantha and Anthony Moe

Solomon Ross, a Minnesota furniture artist, created a memorial bench in honor of Samantha and Anthony Moe who were tragically killed along with their parents in a car accident this year. The bench has an inscription with their names and will be a place that students can sit and read, just as they did so often in our school. We are grateful to our librarian Ms. Harris and Mr. Ross for helping us have a fitting tribute in our school for Samantha and Anthony.



# Columbia Academy News

## CA students work with teaching artist

8<sup>th</sup> grade CA students in Ms. Kuglin's class spent time in May improving their writing and research skills during a special creative writing residency that combined writing with the science of water. COMPAS teaching artist Jon Lurie worked with students to reflect and write about their relationship with water, and learn new things about wetlands, dams, and other water features they could find in their neighborhood. Students came away with new writing skills, as well as knowledge about their relationship with the natural world around us and steps they can take to help keep our water supply clean and safe.



Jon Lurie is a COMPAS teaching artist and published author. He also teaches creative writing at Macalester College and the University of Minnesota. This residency was provided by COMPAS, with support from the Minnesota State Arts Board. COMPAS works with schools to bring in high-quality teaching artists to unleash creativity in students of all ages. Learn more at [COMPAS.org](http://COMPAS.org).

## CA field trips broaden horizons



May is a great time for our students to experience more of the world through out of school experiences. This year different student groups experienced the following:

- Base Camp
- Feed my Starving Children
- Franconia Sculpture Garden
- Maker Faire
- Latin Youth Peace Conference
- Minnesota Zoo
- Science Museum Race Exhibit





**Thank you** to Kathy and Amanda Moe, grandmother and aunt of Samantha and Anthony Moe, for their kind donations of an electronic keyboard and helping us pay for the memorial reading bench. This bench commemorates Samantha and Anthony and their love of reading.



## Uniforms Needed

If you have uniforms that you no longer need, we would welcome your donation to the Columbia Academy loaner closet. When students do not have a uniform, we like to be able to provide a loaner for the day. We have washing machines and student workers who help keep them clean and available. Rather than tossing those that no longer fit or that you no longer need, please consider dropping them off in our front office at any point this summer. Thank you!!



**Thank you** to David De Jarnett for the gift of two computer tablets that he donated for two lucky CA students. We appreciate this kind donation that brought some big smiles to the students who received them!

## Important Dates

6th grade student orientation: August 18  
Open House: August 31  
First Day of School: September 6

## 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!