

Columbia Academy News

April/May 2018

RISE UP

RESPECT
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING
PRIDE



Greetings from Columbia Academy,

We come to the close of another school year. My but they go fast. What do we hope we accomplished this year at Columbia Academy? Here is a short list of what we hoped for your child:

- To RISE UP each and every day
- To feel a sense of belonging to our CA team
- To achieve academically
- To be enriched through the arts
- To discover interests
- To gain confidence
- To make friends and experience kindness
- To develop big goals and good habits
- To become self-aware and sensitive to others
- To gain control of emotions
- To be physically and mentally healthy
- To be supported in whatever ways necessary
- To have fun and enjoy life

I probably am missing something big; there is so much that goes into growing kids. Thank you for the privilege of working with your child. Together we all RISE UP!

All the best from Columbia Academy!

Principal Berkas

Columbia Academy

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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.

CA Parent Meeting



CHPS Teacher of the Year Nominees from CA

A photograph of three staff members standing in front of blue lockers. On the left is a woman with brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue polo shirt with yellow accents and a lanyard with a large decorative pendant. In the center is a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black top and a lanyard with a blue ID badge. On the right is a man with short grey hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with a 'Minnesota Golden Gophers' logo and a lanyard with a white ID badge. They are all smiling at the camera.

Major literacy grant awarded to CA

A word cloud centered around the word "Literacy" in large blue font. Other prominent words include "Achievement", "Empower", "Educate", "Passionate", "Instruction", "Building", "Helping", "Market-driven", "Differentiated", "Student", "Quality", "Proficiency", "Satisfaction", "Innovative", "Reading", "Read", "Life", "Teach", "Focused", "Dedication", "Commitment", "Excellence", "Build", "Improve", "Worldwide", "Diverse", "Engaged", "Inspired", "Promote", "Accommodate", "Support", "Market-driven", "Helping", "Building", "Focused", "Dedication", "Commitment", "Excellence", "Build", "Improve", "Worldwide", "Diverse", "Engaged", "Inspired", "Promote", "Accommodate", "Support".

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Bikes for CA Students

The City of Columbia Heights, the Columbia Heights Police Department Association, Columbia Heights Public Schools and the Fridley Columbia Heights Rotary Club have collaborated again to donate seven bikes to students at Valley View Elementary School and the Columbia Academy. The Rotary Club donated helmets and the Police Association donated locks for all of the bikes.



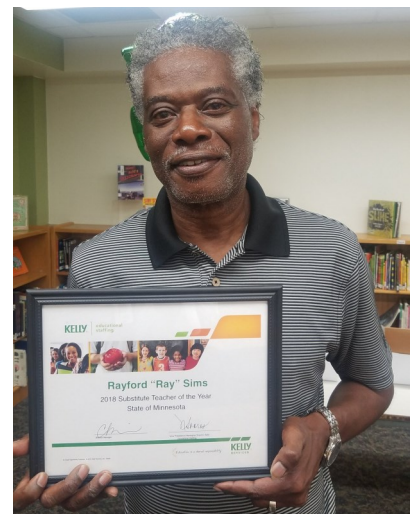
Thank you Mr. Kennedy!

Mr. Kennedy has been a math and engineering teacher at Columbia Academy for the last five years. He has also been the heart and soul, organizer, and chief engineer for our after school Robotics team. There was no robotics program at Columbia Academy before Mr. Kennedy. He changed this through his deep commitment to running a program 5 days a week after school and even on some Saturdays from the first week of school all the way to February when the State tournament takes place. We want to thank Mr. Kennedy for all the time he spent working with our students and developing a robotics program of distinction!



CA Substitute Honored

Mr. Sims is a go-to substitute teacher at Columbia Academy. Over the years, Mr. Sims has had many different long term substitute positions and has taken on roles as varied as math and swimming. This year, Mr. Sims was named MN Substitute Teacher of the Year by Kelly Services. We are grateful to have a substitute teacher as caring and committed as Mr. Sims. Our students know him and respect him making all things go better in class.



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Congratulations to our 8th Grade AVID Cohort

AVID helps students achieve at high levels so they can one day be successful in college. We are super proud of our AVID team. Why are we so proud of our AVID students and teachers?

- They are our first group of AVID students ever at CA!
- They have nearly all made it to the A or B Honor Roll this year!
- They have worked hard for two full years to meet the high standards of this program!
- They have looked bravely into their futures and dared to pursue their hopes and dreams!
- They have helped to redefine the culture of our building and sway their classmates to strive for achievement and take pride in their hard work.
- They have done so well the District is making it possible for us to double the number of students in AVID next year!

We have just one thing to say to each of our AVID students—Keep going!—and one thing to say to our AVID teachers—Thank you!

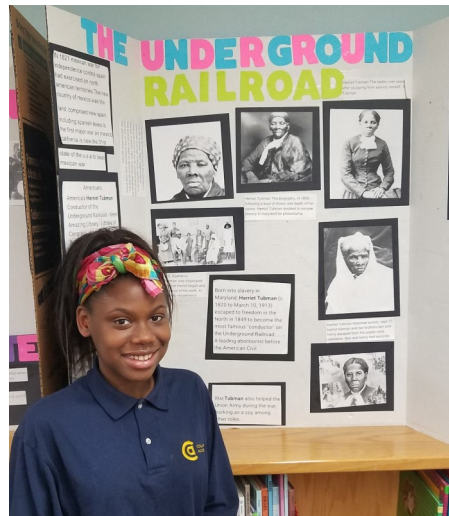
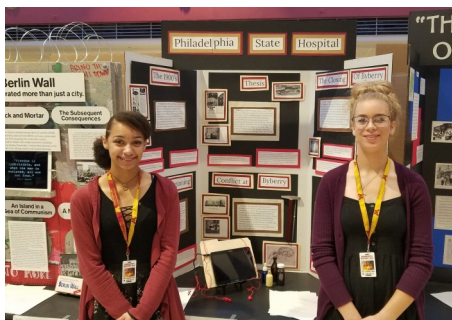
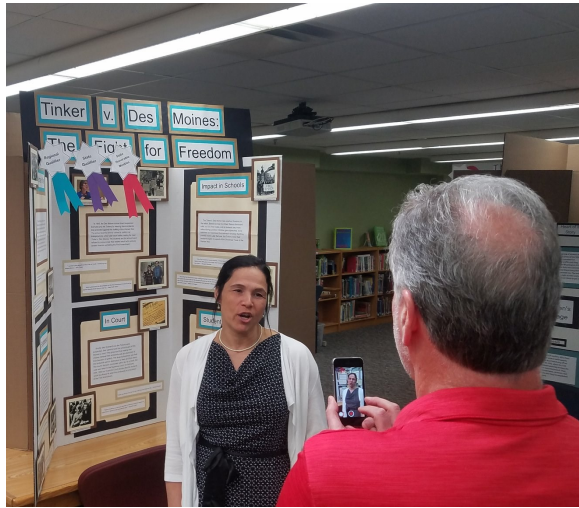
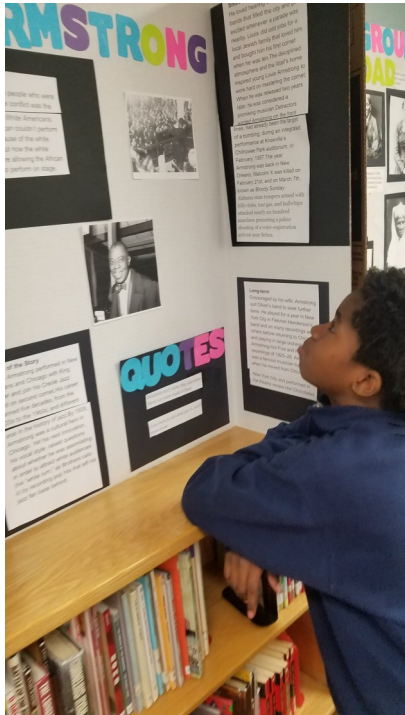
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RISE UP Award Winners Honored

! Columbia Academy honored their Spring RISE UP award winners with a breakfast, certificates, and RISE UP t-shirts. Students are nominated by staff for exemplifying what it means to practice respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding, and pride. We work hard as a school to improve academically, but we also emphasize the importance of developing strong character. Both are essential for future success and having a positive impact on our world. We are proud of our award winners and the leadership they have shown as together we work to build a culture of achievement and kindness within our building. We know that it requires a village to accomplish this. Parents and siblings share the honor of recognition for exemplary behavior. Congratulations to our RISE UP award winners and their families!

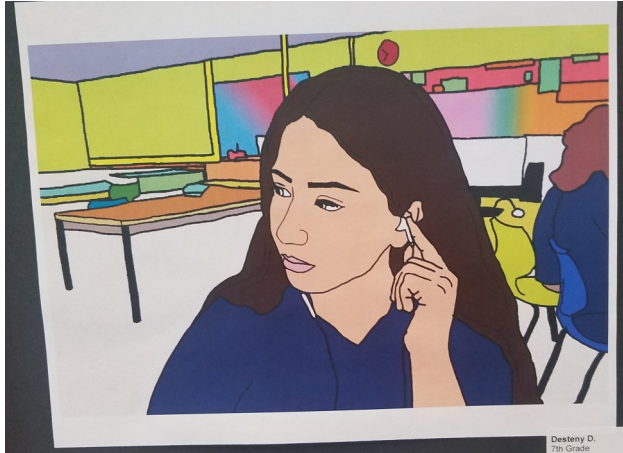
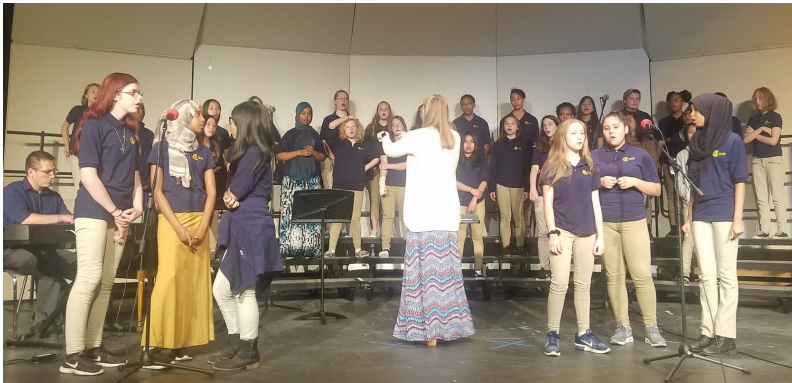
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CA Scholars dig deep into History Day

The History Day project began with a broad question: What is an event in the course of history that involved conflict and compromise? From that question, students conducted research and created an analytical summary of what they had learned in the form of story boards, websites, documentaries, dramatic performance, or research paper. Many hours of work went into this process helping students become relative experts in a point in history and learn what it means to conduct research. This was the real reward though we celebrate also the 36 students who went to regionals, 14 who moved on to state, and the four recognized for their achievement at the final ceremony at the University of Minnesota. We celebrate all of our young CA scholars and hope that the skills and confidence they have learned from this experience will support a life time of curiosity and learning!

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Desteny D.
7th GradeRashene L.
7th Grade

Shanell Self Picture 3/7/16

Shanell M.
Columbia Academy

CA Arts on Full Display

The end of the school year is time to celebrate the arts at CA. The impact of a year of hard work in our visual art, media arts, theater, choir, and band rooms is in full display. This year we had an exceptionally strong showing at the Expressions Art Festival as well as in our end of the year concerts in the High School auditorium. Through disciplined practice and creativity, our students have shown their amazing potential to engage in the arts and deepen their humanity through this experience. When people ask me what we do well at CA, I always include "engaging students in the arts" in my answer. **The Arts are part of our Culture of Academics—embedded deeply within our mission to release your child's full potential.** Thank you to our 800 young artists who have wowed us and to our amazing teachers who have guided them on this year's journey!

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CA is Full of Young Athletes!

While it seemed spring would never come, our CA athletes never lost their enthusiasm. We had a large number of young athletes this year who participated in track, lacrosse, tennis, softball, baseball, and synchronized swimming. **It helps that we have coaches from CA in almost all of these sports to recruit and encourage students to stick with it.** Congratulations to all of our students who participated at the middle school, JV, and even varsity level this year. We hope that our large number of middle school athletes will all one day be high school athletes also!

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Columbia Academy Girls on the Run!

Girls on the Run is a state-wide program that introduces young girls to the joy of running. Science teachers Ms. Clayton, Ms. MacDonald, and Ms. Mack introduced the program at Columbia Academy this year and led a team of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls through a series of fun practices. The season culminated in a 5K run with 6000 other runners this past Sunday. Girls on the Run promotes friendship, confidence, running. We hope that our girls will discover the great satisfaction that comes at the end of a good run! We are proud of our girls on the run and thankful to our coaches along with all the people who were running buddies for their 5K. Girls on the Run is now part of CA and we look forward to season II next fall!

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Team United Celebrates a Year of Friendship

Team United celebrated a year of CA students getting to know each other through a series of sporting events that brought together students from Ms. Bluth's and Ms. Kenevan's and Ms. Nelson's classrooms. Team United members joined together to enjoy sporting events and to develop friendships which may never have otherwise been formed. Students had fun while making connections and practicing kindness. We are proud of Team United—you showed us all what it means to RISE UP!

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MAKER FAIRE--A Proud Showing

The 7th grade field trip this year was to Maker Faire again where students were able to engage in a multitude of activities to create things connected to science, technology, engineering, and art. This is the second year we have brought the entire 7th grade class to this event and both times we have been impressed at the educational experience. We have also been very proud of the engagement and good behavior of our students. As a final activity of the year, we can see that our 7th graders have matured and are ready to be 8th grade leaders for our school.



Pen Pals connect across CA cultures

Students in Ms. Nelson's English Learner classes studied the text "Green Card Youth Voices", which is a compilation of immigration stories by Minneapolis high school students. These books were donated by her grandparents. Ms. Nelson's grandma was a librarian who loved books, and her grandpa was an immigrant from Slovenia, which is the same country that the director of the Green Card Youth Voices series is from. Students used these stories as models as they began to write their own immigration stories. In their essays, students wrote about their countries of origin, the process of coming to the U.S., how they felt when they first arrived, their current lives, and their dreams for the future. After revising and editing their stories, students created google presentations with pictures that represented different stages of their lives. They used these pictures to present their stories to the class, and also to their WEB leader pen pals who they had been writing back and forth with throughout the school year. WEB leaders listened, asked follow-up questions, and also shared about their cultural backgrounds and families. Students ended their time together with a few games also shared in a meal comprised of dishes from around the world!

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Important CA Dates 2019 School Year

June 6: Last day for 8th graders
8th grade ceremony, 4:00 at CA

June 7: Last day for 6th and 7th graders
CHHS graduation, 7:00 at CHHS

July 9: Summer School begins
(see information below)

July 27: Summer School ends

August 23: 6th gr. Orientation 9:00 @ CA

August 28: CA Open House 4– 6:00

Sept 4: First day of school

October 17-19: MEA (No school)

November 7: Last day of Quarter 1

December 24-January 1: Winter Break

January 24: Last day of Quarter 2

March 18-22: Spring Break

April 4: Last day of Quarter 3

June 6: Last Day of School

District News

The Columbia Heights School Board, through a resolution passed May 22, is asking voters to consider funding for facility needs at North Park Elementary School and Columbia Heights High School (CHHS). Five of the six members (one absent) passed a resolution at the May 22 Regular Meeting to present three Capital Building Bond ballot questions that address the following:

- North Park Elementary School Improvements
- CHHS Performing Arts Space Improvements
- CHHS new Band Room Addition

The three questions will be placed on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot.

The specifics of the projects, the resolution and the ballot questions, are available at www.colheights.k12.mn.us/2018Bond.

For additional information, contact Director of Technology and Security Services Bryan Hennekens at 763-528-4479 or Director of Finance and Operations Kristine Carr at 763-528-4502.

SUMMER SCHOOL BOOST

With three months of summer between this school year and the next, we encourage parents to consider summer school if their child has struggled this year. At middle school, this would include students who have received low grades or performed below proficiency level on the MCAs. Here is information on our Summer School program:

- Who: Current 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students
- Where: Columbia Heights High School
- When: July 9th- July 27th from 8:00 am- 1:00 pm. Includes free breakfast and lunch. Transportation provided for students outside the walk zone.
- Focus: Academic Boost! Keep the learning going through the summer through hands on fun activities in reading, math, and other areas.

***Pick up a registration form in the CA Front Office
or call Mr. Ostby at 763-528-4717***