

COLUMBIA ACADEMY

Columbia Academy News

January 2018

RISE UP

RESPECT
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING
PRIDE



Greetings from Columbia Academy,

In this special issue of our newsletter, we are featuring each of our academic departments along with information on the many different activities that take place in our school.

CA is a school where we strive to RISE UP each day through showing our commitment to respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding and pride. We are a school where we strive to make sure every student knows that they belong, that they are an important member of the CA team. And we are a school that believes in offering worlds of opportunities and assisting each student in unleashing her/his potential with the goal that all students are on a pathway to success in high school, college, and career.

At Columbia Academy we are committed to being the best we can be for each child. We hope you will gain new insight into our school from our January newsletter. Feel free to contact me directly with questions.

All the best from 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.

Columbia Academy News

CA Concerts Celebrate Excellence and Pride

CA capped off the first semester with concerts from our 3 choirs and 4 bands. Thank you to the many who attended and heard our students create music we could enjoy with pride and witnessed history being made with the first guest dinosaur conductor for the intermediate band's Dinosaur piece. Music teaches important life lessons about discipline, effort, and beauty and our band and choir programs therefore play a fundamental role in our school's drive for excellence. With over 250 students involved in band and/or choir, music is thriving in our school.



2018 CA Geography Bee Competition Winner

The much anticipated annual CA Geography Bee competition took place last week with 6th grader Roger Rogne winning first place. Congratulations to all the finalists who competed to answer national and international geography questions including identifying locations by following empty interstate highway maps. Questions included: Where do you find the only state with a national park that is a tropical forest? Which state contains the Imperial Valley? Which ocean surrounds the island of Nikumaroro where it is thought Ameila Earhart may have died? Thank you to the CA Social Studies Department for organizing another fun Geography Bee!



Columbia Academy News

RISE UP Award Winners

Martin Luther King stated **“intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”** At Columbia Academy we work to develop both intelligence and character in our students. RISE UP is a positive and forceful reminder to us all that we value respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding, and pride. It is our way of saying “Do the right thing” or “Be kind.” It is our mantra on a day to day basis at school. Each quarter, we recognize students who exemplify what it means to RISE UP in our school. Our second quarter RISE UP award winners are pictured below. We congratulate them and all students who strive to be their best each and every day at CA.



Columbia Academy News

CA Robotics builds young engineers

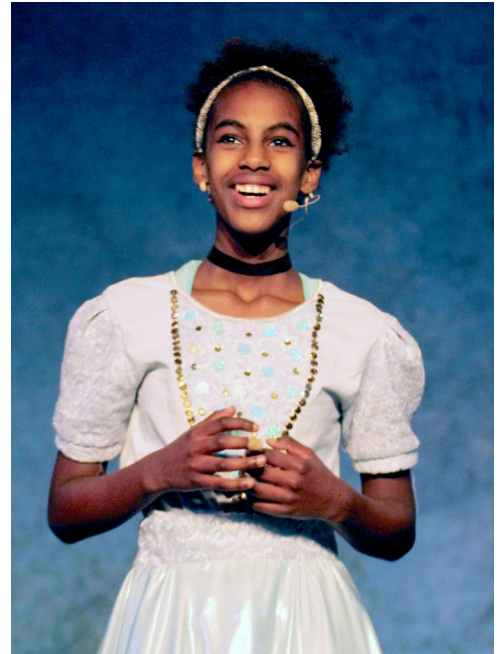
The CA Robotics team led by math and engineering teacher and robotics coach Mr. Kennedy competed again in a large regional competition hosted right here at Columbia Academy. With five different robots, CA was in nearly every match over two full days of competition. In the end, one robot made it to the semi-finals with all the others being highly competitive as well. The CA Robotics team meets after school four to five nights a week starting the first week of school all the way to the December tournament. These are close knit teams of young engineers and we are super proud of them all and their coach. Well done all of our young CA Robotics engineers!



Columbia Academy News

CA Musical Into the Woods, Jr

Each year our CA students perform a musical under the guidance of Director and Theater teacher Ms. Lorence. This year's show, Into the Woods, Jr., was performed 5 times including three evenings, a matinee show and a morning show for 5th graders. Each show was magnificent. We are proud of the cast and crew and amazed at the talent unleashed on stage! Congratulations to all!



Columbia Academy News

Recognition for CA Student Artwork

The Art Educators of Minnesota have selected Amara Thompson, an eighth-grade student at Columbia Academy, as the statewide middle school division winner of the 2018 Youth Art Month Flag Design contest. Elementary, middle and high school students from across the state submitted entries. As the winner in her division, Amara will be honored at the State Capital this March and her artwork included in all Youth Art Month posters. "Amara is an outstanding student and a very talented artist," said Art Teacher Arnie Hamel. "

Columbia academy artists are also being honored at the Banfill Locke annual art show where artwork from over 50 CA students is currently on display. You can visit the display through February 3rd. We are proud of all our young artists and our outstanding art department.



Our CA Students of the Month

The CA Student Council initiated a monthly nomination and selection process for a student of the month at each grade level. Students of the month are recognized for consistently being prepared for class, following directions, completing assignments and getting along with their peers. Winners of the award are presented with a certificate and t-shirt which they can wear proudly through our halls. Congratulations to winners so far including Day-shawn Mathews, Sofia Hernandez, Gisel Saldivar Ponce, Jacob Korbel, Melanie Kath, and Stephanie Romero Penaloza.



Columbia Academy News

WEB Leaders open CA doors to 5th graders

Our 8th grade WEB leaders make sure all 5th graders know that Columbia Academy is **where everyone belongs**(WEB). This month 5th grade classes from all three Columbia Heights elementary schools were welcomed by our WEB leaders and provided tours of our building along with the chance to ask a panel of WEB leaders questions about being a CA student. WEB leaders also provide orientation to incoming 5th graders in the summer. We want to make sure all 5th graders know CA is where we **all** belong!



CA Girls Basketball and their CA fans



The Columbia Academy girls basketball completed their season with all students showing great improvement, great effort, and great attitude. The girls were cheered on by large numbers of CA students and parents at their home games and had a full schedule that included 5 games in 5 days at one point. Coach Opatz and Howe along with each player made this a great season.

Columbia Academy News

District and School Updates

Getting to school this week

Transportation Challenges with Super Bowl, University Avenue Construction

Super Bowl LII is just days away and while there will be celebrating throughout the Twin Cities, there will also be some significant challenges for commuters in and out of Minneapolis. Additionally, this spring and summer, portions of University Avenue will be closed from May to August, creating more traffic challenges. If you are a Columbia Heights Public School District parent, guardian, student or employee, be advised that the Super Bowl and upcoming construction on University Avenue will affect transportation to and from our schools.



Super Bowl LII

During the 10 days of Super Bowl LII festivities, traffic in and out of the city will be affected, including street, road and avenue closures. These closures may affect families living inside Super Bowl zoned areas. In those cases, as specific and applicable District bussing issues become known, families will be notified by the Transportation Coordinator. The amount of traffic and congestion that will be experienced in our area because of the Super Bowl is unknown. Please know that the Transportation Coordinator will do her best to transport students during this period in a timely manner; however, it is very likely that transportation during this timeframe, will be affected by the events happening throughout the metro area.

University Avenue

Beginning in May, Highway 47 (University Avenue) will be closed from Lowry Avenue to 44th Avenue until August for resurfacing. For specifics on this project, visit dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/

Make sure your child is prepared for class

At the start of the second semester, we want to make sure students have the learning tools they need to be successful every day. This includes coming to class prepared with their Caselt binder, their planner, and a charged computer. The required Caselt binders are \$10 and planners are \$5. Chargers for computers are \$10. Please make sure your child has money to purchase these from the office if any of these are lost or broken. Computers that are lost, stolen, or not working should be reported immediately to our Tech department. Thank you for helping your child be prepared to learn each day!



Columbia Academy Programs

2018



AVID

English Language Arts

English Learners Program

Mathematics

Performing Arts

Physical Education and Health

Social Studies

Science and Engineering

Visual and Media Arts

Where We All Belong

Columbia Academy Programs

CA AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is offered as an elective at Columbia Academy with the goal to help prepare students to one day graduate from college. Students learn what is required for academic success and build hopes and dreams through college visits and exploring career opportunities for those with a college degree. This course includes instruction and support on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR). Students engage in the writing process through essays, reflections, note-taking, and speeches. Students use inquiry each day in class, but also in the tutorials offered during the elective. Tutorials give the students a chance to work with college tutors and their classmates on challenging material from their content area classes. Collaboration is the foundation in everything we do in AVID from team building to group projects; being able to work collaboratively in a group is an important skill in college and beyond. Using binders and planners in each class help students stay organized throughout their day. Finally, reading is incorporated in every lesson. Reading high-level, challenging materials in tandem with reading strategies such as "Marking the Text", provides students with the tools to be successful in all their classes. In AVID, we strive to challenge and support college-bound students.



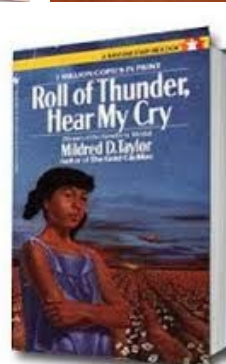
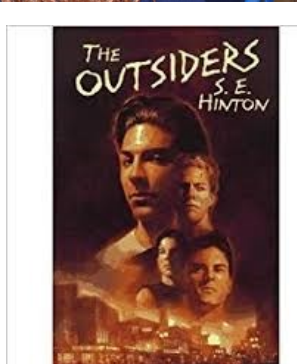
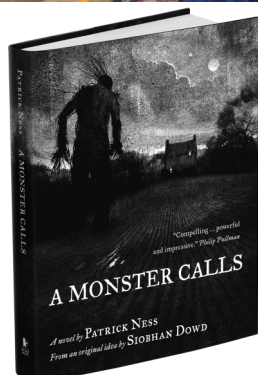
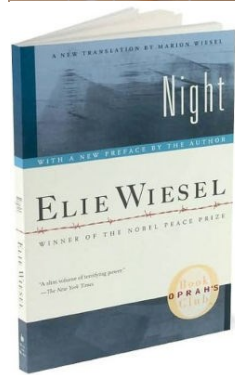
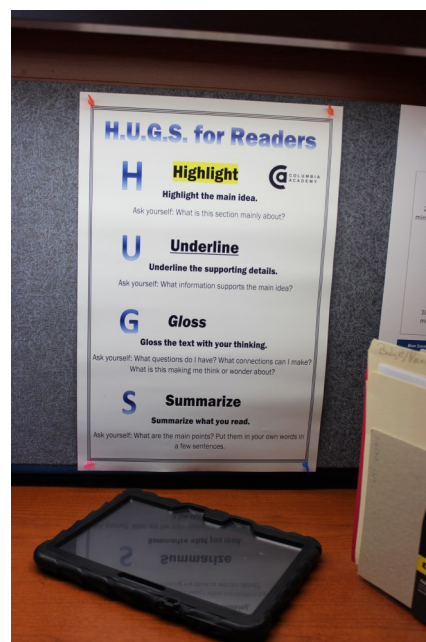
Columbia Academy Programs

CA English Language Arts

The English department at Columbia Academy is committed to helping students develop a well-rounded set of communication skills that will prepare them for college, career, and life as independent citizens. The department follows the Minnesota State English standards, which are Common Core aligned and address the language domains of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, along with media literacy.

In addition to introducing students to literary elements, teachers work to help students further develop essential reading skills such as fluency, vocabulary development, and identifying key concepts. Students engage in informal writing daily while also producing formal narrative, persuasive, argumentative, and research essays. Students build vocabulary through context clues, Greek and Latin affixes, and utilizing reference materials. Grammar instruction emphasizes well-developed sentence construction. Additionally, the department works to make sure that literature selections represent a variety of voices and that non-fiction texts require students to think critically about global issues.

Finally, the English department promotes two school-wide literacy strategies. HUGS is a basic marking the text strategy, asking students to highlight main ideas, underline supporting details, and gloss the margins with their thinking. SLAM is used for summary writing and paragraph structure. Students are expected to state the question in their answer, locate evidence, add support, and make meaningful conclusions.



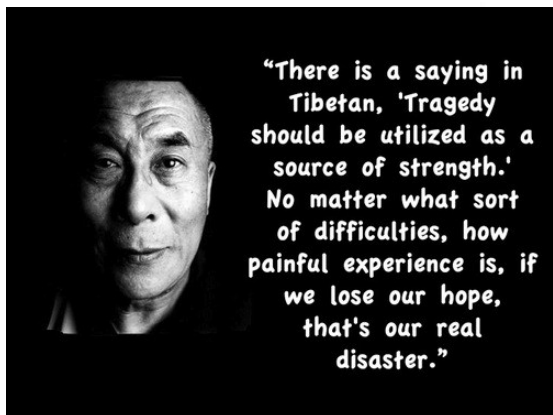
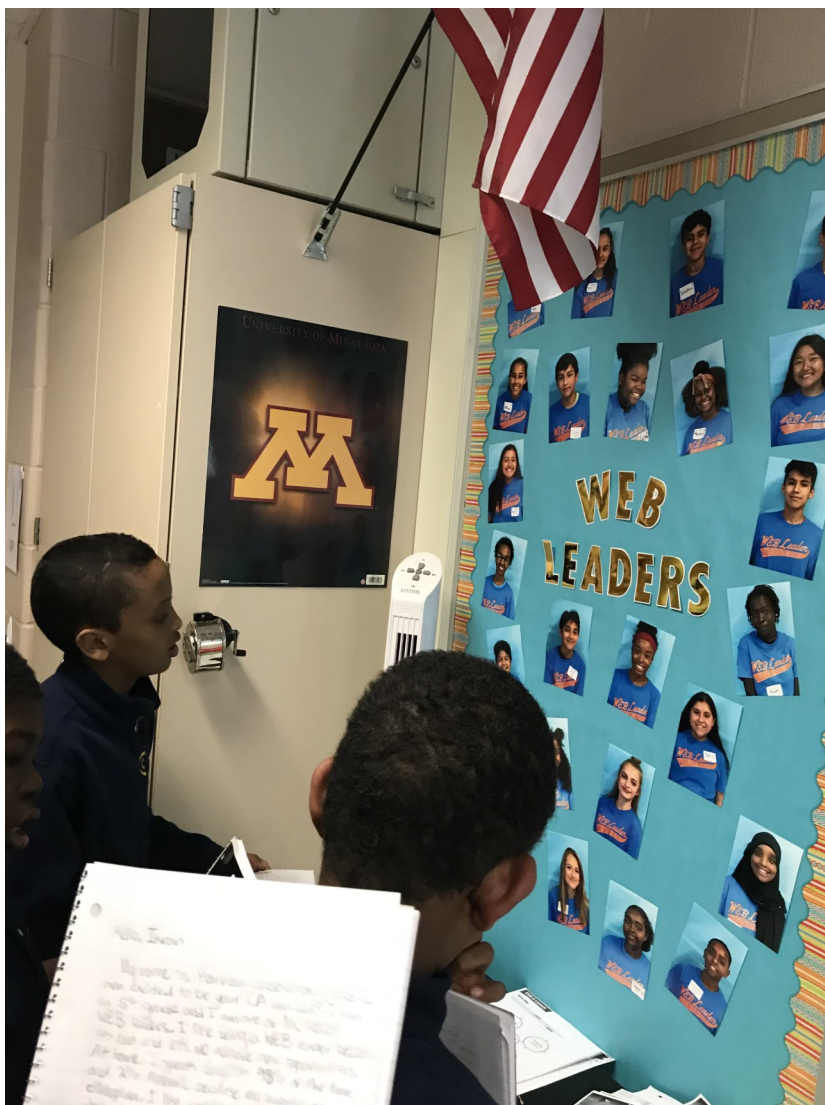
Columbia Academy Programs

CA English Learners Program

We are fortunate at Columbia Academy to have students from all over the world in our classrooms. Some of these students are learning English as a second, third, fourth, or even fifth language. They help us all to rise up each day, as they display strength and courage in navigating a new country, educational system, and way of life.

These English students at CA have been writing back and forth with our 8th grade WEB leaders to develop their English skills, as well as to develop friendships and share their knowledge with other students. Both groups of students have shared in the excitement of receiving "mail" from their pen pals, and look forward to a big group gathering after school in February.

English Learners have also been practicing their writing in daily journal prompts, using a specific format from the Minnesota Writing Project. We know writing skills lead to success in college and careers, and our students are giving us glimpses of that success every day! Below is an example of a prompt and response from one of our English Learners.



Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

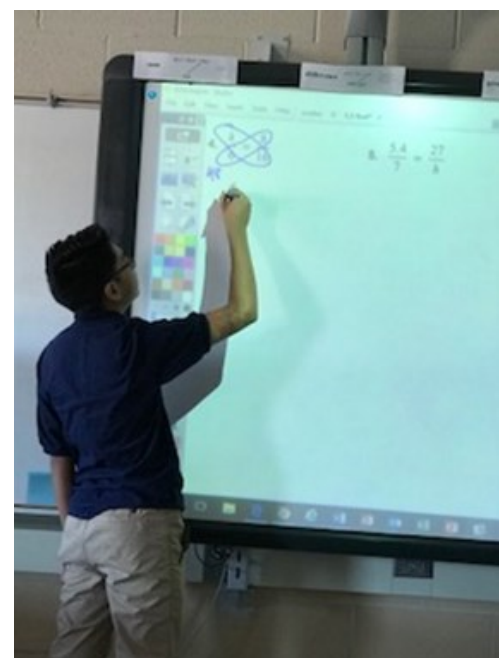
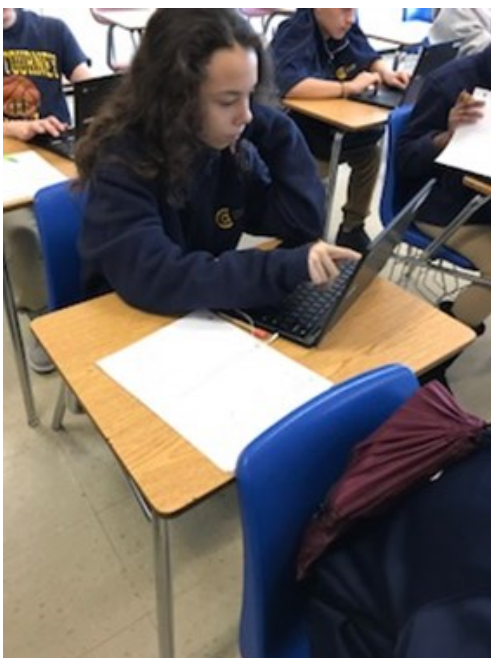
— Emily Dickinson

Student response to these two poems using MN Writing Project format:

The quote and the poem are connected. They both are about hope. The quote shows me that we can think that our difficulties or problems are the worst thing but what really is the worst thing is losing our hope. Also the poem shows me that hope gives us encouragement and help us to believe.

CA Mathematics

At Columbia Academy almost all students take math every day. Each grade level follows the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Mathematics. The math classes at Columbia Academy try to incorporate technology to support learning as much as possible. Some of the reasons we use technology in math are to access math videos, work on instant feedback problems, interact with math problems, and to make math as interesting for the students as we can. We also use an online intervention program called Dream Box, this program allows the students to work at their pace during or outside of school.



Columbia Academy News

CA Performing Arts

At Columbia Academy students have a variety of ways to get involved in the performing arts. Each grade offers opportunities in theater, world music, drumming, choir, and band. In all of the performance areas there are in-class or after school performances for families to attend. There are also extracurricular opportunities through Jazz Band, the CA Marimba Ensemble, and our winter musical.



Columbia Academy Programs

CA Physical Education and Health

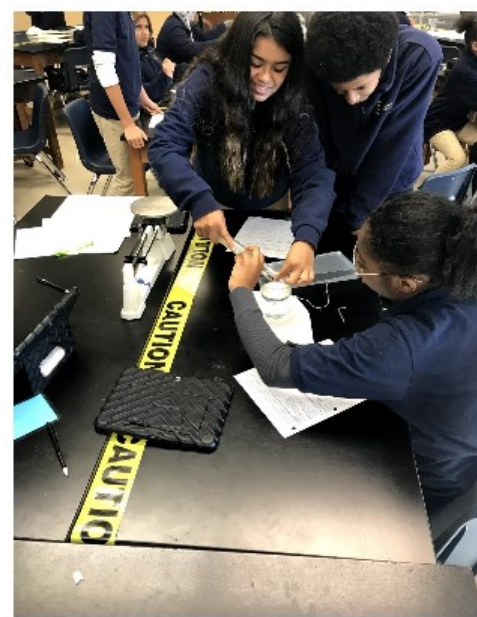
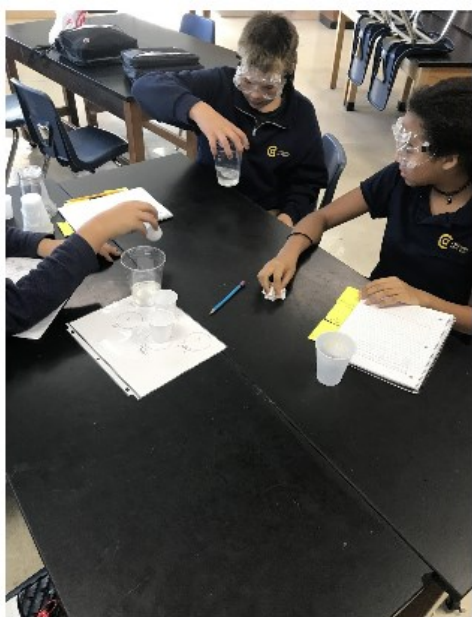
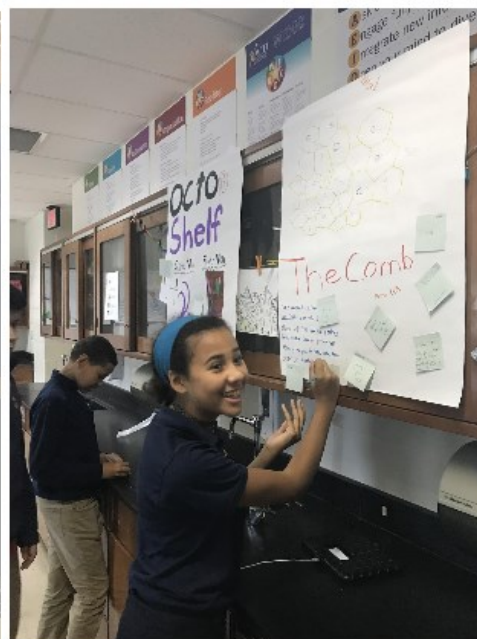
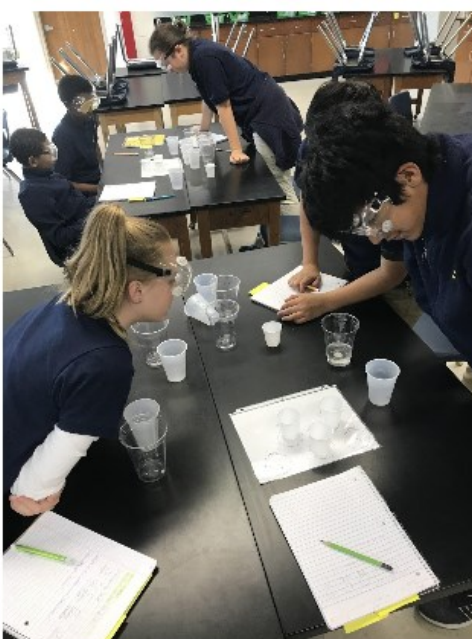
The physical education and health departments stay moving all year long! With three different indoor spaces, outdoor fields and tennis courts, as well as a health classroom, there's always a new activity to get excited about! Student's at CA build their cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and increase flexibility through sports and recreational activities like capture and invasion games as well as team-building activities. 6th and 7th grade students get to experience a water safety unit at the Columbia Heights High School pool. 7th and 8th grade students get to learn how their bodies work in 7th and 8th grade health. In addition, CA offers many opportunities for students to join our athletic teams in grades 7 and 8 including football, soccer, volleyball, tennis, swimming, synchronized swimming, dance, gymnastics, softball, baseball, track, and lacrosse.



Columbia Academy Programs

CA Science and Engineering

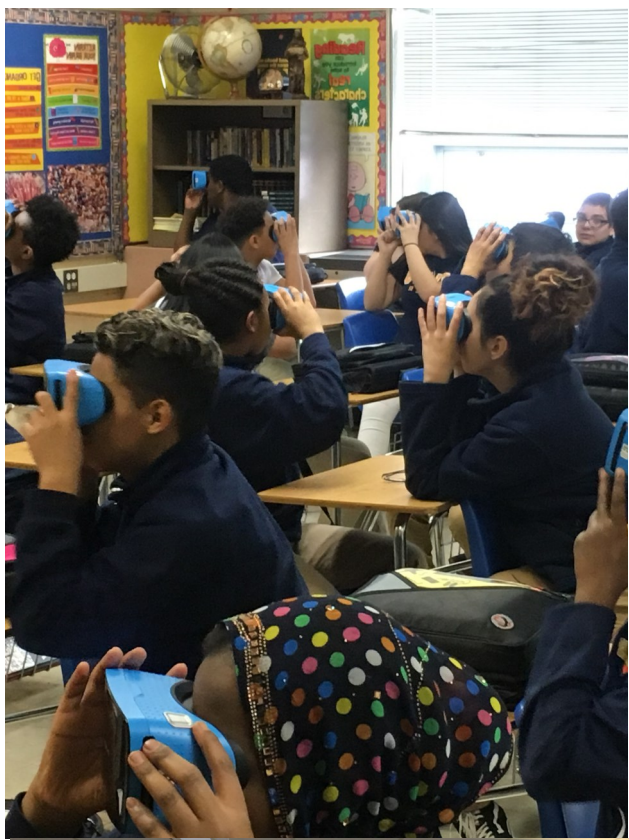
The CA science department is committed to providing ALL students with an authentic, immersive science experience that prepares them for what's ahead. Throughout middle school, students learn science by participating in hands-on activities. Our teachers encourage students to take charge of their learning by using Vernier probeware, 1:1 devices, microscopes, and other lab materials to collect and analyze data. We structure lessons using WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) to ensure students are able to work together and effectively communicate their findings--skills that are necessary for success in high school and beyond.



Columbia Academy Programs

CA Social Studies

In Social Studies, students spend time exploring Minnesota, the United States and the world. In 6th grade we focus on the history of Minnesota including Native American groups, the creation of the MN territory and becoming a state. With an understanding of Minnesota, 7th graders study the history of our country from its founding to the 20th century. In 8th grade we explore other parts of the world including North and South America, Asia and Australia. Many students also have the opportunity to participate in the Minnesota History Day project through researching and presenting on individual topics.



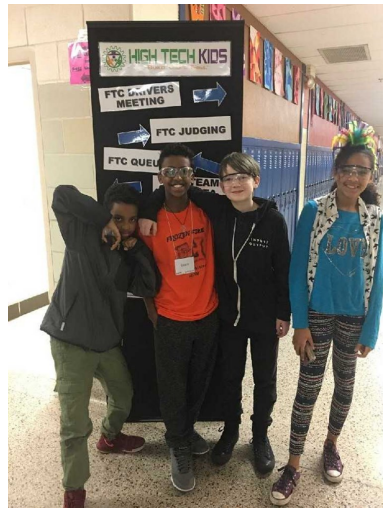
Columbia Academy News

CA Visual and Media Arts

The Visual Arts program at Columbia Academy features an engaging curriculum in the creation of two- and three-dimensional works of art. Students focus on the development of critical thinking skills and creative problem solving in a setting designed to foster imagination and creativity. All students receive a full semester of grade-level Visual Art, as well as the opportunity to take additional elective art classes such as Sculpture, Painting & Drawing and Media Arts. CA students study art history as well as important artists and art movements, with a focus on Modern and Contemporary Art. At CA, students work on fundamental skill development and technical proficiency in a variety of mediums in order to obtain a broad knowledge base in art making.



Columbia Academy Programs



Columbia Academy is a team of students and staff. We believe strongly that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that every student feels valued as a vital member of our CA team. We work for inclusivity in our school by stating often and working hard to make sure that **Columbia Academy is where we all belong**. Here are some specific actions we take to promote this idea:

Uniforms: Uniforms help even out differences in family income and decrease teasing that can occur due to what someone wears.

STAR: Every day students have 20 minutes of Advisory in small groups of students that includes activities that help them connect with each other and with their teacher. It is also where we provide bully prevention lessons and help students gain the skills they need in order to RISE UP.

GSA: Our Gender and Sexualities Alliance provides a safe place for students to find support and it also helps promote respect and understanding while combating bullying.

Team United: The Columbia Academy Team United uses sports to bring together students who may not otherwise meet and form friendships. It promotes kindness, acceptance, and fun.

WEB: Our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders welcome new students to our school including the incoming 6th graders. They provide positive leadership in the school through acts of kindness.

Before and After School activities: Our athletic teams, Encore activities, Robotics, theater, and other activities provide fun ways for students to connect with others and form friendships.