



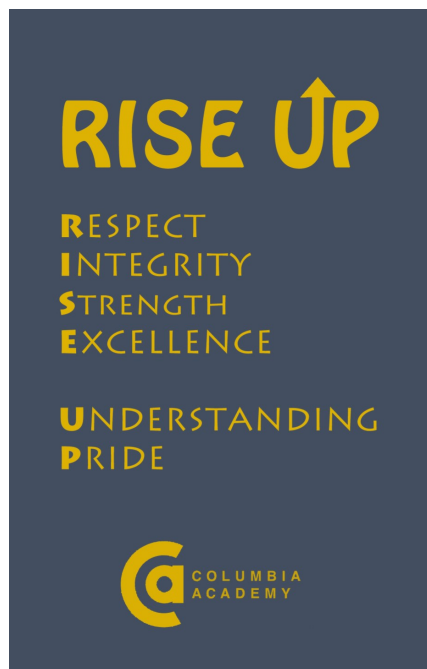
COLUMBIA ACADEMY

Columbia Academy News

October 2016

Here are some of my October highlights from Columbia Academy:

- Parents of over 400 students attended conferences over two nights.
- AVID students presenting information to their parents on the work they are doing and how they are connected to college. These same CA students having the opportunity to visit AVID classrooms at the high school and provide lessons in turn visiting Valley View Elementary student leaders.
- Over 50 students and their parents being recognized with RISE UP awards for the first quarter at our awards breakfast.
- Conversations with students on how they are working together on drama teams, sports teams, and robotic teams to help each other achieve success. Team camaraderie and united effort are life lessons they will take with them!
- CA Dean and Above and Beyond Citizen Award recipient Matthew Miller being honored for his heroism in the 35W bridge disaster.
- Observing classrooms where students are engaged in critical thinking and creativity that is connected to knowledge gained through rigorous reading and writing.



Together we will RISE UP!

Great things happen every day at CA so the list is incomplete. So many great things happening that the lyrics of the Broadway hit musical Alexander Hamilton ring in my mind today: "Rise Up!"

Best,

Principal Berkas

<p>Columbia Academy</p> <p>900 49th Ave NE Columbia Heights, MN 55421 763-528-4700</p> <p>colheights.k12.mn.us/ca</p>	<p>Principal Duane Berkas</p> <p>Assistant Principal John Awsumb</p> <p>Assistant Principal Rick Ostby</p> <p>Dean Matt Miller</p>	<p>OUR MISSION</p> <p>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.</p>
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Columbia Academy News

CA partners with families in fall conferences

Columbia Academy was host to hundreds of students and their families for our recent fall conferences. Teachers were excited to share student growth and progress, and families were happy to receive feedback and give helpful insights to their child's personalities, interests and styles. We encourage parent involvement in their child's education, and please feel free to contact a teacher or administrator here at CA anytime.



It is always a treat to meet our students' families and connect with the community at large at conferences. We have a GREAT community here at CA! Thanks for joining us, and we look forward to having you all back in the spring!

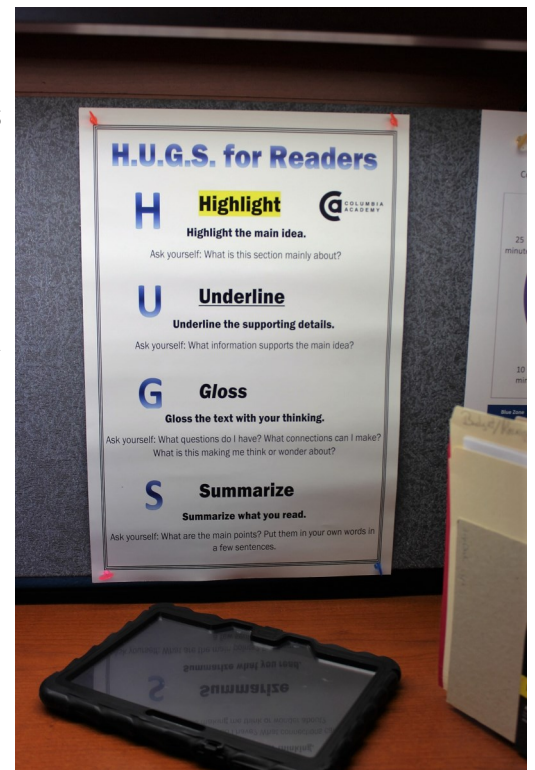
HUGS: Part of every day at CA

We insist on reading at Columbia Academy because it is the foundation for all learning and essential to ensure academic success. All of our classrooms are devoting time and energy into helping all our students become better readers by teaching close reading strategies. Regardless of the subject, expect students to read in all our classrooms and use strategies such as HUGS (Highlight, Underline, Gloss, Summarize) in order to better understand text.

Being able to read and understand grade level text is essential to future success. Building knowledge across content areas provides context for understanding. Our teachers help students gain background knowledge through the teaching of key vocabulary words.

Our Media Specialist works hard to make sure all students also have books they can read in and out of school. We want students to read at least 20 minutes per day.

We insist on reading because it is a great key to a bright future, as well as just plain fun!



Columbia Academy News

Columbia Academy Fall Sports Round UP



By late October, the only teams still competing were boys' bowling and football as well as girls' swimming. Thank you to all the players, coaches, parents and community for supporting a very successful fall sports season that also included girls' tennis, volleyball, and soccer and boys' soccer. We are all fortunate to have comprehensive athletics offerings here at Columbia Heights Public Schools. Our students love to have fans to cheer them on and we are proud of the support they received from their classmates and their families. Thank you! Great job CA athletes and coaches!



Columbia Academy News

Congratulations first quarter RISE UP Award Winners!

Our RISE UP Breakfast was a great way to celebrate the many fine students who grace our hallway every day. Students were accompanied by their parents and received certificates in recognition of their ability to RISE-UP! Pictures were taken with their certificates and they are now prominently displayed in the front hallway of our school. We have amazing students walking the halls of CA!



Columbia Academy News

More of our CA first quarter RISE UP winners!



AVID Update

AVID students had visits from Valley View's 5th grade class, took a field trip to the high school, and hosted a Family Night this past month. In addition, AVID strategies are being used throughout CA across subject areas and all grades, including our elementary schools. Thus, Valley View 5th graders visited CA to meet our AVID students and set academic goals with their peers. Similarly, CA students travelled to CHHS to greet older AVID students, ask questions, and gain information about what it takes to be a high school success. They were also exposed to CHHS students who spoke to their college hopes and dreams. A fine month indeed!



Thank you!

Best Buy has awarded Columbia Academy \$8000 in support of its First Robotics teams. We are grateful for this grant which will help four different teams of students build their robots and compete in the regional competitions. We have a great Robotics team at Columbia

Academy and deeply appreciate the support from Best Buy!



Reminders

This is a reminder that students need to be in uniform every day. As it gets colder, you may want to send money with your child to purchase either a CA sweatshirt (\$20) or fleece (\$25). Pants need to be tan/khaki or blue twill pants. No jeggings, sweat pants, or jeans are allowed. Thank you for your cooperation in making sure your child is dressed for school. Students who are not in uniform are required to change which leads to valuable time being lost for them.

Computers need to be fully charged each night at home! Chargers should not come to school.

Binders should be checked and planners signed each evening!

Important Dates

November 9 Last day of the quarter

November 10,11: No School (District In-Service)

November 14: CA PTO meeting 5:30—6:30

November 16: Aspire Test (8th grade)

November 24, 25: No School (Thanksgiving break)

Parents invited to nominate Columbia Heights Public Schools 2016-2017 Employee of the Year

Columbia Academy parents are invited to nominate a Columbia Academy employee for the 2016 – 2017 Columbia Heights Public Schools' Employee of the Year award. The online nominations are accepted until 4 p.m., Dec. 16, 2016 at www.colheights.k12.mn.us/nominate.

To be eligible, the employee must have served a minimum of three years with the District; be a current employee of CHPS when the nomination is submitted and Employee of the Year announcement is made; and has not been named Employee of the Year before. Nominees will be judged on the following criteria:

Demonstrates a strong work ethic.

Serves as a positive role model for students and staff.

Extends oneself beyond the basics by displaying initiative and creativity.

Contributes significantly to improvements at their work site or within the district.

Demonstrates courage or exemplary performance in an emergency or under unusual difficulties

Demonstrates Heights Pride by displaying a constant care for our students and community.

For additional information, call Lindsey Bennett, Director of Human Resources at 763-528-4421 or by email at bennettl@colheights.k12.mn.us.