

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Summer 2021

Community CONNECTIONS

District News • Community Ed Offerings • Youth Sports • and more!



OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner

"All Belong, All Succeed"



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Community Connections is an official publication of Columbia Heights Public Schools written, edited and produced by the Communications Department.

Director of Community Ed & Communications **Kristen Stuenkel**
Communications Coordinator **Lauryl Grimes**

Community Education Advisory Council

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Hillary Bement | Jesse Davies | Margarita Donayre | Angie Fanning | Janet Kendall | Alix Lewis-Sadrant | Bruce Magnuson |
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If you would like to join the Advisory Council or have any questions, contact Kristen Stuenkel at 763.528.4515.

Community Education Department

1440 49th Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 • 763.528.4517 • colheights.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd • Weekdays, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

The Community Education Office will be closed: May 31 and July 5

Kristen Stuenkel

Community Education & Communications Director
763.528.4515 • StuenkeK@colheights.k12.mn.us

Amáda Márquez Simula

Adult Enrichment/Senior Program Manager
763.528.4591 • SimulaA@colheights.k12.mn.us

Kathleen Moriarty

Metro North ABE Supervisor
763.706.3850 • Kathleen.Moriarty@ahschools.us

Tami Fisher

ENCORE Aquatics Coordinator
FisherT@colheights.k12.mn.us

Jasmine Fink

Community Education Administrative Assistant
763.528.4517 • FinkJ@colheights.k12.mn.us

Jodi Gadiant

Community Education Coordinator
763.528.4512 • GadiantJ@colheights.k12.mn.us

Tiffany Grams Farkas

Early Childhood Manager
763.528.4518 • GramsT@colheights.k12.mn.us

Wes Nugteren

Agriculture Specialist
763.528.4508 • NugtereW@colheights.k12.mn.us

Alexa Zapata

Community Education Clerk
763.528.4517 • ZapataA@colheights.k12.mn.us

















Hello Summer



HEALTHY FROM HOME

Columbia Heights Public Schools creates worlds of opportunity for each and every learner where all belong and all succeed. We support the whole child from academics to mental health and everything in between. Health is more than just physical fitness – we invite you to be **HEALTHY FROM HOME**. Choose activities from the five different categories (fitness, outdoors, nutrition, well-being and creativity) and mark them off as you complete them!

We want to see how you're staying healthy at home! Share your photos and videos with us by using hashtags **#HealthyFromHome** and **#HealthyHylanders** or send them to your teacher for a chance to see your face on District social media! For more ideas on how to stay healthy from home, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/HealthyFromHome.

Fitness	Outdoors	Nutrition	Well-Being	Creativity
Take a stretch break outside!	Go on a nature walk! 	Skip coffee and/or soda for a day! Better yet...make it a week- or month-long challenge!	Take a Community Ed class! Hint: there's LOTS of great offerings in this publication!	Tie-dye something!
Go swimming! 	Plant something and care for it throughout the summer!	 Drink one more glass of water than normal!	Read a book outside!	Leave encouraging messages on the sidewalk with chalk! 
Go for a walk!	Go stargazing! Best accompanied by snacks and cozy blankets! 	Make a smoothie!	Watch the sunrise or sunset! 	Have a dance party!
Play your favorite sport! 	Have a backyard campout!	Try a new recipe that includes at least two vegetables! 	FREE SPACE	Make a work of art using only organic matter (leaves, grass, sticks). 
Create an obstacle course!	Visit a local park! 	Visit a farmers market! Hint: check out the FREE Blooming Heights Produce Market this summer (pg. 5)	Write down 10 things you're grateful for! 	Trace shadows with chalk!
Walk or bike to a place you'd normally drive to! 	Play your favorite board game...outside!	 Make a healthy snack you haven't tried before!	Meditate for 30 minutes!	Find a craft book at the library and try something new! 

Adult Enrichment

All adult enrichment classes for summer 2021 will be held via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Participants must register – even for FREE classes – to ensure the instructor can prepare appropriately and minimum enrollment is met.

SENIORS

Health Care Fraud

Learn to detect Medicare fraud, what to do if you suspect fraud and scams targeting seniors and how to avoid them.

Wednesday July 14 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE

Defensive Driving Refresher

If you've previously taken a state-approved eight-hour Defensive Driving Course (55+), renew your 10 percent car insurance discount by taking this state-approved four-hour refresher course. Senior Discount already applied.

Wednesday June 23 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$30 (1 session)

Wednesday July 21 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$30 (1 session)

Medicare 101

This presentation reviews what is covered by Parts A, B, C and D of Medicare, as well as Medicare supplement options available.

Thursday June 24 6:30-8 p.m. FREE

Defensive Driving | 8-hour Class

If you are 55 or older, save money on your car insurance premiums, and become a better driver! Senior Discount already applied.

Tues/Wed July 27, 28 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$30 (2 sessions)

Tues/Wed Aug. 17, 18 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$30 (2 sessions)

Health Care Directives

Knowledge and resources to create your directive and ensure decisions are based on your values and preferences.

Wednesday July 28 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE

MN Help Network

Learn about the resources and support to help keep you or your loved one living independently as you age.

Thursday Aug. 12 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE

WELLNESS

Yoga

Come explore this ancient exercise system that strengthens the body while calming and focusing the mind.

Tuesdays June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$45 (5 sessions)

Tuesdays July 6, 13, 20, 27 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$36 (4 sessions)

Tuesdays Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$45 (5 sessions)

Outdoor Zumba | IN-PERSON at Muzyn Hall

Take the "work" out of workout! Mix low- and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. This class presented in partnership with the Columbia Heights Recreation Department.

Saturdays June 5, 12, 19, 26 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$36 (4 sessions)

Saturdays July 17, 24, 31 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$27 (3 sessions)

Saturdays Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$36 (4 sessions)



COOKING

Instant Pot Fresh Summer Side Salads

Learn how to prepare a colorful quinoa salad, a french green lentil salad, and an italian cauliflower salad.

Tuesday June 15 6:30-8 p.m. \$20 (1 session)

Instant Pot Main Dish Salads

Learn how to make chicken caprese salad, southwest shrimp and corn salad, and a wild rice greek salad.

Thursday July 8 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$20 (1 session)

TEACH A CLASS ★

Do you have knowledge, ideas or passions you'd like to share with others? **Consider teaching a Community Education class!**

For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/AdultEnrichment or contact Adult Enrichment/Senior Program Manager Amáda Márquez Simula at 763.528.4591 or SimulaA@colheights.k12.mn.us.

Metro North Adult Basic Education

Reading, Writing, Math, GED Preparation

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday-Thursday 6-7:30 p.m.

English as a Second (or other) Language (ESL) | Levels 1-3

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday-Thursday 6-7:30 p.m.

Advanced ESL

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday-Thursday 6-7:30 p.m.

FREE

classes for adults!
Day and evening class
times available.

Adult Education Center — Columbia Heights/Fridley
4111 Central Ave. NE, Suite 100
Columbia Heights, MN

How to Register

To register for classes, call 763.706.3833 or complete the online interest form available at metronorthabe.org and someone will contact you.

Class times may vary.

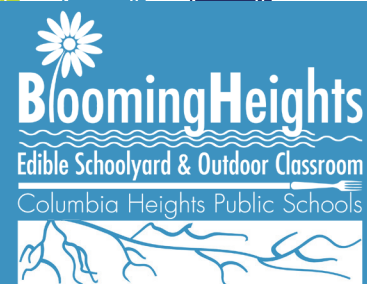
Classes are ONLINE!

POLLINATOR PROGRAMMING

Join the community in celebrating and protecting habitat and food sources for monarch butterflies and all pollinators.

Columbia Heights Public Schools joins the Columbia Heights Mayor's Monarch Pledge in co-hosting pollinator classes and other events all summer long.

Learn more at colheights.k12.mn.us/Pollinators.



Columbia Heights Public Schools is one of Minnesota's only school districts with an outdoor classroom and living laboratory used by educators and students. Blooming Heights is a great place to learn hands-on gardening skills, and to use math, science, literacy, art and nutrition.

Learn more at colheights.k12.mn.us/BloomingHeights.



Garden Party

4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12

Join us for a community celebration at Blooming Heights!
Tour the garden, see what's growing, learn about pollinators, and taste some delicious Blooming Heights fruits and vegetables!

FREE Produce Market

3:30-5:30 p.m. at the District Center

July 21 • July 28 • Aug. 4 • Aug. 11

Come get fresh produce grown right in Blooming Heights!



Youth Sports

Improve your sport specific skills, get conditioned, and build bonds with your team.

Swim & Dive | Grades 7-12

Session 1

Mon-Thurs	June 14-July 1	7:30-9 a.m.	\$30	CHHS Pool
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Session 2

Mon-Thurs	July 12-29	7:30-9 a.m.	\$30	CHHS Pool
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Strength Training | Grades 7-12

M/T/R/F	June 14-Aug. 6 <i>off July 3-9</i>	8-9:30 a.m. or 9:30-11 a.m.	FREE	Hylander Center
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Girls Basketball | Grades 6-12

Mon/Wed	June 14-July 28 <i>off July 3-9</i>	4-6 p.m.	\$30	Hylander Center and CHHS Gym
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Run Club | Grades 6-12

Mon/Wed	June 14-July 31 <i>off July 5, 7, 22</i>	3:30-5 p.m.	\$30	CHHS Track
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CA Football | Grades 6-8

Tues-Thurs	June 15-17	Noon-2 p.m.	\$12.50	CHHS Practice Field
Tues/Thurs	July 27, 29			

Boys Basketball | Grades 6-12

Tues/Thurs	June 15-July 29 <i>off July 6, 8</i>	4-6 p.m.	\$30	Hylander Center and CHHS Gym
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Football | Grades 9-12

Tues-Thurs	June 15-17, July 27	Noon-2 p.m.	\$20	CHHS Practice Field
Thurs	June 24, July 1, 22, 29			
Tues	July 27			

Passing League (included in football program)

Wed	July 14-28	TBD		TBD
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Dance | Grades 7-12

Mon-Thurs	June 21-24	9 a.m.-Noon	\$20	CHHS Dance Studio
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Volleyball | Grades 6-12

Mon/Wed	June 28-July 28 <i>off July 5, 7</i>	12-2 p.m.	\$20	CHHS Gym
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Soccer | Grades 6-12

Mon-Fri	July 12-30	3-5 p.m.	\$30	CHHS Stadium Field
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Lacrosse | Grades 7-12

Mon-Fri	July 19-23	10 a.m.-Noon	\$12.50	CHHS Practice Field
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Students eligible for Educational Benefits (including Free and Reduced price lunch) will receive up to half off the posted price for youth sports camps.

FOR CLASS UPDATES or TO REGISTER
colheights.k12.mn.us/Activities

Columbia Heights Public Schools Expands Youth Sports Offerings

Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) is excited to expand its summer youth sports offerings for students in grades 4-12. Each summer, students are invited to participate in a wide range of activities led by our District coaches and staff.

K-12 Activities Manager Jake Henderson and Community Education Coordinator Jodi Gadiant collaborated on programming to ensure students have opportunities to develop their athletic skills and improve their fitness. Camps are offered for a fee with scholarships available.

“I’m excited for all of our offerings this summer,” said Henderson. “There will be many opportunities to build sport specific skills, get stronger and stay connected this summer.”

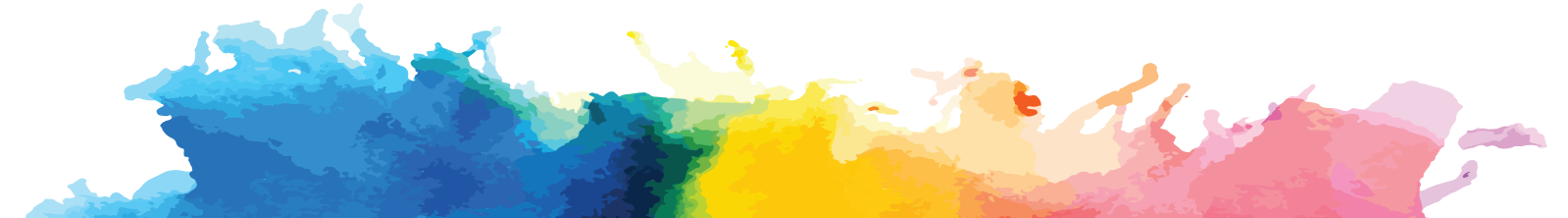
A new addition to this year’s sport camps is the “Run Club.” Other camps include swim & dive, soccer, basketball, football, volleyball, dance and lacrosse. Strength training is also offered to students in grades 7-12 at no cost through the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) grant.

A new offering for younger students is the FREE “Summer Sampler” -- also available through the 21CCLC program.

“The Summer Sampler will give students in grades 4-6 an opportunity to sample sports offered at the secondary level here in CHPS,” said Gadiant. “Participants will spend four days each sampling dance, soccer, football, synchronized swimming, volleyball, basketball, track & field, and swim & dive.”

Henderson described the Sampler as a great opportunity for students to learn fundamentals, skills, and play fun games with high school coaches and student athletes.

The District will continue to follow the most up-to-date COVID-19 safety guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota State High School League.



Summer Sampler | Grades 4-6

An introduction to the sport: fundamentals, skills, and fun games with Hylander Coaches and student athletes.

Register online at colheights.k12.mn.us/Activities.

Mon-Thurs	5-6:30 p.m.	FREE	
Basketball	June 14-17	Hylander Center	
Dance	June 21-24	CHHS Dance Studio	
Soccer	June 28-July 1	CHHS Stadium Field	
Volleyball	July 12-15	Hylander Center	
Football	July 19-22	CHHS Stadium Field	
Track & Field	July 26-29	CHHS Track	
Synchronized Swimming	Aug. 2-5	CHHS Pool	
Swim & Dive	Aug. 9-13	CHHS Pool	

High School Youth Coaching Assistants

We are accepting applications for summer youth assistant coaches in our Youth Summer Sampler Program. Assistant coaches will be hired to work 5-6:30 p.m. for one week this summer. Each week there will be a different sport offered. For more details, or to receive an application, email Community Education Coordinator at Gadiantj@colheights.k12.mn.us. Applicants must have completed grade 9.

Youth Offerings

Driver's Education

Students will receive a total of 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. The classroom portion consists of ten, three-hour classes and the behind-the-wheel portion is three, two-hour private lessons. Pre-registration is required with a \$215 down payment payable to CH Community Education. Classes offered through Safeway Driving School. The additional \$140 is payable to the instructor. Email address **MUST** be included during registration in order to communicate regarding whether class will be held in person or online.

For more information, contact Safeway at 651.351.9150 or visit safewaydrivingschool.com.

The State of Minnesota requires that driver's education distance learning be conducted in a face-to-face platform, which requires that students have a video camera and audio capabilities on their devices. Safeway has chosen a secure Zoom platform to conduct the class. Safeway will email the classroom handouts and MN Driver's Manual in PDF format for printing. Students will be required to be in front of the camera and interactive for the full three-hour class.

Parents/guardians will be required to complete Safeway's Account Verification. Safeway will send out an email before class begins that gives detailed information about how to login to the student's Safeway account to verify and complete contact information and to review and acknowledge our Service Agreement.

Session 1 | via Zoom

Monday-Friday **June 21-July 2** **9 a.m.-Noon**

Session 2 | In-person

Monday-Friday **July 12-23** **9 a.m.-Noon**

The following **MUST** be provided during registration:

- Student full legal name (first, middle and last)
- Home Address
- Parent email addresses
- Student date of birth
- Student email address
- Parent phone numbers



ENCORE offers extended learning opportunities focused on technology, arts, environmental studies, health/fitness and academic support. All class offerings are designed to provide students with the skills they will use to be successful in college and careers.

ENCORE is available to students in grades 1-12 who attend CHPS or live within District boundaries. Columbia Heights Recreation and the Columbia Heights Library are partners in offering ENCORE programming after school, on non-school days and in the summer.

ENCORE Aquatics

ENCORE Aquatics classes are free to CHPS students or students living within District boundaries in grades 3-12. Lessons will be held in the afternoons between 1-5 p.m. in the high school pool for levels 2-5. Registration information will be sent home with students in May.

Session 1

Monday-Friday **June 21-July 1**

Session 2

Monday-Friday **July 5-15**

ENCORE First Aid/CPR/AED Training | Ages 14+

This Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED course incorporates the latest science and teaches students to recognize and care for a variety of first aid emergencies such as burns, cuts, scrapes, sudden illnesses, head, neck, back injuries, heat and cold emergencies, and how to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies to help victims of any age. Students who successfully complete this course will receive a certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years. For more information, visit colheights.k12.m.us/CommunityEd.



Activities & Athletics Recap

Tri Metro All Conference Title Guide

● All Conference ● Honorable Mention

Activities & Athletics looked a little different this year. Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) recognizes the important role activities play in supporting a student socially, emotionally and physically. The District has followed changing guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota State High School League to keep our students and families safe. Programming took many forms: virtual, hybrid and in-person. A virtual coaching option was offered during November and December when activities were not permitted to keep student athletes engaged and ready for the in-person season. CHPS proudly announced live streaming for fans to watch events when in-person spectators were not allowed. Our students, families, coaches, directors and advisors have been incredibly flexible, supportive and innovative through all of the changes this year brought.

William Katchmark signed a Letter of Intent to play Football at North Dakota State College of Science!



Volleyball

Season Record: 3-8

The team had was competitive in conference play and showed real improvement!

- Lilah Bergen
- Sakhia Howard Reynolds
- Ebyan Jama

Girls Swim & Dive

Season Record: 0-7

The girls had a 96 percent time drop at the Section Meet!

- Allison Dickson
- Danielle Dickson
- Mae Skaja
- Madeline Mueller

Girls Tennis

Season Record: 3-8

The team improved throughout the season and defeated a conference rival!

- Kaylie Aquino
- Autumn Rose TwoBears
- Bella Skaja

Football

Season Record: 0-7

The team was grateful for the opportunity to play a season after the postponement.

District Awards:
All District – William Katchmark
All District – Amil Clark
Honorable Mention – Spencer Alvarez
Honorable Mention – Jonathan Hackett
Honorable Mention – Chase Oates
Honorable Mention – Kaleb Lewis
Why We Play Award – William Katchmark

Boys Soccer

Season Record: 5-6-1

The team welcomed Head Coach Hector Leon, former Girls Coach and CHHS alumnus.

- Christian Riera (also All State Nominee)
- Jonathan Robles
- Jason Carpio
- Mohamed Qaid
- Eric Riera

Girls Soccer

Season Record: 1-9-1

The girls were victorious in their first section game.

- Desteny Delgado
- Lidya Kennedy
- Illyssa Inamaga

Robotics

The team is comprised of students from CHPS and St. Anthony this season and saw record participation numbers. Team 18750 "The Lord of the Rings" received the Judge's Award and Team 6708 "Sour Patch Kids" were finalists for the Promote Award at their competition in February. Teams showed growth at the second tournament in early March, however that's where the season ended.

Adapted Soccer

The team improved their skills with Coach Aug and Coach Denzer in a practice season this fall.

Theater

The Columbia Heights High School (CHHS) Theater Department presented the District's first ever virtual theater production performing "Help Desk" by Don Zolidis in January. The cast competed in the section finals, but did not qualify for the state competition.

Students from Columbia Academy and CHHS will team up for a production of "Wizard of Oz" late May.

Math Team

The Math Team competed virtually this season. The virtual setting presented some significant challenges, but shout out to Madyson White, Aldo Cardoso Hilguera, Jamiyang Dolma and Ngawang Nima!

Boys Basketball

Season Record: 12-3

The boys finished as Tri Metro Conference Co-Champions. Muja Burton (#11) scored his 1000th career point this season! The team won their Section quarterfinals, but lost in the Section Semifinals.

- Muja Burton
- Hassen Kamara
- Donnavin Hinsz
- Elijah Williams
- Terrence Brown

Dance

Placed 4th in Tri Metro Conference

The season was interrupted with the shutdown of activities, but the team persevered and received their best scores at Sections.

- Tenzin Dolkar
- Adriana Cardoso
- Abby Schoenbauer
- Libby Schoenbauer

Girls Basketball

Season Record: 5-11

The team welcomed back Head Coach Carol Peterka! The Girls showed growth and competed well after a difficult start to the season in conference play.

- Lilah Bergen
- Sakhia Howard Reynolds
- Saniah Howard Reynolds

Wrestling

Season Record: 3-12

The team welcomed Head Coach Billy Depies this season. Willie Katchmark, Mateo Pena Jones and Finn Rater qualified for State Individual Preliminaries held at Mound Westonka. Willie tied for 5th at the event!

Boys Swim & Dive

Season Record: 1-6

The team had a great Sections Meet – almost everyone dropped time! Zach Severson placed 4th in multiple events.

- Zach Severson
- Ahmed Ait Daoud
- Zack Sirvio

North Park Future Problem Solvers

The team placed fourth among the Junior Novice Teams at the State Tournament.

Speech

The Speech Team impressed this year! At the Tri Metro Conference Meet: Amara Thompson took first place in Creative Expression; Alex Druley took second place in Humorous; Sophie Kuether took first place, Emmanuel Daniel took fourth place, and Olivia Warbler took sixth place in Poetry; and Lily Kleinschmit took second place in Storytelling. At press time, sections had not taken place.

Knowledge Bowl

The Knowledge Bowl Team competed virtually this season. The team of Jesus Romero Rivera and Junnior Lucero advanced to Subregionals!

Gymnastics

Season Record: 4-3

The team is comprised of athletes from CHPS, St. Anthony and Spring Lake Park.

Boys Hockey

Season Record: 1-18

The team is comprised of athletes from CHPS, Irondale, St. Anthony and Fridley.

At press time the following seasons were still in session: baseball, lacrosse, softball, synchronized swimming, track & field, boys tennis, gymnastics and bowling.

For weekly activity updates, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/ActivitiesBlog.



Watch past matches and events at
colheights.k12.mn.us/ActivitiesYouTube

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Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) welcomed back students back for on-site learning in February and March! CHPS celebrates all students whether they did their learning on-site or with Heights From Home distance learning!



North Park School for Innovation

STEM • Creativity • Sustainability



Columbia Heights Public Schools Unveils North Park School for Innovation

A ‘New’ Era for North Park Focused on STEM, Creativity, Sustainability

Columbia Heights Public Schools is proud to unveil North Park School for Innovation, a PreK 4-grade 5 building with a focus on STEM, creativity and sustainability.

“We are thrilled to reintroduce the newly rebranded North Park School for Innovation to the community,” said Superintendent Zena Stenvik. “The process of creating a STEM-focused school was truly a whole community endeavor. We appreciate everyone’s efforts that led us to this moment of celebration. We have established a multi-year implementation plan that includes local partnerships, strong educational foundation and amazing opportunities for students to learn, grow and thrive.”

The comprehensive rebranding efforts came after the school, formerly North Park Elementary, underwent extensive renovations following voter approval of the 2018 Bond Referendum.

The improvements completed addressed the school’s building security and educational needs to be comparable with other schools in the District and area including:

- A secure single point of entry for all visitors.
- School offices located at the new entrance, which provide enhanced security and customer service.
- A separate entrance and exit specifically for buses, separating the buses from the playground, and a new entry/exit and parking lot for other vehicles, enhancing the safety and security of daily activities at the school.
- Updated early childhood and kindergarten space that facilitate innovative hands-on learning programs.
- Improved learning spaces for science, art, media arts and a school library.
- Improved learning spaces to support our students receiving Special Education programming.
- The cafeteria separated from the gymnasium.

A 30-person, Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Force – made up of parents, students, North Park teachers and staff, District staff and representatives from Highland Elementary, Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy – was assembled in 2019 to review and analyze data for various school models. The Task Force reviewed each of the following models, including the number of such schools in the metro area, and their success and demographics: Environmental Science, Montessori, Spanish Immersion, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and the option to maintain a traditional school.

The Task Force made their formal recommendation to redefine North Park as a STEM school to the School Board last June. Curriculum is aligned to coursework at Columbia Academy and Columbia Heights High School.

As part of North Park’s reimagination, stakeholders constructed five guiding principle statements that help illustrate the school’s new identity:

- Our learners unlock their potential through a strong academic foundation.
- Our learners use science and the design thinking process to develop new solutions.
- Our learners create an environmentally-sustainable community.
- Our learners discover their passion through creativity.
- Our learners see challenges as an opportunity for growth.

“If you had to pick one word [to best describe] North Park, it is ‘innovation,’” said Principal Jeff Cacek. “Whether it’s the development of the learning studio, fully committing to creating an environmentally sustainable building and community, or personalizing everything we do for each of our students there are always a common denominator: developing innovators in an era and economy where it is essential to our students having successful lives.”

North Park Parent Degha Shabbeleh says there are so many things that make [North Park] their number one choice.

“The school is designed like [tech company’s] headquarters, preparing our students for the world ahead of them,” Shabbeleh said. “[I’ve seen] growth in my student’s communications skills because they are taught to collaborate with one another in the classroom. The teachers are wonderful, well-trained and caring! The idea that every child learns at their pace and succeeds is in the heart of the teachers, educational assistants and other support staff.”

North Park School for Innovation is enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year now! Enroll your student today at colheights.k12.mn.us/Enroll.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, contact the school at 763-528-4300 or visit colheights.k12.mn.us/NorthPark. A grand opening event is tentatively scheduled for August 2021.

Columbia Heights High School Student Wins State Poetry Out Loud Competition

Columbia Heights High School (CHHS) ENCORE Poetry Club Sophomore Sophie Kuether won first place in the state Poetry Out Loud competition – a nationwide poetry recitation contest.

Kuether recited “April Love” by Ernest Dowson, “To Have Without Holding” by Marge Piercy and “I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently” by Edna St. Vincent Millay. Her win was announced at a virtual awards ceremony Thursday, March 11 via Zoom hosted by South Central Service Cooperative. Just ten students were chosen from across the state to compete virtually. CHHS was the only school who had more than one student advance to the state competition. Junior Danquyen Le also competed.

“When I found out I won the state competition, I think my house probably starting shaking because I was screaming so loud and jumping all around,” said Kuether about her win. “I chose my pieces because they felt like they had the raw emotion about the different ways love can make you feel.”

Chris Polley, who leads the ENCORE Poetry Club says he’s incredibly proud of Sophie and all the CHHS students in Poetry Club that competed in the competition this year.

“Having a student become a state champion during the pandemic is a testament to the coping powers of poetry and the supportive community we formed this year to discuss and share poetry with each other,” he said. “I wish Sophie the best of luck at the national competition and I’m excited to see her represent our school and city as well as the state of Minnesota alongside the other 51 state winners.”

“The thing I like most about poetry is the different interpretations and reads you can get off of just one piece,” Kuether noted. “I have been working with three poems for a few months now and I still feel like I’m finding out new things about them. My pages of poetry are completely scribbled on in the margins as I discover new things about these complicated pieces, and yet they were still as beautiful as the first time I read them.”

The virtual nature of this year’s competition required students to create and submit video recordings of their recitations instead of performing them live. Students had to pick two poems from the Poetry Out Loud website: one poem had to be published before 1900, and the other had to be 25 lines or fewer. One of the poems could satisfy both requirements.

View the recorded state competition including Kuether’s recitation of “April Love” by Ernest Dowson at colheights.k12.mn.us/2021PoetryOutLoud.

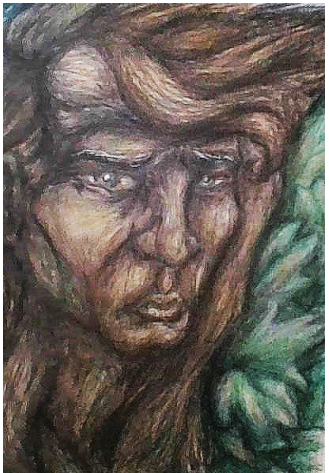
Columbia Academy Students Take Home First- and Second-Place in Youth Art Month

Two Columbia Academy (CA) eighth-grade students Mae Skaja and Sailor Sandvik were recognized this week for their outstanding artwork in the annual Youth Art Month (YAM) sponsored by Art Educators of Minnesota (AEM). This state-wide art exhibition emphasizes the value of art education for all children, encourages support for quality school art programs, and promotes art material safety. This year’s theme was “Art Connects Us.”

In the Middle Level Exhibition, Skaja’s watercolor landscape titled “Forest Landscape” (top) was awarded first place and Sandvik’s colored pencil drawing titled “Green Man” (bottom) was awarded second place.

“Mae and Sailor are among the most talented, thoughtful and humble young art students I have ever had the privilege of teaching in my 17 years in Columbia Heights,” said CA Art Teacher Arnie Hamel. “They both have a great passion for art, and while they appreciate the recognition, they really don’t seek it out. They both make art solely for the art itself.”

The Virtual YAM Show will premiered in March on the AEM website at aem-mn.org. Gift cards, ribbons and certificates were mailed to students who placed in the show.



Columbia Heights Public Schools Offers Summer Meal Program

Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) is excited to announce its participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) summer food programs. The USDA announced early March they would extend their summer food programs to allow all children to continue to receive FREE nutritious meals this summer when schools are out of session.

Columbia Heights Public Schools will begin summer meal delivery June 14 at various locations around the community. Summer meal service is available to all children age 18 and younger and persons over age 18 with mental or physical disabilities without charge. Meals will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and to find a food site near you, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/FoodServices.



ENROLL NOW in Columbia Heights Public Schools

¡INSCRÍBETE AHORA en las Escuelas Públicas de Columbia Heights!

Columbia Heights Public Schools is a small, diverse school district providing students with the skills, knowledge, tools and support they need to excel both in and out of the classroom. We are committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities, so all learners can develop to their full potential.

Become a Hylander today!

ENROLL NOW >

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Child Care

Summer Adventure Club | Kindergarten-Grade 5

Adventure Club programming facilitates a variety of activities to promote learning beyond the classroom including arts & crafts, swimming, dramatic play, time in the Blooming Heights Edible Schoolyard & Outdoor Classroom and more! Adventure Club also has two Reading Corps members to help students with literacy development throughout the summer.

Hours, Dates & Location

7 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays, June 14-Aug. 27 at the Family Center.

Fees

\$45 per day (includes meals and activities)

+ \$25 registration fee (only for families not enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year)

**Fee assistance may be available through Anoka, Ramsey or Hennepin County Child Care Assistance Programs. Contact your county for details.*

Learn More

For more information including fees or to register visit colheights.k12.mn.us/ACregister or call 763.528.4517.



Mini Adventures | 36 Months-5 Years Old

In Mini Adventures, your child will participate in a variety of activities including math, guided group time, literacy, dramatic play, music, games, outdoor play, arts & crafts, movement and more! Early Childhood Screening is required for all participants.

Hours, Dates, Location & Fees

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, year-round. Cost is \$290 per week (5 days) per child. Breakfast, lunch and snack included in weekly fee.

Programming held at Columbia Heights Public Schools Family Center, 1460 49th Ave. NE, Columbia Heights. No programming on days

Columbia Heights Public Schools District Offices are closed.

**Fee assistance may be available through Anoka, Ramsey or Hennepin County Child Care Assistance Programs. Contact your county for details.*



Learn More

For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/Mini or call 763.528.4517.

Aligned with the Minnesota Department of Health and Department of Human Services guidelines.

Early Childhood

Register now for the 2021-2022 school year. For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/EC.

ECFE

Nature Fun Outdoor Class | 1-5 years*

Learn about nature and explore different activities including planting seeds, pollinators, berries, vegetables, worms, insects, examine the growing process and more! Parents will separate for half of the class for discussion about ways to support and engage their child in outdoor/nature activities. Class offered in partnership with Blooming Heights Edible Schoolyard & Outdoor Classroom.

Wednesdays June 16-July 28 9-10:15 a.m. Family Center \$35 per child

**children under the age of 12 months stay with their parents the entire class time.*

Summer Fun Outdoor Class | 1-5 years*

Enjoy summer fun outdoors with exploring different topics and activities. Parents will separate for half of the class for discussion about ways to support and engage their child over the summer. Pick and choose which sessions to attend or attend all!

**Wednesdays June 16-July 28 10:45-11:45 a.m. Family Center \$5 per child per session
OR \$35 per child for all sessions**

**children under the age of 12 months stay with their parents the entire class time.*

- June 16 Nature Exploration**
- June 23 Sensory Materials**
- June 30 Gardening/Planting**
- July 7 Create Art**
- July 14 Bugs & Insects**
- July 21 Musical Experiences**
- July 28 Water Fun**



Nature-Based 3s | Birthdates Sept. 2, 2016-Jan. 15, 2018

Your three-year-old will discover different types of seeds, pollinators, insects, examine the growing process and more! Daily activities include a nature walk, free exploration, a Blooming Heights activity, story, snack and journaling. Classes will take place rain or shine and children will be expected to have the appropriate outdoor gear. The first and last day of the classes will be with parents and include time with your child and our parent educator. Class offered in partnership with Blooming Heights Edible Schoolyard & Outdoor Classroom.

Tues/Thurs June 15-July 29 9-11 a.m. Family Center Fee based on sliding scale below.

\$20 (\$0-11,000)	\$39 (\$11,001-20,000)	\$59 (\$20,001-30,000)	\$78 (\$30,001-40,000)	\$98 (\$40,001-50,000)	\$126 (\$50,001+)
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Early Childhood Screening

Promote positive health and development outcomes and kindergarten readiness. During screening, your child’s speech, motor and cognitive skills are reviewed. Your child will have their height, weight, vision and hearing checked. You will participate in a summary interview to review the screening process, social and emotional skills, and discuss any concerns you may have. Screenings last approximately 60 minutes. Call 763.528.4517 to schedule an appointment.

Mon/Aug. 16
11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tues/Aug. 17
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wed/Aug. 18
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Join the Early Childhood Advisory Council

Serving on this council is an opportunity to provide input and feedback, develop leadership skills, create new friendships and support from other members, and have FUN! Participants also receive one FREE Early Childhood Drop-In Pass.

This advisory council meets monthly to provide input and feedback about programming and community needs, plan events and to fundraise for classroom materials. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are held virtually. For more information, or to join, call 763.528.4517.

Are you in the school census?

Being in the census ensures that you will receive all of the District's early childhood mailings, receive notification of early childhood screening opportunities, and receive PreK and Kindergarten information when your child is eligible to attend. If you've recently had a baby, moved or did not receive this catalog in the mail, contact the Community Education office at 763.528.4518.

One-to-One Parent Visits

Columbia Heights Public Schools offers free one-to-one parent visits after the birth or adoption of a new child or for parents who simply have questions about their child's development. During these visits, a licensed parent educator will provide developmental, behavioral and social emotional support to all families in person, by email, or by phone day and evening. Call 763.528.4546 for more information.

PreK

Register now!
Space available in PreK 3 and PreK 4 for the 2021-2022 school year!

PreK 3 | 3 years old by Sept. 1

PreK 3 prepares children for lifelong success! PreK 3 curriculum is aligned with PreK 4 and Minnesota Early Learning Standards. Classes are taught by licensed early childhood education teachers and administered by Columbia Heights Public Schools Community Education. Early Childhood Screening is required for all PreK 3 students. Transportation is not available for 3-year-old programming. For more information, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/PreK3.

Monthly tuition is based on a sliding fee scale. Financial assistance may be available to families who qualify.

Mon/Wed/Fri	\$22 (\$0-11,000)	\$42 (\$11,001-20,000)	\$62 (\$20,001-30,000)	\$84 (\$30,001-40,000)	\$105 (\$40,001-50,000)	\$135 (\$50,001+)
Tues/Thurs	\$14 (\$0-11,000)	\$28 (\$11,001-20,000)	\$42 (\$20,001-30,000)	\$56 (\$30,001-40,000)	\$70 (\$40,001-50,000)	\$90 (\$50,001+)
Mon/Wed/Fri	8:15-10:45 a.m.	FC Room 112	Tues/Thurs	8:15-10:45 a.m.	FC Room 112	
	11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	FC Room 112		11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	FC Room 112	



FREE PreK 4 | 4 years old by Sept. 1

PreK 4 provides an engaging and educational environment to prepare your child for Kindergarten. Classes are taught by licensed early childhood education teachers and administered by Columbia Heights Public Schools. Curriculum is aligned with the Kindergarten curriculum and the Minnesota Early Learning Standards. Bussing is provided for PreK 4 families who live within District boundaries. Early Childhood Screening is required for all PreK 4 students. Classes are held Monday-Friday at Highland, North Park and Valley View. Distance learning option available.

Mornings	7:55-10:25 am.	Afternoons	11:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	Full Day*	7:55 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
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To register your student for PreK 4, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/Enroll or visit the Placement Center. Programming subject to change based on guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Registration Information

**Now enrolling for
PreK 4 2021-2022!**

For more information on Community Education Registration, including class eligibility and policies, visit colheights.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd or call 763.528.4515. To register for Mini Adventures, call 763.528.4517. To register for PreK 4, visit the Placement Center or call 763.528.4426.



Columbia Heights Public School District #13
1440 49th Ave. NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421-1939

Find Us Online

Website colheights.k12.mn.us

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