



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

SPECIAL SUMMER
ADMINISTRATIVE
EDITION

Summer 2018

Important Dates:

July 30th- Aug 3:

Summer Camp

Focus: Patent Pending

Aug 13-Aug 24:

Summer Camp

Focus: Air & Space

Aug 13:

Fall Sport Practices begin for:

HS Volleyball

HS Soccer

HS Cross-Country

Aug 30:

Parent Orientation:

Elementary

Aug 30:

Back to School Night:

MS Students and Parents

Sept 5:

First Day of School

Sept 6:

Parent Orientation:

HS Parents

Sept 14:

Back to School BBQ

Sept 20:

Picture Day

Sept 28:

Jog-A-Thon

[See full Columbia Calendar](#)



Dear Columbia Family,

Please join us on *The Way Forward* as Columbia Christian School embarks on a new chapter of its vision of excellence in faith, character, and academics.

When students return to school in September, they will find many changes as the board, administration, and faculty seek to move forward on our strategic plan, taking our commitments to the next level.

Over the past year, we have taken an in-depth look at Columbia, everything from textbooks and curriculum to teacher salaries and financial resources, from graduation requirements and achievement scores to admission policies and Christian integration practices, and much more.

As a result, we are taking important steps toward a long-range goal to become the best possible Christian school, one that sets rigorous academic standards and enables students to achieve them, that provides robust student support and a loving and Christ-centered environment, that fully integrates the biblical worldview into all curriculum and activities, that builds biblical character in all students, that recruits and retains excellent teachers, and that continues to be affordable for average-income families.

The articles in this issue will focus on each of the significant steps we are taking in the 2018-19 school year. Piloting a new achievement testing system last spring was a springboard for many of these changes. This new system, that will enable us to target and address student academic needs in real time, is highlighted in one of these articles.

Other immediate changes featured in this issue include:

- Intensive teacher training for integration of biblical worldview
- A reorganized administrative structure and other personnel changes
- New office locations for administrators
- New Advanced Placement and college credit classes
- Other steps toward stronger academic achievement at all levels
- A new home for Middle School and all Elementary inside the Outlaw Center
- Expansion of the Fine Arts Program with a fulltime choir/drama teacher
- Staggered morning arrival times for traffic safety and a zero morning period for high school

Marquita Moss
Marquita Moss, President

Biblical Wordview Integration

Project 117

Demonstrating Columbia's commitment to helping students develop a biblical worldview and a desire for the Kingdom of God, the faculty and administration is undergoing intensive training in biblical integration this summer.

With a grant from the Northwest Endowment Fund, Columbia launched Project 117 last spring, a 3-year plan to enhance faculty focus on equipping students to live out their faith in a world filled with non-Christian alternatives. Project 117 is led by Paul Fisher, dean of Harding Academy in Memphis, and Columbia president Marquita Moss.

The project began in April with a 7-week video series entitled *re:View* designed to equip Christians to discern and engage contemporary culture from a Christ-centered perspective. This summer the faculty and administration are collaborating through Google Classroom as they read *Hidden Worldviews*, eight of the most common worldviews that compete with Christianity for the hearts of children, and *Introduction to Christian Worldview: Pursuing God's Perspective in a Pluralistic World*.

Project 117 is based on Colossians 1:17, which affirms that God "existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."



Map Growth: New Testing

Columbia is launching a new achievement testing program that goes beyond a single snapshot of a student's learning progress.

MAP Growth (Measure of Academic Progress), provides students with a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures their academic performance. Originally designed by active practitioners, MAP provides teachers with a comprehensive tool to determine student progress and adjust teaching to targeted needs throughout the year.

"This new assessment tool will better inform teachers and support student growth and achievement," Principal Ami Vensel explained. She said that students will be tested fall, winter, and spring next year.

Because MAP is a computerized adaptive test, the process takes much less time than traditional pencil and booklet achievement testing and is more

effective in providing information on student learning progress. Teachers and administrators will get immediate feedback, both to aid individual student progress and to inform administrative and faculty decisions on such things as curriculum and textbook effectiveness.

Moving to a new testing system was precipitated in part by the breakdown in service and late results from the prior testing company.

Last spring's pilot testing with MAP, before official adoption, was designed to provide training in a different type of assessment and to assure validity of results going forward.

One dimension of the school's three-year faculty development plan initiated this summer, provides training in using the testing data to support instruction. With measurable results, Columbia can anticipate and meet student needs.



Online School Reviews



Alumni and Parents: Did you enjoy your time at Columbia Christian School? Prospective families are looking at the following sites, and your feedback could help match them to an excellent education and a caring community. Please choose one below and leave a review.

[YELP](#)

[Niche.com](#)

[Great Schools](#)

[Private School Review](#)

[Facebook](#)

Google:

Google "Columbia Christian School," and add a review through the menu on the right.

Refer a Family

Do you know of other families who should know about our school? Right now if you refer a family who tours and applies to Columbia, the school is giving away a zipped hoodie with embroidered logo on the chest, available in any size. One per family. The new family should call Carrie Rude in Admissions to schedule a tour, 503-252-8577.



Athletics

Columbia is excited to share the following opportunities for students to participate in athletics this fall:

HIGH SCHOOL

Cross Country (co-ed)

- boys and girls in 9th-12th grade are invited to participate
- CCS is in the 2A/1A Special District 3 League
- register now in Family ID: [click here](#)
- practice begins Aug. 13 and the season runs through Oct. 30
- coach: Kevin Yaws, kevyaws@gmail.com

Soccer (co-ed)

- boys and girls in 9th-12th grade are invited to participate
- CCS is in the 1A Special District 7 League
- register now in Family ID: [click here](#)
- practice begins Aug. 13 and the season runs through Oct. 30
- coach: Sid Astin, sastin@columbiachristian.com

Volleyball (girls)

- girls in 9th-12th grade are invited to participate
- CCS is in the 2A Northwest League
- register now in Family ID: [click here](#)
- tryouts begin Aug. 1 and the season runs through Oct. 30
- coach: Kristi White, kwhite@columbiachristian.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Soccer (co-ed)

- boys and girls in 6th-8th grade are invited to participate
- CCS is in the Metro Christian League
- registration will open in August
- practice begins Aug. 27 and the season runs through Oct. 25
- coach: TBA

Volleyball (girls)

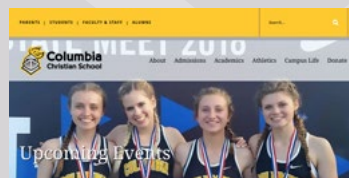
- girls in 7th and 8th grade are invited to participate
- CCS is in the Metro Christian League
- registration will open in August
- practice begins Aug. 27 and the season runs through Oct. 25
- coach: Angela Damonte, damonte.angela@gmail.com

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Volleyball (girls)

- girls in 5th and 6th grade are invited to participate
- CCS is in the Metro Christian League
- registration will open in August
- practice begins Aug. 27 and the season runs through Oct. 25
- coach: John Rawson, jrawson@columbiachristian.com

Athletics Website Update: Currently, the Athletics website is being converted to the school website, columbiachristian.com. Families will be notified in August when the transition is completed.



Middle School's New Home

Columbia Middle School teachers are realizing a dream this fall, and this means good news for the elementary school, too.

Middle school teachers and students alike have long wished for a "home" of their own to recognize the special years between elementary school and high school and provide a nurturing environment for growing maturity, Principal Ami Vensel explained.

Mrs. Vensel and middle school teachers collaborated with elementary teachers last spring in efforts to create a solution. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are taking over the portable classrooms behind the Outlaw Center, where teachers will create a "Commons" in the fourth classroom for middle school lockers, class meetings, and socializing.

Short of getting a new building, which remains on the wish list, the middle grades now have space to grow and claim a more mature identity.

Planning is underway for special events, including a Color Run, Christmas Party, Lock-in, and trip to the park in the fall. Service

projects will include a canned food drive, a winter clothing drive, a "penny war," and fundraising for the history class trip to Washington DC next summer.

The outside courtyard area of the Outlaw Center is now designated for middle school activities, leaving the playground to the elementary school. The former preschool classroom is being converted to an activity room for elementary, especially helpful on rainy days.

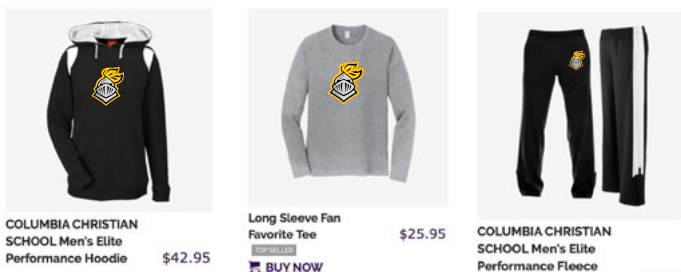
First and second grades will join third, fourth, and fifth grades inside the Outlaw Center, making it easier for small children to go down the hall to the office, library, or restrooms, rather than traveling outdoors.

Every teacher in elementary is also moving locations, and the whole building is alive with activity as teachers and volunteers work together to move furniture, paint walls, and sift through materials to create a

sense of renewal and excitement for the year ahead.



Apparel Store



An online apparel store will launch in Aug. 2018 where parents, students, and fans can order school-branded apparel. Items in the store **will be the only athletic-style apparel approved for students to wear during the school day**, as we have carefully selected items that meet handbook requirements.

Auction: Spring 2019



The next Columbia Christian Auction is planned for **April 6, 2019**. More information will be available soon. Please save the date for our 26th annual event.

AP/College Credits & New Start Times



Liz Wetzler

Jake Kopra



Bart Valentine



Karen Banducci



Troy Wagner



Clara Brandt

Columbia students will have more opportunity than ever before to earn college credit in high school, and new staggered start times, to enhance student safety, also will permit the addition of a zero period for enhanced high school course scheduling.

Beginning this fall, Columbia will offer Advanced Placement Literature for the first time and will reintroduce AP U.S. History, last offered in 2014-15. English teacher Liz Wetzler and History teacher Jake Kopra both attended training for certification to teach the AP courses.

Columbia also is expanding its concurrent college credit partnership agreements with Oklahoma Christian University, Abilene Christian University, Lipscomb University, and Northwest Nazarene University, High School Assistant Dean Troy Wagner announced.

Concurrent classes to be offered this fall include College Algebra taught by Bart Valentine, General Psychology taught by Karen Banducci, and Gospel of Matthew taught by Troy Wagner.

The new zero period at 7:30 a.m. will permit initiation of a full Anatomy Lab class with new science teacher Clara Brandt. Mrs. Brandt, who has five years of experience as a science teacher, is dual-licensed in science and mathematics. She holds a Master's in Teaching Physics from Washington Western Governors University and a Bachelor's in Education, with minors in science, mathematics, and theology, from Valparaiso University.

Staggered Arrival Times

Initiated as a result of concerns about early morning traffic raised by members of the Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF), new scheduling will allow PK-5 students to arrive at 8 a.m., middle school students to arrive at 8:15 a.m., and high school students to arrive at 8:25 a.m.

As in the past, [Extended Day](#) options are available for full-day students K-8th grade. To further assist families, Principal Ami Vensel has made provisions for students from families with children in more than one grade level to arrive at 8 a.m. Middle school students can go to their new Commons, and high school students may continue to gather at the café in the Johnson Student Center.

In addition to Anatomy, Intermediate Band will be offered at the zero period to enable students to have more fine arts options while enrolled in a full academic program.

2018-2019 Staggered Arrivals & Departures

8:00am-3:00pm

PK-5th Grade

8:15am-3:15pm

Middle School

8:25am-3:15pm

High School

7:30am*

Zero Period, Middle & High School Only

*Select classes only, optional for middle and high school students

IMPORTANT!
PLEASE
NOTE
CHANGES

Fine Arts Growing at CCS

Drawing on its deep choral roots, Columbia is expanding into a full-fledged music and choir program next year, rounding out its current fine arts offerings in band, art, and drama.

Drama Director Danielle Valentine is moving to full time as middle and high school Choir Director and 3-5 grade music teacher. She will continue the drama program for grades 6-12.

Extended Day Director Jan Farnsworth, a music teacher before coming to Columbia, will build a foundation for growing the music department by beginning music classes for kindergarten through second grade. She has Bachelor's degrees in Music/Vocal Performance, as well as Speech Pathology, and a Texas teaching certificate in Music and Theater.

The K-2 program will focus on music theory and expression, singing, playing simple instruments, creative movement, and the science of sounds, culminating in periodic children's music productions.

"I'm thrilled to have these two talented teachers come on board to build our music program," Ami Vensel, principal, said.

"The musical directed by Mrs. Valentine last spring convinced all of us that she is talented in both drama and music," school president Marquita Moss said. "She has the expertise to build on the success of Kendra Johnson in prior productions."

Previously Valentine served as Theater and Music Instructor at Oregon Children's Theater and served as Instructor of Music and Theater at Childsworld Learning Center. She holds two Bachelor's degrees, one in Music and one in Human Development with education emphasis.

Choral music, especially acapella hymns, was a strong dimension of the school's early decades, and both Columbia Christian College and Cascade College benefitted from that foundation. Reclaiming that early heritage, Columbia plans to build a strong choral music program.

Kevin Denton, who previously led both choir and band, will focus on the beginning, intermediate, and high school band program, and Kim Yeager will continue to teach all-level art classes.

MRS. VALENTINE OUTLINES NEW COURSES

"The new secondary choir program will focus on basic principles of music theory, ensemble and individual music skills, and memorizing and performing music," Mrs. Valentine said.

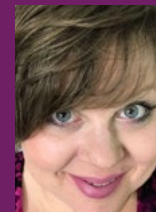
High school drama includes principles of movement and voice, role development, improvisation and group work, scene rehearsal, and preparation for planning and presenting performances.

Middle school drama focuses on basics of theater and movement, ensemble building, and improvisation, with the possibility of an optional performance.

Elementary music includes an introduction to music and singing, learning rhythm, musical games, and a possible performance.



Valentine



Farnsworth

Administrative Changes & Reorganization

Important changes are in store for 2018-2019. Troy Wagner and Pearl Howarth are moving into new positions as Assistant Deans, Principal Ami Vensel's office is moving into Sanders Hall, and new offices are being completed for Admissions and Development as part of the school's way forward toward its goal of excellence in faith, character, and academics.

Wagner, formerly Director of Student Life, and Howarth, formerly Early Childhood and Extended Care Director, will have increased responsibility for initiatives aimed at increasing academic rigor and supporting faculty in teaching from the biblical worldview.

Providing full-time academic support for students next year will be Angela Poole, who is moving from second grade teacher to a new position as Learning Specialist with an office in the Outlaw Center. Poole received her Master's of Education with Special Education and Reading endorsement from Lewis & Clark College. She also has her Oregon Professional Teaching License with the following endorsements: Elementary-multiple subjects, Special Education-generalist for PK-12, and Reading Intervention for PK-12.

Along with general shifts of office locations and administrative/staff responsibilities, Columbia has adopted a faculty salary scale that increases rates for teachers with a bachelor's degree from 54% of Portland Public Schools to 70% on average.

Achieving a long-sought goal of significant faculty pay increases, necessary to hire and retain highly qualified faculty, without a steep tuition increase required reduction of faculty and staff positions to the numbers needed to serve Columbia's current enrollment.

Retaining one of the lowest tuition rates in the area and with a significant portion of the student body on some level of financial aid, the board chose to increase tuition only as much as required to meet other cost increases.

As part of moving the school's address to its Burnside border to be more accessible for visitors and prospective families, a previously unused area on the first floor of Sanders is opening this summer near the east entry for the Admissions and Development Offices.

Christy Barrett, formerly Assistant Early Childhood and Extended Care Director, will be the new Administrative Assistant for the Outlaw Center.

"Along with general shifts of office locations and administrative/staff responsibilities, Columbia has adopted a faculty salary scale that increases rates for teachers with a bachelor's degree from 54% of Portland Public Schools to 70% on average."



Summer Camps: Two Sessions Left!

Camp Hours
8:30AM-3:30PM

Who:
1st-6th Graders

Cost:
2-WEEK: \$250
1 WEEK: \$150
DAILY: \$40
FIELD TRIP: \$5-\$8

What to expect:
The program will include field trips & other fun outdoor activities. Students will need to bring their own lunches and a daily snack will be provided.

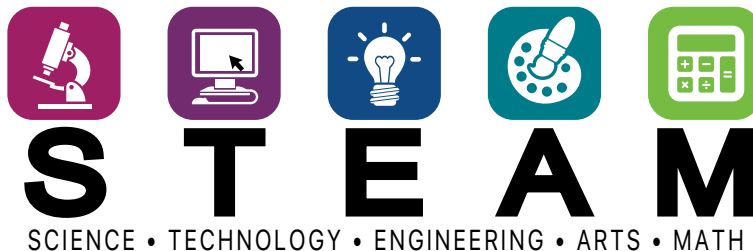
Registration:
503-252-8577

July 30-August 3: Patent Pending: Inventions! (2nd Week)

The Patent Pending Summer Camp is underway and it's **not too late** to sign up your kids to begin inventing. At this camp, children will create, design, invent, and more! They will start by learning about the design process and brainstorming ideas for their very own inventions and designs. Then they'll go to work drawing, building, trying it out, and trying again. They will dabble in different fields of design such as electricity, fashion, helping ecosystems, and more. There is no wrong way when it comes to new inventions. Come for a week of discovery and a good time!

August 13-August 24: Air & Space

Looking for a way to catch some air this summer? Do you love making things fly? Columbia Christian Summer Camp will be taking things up in the air and exploring the universe beyond the clouds as they get "Ready for Take-Off"! Participants will enjoy learning all about what makes things fly and what exists beyond the planet they call home. Join the crew as they shoot rockets, fly planes, explore the solar system, and more!



Volleyball Camp

August 27-30
4pm-7pm
Grades 5-8
Columbia Gym

\$25 (Pay to school office
before 1st day of camp)

Coach: Kristi White

Asst. Coach: Natalie Bishop

[Register Here](#)

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