



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

**Back to
SCHOOL!**

August 2019

Meet the “New” Administrative Team



When doors open for a new school year in September, students will be greeted by a new president and a new principal – but both are well-loved, well-known, and long-standing members of the Columbia Community.

Before school starts, the school board, area ministers, and church leaders will dedicate Mrs. Ami Vensel as the new President and Mr. Joel Davis as the new Principal during the annual faculty and staff consecration service.

Mrs. Vensel has served Columbia as Principal for the past six years and as second grade teacher for 10 years before that. Mr. Davis has served Columbia in a variety of roles over the past 28 years, most recently as Dean.

“Christian education plays a vital role in the training of our children, and I believe it is absolutely essential. When it comes to the future of our children, we must make Christian education a priority,” Mrs. Vensel said.

“I believe our strongest influence begins by building relationships. It is through relationships that we have the power to motivate, encourage, inspire, and impact students. I believe in building rapport and investing in others. Serving in Christian education is my passion.”

In her vision for Columbia, Mrs. Vensel plans to build on the school’s family heritage, fostering close and lasting relationships between faculty, students, and parents. She believes that Columbia should be a place that

inspires students to love truth and pursue excellence. She believes that a biblical worldview is at the heart of a Columbia education and that all students should be equipped to use their unique gifts in servant leadership.

Mrs. Vensel said she finds “great joy with every opportunity to interact with students, to intentionally guide, support, and encourage them in faith, character, and academics.”

Mr. Davis, known for his integrity, Christian example, and genuine love for students, has a long history with Columbia, having served in a variety of leadership and faculty roles through the years.

“I am very grateful to be involved in the ministry of Columbia,” he said. In his opinion, God has provided for Columbia since its beginning in 1947 “because those who began it and those who have served here through the years have recognized it as his work and his school. It is a work of love and devotion.”

Pointing out students who are children of Columbia graduates, Davis said. “We have third and fourth generations of families that have attended Columbia. It validates more than any other thing that a connection was made and lives have been impacted.”

“Early in my life, I was focused in other areas of ministry and law enforcement. But about 35 years ago, a man from Columbia came to our

(continued back page)

Important Dates:

August 29

Elementary Parents Back to School Meeting

September 3

Knights Ignite: Middle and High School Orientation (6th-12th grades)

September 3

Middle School Parents: Two Meeting Options

September 4

First Day of School

September 19

Picture Day

[See full Columbia Calendar](#)

New Teachers Joining the Columbia Family

MRS. LISA HALL High School Math/Science

Mrs. Hall comes to Columbia Christian School with a background in Civil Engineering and an emphasis in Water Resources. Mrs. Hall has decided to transition her engineering career to teaching, which has been on her heart for a long time. She has worked with middle school and high school students in church settings, and various mentoring opportunities, particularly to women and minorities in STEM topics.

Mrs. Hall is thrilled to join Columbia's high school math and science team. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys fly fishing, backpacking, cooking, playing soccer, farmers markets, and being on her bike.



MISS MAKYRA WILLIAMSON High School English

Hailing from Salem, Oregon, Makyra Williamson graduated from Harding University in May 2019 with a degree in English language and literature. She is passionate about Anne Brontë, Jane Austen, and chocolate. Her hobbies include playing piano, baking, and reading.



At the Brontë Parsonage Museum



MR. DOUG MOORE 6th Grade Teacher

Mr. Moore grew up in Ohio and also lived in Texas for 10 years, but he's been in Portland for the last 12 years. He met his wife on the first day he arrived in Oregon. They attended the same church, and now have two children. His son, Josiah, will be in the 1st grade at CCS this year, and their daughter, Lucy, will have her 1st Birthday on the first day of school this year.

Mr Moore loves sports (Go Blazers!). He's an avid Disc Golfer, and loves reading (C.S. Lewis is his favorite author), photography, hiking, and just about any story that deals with superheroes (Marvel, DC, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Narnia, Transformers, etc.).

Believing that learning should be fun, Mr. Moore also believes God put inside all of us a desire to learn about His world. There will be a lot of laughter in his classroom, a lot of learning, a lot of stories, a lot of COFFEE (for him!), and a lot of teamwork. Mr. Moore believes that the students can achieve even greater success when they work together, encourage one another, recognize their individual differences, and always remember that they are children of a loving God. He's looking forward to the school year ahead!

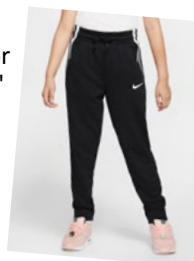


Columbia's Dress Code Changes

Our dress code changes are another example of shared-decision making, where administration listens to and responds to student requests. The full dress code can be found in the Student Handbook, and a few highlights are below.



Rips in jeans!
Just no rips or tears over 3" above the knee



Athletic Pants:
Nike, Adidas, and Under Armour are all ok, but must be loose fitting



Athletic and sweat shorts, not shorter than 3" above the knee



TNT

Columbia Christian, in conjunction with Eastside Church of Christ, hosted a TNT youth worship night in August. The TNT (Tuesday Night Teens) program is a long-standing summer event for area Churches of Christ. Youth groups at different congregations take turns hosting at their building each week and are responsible for organizing the lesson and activities. In attendance at Columbia's event were around 70 teenagers and a handful of chaperones. The night's theme was "Extreme Makeover" and included student skits, worship singing, and a Bible message with practical application.



Of the evening, youth minister David Rude said, "It is always great to see young people engaging in Bible Truths. This Summer's theme, Wisdom, was played out wonderfully by sharing the message from Jesus about building our foundations on Christ. When storms come we can stand up with the power Christ provides. The worship was great and the students did a wonderful job putting on the event! I am continually blessed to work with such great kids!"



Athletics

REGISTRATION ON NOW: UPDATES FROM BART VALENTINE

Registration for fall sports is now live: [click here](#). If you believe your son or daughter will be participating in a winter or spring sport as well, you can sign up for those now too. In addition to registration, please remember that all families should read the [athletic handbook](#) PRIOR to sign-up, and high school students need to have an up-to-date physical before starting to practice with the team. Physicals are valid for two years and a completed physical form must be on file with the athletic director. Questions can be directed to Athletic Director Bart Valentine: bvalentine@columbiachristian.com.

Practice start dates and the athletics calendar can be found on Columbia's website under [Athletics](#).

Students Serve @ Agape Village

Report from David Rude, Associate Minister – Eastside Church of Christ

The Agape Church of Christ has been on a mission to minister to and help the marginalized – especially those who are in desperate need. Eastside Church has been coordinating work efforts with Ron Clark of Agape for six years now, and each year has been an amazing way for our teens to connect with the broader world around them. We are pleased to collaborate with Columbia Christian to help their students have opportunity to attend a "local" mission trip, and I've enjoyed working alongside our young people as we put our faith into action.

Earlier this month, we gave our time to help make transitional houses at the Agape Village. This community is designed to help those who are seeking to get their lives back on track and return to traditional housing. The Agape Village is located off I-205 and Powell, on the property of Central Church of the Nazarene. We worked with people from the Agape Village as well as church groups from Sacramento and Oklahoma. There were 14 students from Eastside/Columbia and another 10 helpers who chaperoned. We appreciate all those who served and contributed to make this mission trip a success!

Our work this year included some siding, a lot of landscaping, and some interior house work. We also spent a morning working on the Columbia Christian campus – moving two dump-truck loads of tree chips for landscaping. One night we went downtown to help with an organization called Night Strike that focuses on feeding, clothing, feet-washing, grooming, and providing free medical and dental services to those in need. In all, our team enjoyed being part of various efforts that are making a tangible, positive impact in our community – all in the name of Jesus.



Admin Team (continued)

house in Alaska and encouraged my wife and me to move here and join the school ministry” Mr. Davis explained.

“So 32 years ago, after multiple such encouragements, we did just that, and I have never regretted it.” Mr. Davis accepted a position as Admissions Director for Columbia Christian College in 1987 after serving 15 years as minister of the Kodiak Church of Christ in Kodiak, Alaska, where he also served full time on the police force.

“So many good things have come out of that decision. I have grown spiritually and academically, and I have been able to see how God chooses to work through people,” he said.

Mrs. Vensel, who chose Mr. Davis to serve as her principal, said he models the Christian character and attributes that Columbia seeks to produce in its students. “He is a faithful servant leader who works to meet and exceed high expectations while walking in favor with God and with man.”

Mr. Davis previously served as principal under the late Morgan Outlaw, who was superintendent at the time. In 2002 Davis and Outlaw decided to switch roles with each

other, and Davis served as superintendent five years. Davis moved back into the classroom from 2007 to 2014, when he was appointed vice principal. He became dean last fall. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Bible from Harding University, a master’s in theology from the Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, and an education specialist degree from Portland State University.

Currently, Davis serves as an elder at the Hazel Dell Church of Christ in Vancouver, WA. Davis and his wife Carol, a former Columbia elementary teacher, have three daughters, Cheri Davis, April Davis, and Trudy Doyle, and six grandchildren, three of whom graduated from Columbia and two of whom are current students.

Mrs. Vensel, a graduate of Warner Pacific University, received her training in educational leadership from Grand Canyon University and serves as the District 2B representative on the regional Council of the Association of Christian Schools International. Previously she taught at Crossroads Christian School and has coached volleyball and basketball at both Columbia and Crossroads.



SCHOOL BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH!

Scholarship Open House

In mid-August, Columbia Christian held a special End-of-Summer “Scholarship Open House.” Interested families were invited to campus to hear from school administrators about the value of Christian education and the importance of investing in the best for their children.

Two students, Emrie Riske and Merek Hailey, shared about their experience at Columbia and the impact it has had on their lives so far. Teachers and staff were also present to answer questions for the guests. Approximately 15 new families attended the event, and Admissions Director Carrie Rude is busy scheduling

personal visits and assisting with applications for those parents.

The winner of the prize drawing (for a semester of FREE tuition) was the Saunders family. They brought a new family to the event, and they have referred two other families who visited this summer as well, so it was a very fitting reward!

According to Columbia administrators, some classes still have openings, and interested families can schedule individual visits. Financial aid is available for qualified students. Also, transfer students can enroll during the school year.

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