



Columbus Public Schools
DISCOVERIES

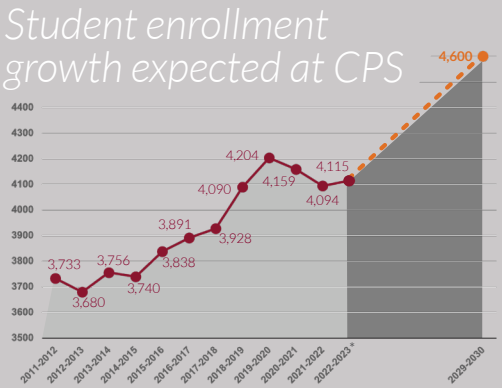
Spring 2023
Engaging all learners to achieve success



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- Online at
columbuspublicschools.org

DISTRICT BOND REFERENDUM



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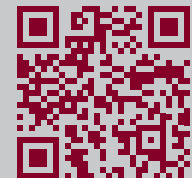
TAKE THIS JOB AND LOVE IT

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GROWTH REFLECTED IN K-12 SOLUTION

District moves forward with a May 9 special election

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Down To The Minute

Review the Board of Education's recent meeting minutes online. To access the minutes, use your smart device's camera and scan the QR code.



About This Letter

DISCOVERIES is published three times a year (one printed and two digital) by the Columbus Public Schools, P.O. Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947.

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz is the Superintendent of Schools and Nicole Anderson is the CPS Foundation and Marketing Director.

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The Columbus Public School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

If you have any special needs requests that will assist you in participating in services, programs and activities of the Columbus Public School District, please contact your building principal or the Superintendent of Schools. **Board of Education:** President Doug Willoughby; Vice President Mike Jeffries; Candy Becher, Mark Brown, Doug Molczyk and Theresa Seipel.

Jeni Snyder, Sandy Voss hired to new CPS Child Development positions

The CPS Foundation is excited to announce Jeni Snyder as our Kramer Child Development Center Coordinator. Jeni began working with us in January and is currently working out of Emerson Elementary while construction is being completed. She can be contacted at snyderj@discoverers.org.

We are also excited to announce Sandy Voss as our Kramer Child Development Center Assistant Coordinator. Sandy will officially begin with us in June when her contract is completed with Shelby-Rising City. These two bring a wealth of knowl-

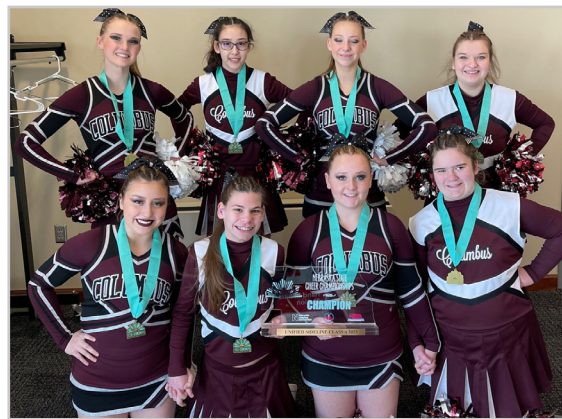


Snyder



Voss

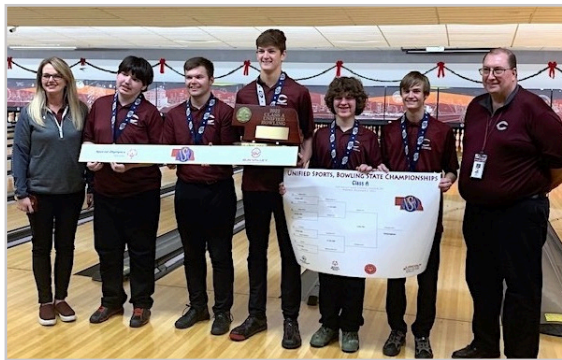
edge and a multitude of experiences. The CPS Foundation is pleased to have them leading our team.



SPARKLES CHEER LEADING: Tara Burton, Cristal Cuevas-Gonzalez, Brianna Favors-Wherrell, Mia Stuart, Faith Tworek

Round of Applause

Congratulations to a pair of CHS unified sports who won state championships, recently. Their effort and sportsmanship has made us all proud to be Discoverers!



UNIFIED BOWLING: Randy Champlain, Matthew Holcomb, Colin Jaster, Gavin Unger, Ryland Prokopec



Check out our **new** app!

It's everything Discoverers, **in your pocket.**



<https://apple.co/3vhacJP>



¡Dale un vistazo a nuestra **nueva** aplicación!

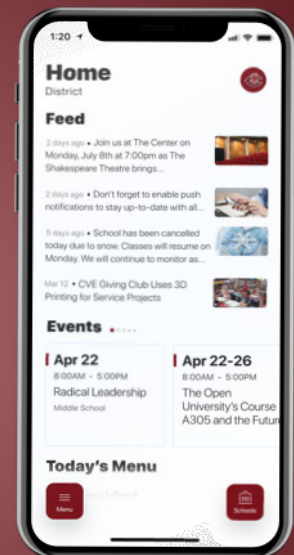
Está todo Discoverers, **en tu bolsillo.**



<https://bit.ly/3vi5XxE>

Découvrez notre **nouvelle** app!

Toutes les informations scolaires de **Discoverers.**





Community growth reflected in CPS K-12 solution

District moves forward with a May 9 special election

Starting in December 2021, Columbus Public Schools began to have a conversation with the community regarding student growth and programming needs within our school district and how this impacts our facilities.

Our community has blessed us with beautiful elementary schools, a new high school, and a partially renovated middle school building that used to house high school students since 1960. In addition we have received a lot of support in our community for repurposing the old middle school (Kramer High School Site) into an early childhood center for preschool and childcare to be run by the



"We at Columbus Public Schools want to ensure that our facilities are ready for the students and families in the future. Our kids deserve the best, and so far our community has delivered."

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz
Superintendent, CPS

Columbus Public Schools Foundation.

The data from the City of Columbus shows that in the past ten years our community has grown 8.67% or 1,917 residents. Only Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney have shown more growth in the state. We know that over the past two decades our student enrollment grows by about 20% of actual community growth. Since 2011 our school district has grown by 400+ students, which equates

to about 36 students per grade level. Yes, we passed a bond issue in 2013 to help accommodate growth K-12, but our growth has outpaced our enrollment projections by 5 years.

This growth is due to an increase in housing development that includes single family homes, apartments, duplexes, townhomes, and renovations. Since 2016 over 700 new permits have been issued for just these projects.

So, what does that mean for the future? The study conducted for the City of Columbus anticipates our community will grow by over 2,500 residents in the next ten years leading up to 2030. Based on the 20% student enrollment growth we would expect our growth to be up to 500 students in the next ten years, reaching out past 2030. With this data we have

been planning for the past 18 months to address this growth and have numerous conversations with our community and staff in regards to the facilities needed to meet this need.

Since December 2021 we have done sixteen presentations to our community either at live town hall meetings or via Facebook Live. We have also presented to our staff four times, written four articles in the Columbus Telegram, and have been live with Riley at KLIR.

We have continued to reach out to our community for direction and permission to move forward in our research and to provide as much data and information as possible.

We started this process with four options for consideration and through our community conversations and feedback the CPS Board of Education has narrowed our scope of work to one option that involves a K-12 solution of 5 projects.

On March 9, the CPS Board of Education approved a facilities bond referendum for special election on May 9 in the amount of \$53.5 million, based on feedback through

SEE GROWTH Pg 4

For every 100 new residents, 20 new students enroll in CPS.

COLUMBUS' 2030 ESTIMATED POPULATION - 26,542 (+2,514)*

	2000	2010	2020	Difference 2010-2020	%Change
Columbus	20,971	22,111	24,028	1,917	8.67%
Fremont	25,174	26,397	27,141	744	2.82%
Kearney	27,431	30,787	33,790	3,003	9.75%
Norfolk	23,516	24,210	24,955	745	3.08%
North Platte	23,878	24,733	23,390	-1,343	-5.43%
Lincoln	225,581	258,379	291,082	32,703	12.66%
Omaha	390,007	408,958	486,051	77,093	18.85%

(*) City of Columbus Population Study (+) 2022-2023 Enrollment as of January 6, 2023

A Taste of Nebraska



A CMS 8th-grader smells an aronia berry vinaigrette made in his foods class. Earlier this month, CMS students got to try bison meat on pizza and an aronia berry vinaigrette. The ingredients are native to Nebraska and were served in partnership from the Nebraska Department of Education.

No more than A CUP OF COFFEE each MONTH

The new \$53.5 million bond will result in an additional \$4 in property tax per month on \$100,000 valuation.

\$4.00
per month on a \$100,000 home.



WHAT'S PROPOSED?

On March 9th, the Columbus Public School Board approved a facilities bond referendum for a Special Election on May 9th in the amount of \$53.5 Million, based on the feedback through survey results gathered at community meetings, online and by phone.

FIND MORE FAST FACTS ON PAGES 4

Fast Facts



WHAT IS A BOND?

A bond is a State-approved funding process for a set scope of projects.

When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal.

BONDS CAN BE USED FOR:

- Construction of new school buildings or additions to existing school buildings.
- Remodeling existing school buildings.
- Land purchases as well as site development and improvements.
- Purchase loose furnishing, equipment and some technology purchases.
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements.
- Playground development and improvements.

BOND CANNOT BE USED FOR:

- Salaries and service contracts.
- Portable classrooms for temporary use.
- Textbooks.



REGISTER TO VOTE

Find more information on Platte County elections and register to vote at plattecounty.net

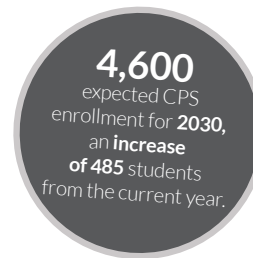
WHY NOW?

COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT GROWTH

- Columbus is the 4th fastest growing community in Nebraska at 8.67%[^] over ten years behind only Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney.
- Columbus is expected to grow by an additional 2,514 community members by 2030[^].
- CPS has exceeded previous enrollment study expectations at 4 of the 7 schools.
- CPS has exceeded capacity at Lost Creek and CMS. We are within 10 students of capacity at Emerson, North Park, and West Park.
- Currently at CHS we have room for more students, however, career pathway programming and other special programming is limited by the number of classrooms available.
- Emerson, North Park and West Park students currently eat lunch in the gymnasium, limiting class time availability.
- Centennial's current dining space is too small to serve students meals efficiently.

The needs **ARE REAL** and are **NOT GOING AWAY.**

With consistent and rapid growth both in the community and school district we know that we need a plan to solve current and anticipated future space shortages.



ENROLLMENT GROWTH

See Page 5 for insights into your school's population.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

THIS REFERENDUM WILL DO THIS BY:

- Constructing a new K-4 elementary school.
- Constructing additions and improvements to existing elementary school buildings to include dining areas at North Park and Centennial and new health and physical education facilities at Emerson and West Park.
- Constructing a classroom addition and remodeling of dining facilities at CMS.
- Renovating and improving existing district facilities for educational and operational use.
- Constructing a classroom addition and improvements to the existing high school.

GROWTH: 'So far our community has delivered'

From Page 3

survey results gathered at community meetings, online and by phone.

These projects include a new K-4 elementary school, classroom addition to the middle school, new and larger dining area at North Park and Centennial, new physical education facilities at Emerson and West Park, classroom additions at CHS, and renovating the current administration building into an alternative education center where students who need a smaller classroom setting to better meet their educational needs.

We believe that these projects will provide a K-12 solution that will help us to deal with current enrollment growth and the growth we expect to see in the next 10 years. The unknowns of what Columbus may look like in ten years doesn't really allow us to project out what enrollment will look like past 2033.

Columbus is a vibrant community that

continues to grow and meet the needs for future generations. When I look back to 2013 (ten years ago) when our community provided us a new high school, I would never have imagined we would grow by over 400 students. I also would not have imagined all of the great things going on in this community.

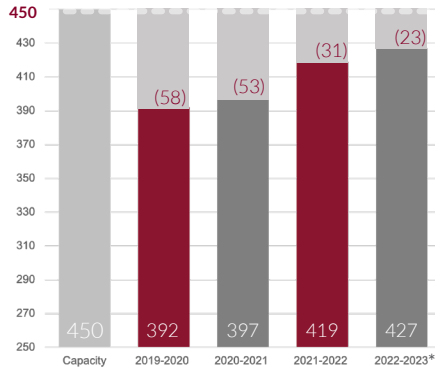
Since that time we have witnessed construction of a new health district, hospital expansion, a new YMCA, a new field house, a new library and cultural arts center, and many more projects that will keep this community thriving and help to recruit employees to our community. Columbus is a great place to live and raise a family. We at Columbus Public Schools want to ensure that our facilities are ready for the students and families in the future.

Our kids deserve the best, and so far our community has delivered. We look forward to the months ahead to see if our community will continue to help us plan for the future.

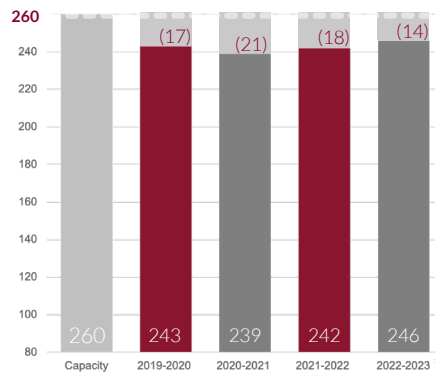
COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT GROWTH

5

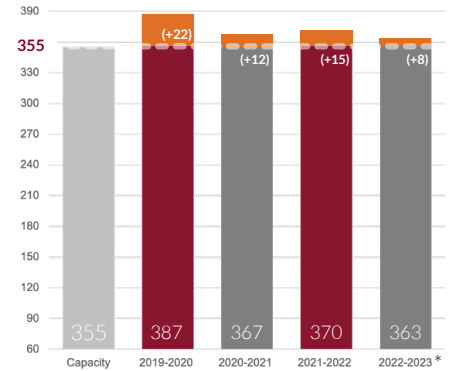
CENTENNIAL ELEMENTARY



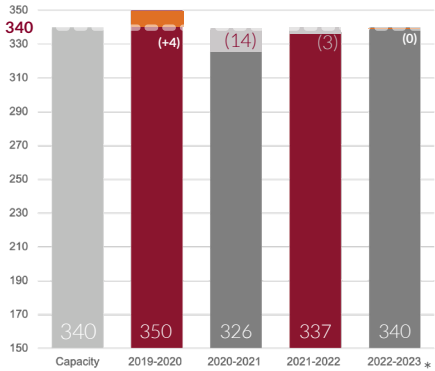
EMERSON ELEMENTARY



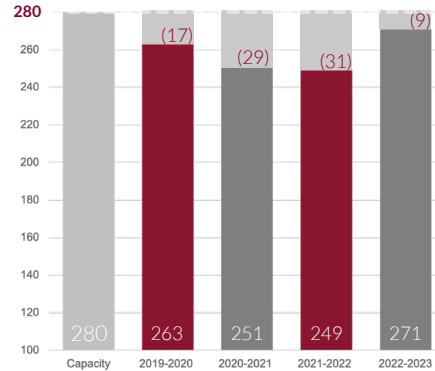
LOST CREEK ELEMENTARY



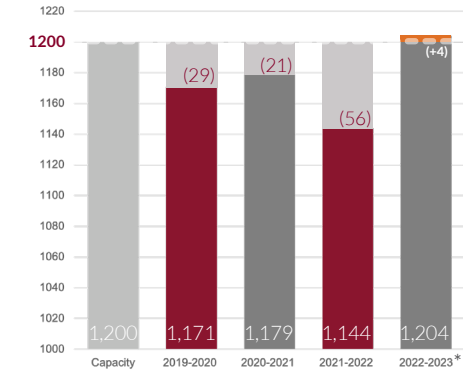
NORTH PARK ELEMENTARY



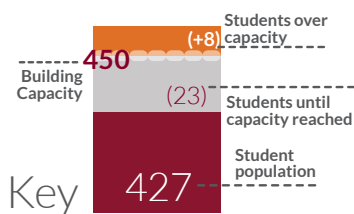
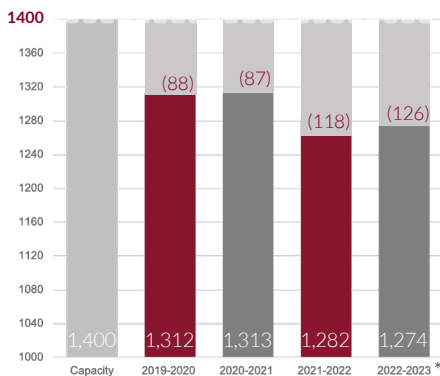
WEST PARK ELEMENTARY



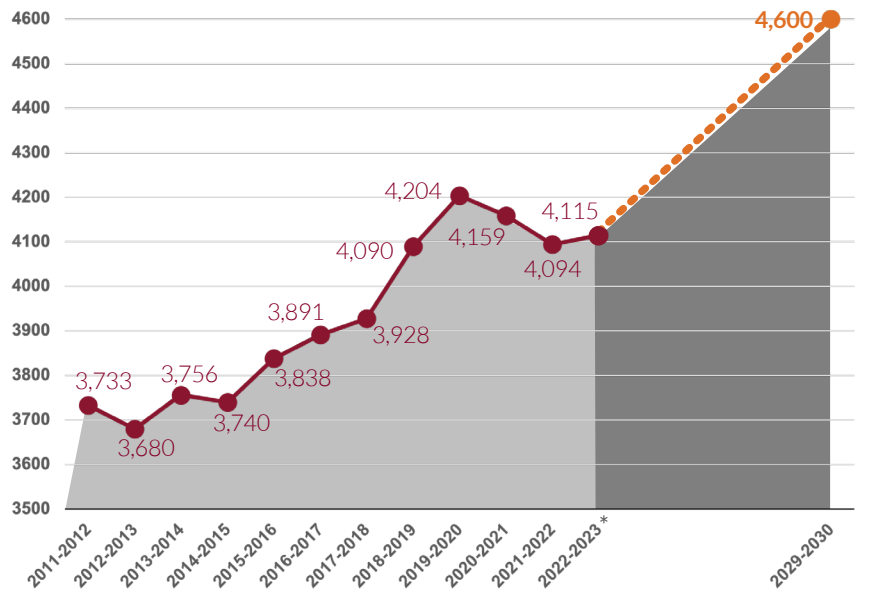
COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL



COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL



DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

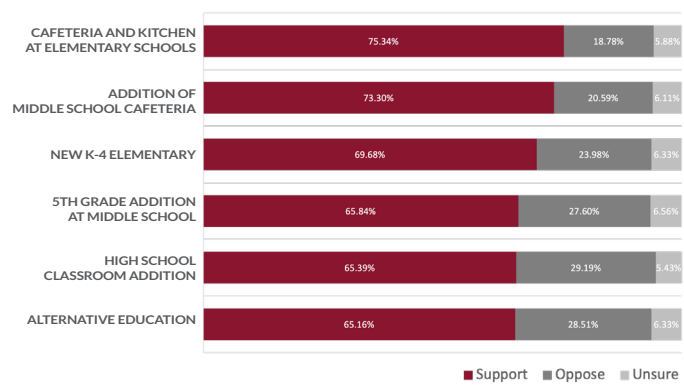
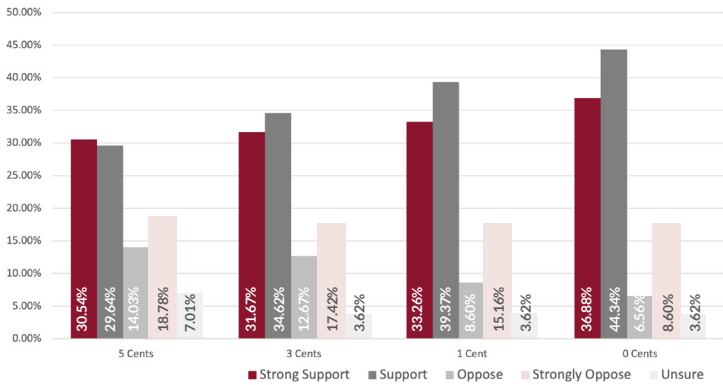


(^) City of Columbus Population Study (*) 2022-2023 Enrollment as of January 6, 2023



TAX LEVY SUPPORT

PROJECT SUPPORT



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Take This Job and Love It

(Right) CPS Student Resource Officer Josh Loontjer takes the thumb prints of two fourth-graders during Career Day at Central Community College.

(Below) CPS fourth-graders perform actions in front of a green screen on the stage of the Fine Arts building at CCC.



Career Day a highlight for fourth-graders

Fourth-graders across the entire district descended on the campus of Central Community College earlier this month as they took part in the annual Career Day.

Groups from each elementary got hands-on demonstrations and presentations from local representatives of each of the six identified career fields.

Those are:

Business, Marketing, & Management; Human Sciences & Education; Communication & Information Systems; Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Skilled & Technical Sciences and Health Sciences.

Presenters included:

- Cory Miller - Central Plains Milling
- Tammy Hempstead - Accent Floral and Galleria
- Marty Romshek - West Point Implement
- Cassidy Wessel - Nebraska Game and Parks
- Kylee Bean - YMCA
- Josh Loontjer - CPD
- Isaiah May - Columbus Public Schools
- Mike Kruse - Ag Consulting Group
- Craig Potthast- CCC Advanced Manufacturing Plastics Trainer/ Coordinator
- CCC nursing instructors
- Ryan Beringer YMCA

(Left) Craig Potthast, Advanced Manufacturing Plastics Coordinator at Central Community College shows students how plastic beads are made into usable products.



2023-2024 Calendar

Columbus Public Schools 2023-2024 *Discoverers* Calendar

August 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August
 4,7-8 New Teacher Professional Development
 Teacher PD/Workday/Staff Meeting, Collaboration
 9-15 1st Day Kindergarten (Half of Students) 3:25 dismissal
 16 1st Day Kindergarten (Half of Students) 3:25 dismissal
 17 1st Day 1st-5th & 9th Grades ONLY, Ele 12:00 Dismissal
 18 1st Day Kindergarten (Half of Students) 3:25 dismissal
 18 Grades 1-12 Full Day, No kindergarten

September 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September
 4 Labor Day - No School
 22 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal - P/T Prep
 25, 28 Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 26, 28 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
 27, 28 High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 28 Teacher PD AM, Conferences PM
 28-29 No School for Students

October 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October
 19 1st Quarter Ends
 Grades K-8 - 12:00 PM Dismissal/Report Card Prep
 Grades 9-12 - Full Day
 Teacher Work Day/RC - No School for Students
 Grades Completed and due by 4:00pm
 2nd Quarter Begins
 23

November 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November
 22-24 Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 2023

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December
 8 PK-12 - District PD (Select-A-Session)/Collaboration
 21 2nd Quarter Ends
 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal
 Teacher Work Day (Report Cards) - No School for Students
 Grades due by 4:00pm
 25-29 Christmas Break - No School

January 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January
 1 No School
 2 Teacher Workday-No School for Students
 3 Staff PD-No School for Students
 4 3rd Quarter Begins
 19 PK-12 - District PD(Strategic Plan)/Collaboration

February 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February
 9 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal
 Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 12, 15 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
 13, 15 High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
 14, 15 Teacher PD AM, Conferences PM
 15 No School for Students
 15-16

March 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March
 7 3rd Quarter Ends
 Grades K-8 - 12:00 PM Dismissal/Report Card Prep
 Grades 9-12 - Full Day
 Teacher Work Day/RC - No School for Students
 Grades due by 4:00pm
 No School - Spring Break
 11-15 4th Quarter Begins
 18

April 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April
 29, 1 Easter Break
 Teacher Work Day/Collaboration - No School for Students
 Grades 9-12 - Noon Dismissal
 Grades K-8 - Full Day

May 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May
 3 Teacher PD/Workday
 15 Final Senior Attendance Day
 17 4th Quarter Ends (42)
 K-12 - 12:00 PM Dismissal
 19 Graduation
 Teacher Work Day (Report Cards) - No School for Students
 Grades due by 4:00pm

Key:

- Early Dismissal
- Professional Development or Workday/No School for Students
- Beginning/End of Quarter
- No School for Teachers and Students
- K-12 early dismissal
- Graduation

Published by:
 Columbus Public Schools
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 Columbus Public Schools
 Phone: 402-563-7000

High School Hours - 8:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.
 Wednesday Early Dismissal - 2:35 p.m.

Middle School Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Wednesday Early Dismissal - 2:35 p.m.

Elementary School Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
 Wednesday Early Dismissal - 2:15 p.m.



Calendar Facts

- There are 168 student contact days in the calendar.
- The last day of school is scheduled for May 19th.
- *The district may start at 10:00 a.m. due to inclement weather.
- *Students may have to make up days of attendance if the district accumulates 4 or more days due to weather.

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SPRING 2023

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Engaging all learners to achieve success



Columbus Public Schools

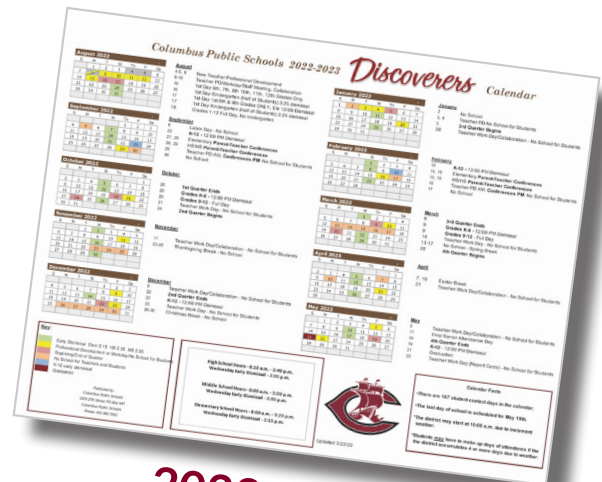
DISTRICT BOND REFERENDUM

Fast Facts

- WHAT'S PROPOSED?
- WHY NOW?
- WHAT IS THE PLAN?

For every
100 new residents,
20 new students
enroll in CPS.

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2023-2024
CALENDAR INSIDE