



Columbus Public Schools
DISCOVERIES

Spring 2020

Engaging all learners to achieve success



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LET'S LUNCH

The CPS Lunch program has served 45,491 meals as of April, 10th.

**Lil' C
 AT IT AGAIN**

A message to CHS students missing spring activities.





April 2, 2020

Dear Discoverers,

Columbus Public Schools will remain closed through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and we will continue with online/packet education through the end of the year. **This closure came at the directive of Governor Ricketts to all schools in the state of Nebraska.** This is in no way how we wanted this school year to end, but we know we are part of the solution to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

This directive from Governor Ricketts also mandates no extracurricular activities through May 31st. The 4th quarter is usually a time for several events that celebrate the entire school year. These end of the year events are a culmination of all the hard work our students have put in throughout the year. We understand that this is devastating to all who participate in everything from spring sports, to vocal and instrumental concerts, banquets, and other events that help us celebrate accomplishments.

Just because the schools are closed it does not mean school is cancelled. We must continue to engage in our lessons from your classroom teachers to improve on where you left off before Spring Break. I strongly encourage our seniors to finish strong. We plan on initiating a potential graduation ceremony depending on the recommendation from the Health Department, Governor, and other health officials. So, finish what you started and get across the finish line.

This is a challenging time both in Columbus and across the state of Nebraska. We are confident we will get through this and thank students, parents, and the community for their support. We love and miss every student and wish we were together this spring. We are here for all of you and will do our best to serve you the remainder of the school year.

As always, "GO DISCOVERERS"

Sincerely,

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz
Superintendent, Columbus Public Schools

"Engaging All Learners to Achieve Success"

New Staff & Building Hours

REMINDER: ALL STAFF ARE AVAILABLE 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Please be patient with responses to emails and phones)

The following times are Monday - Thursday:

■ Elementary Principals will report from 11:00 - 1:00 during food service hours (M-TH).

■ MS & HS Principals will rotate responsibilities and work 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

■ District Office Classified staff Employees will work 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

■ All other staff will work from home - 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

■ Superintendent will work each day 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

■ Directors will work on a rotating basis but can work each day 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the office or from home.

All school buildings remain closed except for identified personnel.

CPS Parent Guidance for Distance Learning

The goal of distance learning is to keep students learning, even when circumstances prevent them from being in school. Every student at the secondary level has a device. Every elementary student was sent home with his/her iPad and charger as of March 27th.

Students at all grade levels also took home materials and resources, such as music instruments. In addition to Discoverer email, teachers might use tools such as Google Classroom, Class DoJo, SeeSaw, ZOOM or Google Sites to provide students access to an extended campus learning lesson from home.

Internet Safety Tips:

<https://sites.google.com/discoverers.org/cpstechintegration/internet-safety?authuser=0>

The CPS District Learning and Academic Resources:

<https://www.columbuspublicschools.org/distance-learning--34>

Parent Resources:

<https://sites.google.com/discoverers.org/cpstechintegration/parent-resources?authuser=0>

For specific details on grading, time expectations and communication please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/discoverers.org/cpstechintegration/parent-resources>



Lost Creek students display their appreciation and kind words for staff as they stand along the parade route as teacher drove through neighborhoods.

Spirits still high

Staff across district help students away from school



Kristin Loosvelt situates a traffic sign outside the Emerson parking lot during last week's material pick up.

Looking to help?

We are receiving many requests asking how you can help others. If you would like to offer support, please visit

The CPS Foundation

www.cpsanchor.com

Choose the button: CPS Family Emergency Fund Donation



Above: Paula Lawrence, principal at West Park, greets a student as she arrived to get her materials.

Right: Principal Bob Hausmann captures a photo of North Park staff members in masks.

 Find more photos on your school's Facebook Page



A Message to CHS Students

Click here to see what the Lil' C was up to when he recently walked the halls of CHS





#ProudToBeCPS

Annual award nominees announced

Columbus Public Schools is pleased to announce the nominations for the 2020 Educator of the Year and Operations Employee of the Year. These individuals were nominated by their peers, students and families across the district and are recognized for their contributions. Winners and runner-ups will be selected and honored at a later date.

Educator of The Year

Michelle Figge

Lost Creek, Special Education Teacher

Jeff Peabody

CHS, Director of Bands

Carolyn Hofferber

Centennial, 3rd Grade Teacher

Dave Licari

CHS, Special Education Teacher

Michelle Bauer

North Park, 2nd Grade Teacher

Trina Gentile

North Park, School Counselor

Brian Townsend

CHS, Science Teacher

Tammy Lyon

Emerson, 1st Grade Teacher

Ryan Schroeder

CHS, Science Teacher

Kristi Nelson

CMS, Special Education Teacher

Christina Nilson

CMS, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher

Brandi Fleming

Curriculum Department,
Technology Integration Specialist

Operations Employee of The Year

Channa Larsen

Lost Creek, Elementary School
Nurse Coordinator

Sheri Husak

CHS, Special Education Para Educator

Kerry Lassek

CHS, Special Education Para

Allen Rerucha

CMS, Head Custodian

Katie Ocegueda

CHS, ISS Supervisor

Mary Rhein

CMS, Special Education Para Educator

Diane Rohloff

CMS, Special Education Para Educator

Peggy Jones

West Park, Para Educator

Amanda Hemmer

Lost Creek, Health Aide

Erin Rauner

West Park, Para Educator

Jane Haefner

CHS, Principal's Secretary

Jeff Uchtman

Technology Department,
District System Administrator

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

CPS joins schools, community in PPE production

The idea came from a family member halfway across the country, but its impact, and those who are helping create it, will be felt right here in Columbus.

Just days ago Behlen Custom Fabrication's General Manager Heather Macholan had been discussing with family how her cousin, engineer John Eberly of Seattle, and other engineers were working with emergency room doctors to design a mask that provided the necessary protection for the healthcare workers. She was given designs and instructions on Sunday and immediately reached out for help.

Which she has gotten plenty.

"Everyone always seems to come through. It was just last year with the floods, and 'Nebraska Strong,'" Macholan said of Columbus. "It's in our nature to help internally, to ask 'how can I help,' and 'what do I have?'"

Macholan was quick to acknowledge the response from schools and the East Central Health District and Columbus Community Hospital.

"We reached out earlier this week and the response has been awesome," she said. "Work started with the community. On Tuesday, we reached out to the local high schools and colleges and put a plan in place."

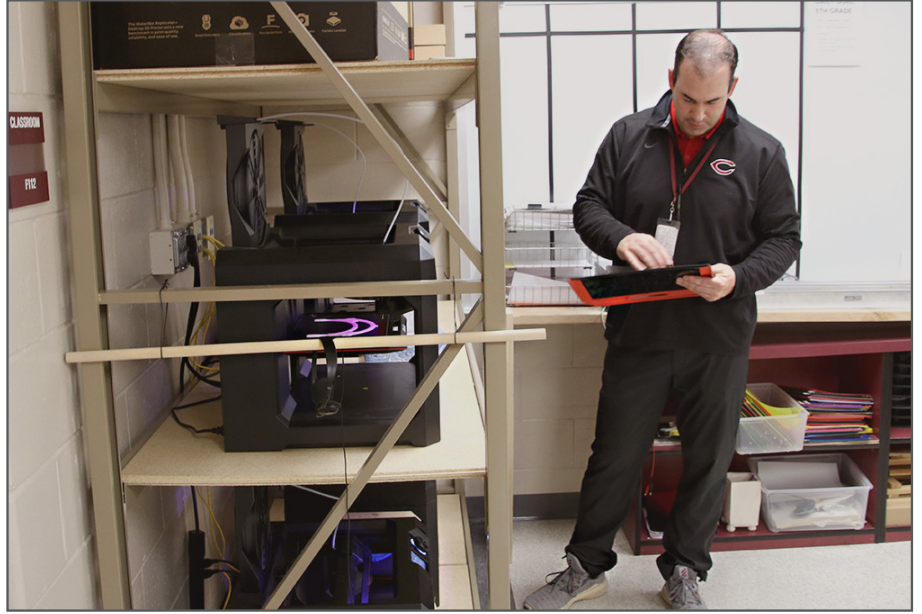
At CPS, middle school assistant principal Jordon Anderson, high school STEM teachers Adam Whitmore and Joe Krysal and superintendent Dr. Troy Loeffelholz made the arrangements for the printers to be used.

"This is why we start our STEM program, to offer students and staff real-life experiences," Dr. Loeffelholz said. "In this case, we're helping those in need by making these masks."

Macholan would also like to thank Betsie Rall from Scotus Central Catholic, Ben Wilshusen from Central Community College and the team at Behlen: Jacob Forbes, Dan Broekemeier, and Juli Thelen.

CPS is operating its printers at both the high school and middle school with each location estimating upwards of 20 masks a day. Scotus Central Catholic and Central Community College, as well as Behlen themselves, are helping with production.

"Joe Krysal and I are running the 3D printer lab at the High School to produce part of PPE being worn by medical professionals," Whitmore said. "This project definitely unique because most of the time I am dealing with



Columbus Middle School Assistant Principal Jordon Anderson reads a 3D printer for the next round of PPE headbands last week. **Below:** Masks are stacked and ready to distribute to Columbus Community Hospital.

mechanical and electrical situations and solutions not necessarily medical. Hopefully, this can make an impact for someone."

Total, Macholan believes 30 to 60 finished products can be produced daily.

"We got these plans out Tuesday morning and by (Wednesday) we should be rolling," she said.

Behlen is providing the headpieces at cost, between \$3 and \$3.50 each.

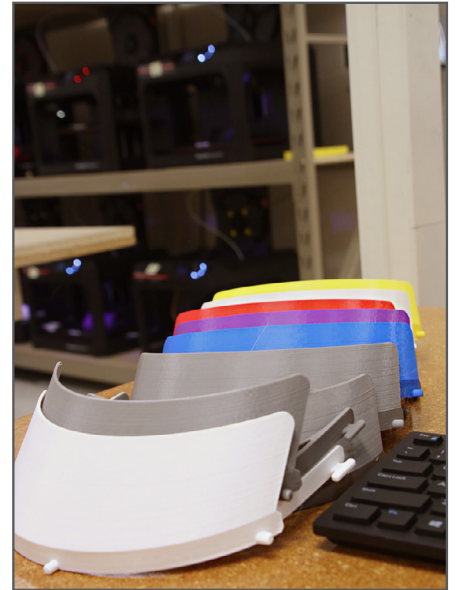
The piece is printed from one of several possible plastics to prevent material shortages. The design is a universal size and is fitted with a plastic sheet cover

that has been punched for a three-ringed binder. This allows for different thickness of plastics to be used for different hospital workers, Macholan said. Masks are secured by rubber bands, elastic or velcro, giving flexibility to those on the front line.

"That's the beauty is the framework is to be used with any 3-hole punched dividers or sheet covers," she said. "This way we're not telling them what (thickness) they need, or trying to guess at that."

Currently, the masks are being produced for Columbus Community Hospital and the ECHD. Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in West Point has also expressed need.

"My guess is as you see the word get



out that more high schools and colleges have this capability, you'll have hands go up and more will be requested," Macholan said.

While schools sit empty it's important to show students across the community that careers and knowledge in STEM can have an impact.

"What a message to tell these stem students about how science can help," Macholan said. "They may not even think of it. I took a mask home and showed my kids, 'look at what we made today. Look at what help it can be,' I said. It closes that loop."

FOUND FIRST ON
Columbus
PublicSchools.org

V Columbus Public Schools **VIRTUAL** **SPRIT WEEK** **2020**

Help recreate one of the best weeks of the entire school year! The Columbus Public School District will celebrate "Virtual Spirit Week" Monday, April 20 through Friday, April 24.

Since we can't be together in person, please take photos of each day and either comment with your photo or email them to cps.pr@discoverers.org and we will post them to Facebook.

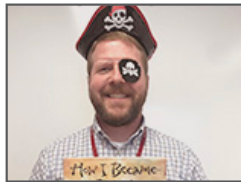
**Monday,
April 20**

Crazy Hair Day



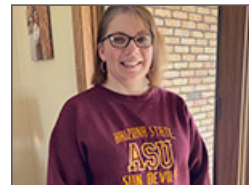
**Tuesday,
April 21**

Favorite Storybook Character



**Wednesday,
April 22**

Favorite Sports Team

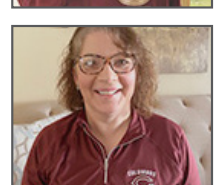
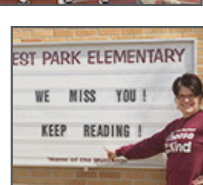
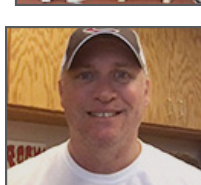


**Thursday,
April 23**

Crazy Sock Day

**Friday,
April 24**

Maroon & White Day



What should you do if your child's device is not working correctly?

1. Call your respective school who will get you in contact with your building's media specialist. Students can also email their media specialist.
2. The media specialist will submit a helpdesk ticket with the student device issue and the best contact number.
3. The CPS Technology staff will contact the student to set up and make arrangements for repair.
4. If required the device will be replaced right away.

Internet Options

If conventional internet access isn't available consider:

- Use a family smartphone as a hotspot with an existing data plan. (Xbox consoles are able to access Google Classroom)
- Check with your cell phone provider to see if they have increased your data usage during this time. To date Verizon and Sprint have both upped usage to a certain amount at no additional cost.
- Ask permission to use a neighbor's Wi-Fi.
- Lifeline is a federal benefit that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service. Qualifying is the first step to getting your Lifeline Benefit.

<https://nationalverifier.service-now.com/lifeline>

- CPS will be installing Wi-Fi access points on the grounds of all school sites.

Students will be able to gain internet access when located in the main parking lots outside of each school building.

Parents and students will receive notification once the access points have been installed.

***As a last option, or if you need additional guidance, call the CPS Director of Technology at (402) 563-7000 follow the prompts and leave a message.*

Media Specialists

High School

Valerie Wallin - 402-563-7050
wallinv@discoverers.org

Middle School

Amy Jahn - 402-563-7060
jahna@discoverers.org

Centennial

Linda McMullin - 402-563-8180
mcmullinl@discoverers.org

Emerson

Stephanie Luchsinger - 402-563-7030
luchsingers@discoverers.org

Lost Creek

Elizabeth Bergin - 402-563-7045
bergine@discoverers.org

North Park

Jane Dodson - 402-563-7070
dodsonj@discoverers.org

West Park

Andrea Frey - 402-563-7075
freya@discoverers.org

Important Links

In response to the pandemic, CPS has created several places for information online.



CPS Health Info
Recent releases from CPS



Distance Learning
Guidance and links to assignments



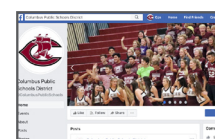
Parent Resources
Distance Learning resources for parents



Internet Safety
Tips to keep kids safe online



District Home Page
Go to the source for all correspondence



District Facebook
Follow CPS for the latest information

Monday through Thursday

CMS, Centennial, Emerson, Lost Creek, North Park, West Park, Duncan Village Hall and Carriage House Estates

from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



NEW
UPDATES

LUNCH PROGRAM

Columbus Public Schools

