

Cougar News

February 2013

Columbia Middle School • 17600 East Columbia Avenue • Aurora, Colorado 80013

Steve Hamilton, Principal
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Principal's Message

Columbia Community,

During January, February and March your students are involved in future planning and critical assessments. We are in the process of identifying 8th grade students for College Track, 7th grade students for GEAR UP, high school registration, goal setting activities and middle school registration. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of your student performing at his/her best academically and engaging positively in the social environment that is middle school. For example, over 75 students will be selected for College Track and GEAR UP this year. They will be able to have direct support throughout high school and into college at the academic, social and financial level. However, grades and work habits are critical criteria in the selection process.

We have a system called Acuity. Your student knows Acuity as subject specific tests we give to students throughout the district three times a year. This is a new system for us, but we are finding out that along with the results of the test, there is quite a bit of specific data available to you and your student. Acuity helps you specifically identify areas within each subject where your student is academically strong as well as areas where your student needs to improve. We have been told that Acuity is also a fairly good predictor of TCAP results in most subject areas, and TCAP testing begins in March. We would like to continue to stress that while Acuity predicts TCAP, actual outcome is dependent on student work and effort between now and then, as well as their work and effort on the test itself. Since this is new, we would also like to share this information with you, the parent, in case you would like to see for yourself where your child should be focusing on improvement.

Other really important reminders: student grades for class may be influenced by these scores, but actual quarter grades are more heavily dictated by classroom assessment, work and performance. Additionally, we are finding that some subject predictors and indicators are better than others. We are sharing this resource with you with the understanding that it is not meant to be the only comprehensive evaluation of student achievement but rather it is an indicator to

add to other indicators from the classroom. We would also like to remind you that this system is new for us too and we may not know everything about it yet but feel free to do what we do and browse around a bit. You may find some really useful stuff.

You can log into Acuity by going to www.acuityathome.com. Your child's user name is their student ID number and his/her password is their first name. You also need to check the box that says "my district uses single sign on" Most 6th graders can provide the student number for you. Please ask them first - if not, we can look it up for you.

We would suggest you start here:

Once you have logged on (as your student)

- choose view reports
- choose a subject (reading, writing, science, or math)
- view "Student Progress Report" -it is under #3

Acuity tests concepts from your students' current grade level as well as the grade level before. These scores are given separately.

Please remember that we regularly use student performance in class grades, Acuity reports and TCAP results to determine our overall program, which classes a student gets and what supports they need. Please emphasize the importance of focusing on academic learning with your son/daughter.

Hope this helps! Please let us know if you need further assistance or if you would like to give us feedback on parent use of this new system. Have a great day!

Steve Hamilton, Principal

Mensaje del Director

Comunidad de Columbia,

Durante los meses de enero, febrero y marzo, sus estudiantes estarán involucrados en asesoramientos cruciales y la planificación para el futuro. Estamos en el proceso de identificar estudiantes en 8vo grado para el programa College Track, estudiantes de 7mo grado para el programa GEAR UP; haremos actividades relacionadas con establecer metas, empezaremos la registraci3n para estudiantes que ir3n a la preparatoria y registraci3n para estudiantes que vendr3n a la secundaria el pr3ximo a1o. No puedo enfatizar suficientemente la importancia de que su estudiante se desempe1e de la mejor manera acad3micamente y que se enfoque de manera positiva en el ambiente social que es una escuela secundaria. Por ejemplo, m3s de 75 estudiantes ser3n seleccionados para los programas College Track y GEAR UP este a1o. Los elegidos podr3n tomar ventaja de apoyo directo durante la preparatoria y en la universidad a nivel acad3mico, social y econ3mico. Sin embargo, las calificaciones y h3bitos de trabajo actuales son un criterio cr3tico en el proceso de selecci3n.

Nosotros usamos un sistema de evaluaciones llamado Acuity. Su estudiante conoce Acuity b3sicamente como ex3menes de materias espec3ficas, las cuales se administran en todo el distrito tres veces por a1o. Este es un nuevo sistema para nosotros, pero estamos encontrando que adem3s de los resultados del examen, hay a1n m3s datos espec3ficos disponibles para usted y su estudiante. Acuity le ayuda a identificar espec3ficamente las 3reas donde su estudiante tiene entendimiento solido en cada materia y en las 3reas en que su estudiante necesita mejorar. Nos han dicho que Acuity es tambi3n un buen indicador de cu3les ser3n los resultados del examen estatal TCAP en la mayor3a de las 3reas, y TCAP ser3 administrado en marzo. Nos gustar3a continuar acentuando que mientras Acuity predice TCAP, el resultado final depende del trabajo que haga y el esfuerzo que ponga el estudiante entre ahora y entonces, al igual que su trabajo y esfuerzo en el examen mismo. Ya que esto es nuevo, queremos compartir esta informaci3n con ustedes, los padres, en caso de que usted quiera ver por s3 mismo(a) donde debe de enfocarse su hijo(a) para la mejor3a.

Otros recordatorios muy importantes: las calificaciones dadas por los maestros en clase pueden ser influenciadas por estos resultados de Acuity, pero las calificaciones asignadas al final del trimestre son dictadas directamente por las evaluaciones de los maestros, el trabajo hecho y el esfuerzo de los estudiantes. Adicionalmente, estamos encontrando que algunos indicadores de predicciones de algunas materias son mejores que otros. Estamos compartiendo este recurso con ustedes con el entendimiento de que esta no es la 3nica evaluaci3n comprensiva de rendimiento estudiantil pero m3s bien es un indicador para a1adir a otros indicadores del sal3n. Tambi3n queremos recordarle que este sistema es nuevo para nosotros tambi3n y aunque todav3a no sabemos todo sobre el programa, si3ntase con la libertad de hacer lo que hacemos nosotros, juegue con el sistema para aprender un poco. Puede ser que encuentre algo verdaderamente 3til.

Usted puede encontrar Acuity en la p3gina de internet www.acuityathome.com. El nombre de usuario de su estudiante es su n3mero de estudiante, y la contrase1a es su primer nombre. Usted tambi3n tendr3 que marcar la caja que dice "my district uses single sign on". La mayor3a de los estudiantes en 6to grado pueden proveer su n3mero de estudiante. Preg3ntele primero, si no se lo sabe, nosotros podemos d3rselo.

Una vez que ya est3 dentro de la cuenta de su estudiante, nosotros sugerimos que empiece aqu3:

- Selecci3n el ver los reportes, o sea, "view reports"
- Selecciones una materia de estudio, o sea, lectura: reading, escritura: writing, ciencia: science, o matem3ticas: math
- Vea el reporte de progreso de su estudiante, o sea, "Student Progress Report", que est3 debajo del #3

Acuity eval3a conceptos del nivel de grado de su estudiante al igual que el grado anterior. Estos resultados son separados.

Por favor recuerde que regularmente usamos la informaci3n del rendimiento estudiantil en las calificaciones de la clase, los reportes de Acuity y los resultados de TCAP para determinar nuestro programa general, cuales clases recibe un estudiante y que apoyo necesitan. Por favor enf3tice con su hijo o hija la importancia de enfocarse en el aprendizaje acad3mico.

¡Espero que esto le ayude! Por favor d3jenos saber si necesita ayuda adicional o si a usted le gustar3a darnos su opini3n sobre el uso de este sistema. ¡Que tenga un gran d3a!

Steve Hamilton, Director

SI USTED NECESITA INFORMACI3N SOBRE CUALQUIER ART3CULO EN ESTE BOLET3N, POR FAVOR COMUN3QUESE CON MITZI TORRES AL N3MERO 303-690-6570

Important Numbers

Attendance Line: 303-326-1651 (24 hours)
Cafeteria: 303-326-1151
Counseling Office: 303-326-1897 (Direct Line)
Columbia's Website: columbia.aurorak12.org

Main Office Phone: 303-690-6570
Main Office Fax: 303-326-1251
Counseling Fax: 303-326-1898

New School Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

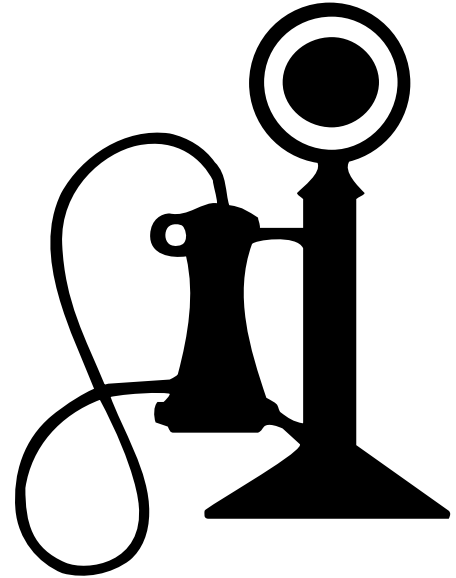
Student Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

1st Bell – 8:20 AM
2nd Bell – 8:30 AM (Seated in first period classes)
Last Bell – 3:57 PM (Students dismissed for the day)
Campus Cleared – 4:07 PM

Student Hours: Every Wednesday is a Late Start Day

1st Bell- 9:50 AM
2nd Bell- 10:00 AM (Seated in first period classes)
Last Bell- 3:57 PM (Students dismissed for the day)
Campus Cleared – 4:07 PM

Breakfast is served from 8:00 – 8:15 – Except on Wednesdays.
Students must come in through the cafeteria doors, on the east entrance of the building.
Remember: NO breakfast on Wednesday.



Important Dates Coming Up...

Feb. 7 Teacher In-Service (No School)
Feb. 8 Parent Conference Exchange Day (No School)
Feb. 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8:30pm
Feb. 18 PRESIDENT'S DAY
Feb. 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8:30pm
Mar. 14 Last Day – Quarter 3
Mar. 15 Teacher Workday (No School)
Mar. 25-29 SPRING BREAK

Columbia Middle School – PTSO

Parents the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program starts March 4th at Columbia. The TCAP testing is a way to measure how well students are learning and understanding established content from the Colorado State Standards.

Parents if you could please stress the importance of the testing to your students. It also prepares them for ACT and SAT testing in high school. Remember these tests take several days and you can expect your child to work for 9 to 12 hours on testing during this assessment. Things that will help your student during the week of testing include:

1. Making sure you get your students to school on time and in school during the testing sessions.
2. See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep and is well rested.
3. Please feed him/her a healthy/nutritious breakfast. Hunger can prevent good test performance
4. Be a cheerleader to your son/daughter and encourage them to do their best.
5. Encourage your child to listen carefully to test directions and ask questions if they are unsure of the instructions.
6. Don't forget to ask them how they think they did after the test each day.

Parents: we would like to cordially invite and welcome you to any of these upcoming PTSO meetings!!!
February 5th, March 7th, April 4th and May 2nd

From the Attendance Office

Attendance is important to the academic performance and overall success of students. Regular attendance develops habits that are essential for success in school and beyond.

Please notify Columbia Middle School within 24 hours of the day of an absence on our 24 hour attendance line in English or Spanish at 303-326-1651.

See page 19 of the Parent and Student hand book for further information regarding absences and tardies.

Update Your Contact Information

Please make sure that your contact information is correct and up to date. Should an emergency arise and we do not have current information this could delay any phone call informing you of the situation.

If you have a new phone number, you may contact the school directly to update the change.

For any additions or deletions of emergency contacts, a Demographic Change Form needs to be filled out and given to the school to submit to the Centralized Admissions office.

You may obtain a Student Demographic Change form at the school or on the Aurora Public Schools web site at <http://admissions.aurorak12.org/requirements/admissions-forms>

Reminder When Withdrawing Students from Columbia

When withdrawing your student from Columbia, please let Mrs. Morin in counseling know at least 24 hours in advance of the withdrawal. The parent/guardian needs to sign a withdrawal form in the counseling office. The student is then responsible to take a withdrawal paper around to their classrooms, media center, cafeteria and nurse for signatures on their last day of attendance. They must also clean out their hall locker and PE locker (if applicable) and return all Columbia materials, such as textbooks, library books, etc.

Change of Address

Have you moved? Does Aurora Public Schools have a current address on file for you? If not, you will need to visit Centralized Admissions to complete the "Student Demographic Change" form. You must bring current *** proof of address and a photo ID with you.

Centralized Admissions is open Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. No appointment necessary. This office is open year round (including fall, one week in winter, spring and summer breaks) but closed district holidays.

Centralized Admissions Office:

1085 Peoria Street, Aurora, CO 80111

(SW corner of 11th Avenue and Peoria Street)

***For specific document requirements or to learn more about Centralized Admissions, visit <http://admissions.aurora12.org>

Please Make Appointments in Advance

Due to budget cuts we have experienced in past years we have gradually reduced our staff significantly. This means everyone has to pitch in to cover more supervision areas and take on more daily tasks. For efficiency, we are requiring parents to please make appointments in advance to communicate with teachers, counselors and administrators regarding student needs. If you show up without an appointment, we might not be able to help you right away and you will be asked to return at a later, more convenient time for the person you need to see.



Columbia Cougar P.R.I.D.E Newsletter



P.R.I.D.E Team-

The **PRIDE** team is always welcome to new ideas to reward students for their positive contributions to Columbia Middle School. If you have any suggestions, please contact **Justin Witzke** at (303) 690-6570 or (303)326-4718 with your questions or comments or even to make a donation of candy, snacks or something else.

News-

Look for upcoming news about the Columbia Middle School staff.

Upcoming Events-

Pirates of the Cougarbean-April 12th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Mixed Lunches and Celebrations-

February 15th, March 22nd, and April 26th.

Assemblies-

May 22nd-Tentatively.

P.R.I.D.E. Students for January. Go COUGARS! - Nominated by Staff Members



6th

B: Behzod Mirpochoev: Behzod is a serious minded student who shows respect to all. He is always prepared and willing push himself to the next level!



6th

G: Clara Denard: Clara (Leann) Denard is a student with a positive attitude. She is always trying to learn and takes the extra effort to help achieve her goals.



7th

B: Anthony Telles: Anthony is a young man that is focused and always gives his best. He is always pleasant in class and never a disruption!! Anthony shows tremendous effort every day. He always prepared and on task. I have confessed to my class that I am off-task more often than Anthony is.



7th

G: Samantha Granados Pichardo: Samantha has not missed one Social Studies assignment since coming to Columbia. She is respectful, and always gives 110% effort.



8th

B: Erik Renteria : Erik is a respectful student who is always conscientious about his work habits. He consistently works hard and continues to want to improve his skills. He is extremely talented and creative in Visual Arts and "thinks outside the box" on a regular basis. He is a great addition to any classroom.



8th

G: Brooklyn Goree: Brooklyn is a dedicated student who works hard and has an excellent attitude in class on a daily basis.

Columbia Cougar P.R.I.D.E Newsletter-Continued

PTSO has graciously sponsored gift cards to award to one boy and one girl, per grade level, at the end of each reporting period for showing PRIDE at Columbia Middle School. All students are recognized for showing PRIDE with a mixed lunch and popsicles. They have been named to the Columbia Middle School **“Work Habit and Conduct Honor Roll.”** The following is a list of students who earned this honor for the January 11th mixed lunch (Sorted by grade level):

Aceveda, Hailee Bishop, Alex Burch, Dawson Caldwell, Marquise Carter, Bradon Casias, Kenneth Clanton, Jordan Coleman, Andrew Conforti, Faith Covington, Gabrielle Crawley, Alexis Cubbison, Chloe Dees, Kaitlyn Del Pino, Danielle Denard, Clara Dominguez Vazquez, Mercy	Evans, Clairissa Felix, Keara Ford, Shaunte Gomez, Jerell Gonzalez, Yarely Good, Laura Grimes, Aviance Hagen, Katlynn Hamid, Amana Hardin, Alexander Haro, Ashley Homstad, Austin Iacino, DeAnte Ibouanga Tombet, Asnath Benie Jimenez, Jacqueline Johnson, Raymond	Kainde, Tamie Kishell, Leslie Lamas Correa, Samantha Gomez, Melissa LaRochelle, Cole Lawson, Sasha Lewis, Melissa Lewis, Romaine Lopez Castro, Jessica Muhammad, Tahira Mulugeta, Beimnet Mitchell, Dallas Morris, Robert Nguyen, Bao Nhiri, Maha Perez Sanchez, Yaritzza Perry, Cyrus	Provencal, Nicholas Reyes, Valerie Reyna, Jose Richards, Bailee Rocha Garnica, Jazmin Saavedra Granados, Fabian Salah, Zaynah Sanchez, Stephanie Sanford, Kyla Schettler, Grayce Schneider, Caden Shahobudinova, Shahio Snoddy, Taylor Solis, Christopher Stechelin, Aiden Strauss, Kendra Strouse, Donovan	Tafoya, Kylee Taylor, Akira Tenson, Jasmine Terry, Tyrese Tovar, Isaiah Trimble, Karly Truong, Matthew Valladares, Ivana Varela, Jennifer Vargas, Jazmin Velazquez, Kallie Vo, Hannah Vullo, Krystal Walker, Adam Wiegand, Katherine Wilson, Amor-Leigh Zapien Moran, Benjamin
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Ames, Madeleine Barbar, Conscience Barker, Samantha Baughman, Elijah Beall, Camron Benitez, Evangaline Bratcher, Seth Brown, Taylor Celedon, Angel Cook, Johnathon Cordova, Rosemarie Corral Robles, Cynthia Crawley, Alysha Curran, Dylan Ebert, Anna Erly, Melony Fauser Darrin Flynn, Kylee	Fuentes, Eduardo Gadison, Unique Gondek, Jessica Gracia Renteria, Stephany Granados Pichardo, Samantha Gutierrez, Matthew Haag, Emily Hernandez Medina, Daphne Hill, Nusaybah Hitner, Cierra Hoath-Little, Jessica Hoffman, Fisher Hoisington, Martin Honey, Izraea Humphrey, Natalie	Hurtado, Alondra Ingleby, McKinnly Johnson, Graham Johnson-Moe, Brandon Johnson, Mya Katschke, Alexandra Kennedy, Keonte Kochman, Grace Kovacs, Savana Leon, Jacqueline Luna, Angel-Kaye March, Karissa Mayotte, Kathleen Moncrief, Rhiannon Montoya, Amanda Oda, Matthew Olmsted, Morgan	Ona Munoz, David Pacheco, Daniela Palacios Ginez, Juan Panteleyev, Denys Pasillas, Victoria Pena, Desiree Pena Uc, Jazmin Porras, Jasmin Rangel Leon, Jessica Reagan, Danyion Riggs, Eva Smith, Emma Smith, Oumari Somiah, Edith Sorrell, Dulcinea Southonephom, Jessica Spangler, Gianna	Subedi, Supriya Sung, Noah Trombley, Allison Vasquez Lopez, Alexis Vazquez Garcia, Melanie Viator, Tori Walker, Jamien Weir, Dakota White, Natalie Wiegand, Gabriella Williams, Brooklyn Williams, Christopher Wilkerson, Savannah Wilson-Nix, Destin Wolfe, Jared Xoy, Nathalie Zody, Trinity
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Acevedo, Andrea Aguilar, Florencio Allah, Sha-Ree Alvarez, Christian Andre, Olivia Bates, Sarah Beren, Erika Bombole-Boimbo, Nina Brown, DeAngelo Burgos, Steve Calton, Tre'Lin Campbell, Anaja Canty, Markayla Clanton, Jared Coleman, Sarah	Comet, Sydney Conner, Rhayla Elouadi, Imane Escanuela Mata, Miriam Ferguson, Talisha Fifita, Steve Flores Rodriguez, Brenda Garg, Maya Gemelev, Viktor Gochenour, Slena Gonzales, Alexis Gonzales Gonzales, Andrea Gunner, Madisen Gwynn, Justice	Harmuth, Austin Helgerson, Belle Hixson, Jessica Hopkins, Daniel Hopkins, Samantha Hulsey Rathbone, Emily Kelly, Payton Kennedy, Natalie Lambert, Nicholas Leday, Emily Lopez Castro, Daniela Lyster, Cody Maestas, Jordan Medina-DelValle, Deserie	Menchaca, Antonio Mills, Imani Morgan, Coree Mower, Shaelie MoyaArce, Valeria Oladoye, Abel Ojeda Arredondo, Leonel Ornelas, Jewel Paproski, Jacob Piilola, Hanna Reed, Aaron Rigali, Lacey Rose, Chance Savage, Clayton	Schneider, Heather Schumm, Madison Smith, Zaria Stamm, Ashley Tadesse, Samuel Teeter, Haylee Theragood, Anthony Topete, Yalitzza Trammer-Holloway, Renna Ward, Brittany White, Brittany Whitney, Oscar Woldetatyos, Faven Wright, Chloe
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Cougar Art Corner

THANKS!

Our annual Barnes and Noble bookfair, "A Night of Art and Literacy" was another successful event! We want to thank all of our Columbia families and staff members that came out to support this fundraising event on Friday, November 30th. We hope everyone enjoyed the student artwork on display, the musical performances by our talented CMS musicians, and family-friendly activities while they shopped and enjoyed a latte for a great cause! See everyone again next fall!

"Read, Write, Speak Art" Show

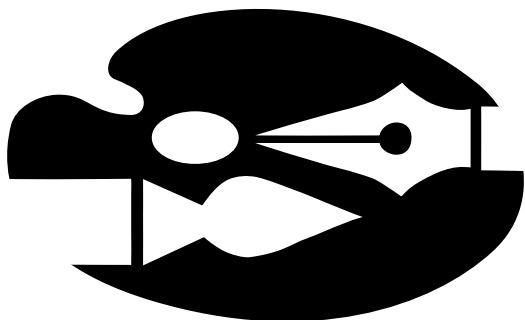
On February 20th, the Middle School and K-8 Visual Arts teachers will be setting up a small art show at the APS Professional Learning & Conference Center. This show will demonstrate how Visual Arts incorporates literacy in our classroom projects. The title of this show is "Read, Write, Speak Art" and we are very excited to display some of these exciting pieces of art. Columbia Middle School will exhibit several pieces (TBD) and the artists will be notified once the show is finalized.

Silent Art Auction:

During parent/teacher conferences on February 12th and February 20th we will hold a silent art auction in the lobby of the gym. Please stop by to admire and bid on a piece (or two!) of small hand-painted furniture items that some of our 8th grade CMS artists worked hard to design and complete. Adults can place bids on an item and the winners of the bids will be notified on February 21st. Come check us out!

Coming Soon!

Our annual K-12 district art show, "Festival of the Arts" is just around the corner! Stay tuned for future information on the exhibit and the artists whose works will be on display. The dates of the show are April 15-28th. It will take place at the Town Center of Aurora and you may view the 2D and 3D artwork during regular mall hours. The awards ceremony for any award winners will be several weeks later on May 11th at the APS Professional Learning & Conference Center. Save the date and be sure to come and see this large display of art from all grades in one location.



Student Work From Graphic Design Class

Graphic Design is creating beautiful images with programs such as: Gimp, Adobe Photoshop, Prezi etc.. 8th grade created unique abstract art using images from Google Earth, while 7th grade completed collages using Gimp. Graphic Design and Visual Arts projects are featured throughout the year on the bulletin board outside the art room and in art shows like the Festival of the Arts.



Eduardo Fuentes (7th)



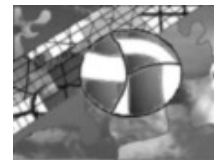
Stephany Gracia (7th)



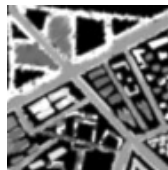
Nashame Hamilton (7th)



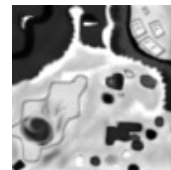
Zakariyah Davis (7th)



Emily Haag (7th)



Noah Sung (8th)



Jenna Larson (8th)



Xavier Forte (8th)

Hoops are Happening !!

The boys' basketball season is underway. 7th and 8th grade boys are playing the other Aurora middle schools. We have games this month on February 2, 6, 11, 14, 21, 26, and 28.

7th and 8th grade basketball championships will be March 16th at Gateway High School.

Come and cheer for the home team! Please demonstrate your dignity and sportsmanship by following these rules:

- Please cheer for Columbia, not against the other teams.
- Please refrain from coaching from the stands.
- Please go easy on the referees. Their job is difficult enough.
- Please do not stomp on the bleachers or harass players at the free throw line or respond to any comments by opposing fans.

Thanks for your support,

Coach Epstein
Coach Pope

Fifth Block Offered May 2013

Aurora Public Schools offers a voluntary Fifth Block of Instruction for students who have shown academic growth during the school year and who could benefit most from additional learning time. The Fifth Block of Instruction is designed for any student who has demonstrated evidence of growth in math and literacy and who have the most potential to make progress toward proficiency. Priority is given to students who are not proficient in both literacy and math, both unsatisfactory and partially proficient.

Invitations will be offered to incoming second through incoming tenth graders who are not yet proficient but demonstrate evidence of growth. Fifth Block also includes incoming fourth graders who are low proficient in reading and incoming sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth graders who are low proficient in math. Students must have had continuous enrollment in APS for at least one year (March to March) consistent attendance and overall good behavior.

Fifth Block is provided to students at no additional cost to parents. Students are generally taught in their own schools using district curriculum. Class size is set at a 25 to 1 ratio.

The regular school year runs from August 7, 2012 – May 22, 2013. The Fifth Block of Instruction will be offered from May 28 to June 28 for the 2012-13 school year.

School staff will notify parents of recommended students beginning March 1, 2013 and parents must notify the school to accept participation of their child in Fifth Block by April 16, 2013.

Transportation, breakfast/lunch and nursing services will be available to students. There will be no need to reapply for free or reduced lunch.

For more information about Fifth Block of Instruction, please visit fifthblock.aurorak12.org.

Fifth Block se ofrece en Mayo de 2013

El distrito escolar de las Escuelas Públicas de Aurora (Aurora Public Schools, o APS) ofrece una "Fifth Block of Instruction" (Quinta Sesión de Instrucción), en cual la inscripción es de forma voluntaria, para los alumnos que han demostrado progreso académico durante el ciclo escolar y que son los que más podrían beneficiarse de tiempo adicional de aprendizaje. La Fifth Block of Instruction, ha sido diseñada para cualquier alumno que ha demostrado evidencia de crecimiento en matemáticas y alfabetización, y que tiene el mayor potencial de progresar hacia el nivel de competencia. Se les da prioridad a los alumnos que no son competentes en ambas materias alfabetización y matemáticas, ambos de nivel insatisfactorio y parcialmente competente.

Las invitaciones serán ofrecidas a los alumnos que ingresarán al segundo a décimo grado, que todavía no sean competentes, pero que muestran evidencia de crecimiento. Fifth Block también incluye a los alumnos que ingresarán al cuarto grado y que están a nivel de competencia baja en lectura y a los alumnos que ingresarán al sexto, séptimo, octavo, noveno y décimo grado y que están a nivel de competencia baja en matemáticas. Los alumnos deben de haber estado matriculados continuamente en APS por lo menos durante un año (desde marzo hasta el siguiente marzo), haber asistido a clases en forma regular y haber tenido una buena conducta en general.

Fifth Block es provista a los alumnos sin ningún costo adicional para los padres. Los alumnos generalmente reciben la enseñanza en sus propias escuelas usando el plan de estudios del distrito. El tamaño de la clase se establece en una proporción de 25 alumnos por cada maestro.

El año escolar regular es del 7 de agosto de 2012 al 22 de mayo de 2013. Fifth Block of Instruction será ofrecida del 28 de mayo al 28 de junio para el año escolar 2012-2013.

Empezando el 1 de marzo de 2013, el personal escolar notificará a los padres de los alumnos que se recomienda que asistan, y los padres tienen que notificar a la escuela para confirmar la participación de sus hijos en Fifth Block no más tarde del 16 de abril de 2013.

Los servicios de transporte, desayuno/almuerzo y enfermería, estarán disponibles para los alumnos. Los padres no tendrán que solicitar nuevamente las comidas gratuitas o de precio reducido.

Para más información acerca de Fifth Block of Instruction, por favor visite fifthblock.aurorak12.org.

Traducción de este artículo fue producida por APS Communication Department.

APS Ballot Measure 3C Approved Thank you, Aurora voters!

On November 6, Aurora voters approved ballot measure 3C, a \$15 million mill levy override that will recover a portion of the \$70 million in state funding cuts that Aurora Public Schools has experienced over the past three years.

The mill levy will provide funding in three key areas:

- **ACHIEVEMENT:** Recovering a portion of reduced state funding for reading, writing, math, science, early childhood education and more public school choices
- **INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:** Recovering a portion of reduced state funding for instructional classroom technology, equipment and curriculum materials, which aid in preparing students for college and careers
- **HIGH QUALITY STAFF:** Recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and staff to provide for smaller class sizes, increases in graduation rates and lower dropout rates

For more information on the 2012 mill levy measure, visit the APS website at aurorak12.org/mill.

We are grateful to our tremendous campaign committee, Aurora Citizens for Excellent Schools, and to our staff, parents, students and the thousands of community members who supported this measure. Because of our strong community support, every APS student will benefit from mill levy funding.

- Superintendent John L. Barry

Artículo de votación 3C de Aurora aprobado ¡Gracias, votantes en Aurora!

El 6 de noviembre, los votantes en Aurora aprobaron el artículo de votación 3C, un aumento de impuestos para propietarios, de \$15 millones, que recuperará una porción de los \$70 millones en recortes de fondos estatales que el distrito de las Escuelas Públicas de Aurora (Aurora Public Schools, o APS) ha sufrido durante los últimos tres años.

El aumento de impuestos para propietarios proporcionará fondos a tres áreas clave:

- **RENDIMIENTO ACADÉMICO:** La recuperación de una porción de los fondos estatales reducidos, para lectura, matemáticas, ciencia, educación de primera infancia y más opciones en cuanto a escuelas públicas.
- **RECURSOS DE INSTRUCCIÓN:** La recuperación de una porción de fondos estatales reducidos, para tecnología de instrucción en el aula, equipo y materiales del plan de estudios, los cuales ayudan a preparar a los alumnos para la universidad y carreras.
- **PERSONAL DE ALTA CALIDAD:** El reclutamiento y mantenimiento de maestros y personal de alta calidad, para facilitar tamaños de clase más pequeños, aumentos en las tasas de graduación y más bajas tasas de abandono escolar.

Para más información sobre el artículo de votación de 2012 para el aumento de impuestos para propietarios, visite el sitio web de APS en: aurorak12.org/mill.

Estamos agradecidos por nuestro comité de campaña fabuloso, el Aurora Citizens for Excellent Schools (ciudadanos de Aurora para escuelas excelentes), y nuestro personal, nuestros padres de alumnos, nuestros alumnos y los miles de miembros de la comunidad que apoyaron este artículo de votación. Debido a nuestro fuerte apoyo comunitario, cada alumno en APS se beneficiará de los fondos del aumento de impuestos para propietarios.

- Superintendente John L. Barry

APS Notices

Registered Nurses, this is for you!

Aurora Public Schools employs registered nurses and may have one or more positions posted this spring. The job is a challenging, high energy, non-traditional role for BSN, with a great deal of autonomy. It requires someone with strong assessment, communication and organizational skills, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of students from 0-21. School nurses work the same schedule as teachers. Recent experience in public health or pediatrics is preferred. Training is provided. If you would like to find out more about school nursing, please call Mary Beth Rensberger, Health Services Director, at 303-365-7813.

Town Center at Aurora Offers APS Computer Kiosks

APS parents can access computer kiosks at the Town Center at Aurora shopping mall to view their children's Parent Portal accounts, find information on the APS website, or browse mall shopping opportunities.

The APS Parent Portal is part of the Infinite Campus student information system. The portal is a secure, confidential website that allows parents to view current information about their child's attendance, grades, class assignments and other resources. To access the Parent Portal, parents must request a Parent Portal ID from their child's school and then follow the online instructions to set up the account.

The computer kiosks are located on the first level of the mall near Guest Services and on the second level in the food court. The kiosks are a joint venture between Aurora Public Schools and the Town Center at Aurora and are provided as a free service to APS parents and students.

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2012-13 CONVENTIONAL CALENDAR

Re-adopted by BOE 5/1/12

IMPORTANT DATES

July 27 New Teachers Report (Building)
 July 30, 31 New Teacher Conferences (District)
 Aug. 1 All Teachers Report - (Building)
 Aug. 2 Teacher In-service - (District)
 Aug. 3 Teacher In-service and Webinar - (Building)
 Aug. 6 All Teachers Report - (Building)
 Aug. 7 First Day of School - Grades 6-12
 Aug. 7, 8 District Elementary Literacy Testing Days Grades 1-5
 Aug. 9 First Full Day of Classes begin for Grades 1-5
 Aug. 14 First Day of School - Kindergarten
 Aug. 21 First Day of School - Preschool
 Sept. 3 LABOR DAY
 Sept. TBD K-5 Individual Literacy Plan; Early release
 Sept. TBD K-5 Individual Literacy Plan; Early release
 Oct. 8 Last Day - Q1
 Oct. 9 Teacher Workday
 Oct. 29-Nov. 2 Fall Break
 Nov. 21 Parent Conference Exchange Day
 Nov. 22-23 THANKSGIVING
 Dec. 20 Last Day - Q2/First Semester
 Dec. 21 Teacher Workday
 Dec. 24-Jan. 4 Winter Break
 Jan. 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
 Feb. 7 Teacher In-service and Webinar
 Feb. 8 Parent Conference Exchange Day
 Feb. 14 PRESIDENTS DAY
 March 1 Last Day - Q3
 March 15 Teacher Workday
 March 25-29 Spring Break
 May 17 Last Day of Preschool
 May 20 In-service - No classes for students EXCEPT HHS, RHS, Pickens Technical College
 May 21 Graduation for ACHS, GHS, William Smith
 No classes for students attending HHS, RHS, Pickens Technical College
 May 22 Last Day - Q4/Second Semester
 May 23 Teacher Workday

Fifth Block - A block of 23 additional days of instruction for identified students.

May 24 5th Block Teacher Workday
 May 27 MEMORIAL DAY
 May 28 5th Block Instruction
 June 28 5th Block Teacher Workday

1st Quarter - 44 days > 88
 2nd Quarter - 44 days > 88
 3rd Quarter - 45 days > 87
 4th Quarter - 42 days
 5th Block - 23 days

○ = Holiday
 □ = Teacher Workday, No Classes
 ◇ = In-service Day, No Classes
 ◆ = Parent Conf. Exchange Day, No Classes
 ◆ = Teacher Conference/Report
 ◆ = 5th Block Instruction
 ◆ = Graduation
5B = 5th Block Teacher Workday



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 Jeanette S. Carmany, Vice President
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 JulieMarie Shepherd, Treasurer
 Matthew L. Cook, Director
 Dan Jorgensen, Director
 Cathy Wildman, Director

SEPTEMBER 2012

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MAY 2013

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APRIL 2013

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AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST and LUNCH MENU February 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Daily Breakfast Selections: Milk Variety: Skim and 1% Variety of fresh fruit or 100% fruit juice A variety of Cereal & bread or protein item are offered daily Daily Lunch Selections: Variety of fresh, canned, & frozen produce Selección diaria de desayunos: Variedad de leche: descremada y 1% Variedad de fruta fresca o jugo 100% de fruta Se ofrece una variedad de cereal y pan o elemento con proteína diariamente. Selección diaria de almuerzos: Variedad de productos frescos, en conserva y congelados ***MENU MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE/MENU PUEDE CAMBIAR SIN AVISO PREVIO*** * Contains Pork/Contiene de cerdo</p>				
<p>4 Breakfast Cereal & String Cheese cereal y barra de queso Lunch Vegetarian Pizza Cheese Pizza Pizza vegetariana Pizza de queso</p>	<p>5 Breakfast Waffles w/Blueberry Topping Waffles con arándanos azules por encima Lunch Philly Cheese Steak or Lasagna Sándwich de queso y bistec, al estilo "Philly" o Lasaña</p>	<p>6 NO Breakfast Lunch Chicken Nuggets or Beef Hard Taco Trocitos de pollo Taco de res, con tortilla dura</p>	<p>7 In Service Day No Classes <i>Some schools may be in session, please contact your school kitchen manager for menu.</i></p>	<p>1 Breakfast Scrambled Egg w/Toast or Cereal & Toast Huevos revueltos, y pan tostado O cereal y pan tostado Lunch Grilled Ham & Ch Sandwich w/Tomato Soup Sándwich grillado de jamón y queso con sopa de tomates</p>
<p>11 Breakfast Ultimate Brikft Round "Ultimate Breakfast Round" Lunch Meat Lovers Pizza Cheese Pizza Pizza de carne surtida Pizza de queso</p>	<p>12 Breakfast Oatmeal or Cereal & String Cheese Avena O cereal y barra de queso Lunch Turkey Sub Bean & Beef Burrito Sándwich de pavo Burrito de frijoles y carne</p>	<p>13 NO Breakfast Lunch Hamburger Southwest Chicken Alfredo Hamburguesa "Southwest Chicken Alfredo"</p>	<p>14 Breakfast Pancake on a Stick Panqueque en un palito Lunch Chicken Pot Pie Beef Fajita Pastel de pollo asado Fajita de res</p>	<p>15 Breakfast Cinn Puff & String Cheese Or Cereal & String Cheese Bolita de pan con canela, y barra de queso O cereal y barra de queso Lunch Stuffed Cheese Sticks w/Marinara Sauce Chicken Patty on a Bun Palitos de queso, con salsa de tomate estilo "marinara" Sándwich de pollo en un pan integral</p>
<p>18 President's Day No Classes</p>	<p>19 Breakfast Pancakes with Strawberry Topping or Cereal & Boiled Egg Panqueques con fresas por encima O cereal con huevo hervido Lunch Pepperoni Pizza Cheese Pizza Pizza de pepperoni Pizza de queso</p>	<p>20 NO Breakfast Lunch Cheese Ravioli w/Marinara Sauce, Bean & Beef Burrito Ravioles con queso y servidos con salsa de tomate estilo "marinara" Burrito de frijoles y carne</p>	<p>21 Breakfast Cereal & Mini Loaf cereal y mini pan Lunch Hamburger Chicken Soft Taco, Hamburguesa Taco de pollo, con tortilla blanda</p>	<p>22 Breakfast Breakfast Smoothie "Breakfast Smoothie" Lunch Western Chili Sweet and Sour Chicken Guiso "Western Chili" Pollo agridulce</p>
<p>25 Breakfast Breakfast Bagel or Cereal Desayuno en un pan tipo "bagel" O cereal Lunch Spicy Chicken Sandwich Supreme Pizza Cheese Pizza Sándwich de pollo picante Pizza suprema Pizza de queso</p>	<p>26 Breakfast Yogurt w/Granola or Cereal & Yogurt Yogur con granola O cereal y yogur Lunch Turkey Deli Wrap or Spagheti w/Mt Sauce Burrito de pavo Espaguetis con salsa de carne</p>	<p>27 NO Breakfast Lunch Pocket Burger or Chicken Quesadilla Hamburguesa pequeña Quesadilla con pollo</p>	<p>28 Breakfast French Toast Pan tostado al estilo francés Lunch Herb Roasted Chicken Meatball Sub Pollo asado con hierbas Sándwich de albóndigas</p>	

Looking for part-time work while your children are in school? If interested in working for Nutrition Services, apply at 1085 Peoria, Aurora or online <http://www.aps.k12.co.us> (\$10.00/hr)

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly, in accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Declaración de No-Discriminación: Esto explica qué hacer si usted cree que se le ha tratado injustamente. De acuerdo con la ley Federal y la política del Departamento de Agricultura, está prohibido que ésta institución discrimine basado en la raza, el color, la nacionalidad, el sexo, la edad o la incapacidad. Para presentar una queja por discriminación, por favor escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 o llame al 202-720-5964 (voz y TDD). USDA es un empleador y proveedor de igualdad en las oportunidades de trabajo.

Second Semester Mid-Term Parent Conferences

Tuesday, February 12
5:00PM - 8:30PM

or

Wednesday, February 20
5:00PM - 8:30PM

Parents are welcome to attend on either date, any time during the evening.

When you and your child arrive for your conference, you will find your child's teachers seated at various tables in the Gym or the Commons.

If you would prefer the option of a phone conference, please complete the back of this form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

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Conferencias de padres y maestros a mitad del segundo semestre

Martes, 12 de febrero
5:00PM - 8:30PM

o

Miércoles, 20 de febrero
5:00PM - 8:30PM

Los padres de familia están invitados a asistir a una de las dos fechas, a cualquier hora.

Cuando usted y su hijo/a lleguen a las conferencias, encontrarán a los maestros en mesas localizadas en el gimnasio y el área común ("commons").

Si usted prefiere la opción de una conferencia por teléfono, por favor llene la parte de atrás de esta forma y regrésela con su hijo/a a su maestro de "homeroom".

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Phone Conference Request

Petición para una conferencia por teléfono

Please indicate below if you prefer the option of a phone conference. Thank you for supporting your child's education. We look forward to speaking with you.

Por favor indique debajo si usted prefiere la opción de una conferencia por teléfono. Gracias por apoyar la educación de su hijo(a). Esperamos hablar con usted pronto.

Student's first and last name _____
Nombre y apellido del estudiante

Parent/Guardian's first and last name _____
Nombre y apellido del padre/la madre/tutor legal

____ I prefer a phone conference with the following teachers:
Yo prefiero una conferencia por teléfono con los siguientes maestros:

Please print the name of the person whom the teacher should be contacting and the current phone number which they need to call.

Escriba el nombre de la persona por quién el (la) maestro(a) debe preguntar y un número correcto para llamar.

Name/Nombre _____

Phone number(s)/Número(s) de teléfono _____

(Please fill out and return this to school ONLY if you are requesting a phone conference)

(Por favor llene y regrese esta forma SOLAMENTE si usted está pidiendo una conferencia por teléfono)