



Cougar News

August 2009

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

Steve Hamilton, Principal
Carla Stonbraker, Assistant Principal
Connie Wint, Assistant Principal
Janelle Phillips, Dean of Students

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Opening Day Ceremonies

2009-2010

6th, 7th and 8th Graders

August 5, A-Day: 6th Grade ONLY – Meet in the commons

A special day is planned where students will meet their PRIDE Ambassadors. Parents are welcome to bring their students, but will be asked to depart from their sons/daughters and go home soon after the morning begins. The first bell will ring at 7:05 am. Students will settle into the commons and begin their very first day of middle school with planned activities, a registration process, time with teachers and a chance to learn many new things! Students will be dismissed at the normal 2:50 pm time.

August 6, B-Day: 7th & 8th Grades ONLY

7th Graders will meet in the gym

Please enter through the lobby entrance by the gym when the 7:05 bell rings. All 7th graders will go to the gym and line-up in front of the butcher paper with their name on it. Students will meet their teacher and go onto class. Students will be dismissed at the normal 2:50 pm time.

8th Graders will meet in the commons

All 8th graders will enter through the bus doors at 7:05 am, go to the commons and line-up in front of the butcher paper with their name on it. Students will meet their teachers and go onto class. Students will be dismissed at the normal 2:50 pm time.

August 7, A-Day: All students (6th, 7th, & 8th Report)

All students report to regularly scheduled classes. Enter in the morning through either the bus doors or the main lobby entrance. The first bell rings at 7:05 am, and all students are to be in their first period classes at 7:14 am. Students will be dismissed at the normal 2:50 pm time.

Special Dates:

August 13, 2009 – Back to School Night - 7:00 pm.

September 3, 2009 – Magazine Sale Kick Off – Help make this year's fundraiser the best ever!

August 5, 2009 – 6th Grade Student Picture Day

August 6, 2009 – 7th & 8th Grade Student Picture Day

Columbia's website address: <http://www.aps.k12.co.us/columbia>

Welcome to the 2009 – 2010 Columbia School Year

The upcoming school year is just around the corner and with it comes many new and exciting items to be aware of and plan for carefully. As you read through this edition, look for specific information regarding:

Principal's Secretary: I am excited to share with you the changing of Columbia's longest standing position. Kathy Rewalt has been the secretary for Columbia for the past 27 years and has retired, please read her tribute and help me to welcome aboard Janelle Marshall who will replace Kathy and work closely with the office, community and myself in the years to come.

Standards Based Grading: All middle schools will shift to the district wide standards based grading program and report out on state learning standards by content area and the work habits of students.

2009 – 2010 Construction Calendar: Information related to our special calendar for next year is included in this letter, cut it out and keep it on the refrigerator.

Dress Code: There have been specific changes to the dress code, please read and plan accordingly.

Registration: This coming fall we will be completing student pictures during registration on the first two days of school and students should dress for these pictures. Students will receive their student identification cards the following week. Please complete all items within the summer mailing including this picture form and send it with the appropriate fees on the first day of school for your child's grade.

You and your child are about to embark or continue on one of the most unique times in your lives. Middle school is an important transition time. During middle school, students leave childhood and enter adolescence; and they learn valuable lessons which are essential for success in high school and beyond. Success in middle school is built strongly on the shoulders of every member of the Columbia community. Cooperation and communication are critical as your student leaves behind his or her childhood and begins exploring an uncertain future based on developing interests and personal choices. In addition, learning and practicing new problem solving skills are essential to this developmental phase. Having a successful experience means actively participating in Cougar P.R.I.D.E. This philosophy when taught, understood and practiced by all members of our community, will ensure the safe, positive, and strong educational experience that we all want for every child.

The Cougar PRIDE Philosophy: All members of the Columbia community will practice Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence to develop and maintain positive and supportive relationships among staff, students and parents in order to achieve academic and social success.

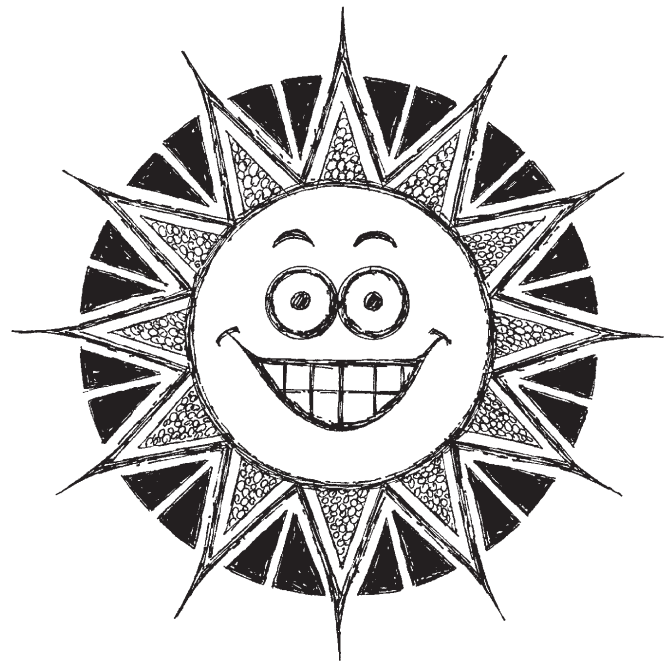
Throughout middle school, students move from children to young adults. This happens physically first and over time both their emotional and cognitive skills catch up. This transformation is both incredible and challenging. Our ability to become partners on this amazing journey will help us to persevere through the challenges, respect each other, model integrity and develop a sense of discipline related to the routines that ultimately lead to excellence in both the academic and social aspects of their lives.

Please join me on this journey, look for upcoming information regarding parent meetings, and always help us to help you and your child enjoy the Columbia difference.

Steve Hamilton, Principal

WHO'S WHO AT COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Principal is:	Steve Hamilton
The Assistant Principals are:	Carla Stonbraker Connie Wint
The Dean of Students is:	Janelle Phillips
The Nurse is:	Lora Shirack
The Counselor is:	Vicki Wright
The Psychologist is:	Janet Gagnon
The Counseling Secretary is:	Cathy Morin
The Office Staff is:	
Secretary -	Janelle Marshall
Bookkeeper -	Renea Hayes
Attendance Clerk -	Rosalie Heffley



Columbia Construction Calendar

This year Columbia has a special calendar and new hours to accommodate the construction projects that are part of the bond money approved by voters during the November 2008 elections. During the summer of 2009 we received a new roof, updated fire alarm system and updates to the media center. During the upcoming summer of 2010, the school will receive work on the building HVAC system, downstairs carpeting, and other adjustments. Due to the magnitude of the summer 2010 projects, Columbia will be on a special calendar with highlights below and the calendar later in the newsletter. The changes to the start times will be ONLY for this 2009-2010 school year to make up the necessary amount of instructional time from closing early. Our school year will end on April 29th due to this upcoming construction.

School Hours:	7 AM – 3:30 PM
Student Hours:	
1st Bell –	7:05 AM
2nd Bell –	7:14 AM (Seated in first period classes)
End of Day –	2:50 PM (Students dismissed for the day)
Campus Cleared –	3:00 PM

Important Dates

Aug. 5	First Day of School – 6th Grade ONLY – Pictures Taken
Aug. 6	First Day of School – 7th and 8th Grade ONLY – Pictures Taken
Sept. 7	LABOR DAY
Oct. 1	Last Day – Quarter 1
Oct. 2	Teacher Workday (Non-Student Day)
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break
Nov. 25	Parent Conference Exchange Day (Non-Student Day)
Nov. 26-27	THANKSGIVING
Dec. 8	Last Day – Quarter 2/First Semester
Dec. 9	Teacher Workday (Non-Student Day)
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Winter Break
Jan. 18	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Feb. 4	Teacher In-service (Non-Student Day)
Feb. 5	Parent Conference Exchange Day (Non-Student Day)
Feb. 15	Presidents Day
Feb. 23	Last Day – Quarter 3
Feb. 24	Teacher Workday (Non-Student Day)
March 29	April 2 Spring Break
April 29	Last Day – Quarter 4/Second Semester
April 30	Teacher Workday (Non-Student Day)
May 3	School Closed for construction

Cougar Pride

Philosophy: All members of the Columbia community will practice Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence to develop and maintain positive and supportive relationships among staff, students and parents in order to achieve academic and social success.

Having a successful experience means actively participating in Cougar P.R.I.D.E. This philosophy that when taught, understood and practiced by all members of the school and community will ensure the safe, positive, and strong educational experience that we all want for all students. Among the goals of the staff of Columbia Middle School is the desire to help students develop a sense of personal responsibility and self-discipline. This maturing process can only occur in a supportive, encouraging, positive, respectful and well-disciplined environment. Unity of purpose, cooperation and communication between staff, students and parents will enable all of us to achieve this goal. Some of the work that students completed last spring is listed below and will be placed onto the posters they designed for display throughout the building.

Classroom

Perseverance: I always try my hardest.

Respect: I listen when it is someone's turn to talk.

Integrity: I take responsibility for my actions.

Discipline: I finish my work and ask any necessary questions.

Excellence: I ask for extra help when I need it.

Hallway

Perseverance: I get to class on time.

Respect: I practice safety on the stairs.

Integrity: I help others when needed.

Discipline: I keep my locker organized.

Excellence: I keep the hallway clean.

Cafeteria

Perseverance: I wait patiently in the lunch line.

Respect: I am kind and polite to the cafeteria workers.

Integrity: I talk about positive things while I am eating.

Discipline: I keep my voice at a reasonable level.

Excellence: I clean up after myself and recycle.

In addition to these changes, Columbia will be adding a "P.R.I.D.E. Parents" piece that will bring parents into the building and encourage them to be an active part of our growing culture. As we move into our new year, please help us to develop a school and community that values education, student development and a true sense of belonging!

Standards Based Grading

Grading is an important part of promoting student learning. Students who understand how they need to improve in each content area will allow them to set specific learning goals, work towards state standards for each content, and develop a better understanding of the concepts and skills are necessary for success. Columbia invites you to spend time on the district website, reading information that will be included in school newsletters, and participate in a number of communications and meetings related to understanding your student's progress and learning needs.

District Website: <http://www.aps.k12.co.us/family/grading/>

Standards-Based Grading – Expected Results

- We grade students on achievement; students' behaviors or work habits (attendance, effort, engagement, homework, and responsibility) are reported separately.
- We provide support for the learner; grades are not reduced for work that is submitted late or missing as long as that work meets the standards and benchmarks.
- We seek evidence that more work has resulted in a higher level of achievement. Bonus or extra-credit points do not reflect achievement and are not given.
- We do not reduce grades for academic dishonesty; other consequences are applied and reassessment of actual level of achievement is determined
- We compare individual student performance to achievement towards standards or benchmarks. We only rely on evidence that is gathered from quality assessments that meet standards and benchmarks.
- We use professional judgment and do not average grades.
- We emphasize more recent achievement and do not summarize evidence accumulated over time. Learning is developmental and will grow with time and repeated opportunities.
- We involve students in the grading process by providing clear indicators of each level of proficiency to promote the highest achievement possible.



Understanding Student Growth

One area that is critical to understanding student progress is how much growth over time is necessary to reach proficiency in a content area. If a student is already proficient in math when entering 6th grade and shows at least one year of learning growth during the school year than that student will end the year proficient leaving the grade level. However, if a student is already proficient in math when entering 6th grade, and shows less than one year of learning growth during the school year than that student will end the year partially proficient leaving the grade level, and be behind in 7th grade.

All standards have specific grade level benchmarks that indicate what is necessary to be proficient at each standard for that grade. Students must understand what the learning target is in order to reach it. During the year it will be important to work together to clearly communicate the growth necessary for your student to reach or exceed grade level standards. See examples of the report card, the grading scale descriptions, and other resources at the website above.

Back To School Night

Come One, Come All to this year's Back to School Night which will be held on Thursday, August 13 at 7:00 pm. Watch for more information coming home after school begins.

Student Planners

All Columbia students will be required to purchase a Columbia planner this year. The cost is \$6. Planners will be used in all classes and will also contain hall passes. Students may purchase their planners on the first day of school.

Picture Day at Columbia

Picture will be taken on the first two days of school. 6th grade will have their pictures taken on August 5, and 7th and 8th graders will have their pictures taken on August 6. Price information and payment envelopes are in this mailing. Please send money with your child on their first day back.

Getting Involved is Fun!

We are looking for students to join our various sports and activities at Columbia. No previous experience is necessary – just enthusiasm and a willingness to try your best and be part of a team! Participation in school activities adds to self-esteem and a positive outlook on life. Make your middle school experience more memorable by becoming involved in a club, activity, or sport. You not only get to meet new people but learn new skills, how to work with others as a team, and contribute to a positive and supportive atmosphere at Columbia. In addition, the connection between student participation and high achievement has been well established in the research on schools.

The athletic program Columbia offers is for 6th through 8th grade, boys and girls. We have intramurals both before and after school and require no permission, medical forms or fees. Just show up and join in. Our organized sports for 7th and 8th graders include track, swimming, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, and soccer. To participate in our organized sports, students must turn in both the “Medical Examination – Athletic” and “Athletic Participation Permit” forms included in this mailing. A participation fee for each sport is \$30.00 per sport. The maximum amount to be paid by a family with two or more students participating in athletics in the same school will be limited to \$90.00 per school year. The maximum amount to be paid by a family with one athlete will be \$60.00 per school year.

The organized sports and their seasons are:

- Boys’ & Girls’ Track: August 10 – September 23
- Girls’ Swimming: August 10 – September 26
- Boys’ Wrestling: September 24 – November 14
- Girls’ Volleyball: November 16 – January 16
- Boys’ Basketball: January 19 – March 13
- Girls’ Basketball: March 15 – May 8
- Soccer: March 22 – May 12

Clubs and activities at Columbia include Year Book, Film & Animation, Equestrian, Student Council, Chess Club, Step Club, as well as others to be announced throughout the school year. To participate in clubs or activities, please listen for the announcements or look for the posters or flyers around the building advertising the club or activity meeting times.

New Address Verification

If you have moved over the summer and your child will not be attending Columbia Middle School – please contact the Counseling Office and let us know what school they will attend so we make sure school records are forwarded correctly.

If you have moved and are still in the Columbia boundaries, we will need verification of your new address so we can make the change in our database. Examples of verification are:

- Public Service bill or phone bill with parents’ name and new address
- Copy of lease or closing statement that has parents’ name and address listed

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy in the Counseling Office at 303-326-1897.

A Note from Transportation

Parents Note: Please go to the web site listed below to get your bus schedule. We will not have them available at the school until a few days before school starts.

Every fall after bus routes are published, we receive numerous phone calls from parents of students who are either entering kindergarten, or who have moved from elementary to middle school, or from middle school to high school. Many of these calls are regarding the walk distance to school or to the bus stop. The walk distance between specific grade levels increases as children get older and the children may no longer be eligible for transportation or may have to walk further to receive transportation services. Following is the Aurora Public Schools District Policy regarding walk distances:

Walk to Stop Distance		Walk to School Distance	
Elementary	.50 miles	Elementary	1.25 miles
Middle	1.00 miles	Middle	2.00 miles
High	1.50 miles	High	3.00 miles

Our bus routes for this school year are still being built. If you have questions about our buses, please go to the district web site at www.apsnet/trans/school_schedules.htm. (Note: There is an underscore between the words school and schedules.) You may also call the school in August for more information.

Computerized Lunch Program

The cafeteria is using a computerized meal program. This system allows us to provide better service to both students and parents, as well as account for all meals served at Columbia. Each student will be assigned a personal keypad number with four or five digits. As long as the student continues to be enrolled at Columbia, the same number will be utilized.

During mealtime, students will key in their keypad number on a keypad. The current money balance in the student's meal account will be shown on the register screen. If an account has enough money, the transaction will be processed and the amount of the meal will be deducted from the student's balance. If there is not enough money in the account, a wrong number keyed or the number has already been used that day, a "beep" will sound and the cafeteria cashier will handle the situation.

All students are assigned a number to participate in the lunch program. This protects the anonymity of those students receiving free or reduced meals.

Money is collected in the morning, before school begins from 7:00 to 7:10 am. Checks should have the student's name and meal account number noted. Cash or checks will be accepted for deposits. Payments into an account can be for one or more meals. Food Services encourages students to prepay for a number of meals at once in order to reduce the need for frequent deposits and daily cash handling. Note the increased prices this year for full paid and adult lunches.

The prices for lunch are:

	One Meal	Ten Meals
Reduced Lunch	\$.40	\$ 4.00
Full Paid Lunch	\$ 2.00	\$19.50
Adult Lunch	\$ 2.50	
Half Pint of Milk	\$.65	

An account balance can not be shared by different children in the same household. Payments must be received during the school's scheduled time to ensure placement into the student's meal account.

Any money left in an account at the end of the year will be available for that student's use in the next school year. For those students who transfer from one school to another within the district, any money left in a student meal account will be available at the new school within a week of transfer. Students leaving the district will receive a refund of the balance of their account. This refund will be made upon our receipt of a written request from the student's parent or guardian. Refunds of \$20 and under will be made in cash at the school site. Refunds larger than \$20.00 will be issued in a check that will be mailed to your home.

Please remember that the student meal account number issued belongs to your son or daughter. This meal number is confidential and should not be shared with other students or family members. A student number can be used for only one lunch per day.

PTSO News

The PTSO is an organization of parents, teachers, and students of Columbia Middle School. The objectives of the PTSO are:

- To bring the family and school into closer relationship so that parents and teachers may cooperate in educating our children.
- To develop united efforts to secure for every student the highest advantages in physical, academic, and social emotional education.
- To maintain cooperative relationships with the people and organizations of the larger community.
- To encourage enthusiasm and participation among members of the Columbia Middle School community in the school's activities.
- To promote effective communication and understanding among parents, teachers, students and school staff.
- To raise funds to help subsidize or provide programs and/or activities for the students, teachers and staff of Columbia Middle School.

All parents, students, and staff are automatically members of the PTSO. There are no membership dues. Everyone is welcome to attend the PTSO meetings. The meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at Columbia Middle School.

Positive Educational Environment

1. Cell phones are not allowed at school. It is not the school's responsibility to investigate or to find a cell phone if it has been lost or stolen. This policy applies to all electronic devices such as iPods, MP3 players, PSPs, etc.

Please note: If a student has an above-described item in his/her possession, it will be taken and returned only to a parent. Additional offenses will result in progressive disciplinary action.

2. Students are expected to have all necessary school supplies, including required books and textbooks, with them when they come to class.
3. Students should change classes in an orderly and quiet way so other classes are not disturbed.
4. A signed and dated pass is required for any student who is out of his/her normal instructional area.
5. Tardies do disturb the class. Students are expected to be in their classes on time. Students may be assigned after school detention time for tardies. Chronic tardies may result in an in school or out of school suspension.
6. Students are expected to be in class. Students who skip classes will be assigned consequences for skipping any portion of a day of classes and parents will be contacted.

Attendance is Critical to Student Achievement

THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY GOAL: ALL STUDENTS IN SCHOOL – ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!

Please follow the steps below to help us:

- a) Quickly notify parents of un-excused absences and
- b) Decrease interruptions for parents' work with phone calls from the attendance office.

Reporting Student Absences:

Parents or guardians should call the attendance line at 303-326-1651 to notify the school of all absences. Please include in your recorded message:

- 1) Name of the parent or guardian who is calling
- 2) Name and grade of student
- 3) Date of the excused absence
- 4) Reason for the absence
- 5) Daytime number of adult calling, in case a question arises about the absence.

The attendance line is in operation 24 hours per day, and is continuously monitored during the school day.



Dress Code

1. No hats, bandanas, or headgear are to be worn in or around our building. Exemptions and special circumstances will be handled by the administrative team on a case-by-case basis. Bandanas will be confiscated and not returned.
2. All shirts MUST have sleeves and cover the body appropriately (no cleavage, midribs, backs, bellies, bottoms or underclothes showing). Girls and boys are NOT to wear sleeveless shirts such as those with spaghetti straps or muscle shirts.
3. All skirts and shorts are to be worn properly and be longer than the student's fingertips, even if students are wearing leggings underneath. Pants are also to be worn properly so no underwear is exposed. Outdoor coats are to be kept in lockers.
4. Dangling belts are not acceptable and may be cut-off. Spiked piercings and bracelets along with neck chains, pant chains, etc. will not be allowed. Wallet chains, pajamas, house pants and house slippers are not allowed.
5. Dressing alike or altering personal appearance for the purpose of intimidation, gang-claiming, or disruptive behaviors will not be allowed. This includes, but is not limited to: shaved eyebrows, displaying bandanas, wearing same color: t-shirts/ sweatshirts/hoodies half-on, etc.
6. Clothes with offensive or vulgar language/graphics/ gang symbols are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual references (ie: playboy bunny logos or jewelry), obscene language, gang affiliation, or drug/alcohol logos.
7. Athletes and athletic club members will be required to wear the Physical Education uniform during practice nights and the team uniform during games.
8. This dress code will be updated as fashions, trends, and need for student safety change.

If dress is not appropriate for school, students will be required by staff to change into more appropriate attire prior to returning to classes or activities. This may include putting on a sweatshirt, wearing a Columbia shirt, or contacting parent(s) or guardian(s) to bring acceptable clothing to school, etc. The administrative team will make all final determinations about the appropriateness of clothing. If you have any questions, please contact the building administrative team. If you are NOT sure if the clothing you are choosing is acceptable for the school dress code DO NOT WEAR IT.

Make The Appropriate Choice Each Day

Supply Lists for 2009-10

6th Grade:

Lockers are not large enough to accommodate large, wheeled backpacks. The dimensions of the lockers are: 10" (width) x 34" (height) x 10" (depth).

We have found that individual binders, and folders work better for helping 6th grade students be more organized. Please do not purchase a large "zippered binder" or "trapper keeper".

- Columbia Middle School planner- \$6.00
- Pencil bag containing the following items: (to be carried to each class daily)
- Ink pens-blue, black and red ONLY (please-NO gel pens, etc.)
- Several #2 pencils and erasers
- Colored pencils (at least a 12 pack)
- Glue sticks
- Small school scissors
- Highlighter markers
- Post-it notes
- 6" ruler with standard (inches) and metric markings
- A steady supply of lined loose leaf paper (white only)
- Two or more large family size boxes of tissues (give to home-room teacher)
- Four or more single subject spiral notebooks
- Two 1 ½" binders (math, language arts)
- Two packages index tab dividers (math, language arts)
- Grid rule spiral notebook (math)
- One 2 pocket, 3-prong folder (Epstein-social studies)
- Two composition notebooks (Lusk-language arts)
- One ream copy paper

7th Grade:

- 7 – 2 pocket folders (one with three-prongs)
- 1 box of tissues for homeroom teacher
- 1 three ring binder for math (½ " wide)
- 1 three- ring binder for LA (1 ½ " – 2" wide) with 5 tab dividers
- Pencil bag for LA binder
- 2-3 packages lined loose leaf paper – college ruled
- Dry erase markers for math (may need several over the year; dark colors only)
- Ruler (with metric measurements)
- Colored pencils (12 pack)
- Box of thin markers (12 pack)
- 1 scientific calculator
- 3-4 glue sticks
- Red, blue, and black ball-point pens (no gel pens)
- 1 pair of small scissors
- 3-4 single subject spiral notebooks/composition notebooks
- 2 packages of 3" X 3" Post-It notes (sticky notes)
- One ream copy paper

8th Grade:

- Red, blue, and black ball point pens (no gel pens)
- One 2" three-ring binder for LA
- 1 pencil bag for LA
- 1 composition notebook for LA

- One 1" three-ring binder for science
- One 3-pronged folder for social studies
- Highlighters (3 different colors)
- Dry erase marker
- 2 boxes colored pencils (12 packs)
- Several 2-pocket folders
- 1 box of thin markers (12 pack)
- 2 packages of 3" X 3" Post-It notes (sticky notes)
- Ruler (with metric measurements)
- 1 pair of small scissors
- 3-4 glue sticks
- Graph paper (¼ " or centimeter)
- 1 scientific calculator
- One ream copy paper

Electives:

Foreign Language

- 6th grade – 2 pocket folder for papers
- 7th & 8th grade – 2 pocket folder and spiral notebook

Visual Arts

- Sketchbook-can be a lined spiral or drawing pad (8.5 X 11")

Life Skills

We look forward to beginning our 2009-2010 school year. Please note that even though Columbia has 6th graders begin on Wednesday, August 5th, life skills will not. We have found it is too difficult to have our 6th graders start one day, go home for one day, and then come back. We also like to start the whole class together. Therefore, all life skills students (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) will start together on Thursday, August 6th. Feel free to call us with any questions after July 30th. Transportation is aware that your 6th grader will be starting on August 6th and will be in touch with you regarding your student's bus route.

We have also included our supply list in case you would like to collect supplies before your student begins on Thursday, August 6th. Please note we have plenty of crayons, paper, and pencils for the classroom activities.

- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 bottle of dish washing liquid (not for dishwasher)
- 1 liquid hand soap refill
- 1 bottle hand lotion (scent free)
- 1 can of air freshener spray
- 3 containers of sanitizing wipes (Lysol, etc)
- 1 toothbrush
- 2 glue bottles
- 1 container of toothpaste
- 1 pack of 2 or more glue sticks
- 1 pack of markers (washable)
- \$6.00 for a planner (for daily communication)
- 1 pencil case (zip type preferred)
- 1 pencil case (hard plastic, to hold hygiene supplies)
- Anything for your child's personal needs

A History of Kathy Rewalt and Columbia Middle School – 1982–2009

Kathy began thinking about her career in Aurora Public Schools in 1978, when her Air Force husband was stationed at Lowery. She had a neighbor that was a paraprofessional at Mrachek Middle School, and Kathy thought that the school schedule would fit perfectly with her family needs, as Paul was then in kindergarten.

So she applied, and in 1979 began at Aurora Hills Middle School as one of the first middle school attendance clerks in Aurora Public Schools. In those pre computer days, each student had an attendance card and the absences were entered every period, by hand, on a daily basis. Ron Hultquist, the principal at Aurora Hills, hired Kathy.

During this time Kathy worked at A. Hills for two years and also spent some time in Florida, as Dick was transferred there. However, Columbia was in the process of being built and Ron Hultquist was named as the new principal. When the family returned to Colorado, Kathy called Ron, and he hired her as the new attendance clerk at Columbia. By the way, Ron Hultquist was the only administrator in Aurora Public Schools that ever hired Kathy, and she worked in the district for 28 years!

So Kathy began at Columbia in the fall of 1982. The school building was not ready for students so the entire student body and staff started at Mrachek Middle school on split session. (Ironically, during the summer of 2009, Kathy's last few weeks with us, we all went back to Mrachek to run 5th block as Columbia was under repair for the first time in its 26 years. So Kathy began and ended her long career at Columbia at another building.)

In the fall of 1982, Alice Lind was the principal's secretary and Dottie Van Dyke was the bookkeeper. After six years, Dottie left and Kathy took over the books. In 1989, Alice Lind retired and Ron Hultquist, again(!) hired Kathy as his head secretary. As time went on the office staff included Krista Swanson, Charlotte Fowler, Vicki Bader, Cathy Jerome, Ro Heffley, Renea Hayes, and Cathy Morin. We were reduced to numbering the Cathys but, Kathy Rewalt was always number one.

Kathy kept the administrators in line also. The first Ad team included Principal Ron Hultquist, Steve Stevens, who had also come from Aurora Hills, as Columbia's assistant principal, and Debbie Lynch served as the Learning Coordinator. After Ron retired, Steve Stevens became the principal. Steve and Kathy worked together for most of both of their careers. After Steve's retirement in 2003, Kathy worked for the next two principals. James O'Tremba, who had been an assistant principal for several years, returned as Columbia's third principal. Kathy ended her career working with Steve Hamilton who became principal in the fall of 2007, after also serving as assistant principal. Other administrators included Kent Epperson and Carla Stonbraker. Christine Veto was the first dean at Columbia starting in 2004, and Janelle Phillips was the dean at Kathy's retirement.

Kathy has seen a lot of changes during her career. She remembers when the first, one and only computer arrived. It was on a movable cart and was shared by everyone in the office. She remembers that the staff had classes in Word Perfect, but still had typewriters on their desks for most uses. Eventually the principals and head secretaries had their own computers, and Kathy became the technology expert that she still is at her retirement. Ron Hultquist, principal at the time, refused to touch his and it became a paperweight on his desk. He continued to hand write everything and Kathy typed it for him.

Kathy always kept a dish of candy on her desk and many folks, both students and staff, made it a habit to stop by, some every day, and chat with Kathy and take a piece of candy. During Halloween, her dish has a witch's hand that grabs and a scary voice that startle candy grabbers, causing lots of laughs. Everyone in the office will always remember her great laugh, and Kathy laughs a lot, her hard work and her organizational ability that makes everything at Columbia ran smoothly, from the beginning of each school year when she would prepare all of the folders and supplies for each teacher, redo the handbook and give everyone their logins and codes for several different programs, to the end of school, when she comes to the ad team and gives us a list of all of the tasks we need to complete before the teachers leave.

Kathy says she will not miss arranging transportation, as it is very time consuming, and will not miss having to get up early to start school by 7:15 in the morning. She will miss the staff and the students. She thinks middle school is the greatest age to teach and work with. She feels that the technology has changed in her career, but the people and kids have remained the same.

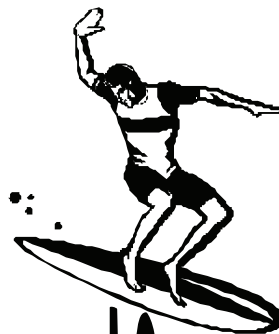
When asked about the highlights or best memories of her career at Columbia, Kathy replied that she felt she was lucky to work with the best office staff and administrators in the school system. And she liked the independence that she has been able to have. She said Steve Stevens had trained her in several areas, and she learned to enjoy scheduling. She likes problem solving and figuring out where the mistakes are, and why the schedule did not work. Kathy took on responsibilities for all of her career that superseded those of a "normal secretary." Everyone at Columbia has always been able to "ask Kathy," and get answers from her about how to fix your word document, how to call the sub office, how to contact the pop machine people, and who to call at the district to get questions answered about any given topic. In addition, Kathy has organized every function, especially the food, for over 25 years.

We wish her well on her next adventure.

S.O.S. *Save Our Subscriptions*

MAGAZINE AND COOKIE DOUGH SALE 2009

**SEPTEMBER
3RD THRU THE 21ST**



"Ride the Wave" with the Columbia Magazine and Cookie Dough Sale

YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT!

Thanks for your continued support of our school!! Please plan to support our major fundraiser by saving your magazine orders to purchase through the school.

We will be offering over 800 magazine titles and 80 gift and food items all delivered directly to the purchasers home by the U.S. Postal Service.

WHY A MAGAZINE SALE?

This activity is designed to support student activities and programs. Our school will receive forty cents of every dollar you spend. On average each U.S. household purchases 4-5 magazine subscriptions.

CAN I RENEW MY CURRENT MAGAZINES?

Yes, make sure you use your name and address as it appears on your current label.

WHAT ABOUT WEB ORDERS?

On-line ordering is available with a credit card. Students can register on line and send e-mails to relatives and friends and receive immediate prize credit for their purchases.

HOW CAN WE BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THIS PROGRAM WITHOUT GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR?

This program is designed to discourage selling door-to-door. Ask family, friends, co-workers, and relatives.
USE THE PHONE AND THE WEB SITE.

WHAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM?

Call the "800" number found on the back of your (pink) receipt. All orders are guaranteed. Each subscriber may also track all their magazine and home delivery orders via the company web site.

DO I PAY MORE THAN BUYING DIRECT?

NO-We offer the lowest prices available. We also will have many offers for two magazines for the price of one.

IF I RENEW CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL MY SERVICE BE INTERRUPTED?

No – just renew within 12 weeks of your expiration date. Your order will be added to the end of your current subscription. You can check the label on your magazine for the expiration date.

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2nd Annual BACK TO SCHOOL KICKOFF Saturday, August 1, 2009



8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Aurora Central High School Football Field

EVENTS INCLUDE
IMMUNIZATIONS---STUDENT REGISTRATION---
SCHOOL SUPPLIES (while supplies last)---FOOD---ENTERTAINMENT
SCHOOLS WILL BE REPRESENTING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY BY
DISPLAYING FLAGS AND REALIA FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
FUN FOR EVERYONE!!

Reminder - the first day of school is August 5, 2009

Community Partners

Aurora Police Department
Carrabba's

Junior Black Chamber, City of Aurora
Chick-Fil-A

Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation
Sam's Club

Wells Fargo

City of Aurora's Office of Youth Development
Aurora Public Library

And more!



Sponsored by
Aurora Public Schools Family Engagement
and Outreach

Division of the Superintendent

ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE AURORA

Segundo evento anual PARA EMPEZAR EL REGRESO A

CLASES

Sábado, 1 de agosto de 2009



8:00 - 12:00 p.m.

**En el campo de fútbol americano de la preparatoria
Aurora Central High School**

EVENTOS INCLUYEN

VACUNAS---MATRICULACIÓN DE ESTUDIANTES

ÚTILES ESCOLARES (hasta que se terminen)

COMIDA---ENTRETENIMIENTO

**LAS ESCUELAS ESTARÁN REPRESENTANDO NUESTRA COMUNIDAD
DIVERSA POR MEDIO DE MOSTRAR BANDERAS Y MUESTRAS DE COSAS
QUE REPRESENTAN PAÍSES DIFERENTES
¡¡¡DIVERSIÓN PARA TODO EL MUNDO!!!**

Recordatorio: el primer día de clases es el 5 de agosto de 2009

Socios en la Comunidad

Aurora Police Department

Carrabba's

Junior Black Chamber, City of Aurora

Chick-Fil-A

Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation

Sam's Club

Wells Fargo

City of Aurora's Office of Youth Development

Aurora Public Library

iY más!



Patrocinado por

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and Outreach

Division of the Superintendent

Pre-pay for School Meals and Ala Carte at PAMS Lunchroom!

PAMS - Parent Account Management System

www.pamslunchroom.com



Prepay online or on the phone with a credit card from the comfort of your home or office!

- Prepay for your student's meals online or by phone safely and conveniently.
- Choose Visa, MasterCard, or Discover, credit/debit card.
- Set up your account for automatic payments when balance is low.
- Access meal account balances online or by phone.
- Access payment history online or by phone.
- Receive e-mail notification of balance status automatically.
- Receive e-mail confirmation on automatic payments.
- Register multiple students under one account.

Setting up an account is as easy as one, two, three.






Step 1: Register with PAMS: Go to <http://www.pamslunchroom.com> or call **1-888-994-5100** to provide your student's keypad number and billing information

Step 2: Choose your Payment Options: Make manual payments at your convenience or set up automatic payments based on your student's balance falling below an amount that you determine.

Step 3: Make a Payment: Pay by credit/debit card. You will receive an immediate confirmation that your payment has been received. **(Payments take one to two business days to post to your student's account at his/her school cafeteria.)**

Manage Your Account: Simply enter your username and password to access your account at <http://www.pamslunchroom.com>, or call **1-888-994-5100**. You can make payments, view your student's account balance, view payment history, and change your payment preferences twenty four hours a day seven days a week!

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SECONDARY LUNCH MENU AUGUST 2009

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 * may contain pork	4 	5 Individual Galaxy Pizza* Sausage Pizza* Chicken Buffalo Tenders w/salsa & ranch dressing Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	6 Cheeseburger w/pickles & onion Hamburger w/pickles & onion Grilled Cheese Sandwich Salad Bar Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Fruited Jello	7 Chicken Fajita w/salsa Twisted Cheese Pizza Pork Rib-Be-Que Sandwich* Pasta Bar Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Molasses Cookie
10 Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich* Hot Dog Sandwich Bar Sides: French Fries Variety Fruit	11 Chicken Patty on a Bun Deli Wrap* Waffles w/syrup Sausage Patty Sides: Potato Tri Tator Variety Fruit	12 <i>1st Day of School Begins</i> Spaghetti w/meat sauce Cheese Quesadilla w/salsa Potato Bar Sides: Bread Sticks Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	13 Chicken Buffalo Tenders w/ranch dressing Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich* Salad Bar Sides: Baked Potato w/sour cream Variety Fruit Applesauce Bread	14 Nachos w/cheese Sloppy Joe on a Bun Pasta Bar  Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables
17 Beef Burrito w/green chili Chicken Hip Dippers w/salsa & ranch dressing Chili Cheese Pretzel Sides: Hot Rolls Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	18 Red Baron Cheese Pizza Red Baron Pepperoni Pizza* Hot & Spicy Chicken Sandwich Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables 	19 Corn Dog Sesame Chicken Potato Bar Sides: Rice Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Applesauce Bread	20 Deli Sandwich Stuffed Pepperoni Sandwich* Salad Bar Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Chocolate Birthday Cake	21 Roast Turkey Hot Roast Beef & Cheddar Sandwich Chili Cheese Wrap Sides: Mashed Potatoes w/gravy Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Angel Biscuits w/honey
24 Fish Sandwich w/tartar sauce Grilled Cheese Sandwich Taco Bar Sides: Chicken Noodle Soup Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	25 Chicken Buffalo Tenders w/ranch dressing Cheeseburger w/pickles & onion Hamburger w/pickles & onion Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Pumpkin Bread	26 Pig in the Blanket Soft Beef Taco w/lettuce, cheese, salsa & tomato Potato Bar w/sour cream Sides: French Fries Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables Chocolate Chip Cookie	27 Stuffed Cheese Sticks w/marinara sauce Hot Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Salad Bar  Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	28 Chili w/tortillas Stuffed Pepperoni Sandwich* Taco Bar Sides: Hot Rolls Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables
31 Smothered Nachos Twisted Chicken Pizza Twisted 3 Meat Pizza Pasta Bar Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	Sept 1 Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ sauce & honey Chicken Egg Roll French Toast Sticks w/syrup Sides: Chicken Fried Rice Angel Biscuits w/honey Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	Sept 2 Cheeseburger w/pickles & onion Hamburger w/pickles & onion Sloppy Joe on a Bun  Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables	Sept 3 Chicken Fajita w/salsa Fish Sandwich w/tartar sauce Salad Bar Sides: Potato Rounds Variety Fruit Pudding	Sept 4 Hot & Spicy Chicken Sandwich French Dip w/au jus Pasta Bar Sides: Variety Fruit Variety Vegetables

Note: 1/2 pint of milk is included with each lunch. Choices Include – 1% Chocolate Milk, 1% Lowfat Milk, & Skim Milk.

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> (\$9.76/hr).

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2009-10 CONSTRUCTION CALENDAR

IMPORTANT DATES

July 27, 28 New Teacher Conferences (District)
 July 29 New Teachers Report (Building)
 July 30 All Teachers Report - (Building)
 July 31 Teacher In-service - (Building)
 Aug. 3 Teacher In-service - (District)
 Aug. 4 All Teachers Report - (Building)
 Aug. 5 First Day of School - Grades 1-12
 Aug. 12 First Day of School - Kindergarten
 Sept. 7 LABOR DAY
 Sept. 18 K-5 Individual Literacy Plan - Early Release
 Sept. 28 K-5 Individual Literacy Plan - Early Release
 Oct. 1 Last Day - Q1
 Oct. 2 Teacher Workday
 Oct. 26-30 Fall Break
 Nov. 25 Parent Conference Exchange Day
 Nov. 26-27 THANKSGIVING
 Dec. 8 Last Day - Q2/First Semester Teacher Workday
 Dec. 9 Winter Break
 Dec. 21-Jan. 1 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
 Jan. 18 Teacher In-service
 Feb. 4 Parent Conference Exchange Day
 Feb. 5 PRESIDENTS DAY
 Feb. 15 Last Day - Q3
 Feb. 23 Teacher Workday
 Feb. 24 Spring Break
 March 29-April 2 Last Day - Q4/Second Semester Teacher Workday
 April 30 Teacher In-service
 May 3 Graduation for HHS, RHS, William Smith
 May 14 Graduation for ACHS, GHS, Pickens Technical College

1st Quarter - 41 days > 80
 2nd Quarter - 39 days > 80
 3rd Quarter - 40 days > 81
 4th Quarter - 41 days > 81

○ = Holiday
 □ = Teacher Workday, No Classes
 ◆ = Teacher Conference/Report
 🎓 = Graduation
 △ = In-service Day, No Classes
 ◇ = Parent Conf. Exchange Day, No Classes

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Matthew L. Cook, President
 Jeanette S. Carmany, Vice President
 Peter Barber, Secretary
 Judith Edeberg, Director
 Mary W. Lewis, Director
 Amy Prince, Director

SEPTEMBER 2009						
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