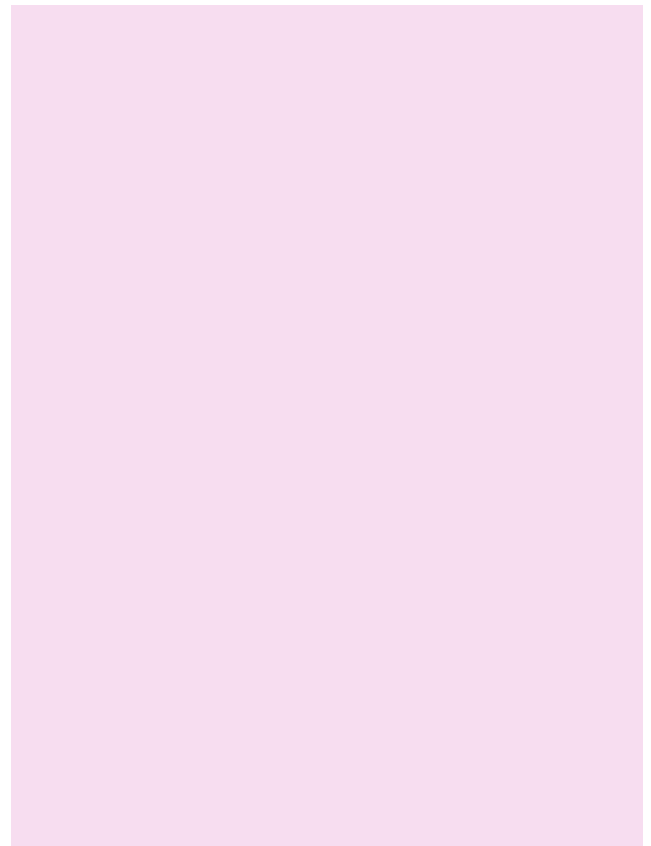




CPS BELIEVES IN SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

The Columbia Public School District's relationships with local veterans and the Harry S Truman Veterans' Hospital continues to broaden and expand, with two



The Bright Futures program is new to Columbia Public Schools and seeks narrowed its effort to be more effective.

to be effective or so narrowly that we had little impact. It was decided to begin with a focus on opportunity and enrichment, two of the superintendent's goals, for our students interested in band and orchestra.”



AVID PROGRAM SEES RESULTS

The AVID program started in Columbia Public Schools last year and seeks to be a college and career readiness system for students in the academic middle - those who are underrepresented on college cam-

(Advancement Via Individual Determination) Coordinator Shanna Dale. countable.”

AVID is a class during the school day at the middle and high school levels where students gather and learn things like the Cornell note taking system and organizational methods, while also having the opportunity to interact with each other as well as college mentors.

CPS students have parents who did not go to a university and 74 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Through the program, 36,000 AVID seniors nationwide graduated last year. AVID has been around for 30 years and it has shown to be an effective college readiness system.”



CPS Bond Update

Large-scale bond projects are helping Columbia Public Schools address the ongoing issue of growth.

“This year will be our largest ever first, second, fourth and fifth grade classes,” said Linda Quinley, the district’s Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer. “The new elementary schools will help, but next we need to look at the middle school level.”

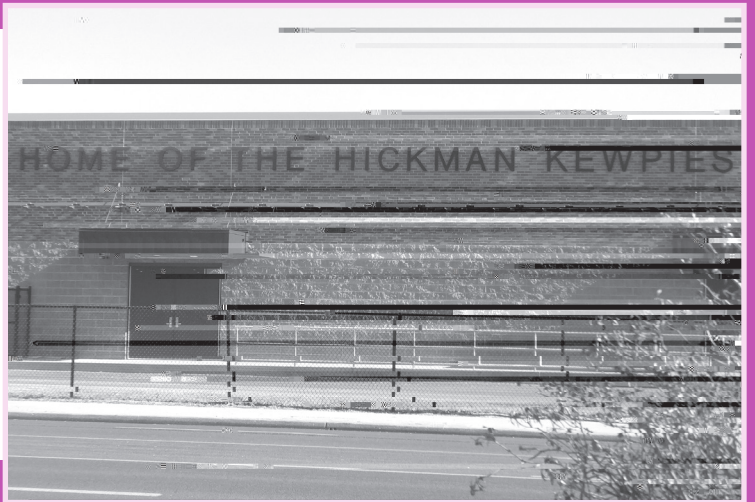
Overall, the district has seen growth from 15,942 students in 2000-2001 to 17,206 students this school year, with projected growth to 18,377 by the 2019–2020 school year. The majority of that growth is currently at the elementary level, as it has grown from 7,306 students in 2006-2007 to a projected total of 9,153 in 2019-2020.

The building of Eliot Battle and Beulah Ralph elementary schools will help with that growth. Battle Elementary School was over 50 percent complete at the end of January and on target for its opening in August. Now enclosed from the winter elements, most of the work is going on inside the building. Construction on Ralph Elementary School, the newly-named school in the south



HICKMAN ATHLETIC COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

Members of the Hickman High School student body and administration were joined by representatives from Columbia Public Schools and the Columbia Chamber of Commerce to cut the ribbon for the school’s new athletic facility. Work wrapped up in June of 2014 on the \$3.4 million project, and included the addition of a wrestling room, concession stand and restrooms. Work was also completed on new tennis courts, the baseball/softball field and the parking lot.



GROUNDBREAKING NEW ELEMENTARY

Ground was broken this fall for the Columbia Public Schools’ new elementary school, to be built in the southwest part of town, at the intersection of Scott Boulevard and Route K. The 89,000 square foot school is scheduled to open in August 2016. In January, the Columbia Board of Education voted to name the school after Beulah Ralph. Ralph, who passed away in 2010, spent 58 years working at Douglass High School, from 1947 to 2005. She was a key figure in the desegregation of the district.

News You Can Use

HICKMAN, CACC STUDENTS WIN STATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE AT UMKC

In November, three teams from Hickman High School and the Columbia Area Career Center competed in the 2014 State Entrepreneurship Challenge. The teams from Hickman and CACC finished first and second. The teams that competed at the state competition had to qualify by submitting business plans. The top 20 teams were

selected to compete for the state title at the University of Missouri - Kansas City's Bloch School of Management. The winning team received \$1,000 renewable scholarships from UMKC and a tablet. Second place received the scholarship. Team members are: First place team: **Alexander F. G. G., C. P., B. W.** and **M. C. I.** (pictured). Second place team: **K. F. I., S. I. S., E. B., Al H.** and **M. P.** Qualified: **N. N., O. K., M. G. I., M. D.** and **Y. S.**

CPS EARNS GRANT FROM USDA TO HELP SCHOOLS PURCHASE FROM LOCAL FARMERS

In December, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced more than \$5 million in grants to support efforts to connect school cafeterias with local farmers and ranchers through its Farm to School Program. Columbia Public Schools will partner with University of Missouri Extension to expand and integrate its farm to school program through the following key activities: extend the use of local products by preserving the farm to school goods purchased for consumption during the non-harvest seasons; increase the amount of farm to school items served in the cafeterias by seeking additional opportunities to purchase local goods; extend the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program initiative to grades 6 and 7 in order to allow student tasting at all six middle schools; extend learning into the classroom through outside gardens that conserve on space and hydroponic gardens for inside use in the winter; promote a growing contest among middle school students to enhance learning; increase curriculum emphasis on the scientific aspects of growing produce and the health contributions of eating produce.

COLUMBIA PTA UNITS EARN STATE HONORS

Several Columbia PTA units were recognized for excellence and achievement at the 2014 Missouri PTA annual convention. Awardees are: Parent Education & Involvement Award Winner, Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Health and Safety Education Award Winners, Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Leaders Project, **T. M.** - **S.**, Columbia Council of PTAs Citywide President; National PTA School of Excellence Certificate of Merit, Benton Elementary School PTA; Early Bird Award, Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Exclusive 100 Award (100 percent increase in membership, 100 or more members and 100 percent enrollment), Rock Bridge High School PTSA; Oak Leaf Certificate (membership increase over previous year), Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School PTA, Gentry Middle School PTSA, Columbia Gifted and Talented PTA, Grant Elementary School PTA, Hickman High School PTSA, Lange Middle School PTSA, Ridgeway Elementary School PTA, Rock Bridge High School PTSA and Benton Elementary School PTA; 100 percent Faculty Award, Ridgeway Elementary School PTA; and the Missouri PTA Honor Roll (increased membership over previous year), Jefferson Middle School PTA, Lange Middle School PTA, Mill Creek Elementary School

PTA, Parkade Elementary School PTA, Paxton Keeley Elementary School PTA, Rock Bridge Elementary School PTA, Rock Bridge High School PTA and Russell Boulevard Elementary School PTA.

GENTRY AND JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL AT STOCK MARKET GAME

Two teams from Columbia Public Schools middle school EEE programs placed first and second in their region of 95 teams in the fall version of the Stock Market Game (SMG) sponsored by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA). SMG is a regular part of the EEE middle school curriculum in which students, in a real-time stock market simulation, practice skills in math, language arts, economics and social studies while investing a fictional \$100,000 in the stock market for ten weeks. Additionally, SMG helps students develop positive money habits and prepare the future. The students and

2015 Summer School Programs

Columbia Summer SUNsations offers free summer school for stu-

DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL EMPATHY MUSEUM

