



# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

## MID-YEAR

Volume 18, Issue 3  
Winter 2022-23

### FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Mr. Michael Harkin

Dear Parents / Guardians:

We have now finished our first semester of classes at Columbia High School and are now settled nicely into Semester Two at Columbia.

As you can see in this Newsletter, over the first half of the school year our students and staff were busy with holiday projects that

have included food drives, care packages, raising awareness and monies for community needs, and caroling for various causes. Sports and Music accolades have been captured. CHS and Goff's Science Olympiad teams continue to excel.

We continue to look forward with anticipation to the great

things in which students at Columbia excel, not only in academics, but as well in the Arts, Music, Sports, Clubs, and various other activities and performances.

Your Partner in Education,  
Michael Harkin

Inside this issue:	
Guidance News	2
Cap&Gown / CHIS Idol	3
Athletic Dept.	4/5
Music Dept. News	6/7
Art Department News	8
Clubs Info / Poetry Slam / ID Reminder	9
Presidential Scholar	10
FBLA News	11
Holiday Projects	12
Other News	13
Science Olympiad	14/15
Cafeteria News	16
Dates of Interest	17



## FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

### TRANSCRIPT FEE REMINDER

Please be advised, per the Board of Education, a \$5.00 fee is charged for transcript requests. Note that this fee does not apply to students who are currently enrolled in the East Greenbush Central School District.

Transcript request forms can be found on our website [www.egcsd.org](http://www.egcsd.org), under Forms. Please complete the transcript request form and mail to CHS along with a check made payable to the East Greenbush Central Schools.

If you have any questions regarding a transcript, please call the Columbia High School Guidance Department at 518-207-2020.



### National Honor Society's Induction for Seniors

Advisors to the "Les Savants" Chapter of the National Honor Society have been reviewing academically eligible seniors for membership. Information packets and faculty input took place in December with an induction date in January. Potential candidates were reviewed based on the four pillars: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Successful candidates will have their membership status forwarded to the colleges they are seeking admission.



## School Counselor Video

Columbia's Guidance and Counseling Center offers a host of services to students, covering academics, the college search process and career planning. Watch this video to see what it means to be a 21st century school counselor.

Click on the link to view the video about School Counselors:

<https://youtu.be/PZh-zDAwv38>



## Program of Studies 2022-2023 for Next Year's Classes



Columbia High School has published its 2023-24 Program of Studies to assist students and families with course selections for next year. Counselors met individually with students in January and February to complete course selection.

## ANTIBULLYING

Columbia Athletic Department along with the East Greenbush School District is dedicated to teaching tolerance and educating students and parents on the issues of bullying. Bullying is a violation of our District's core values and will not be tolerated. The actions of any one person or group of individuals which threaten the health and safety of students and or staff must be addressed promptly. Early intervention, reinforcement of a consistent message and follow through from students, parents, staff, and administration can ensure that everyone's right to

learn, play and work in a safe environment is respected.

If you feel that you are a victim of bullying or harassment in school, on the athletic playing field, or even outside of school please contact Athletic Director, Ryan Jones at (518) 207-2080 Ext. 3 or email [JonesRy@egcsd.org](mailto:JonesRy@egcsd.org).

## Class of 2023 Cap and Gown Orders Due March 15

Attention seniors! Orders for graduation caps and gowns are due by Wednesday, March 15. Seniors can order their cap and gown in one of two ways:

### Order Online

- Select the package of your choice (Keepsake, Senior Pride, Blue Devils) or scroll down the page to order individual graduation products (e.g., Cap, Gown & Tassel costs \$36.95)
- Students have the choice of selecting Light Blue or White for their cap and gown
- Families have the option of purchasing other apparel or graduation items
- Checkout
- Call Jostens at 800-976-1787



## Emma O'Kane Wins 2022 Columbia Idol

Columbia High School junior Emma O'Kane won the 2022 Columbia Idol singing competition in November 2022. She was one of nine students who performed at the event in the school auditorium.

Ms. O'Kane performed "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac and "The Rose Song" from the High School Musical series.

*Thank you to all of our performers and judges for helping to make this event possible!*



## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

### NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Awards in Fall 2022

#### CONGRATULATIONS:

CHS is pleased to announce that the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has recognized eleven of our Varsity Fall athletic teams as recipients of the Scholar/Athlete Team Award. In order for a team to receive **this prestigious award, 75% of the team's athletes must have at least a 90 average.** Congratulations!

#### FALL TEAMS:

Boys' Cross Country

Girls' Cross Country

Field Hockey

Boys' Golf

Boys' Volleyball

Cheerleading

Boys' Soccer

Girls' Soccer

Girls' Tennis

Girls' Golf

Girls' Volleyball



#### FOR ALL THINGS SPORTS,

Please be sure to check out the sports page on the District Webpage at:

<http://egcsd.org/athletics/>

## Six Columbia Athletes Named Times Union All Stars

Six student athletes from Columbia High School fall sports were honored as Times Union All Stars earlier in December. Congratulations!



Columbia midfielder Kennedy Ring was named the 2022 Times Union Girls' Soccer Player of the Year.

#### **Football**

- Zakk Ciliberti, Guard – First Team

#### **Boys' Soccer**

- Brady Bell, Forward – Second Team

#### **Girls' Soccer**

Kennedy Ring, Midfield – First Team/Player of the Year

- Maia Allard, Defense – First Team
- Isabella Seibert, Forward – Second Team

#### **Boys' Volleyball**

Henry Heeps, Hitter – First Team

## OTHER SPORTS HEADLINES

### Columbia Girls' Indoor Track Wins Section 2 Championship, Boys' Indoor Track Places 2nd

Feb 8, 2023 | The Columbia Girls' Varsity Indoor Track team won the Section 2 Division 2 Championship at Shenendehowa. The team made up a nine-point deficit going into the final two events to capture its first indoor title since 1985.



### Bella Satalino Wins Bronze Medal at NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships

Jan 30, 2023 | Congratulations to Columbia High School wrestlers Bella Satalino and Elle Hutton who made history by competing in the first ever NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships at SRC Arena in Syracuse, N.Y. Ms. Satalino earned a bronze medal.



### Columbia Boys' Soccer Wins Section II Class A Championship

Nov 2, 2022 | The Columbia Boys' Soccer team defeated Averill Park 2-0 in the Section II Class A Final. Congratulations!



### Columbia Girls' Soccer Wins Section II Class A Championship

Oct 31, 2022 | The Columbia Girls' Soccer team defeated Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake 1-0 in the Section II Class A Final at Stillwater to win its first ever sectional championship. Congratulations!



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

### ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Five Columbia High School students were selected to participate in the Area All-State Music Festival which was held on November 18-19 in Saratoga Springs. Harini Conji (violin), Shea Thorpe (jazz vibes), Austin Ernst (percussion), Aidan Halsey (tenor) and Raychelle Adadjo (alto) were selected based on the outstanding scores they earned at the New York State School Music Association Solo Festival. Each student received an 'A'

rating on their solo.

*We congratulate these young musicians who were chosen as among the finest from 55 area high schools!*



Five Columbia High School students were selected for the Area All-State Music Festival (L to R): Harini Conji, Shea Thorpe, Austin Ernst, Aidan Halsey, and Raychelle Adadjo.

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### STUDENT ACCOLADES - Caitlin Weinheimer

Columbia junior, Caitlin Weinheimer, has been recognized as among the finest high school violinists in the state of New York. Based on her NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Solo Festival score of 100%, she was chosen to participate in the Conference All State Symphony Orchestra in Rochester in November.

Superb young musicians from around the state rehearsed together for four days with a highly regarded conductor and performed a concert in the Eastman School of Music's renowned Eastman Theatre. It was a thrilling experience!

*Congratulations!*



### HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

CLICK ON LINK TO VIEW VIDEOS:

<https://egcsd.org/2022/12/09/columbia-musicians-bring-holiday-spirit-to-empire-state-plaza/>



Four different ensembles from Columbia High School performed a free holiday concert for the public at the Empire State Plaza in Albany in mid-December. The songs included holiday classics such as "Carol of the Bells," "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow" and "White Christmas."

## CHAMBER ORCHESTRA HONORS VETERANS WITH FREE CONCERT

The Columbia Chamber Orchestra honored veterans and the medical workers who care for them with an outdoor concert in November at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany. Chamber musicians performed a collection of Classical, movie, and fiddle tunes for the audience's enjoyment.



## DISTRICT-WIDE CHORAL FESTIVAL 2023



For the first time in three years, students from across the East Greenbush Central School District gathered at Columbia High School to perform at the District-wide Choral Festival on Thursday, 2/7/23. Each school's chorus performed a song on stage under the direction of their music teacher.

Fifth graders were also informed about choral options available to them when they move on to sixth grade at Howard L. Goff Middle School.

*Special thanks to Ms. Badger, Ms. Decker, Mrs. Glennie, Mrs. Nagy, Mr. Perez, Mrs. Scolaro, our accompanist Carol Ann Weeks, the classroom teachers, school bus drivers and everyone else who made this event possible!*

## MUSIC AND THE ARTS EVENTS

The following exciting events are just some that are upcoming at CHS:

- 3/3 & 3/4 CHS Musical: "Freaky Friday"
- 3/20&21 DW Instrumental Fest.
- 3/21/23 Pops Concert #1
- 3/23/23 Pops Concert #2
- 3/28/23 Pops Concert #3
- 4/27/23 DW String Festival
- 5/11/23 DW Arts Fest. @ CHS
- 6/6/23 Spring Concert #1
- 6/8/23 Spring Concert #2



## ART

STUDENT  
ARTWORK!

This year's District Students' Art Show will take place on Thursday, May 11th, 2023.



## Izzy Crossman '23 Artwork Accepted into 'Art in 3 Dimensions' Art Show

Columbia High School senior Izzy Crossman '23 had two pieces of artwork accepted into the juried "Art in 3 Dimensions" art show at the Mohonasen High School Art Gallery, which held its opening reception in Mid-February. Of the 241 works submitted from 17 school districts, just 94 were chosen for the show by the jurors.

Ms. Crossman created her 3 Dimensional artworks in Ms. Gordon's Ceramics and Sculpture class. Her first piece was a wire armature and plaster figure inspired by the American Impressionism Movement of the 1890s. Her second piece was a clay sculpture of a face inspired by Pointillism, a style of painting using many dots or small brushstrokes.

"Izzy is an outstanding student," said Andrea Neiman, Chair of the Art Department. "She takes many rigorous courses here at Columbia, and is involved in a number of clubs including Art Club."

*Congratulations!*



Columbia High School senior Izzy Crossman '23 had two pieces of artwork accepted into the juried "Art in 3 Dimensions" art show at the Mohonasen High School Art Gallery.



# REMINDERS

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/CLUBS

*We encourage all of you to take an active part in your Columbia High School community. Joining a club can enrich your high school experience. Many opportunities are available. See web page (EGCSD.ORG) for complete details and listings. Listen during morning announcements for meeting time and date information.*

## POETRY SLAM

Last year's Poetry Slam was a huge success. This year's 8th Annual Slam will be even better! Come be a part of this amazing event in the CHS Library. Keep an eye out for the date!



## ID REMINDER

Please remember that all students need their Student Identification Badges on them at all times during the school day.

Furthermore, they will need to use these IDs to gain entrance to examinations during the school year.

Finally, students will need their IDs to buy tickets/bids and enter any school dance this year (Sno-Ball, Proms, etc.)

If a student has lost his/her ID badge, they need to go to their Assistant Principal's office to replace it.



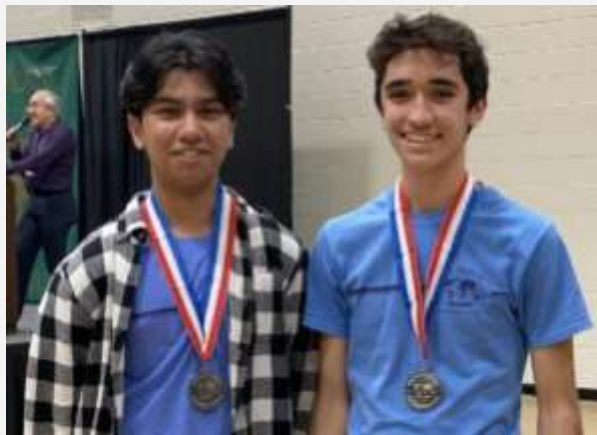
## Akkhil Morkonda '23 Nominated for U.S. Presidential Scholar Program

Columbia High School senior Akkhil Morkonda is one of 25 New York State high school seniors to be nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, according to the NYS Education Department. Presidential Scholar recognition is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The program makes selections annually based on academics, school evaluations, transcripts, community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

"It's quite an honor," Mr. Morkonda said of his selection. Mr. Morkonda is a High Honor Roll student, a member of the Math League and MasterMinds, and he was inducted into the Science National Honor Society this past fall. He also competes on the Columbia Science Olympiad team, winning a silver medal at the 2022 NYS Championships.

This past summer, Mr. Morkonda completed an internship as a technical assistant at a hospital in India. "I found my passion for science and math pretty early on," he said. "Finding that in freshman year and joining these clubs like Science Olympiad, Math League and MasterMinds, I was able to really pour my heart and soul into achieving these accomplishments."

Application to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is by invitation only. Students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars receive a U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion in June.



Akkhil Morkonda, left, earned a silver medal with teammate Zach Booth at the 2022 NYS Science Olympiad Championships at Le Moyne College in Syracuse.

"I sincerely appreciate the nomination of Akkhil Morkonda from my Assembly District that was put forth by Commissioner Betty Rosa as part of an elite group of students for the Presidential Scholars program," said Assemblymember John T. McDonald III, who represents a portion of the East Greenbush CSD in the state legislature. "This prestigious program recognizes the talent and commitment of these future leaders. Thank you to Commissioner Rosa and the Regents for their continued efforts to shine a light on these bright stars throughout New York State." After graduating from Columbia in June, Mr. Morkonda plans to attend a four-year university and study biomedical engineering.

"Akkhil is a compassionate and thoughtful person who has a positive impact on anyone he encounters each day," said Columbia Principal Michael Harkin. "It has been a pleasure being his principal and I look forward to his impact on the world in the future."

# FBLA

FBLA students volunteered their time at Jezreel International/Veterans Miracle Network in Albany on Friday, December 2. We sorted product that was donated from retailers. After sorting, the product the merchandise is then shipped to those in need locally, around the country, or anywhere in the world. After our volunteer work, we went shopping at Walmart for our Adopt-A-Family.



Congratulations to the Columbia FBLA Sales Team that was named co-champions at the 2nd annual St. Rose Sales Competition on 1/27/23!



FBLA students Adopt-A-Family for the holidays.

## HOLIDAY PROJECTS FOR WONDERFUL CAUSES!

Once again our students and staff have put together wonderful projects for the holiday season. Please see below:

Peer Leadership/Jump Start/CAP - Participated in the CoNSERNS-U Store - set-up buy gifts and assist with shopping.

CHS FBLA Team - Worked at CoNSERNS-U and Veteran's Miracle Center

Student Council - CoNSERNS-U Store; Columbia Apparel Store; Decorating the School, Blood Drive

Cheerleaders and Leaders of Tomorrow Leading Today - St. Anne's Holiday Cheer; Caroling & Gifts.

Music Students - Instrumental and Caroling performances at various sites:

Chamber Singers - at Town Hall singing carols at the town's Tree Lighting.

Singers and Orchestra, Instrumental and Jazz Bands performed throughout the school district.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Adopt-a-Family program. With your help Columbia was able to adopt 50 families and provide much needed gifts and clothing to 155 people in this community.

As the families were picking up gifts and getting deliveries, the expressions on their faces showed just how appreciative they were to have such supportive community members. Thank you to the community folks who made this possible!

## East Greenbush Comes Together to Support Adopt-a-Family Program

The East Greenbush Central School District came together this holiday season to provide 50 families with gifts through its annual Adopt-a-Family Program. The gifts, which included toys, games, books, clothing, boots and much more, were picked up at Columbia High School by the families shortly before holiday recess.

All of the families who received gifts are from the East Greenbush CSD community and were referred to the program by social workers and school counselors.

"We are so grateful to our teachers, staff, families, community members and businesses who support the Adopt-a-Family program," said Audra Di Bacco, a School Social Worker at Columbia who coordinates the Adopt-a-Family Program. "The beauty of this program is it is the East Greenbush community giving back to its own community!"

*Thank you to everyone who supported the Adopt a Family program!*



## OTHER NEWS

### Columbia Social Studies Teacher Stephen Lapolla Named Top Teacher

Columbia High School Social Studies Teacher Stephen Lapolla was named in early February as Top Teacher by News Channel 13/Broadview Federal Credit Union. Congratulations!

<https://egcsd.org/2023/02/08/columbia-social-studies-teacher-stephen-lapolla-named-top-teacher/>



### Columbia Students Compete at Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

Jan 30, 2023 |



Four Columbia High School seniors competed in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Burnt-Hills Ballston Lake High School in January. The competitors included Nicholas Pugliese in Physical Sciences, Laney Broglio in Environmental Science, and Harini Conji and Alaina Marino who competed in Medical Sciences 2.

A special congratulations to Ms. Broglio for placing 3rd in her topic and Ms. Marino for placing 2nd. Additionally, Ms. Marino has been invited to present her work as a poster in the NYS Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

Congratulations to the following Columbia High School seniors who competed in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium!

-Laney Broglio

-Harini Conji

-Alaina Marino

-Nicholas Pugliese

#### Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

- Laney Broglio – “The Impact of Soil Content and Human Traffic on the Growth of Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)”
- Harini Conji – “The Correlation of Family Structure on Adolescent Obesity”
- Alaina Marino – “An Analysis of Microbial Pathways in Crohn’s Disease Patients with Severe Symptoms vs Non-Severe Symptoms”
- Nicolas Pugliese – “Determining the Properties of Potentially Habitable Exoplanets Discovered by the TESS Mission”

*Congratulations!*

# Columbia Science Olympiad Places 2nd at Regionals, Qualifies for NYS Championships

The Columbia Science Olympiad team placed 2nd in the Regional Championships on February 4, 2023 out of a field of 18 teams. They earned 22 medals including five gold.

Based on their result, Columbia has qualified for the New York State Championships on March 17-18 at Le Moyne College.

*Congratulations to the team!*

## Gold:

Bridge – Akkhil Morkonda and Alyssa Sentz  
 Disease Detectives – Akkhil Morkonda and Sophia Xin  
 Dynamic Planet – Teddy Howard and Cait Weinheimer  
 Experimental Design – Austin Ernst, Harini Conji, and Umaiza Shah  
 It's About Time – Teddy Howard and Prithul Gautam

## Silver:

Cell Biology – Harini Conji and Sophia Xiao  
 Chem Lab – Akkhil Morkonda and Morgan Sanford  
 Trajectory – Chris Uttendorfer and Prithul Gautam  
 Wifi Lab – Akshat Arinav and Umaiza Shah  
 Write it Do it – Laney Broglio and Bella Temkin  
 Forestry – Raychelle Adadjo and Alaina Marino  
 Rocks and Minerals – Raychelle Adadjo and Alaina Marino

## Bronze:

Detector Building – Akshat Arinav and Sophia Xiao  
 Environmental Chemistry – Morgan Sanford and Alyssa Sentz  
 Fermi Questions – Austin Ernst and Chris Uttendorfer  
 Remote Sensing – Akshat Arinav and Harini Conji

## 4th-6th:

Flight – Austin Ernst and Morgan Sanford  
 Forensics – Chris Uttendorfer and Payten Hines  
 Codebusters – Joann Shirley Pole, Laney Broglio, and Chase Galkiewicz  
 Detector Building – Shreeya Gillela and Aadit Akula  
 Experimental Design – Laney Broglio, Hari Conji, and Shreeya Pullela  
 Forestry – Teddy Howard and Sophia Xin  
 Green Generation – Nicholas Pugliese and Prithul Gautam  
 Rocks and Minerals – Alyssa Sentz and Sophia Xin



# Goff Science Olympiad Team Places 2nd at Harvard Invitational

The Goff Science Olympiad team, which includes students from CHS, traveled to Harvard University on February 4th to compete in the prestigious Harvard Invitational against teams from the Northeast and as far away as Virginia and Washington State.

The Goff team placed 2nd overall, earning top 5 finishes in 14 out of 23 events including five gold medals.

## Gold Medalists

- Storm the Castle – Logan Messina and Lilli Larson
- Solar System – Amulya Ryali and Allison Hutton
- Sound of Music – Jay Meyyan and Neil Gada
- Crime Busters – Aidan Oates and Amber Travis
- Meteorology – Aidan Oates and Amber Travis

Congratulations to all the team members and coaches Zach Hutson, Dan Hurd and Donnamarie Vlieg!

The Goff Science Olympiad team returns to action to compete in the Capital District Regional. Results to follow.



## CAFETERIA INFORMATION



Each school in the East Greenbush Central School District serves breakfast and lunch daily. Our goal is to provide nutritious and delicious meals that satisfy our students so they can focus on learning. A complete meal must include three of the five choices: Meat / meat alternative (ie: cheese, soy, etc.) ; Fluid milk ; Grain ; Fruit ; Vegetable.

At East Greenbush CSD, all seven schools offer breakfast to its students. With the convenience of online prepayment through [MySchoolBucks.com](http://MySchoolBucks.com), great value and a friendly atmosphere, kids can start their school day right. **Lunch Prices:** Grades 9-12: \$3.25

Mornings can be crazy! So having children take advantage of the School Breakfast Program is one way to make it easier on families when kids are running late or parents have early commitments. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please take advantage of breakfast at school. **Breakfast Prices:** Grades 9-12: \$2.25



Columbia High School



CHS  
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East Greenbush, NY 12061

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Fax: 518-207-2009  
E-mail: [www.egcsd.org](http://www.egcsd.org)

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If you do not have internet access, please send your name and AdvantageEdge Card Number to school or sign up at Price Chopper.

Columbia High School's code is 15753

Thank you for your support!



**EMERGENCY CLOSING MAKE-UP DAYS**  
**for SPRING 2023**

**#1 No need to make up**

**#2 April 6 Thursday**  
**(Used - School now in Session)**

**#3 April 17, Monday**  
**(Used - School now in Session)**

**#4 May 28, Tuesday**  
**(Used - School now in Session)**

**#5 May 24, Friday**

SCHOOL DANCES :

Junior Prom            Saturday, May 20, 2023  
Senior Prom            Friday, June 2, 2023

Upcoming CHS Dates of Interest

Please refer to the CHS web site ([egcsd.org](http://egcsd.org)) for further details:

- 3/9/23 College Admissions Panel
- 3/16/23 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/17/23 Prof. Dev. full day
- 3/1/23 Last day for yearbook orders
- 3/31/23 Ed. Foundation Gala
- 4/4/23 Multicultural Fair
- 4/7 - 4/14 Spring Recess
- 5/1 - 5/12 AP Testing
- 5/12/23 Talent Show
- 5/16/23 District Vote
- 5/24/23 PIG Lobby Day Assembly
- 6/2/23 Columbian Awards
- 6/12/23 Evening Awards Ceremony
- 6/1/23 Regents - US History
- 6/14 - 23 June Regents & Exams
- 6/2023 O.G. June Graduation (TBA)
- 6/24/23 CHS Graduation @ HVCC

