



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

MID-YEAR

Volume 19, Issue 2
Winter 2023-24

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 well underway 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.

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

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FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Program of Studies 2024-**2025 (Next Year's Classes)**

Columbia High School has published its 2024-25 Program of Studies to assist students and families with course selections for the upcoming year. Counselors met individually with students in January and February to complete course selection. Below is the schedule for each grade level met with counselors.

Students attended course selection during their English classes:

- **Juniors:** January 9 – January 12
- **Freshmen:** January 29 – February 2
- **Sophomores:** February 5 – February 9

Before meeting with the counselor, teachers offered recommendations for core subjects, based on the students' current performance.

It is important to consider the following points:

- Core content placement for the 2024-25 school year is subject to final performance in classes.
- All students were required to schedule 5.5 credits each year and be prepared with electives they are interested in.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities are available for students entering their junior and senior years. Parents received information from Questar regarding these opportunities.
- After completing course selection for each grade level, an email was sent to families to review the selections. Please contact your counselor to make any desired changes.
- The deadline to request course changes is July 1, 2024.
- The deadline for making level changes is August 1, 2024.



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.

Class of 2024 Cap and Gown Orders Due By April 14th

Cap and gown order information is now available for the Columbia High School Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony. Seniors will have the choice of four different caps and gowns to wear at graduation in June.

Consideration was given to changing to one color for all students this year. However, following discussions with student groups and a review of survey responses from the members of the senior class, the decision was made to offer four choices of cap and gown for students in the 2024 graduation class. Options include:

Solid Columbia Blue

Solid White

Columbia Blue with White Stripe

White with Columbia Blue Trim



It will be up to the individual student to choose the color cap and gown that they prefer.

The price for the gown, cap and tassel is \$37.45 plus tax. Orders are due by April 14, 2024.

Graduation for the Columbia Class of 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Hudson Valley Community College.

Order Solid Columbia Blue or Solid White

Order Columbia Blue with White Stripe or White with Columbia Blue Trim Call Jostens at 800-976-1787
If you have any questions, please call 800-976-1787 or email Dan.Mclaughlin@jostens.com.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

FOR ALL THINGS SPORTS,

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

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

Vaping Brochure

This brochure provides parents with information about e-cigarettes, some of the health risks associated with vaping and tips for how to address this growing issue with teenagers. **View Brochure.**

Eleven Columbia Athletes Named Times Union All Stars

Eleven student athletes and one coach from Columbia High School fall sports were honored as Times Union All Stars earlier this month. Congratulations!

Football

- A.J. Ficarra, Running Back – Second Team

Boys' Soccer

- Corey Hamilton, Defense – First Team
- Cameron Mingle, Midfield – First Team
- Alex Roy, Goalkeeper – Second Team

Girls' Soccer

- Kennedy Ring, Midfield – First Team/Athlete of the Year
- Anna Nassivera, Goalkeeper – First Team
- Maia Allard, Defense – Second Team
- Scott LaMora – Coach of the Year

Boys' Volleyball

- Ethan King, Setter – First Team
- Anthony McLaughlin, Hitter – Second Team

Girls' Volleyball

- Lauryn Forand, Setter – Second Team
- Alivia Landy, Hitter – Second Team



For the second year in a row, Kennedy Ring was named to the Times Union First Team and the Athlete of the Year for Girls' Soccer.

OTHER SPORTS HEADLINES

Columbia Basketball Programs Raise \$3,095 for Coaches vs. Cancer

The Columbia Boys' and Girls' Basketball Programs raised \$3,095 for Coaches vs. Cancer to support the American Cancer Society.



Columbia Cheer Places 2nd at Section 2 Championships

The Columbia Cheerleading team finished Runner Up at the Section 2 Class B Championships at Shenendehowa High School. The team finished in 2nd place out of nine teams.



Columbia Girls' Bowling Wins State Championships!!!

Congratulations to the Columbia Girls' Bowling Team for winning a NYS Championship on March 9th! The team had a total pinfall of 5,982 over the six games, 301 pins more than 2nd place East Islip.



Columbia Boys Bowling Wins Section 2 Championships

The Columbia Boys' Bowling teams won the Class A Section 2 Championship in February at Boulevard Bowl in Schenectady in February. Congratulations!



CBA-Troy-Columbia Swim Team Places 2nd at Sectionals. Andrew Orcutt Qualifies for State Championships

The Boys' Swim Team comprised of CBA, Troy and Columbia finished as the Section 2 Division 1 Runner Up at Shenendehowa. Columbia merged with CBA and Troy this school year to provide interscholastic swimming opportunities to its students. Columbia's Andrew Orcutt '25, a member of the 200 Free Relay team, has qualified for the state championships.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Twenty five students from the Columbia Orchestra program participated in the Rensselaer County Music Festival in Troy January 25 & 27. The festival brought students together from the music programs of the school districts throughout Rensselaer County. Participants were given music to learn prior to the festival. They gathered on the weekend to

rehearse with a guest conductor and to perform in concert. Participating Columbia orchestra included: Sophia Cunningham, Shannon Breimer, Suit Nwe, Jasper Travis, Snehaa Gopinath, Madori Gaddy, Malese Jackson, Jalynn Robert, Eliot Merritt, Mia Phillips, Zoe Allen, Marianna Pettinger, Serena

Militello, Ayana Rosario, Riley Sheehan, Emma Gentile, Kindle Young, Dan LaPlante, Nick Rizzo, Kaleigh, Mackey, Caroline Rumsey, Sophia Ciccarone, Klara Daoust, Logan Messina, Bobby Rumsey

WMHT-FM Student of the Month - Caitlin Weinheimer

Columbia High School's Caitlin Weinheimer '24 was named the Classical Student Musician of the Month for December by WMHT-FM. Weinheimer is a violinist in the Columbia Chamber Orchestra as well as concertmaster of the Empire State Youth Orchestra Symphony Orchestra. *Congratulations!*

Watch violinist Caitlin Weinheimer from Columbia High School ([East Greenbush Central School District](#)) perform Fritz Kreisler's Praeludium & Allegro. She was nominated by Jessica Bellflower.

Click here to view:

<https://youtu.be/EGMVllmDbSY>



STRING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA



The Columbia String Ensemble musicians Caitlin Weinheimer, Sophia Cunningham, Shannon Breimer, Suit Nwe, Zoe Allen, Mia Phillips, Sophia Xin, and Danielle Dickie performed at the State Education Building in Albany on February 1. The event, the Annual Awards Ceremony, honored employees for their years of service in the State Education Department.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA VISITS LINCOLN CENTER

Chamber Orchestra students visited Lincoln Center on November 3rd. Everyone enjoyed an informative and interesting tour of several of the performance venues that make up Lincoln Center. We saw and learned about the new renovation of David Geffen Hall (home of the NY Philharmonic), heard the amazing acoustics of Alice Tully Hall (home of Chamber Music), and marveled at the unique architecture of the home of the NYC ballet. Following lunch we attended a performance of the

NY Philharmonic. We also learned that the principal bassist of the Philharmonic graduated from Columbia!



DISTRICT-WIDE CHORAL FESTIVAL 2024



Students celebrated winter at the District-wide Choral Festival on February 1st with a set list devoted to the season. Each school's chorus performed in the Columbia High School auditorium under the direction of their music teacher with songs such as "Winter Fantasy," "Snow Day," and "Winter With You."

Special thanks to Ms. Badger, Mrs. Wunsch, Ms. Gallucci, Mrs. Nagy, 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:

- 3/18&19 DW Instrumental Fest.
- 3/19/24 Pops Concert #1
- 3/20/24 Pops Concert #2
- 3/26/24 Pops Concert #3
- 4/17&18 DW String Festival
- 4/23&24 NYSSMA Majors Fest.
- 5/16/24 DW Arts Fest. @ CHS
- 6/6/24 Spring Concert #1
- 6/11/24 Spring Concert #2



ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

**This year's
District Students'
Art Show**
will take place on
Thursday, May
16th, 2024.

CHS art students created a beautiful and thought-provoking sculpture in December that now hangs in the school lobby. Students in the 1st period Studio Art Class with Valerie Gordon collected plastic bottles and then washed, colored, cut and attached them by hand.

The project was led by student teacher Ariel Gioia and inspired by glass artist Dale Chihuly.

More Than Plastic

Written by Cheyenne Bott '26
More Than Plastic was created by Columbia's 1st period Studio Art class. Each plastic bottle was collected, washed, colored, cut, and attached, by hand with great

detail. The intention behind this piece was to convey the idea of just how much plastic takes a toll on our environment and to remind everyone of the importance of recycling. When creating this piece, the class was astonished by the copious amounts of plastic bottles that were pouring into the classroom.



Students' Artwork Accepted into 'Art in 3 Dimensions' Art Show

Columbia High School students Ella Buff '24 and Hannah Win '24 had their artwork on display at the Art in 3 Dimensions Show on February 7 at the W.B. Haessig Art Gallery at Mohonasen High School.

Both students' ceramic pieces were created in Valerie Gordon's Sculpture and Ceramics course. The ceramic pieces are supposed to represent a feeling or emotion.

Buff attended the opening reception with Gordon and Art Department Chair Andrea Neiman.



Ella Buff '24
Lonely One
Earthenware with Acrylic



Hannah Win '24
Oop!
Earthenware with Acrylic

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.



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.



CHS Musical 2024

'Beauty and the Beast'

The cast and crew of the Columbia Players put on their performance of Beauty and the Beast, this year's musical which showed on March 1 and 2 in the school auditorium.

Since December, the students had been hard at work putting the show together. They made the costumes, created the sets, and learned lines and stage direction. And the countless hours of rehearsals, with actors singing and dancing on stage, the crew moving sets and lights, and musicians performing the beautiful and familiar songs, really paid off!

This was Stage Director T.J. Collins-Gutierrez's first year with the Columbia Players. He has been impressed with the passion and professionalism that the students have shown.

"What I really love about this program, and it already existed before I got here, is its inclusivity," said Collins-Gutierrez. "And I think that's one of the reasons we chose Beauty and the Beast. All these wonderful characters and personalities already existed."

Go behind the scenes of Beauty and the Beast by following the [Columbia Players on Instagram!](#)



Columbia Business Department Named NYS Business Department of the Year

The Columbia High School Business Department was awarded Business Department of the Year earlier this fall at the Century House in Albany. This award was presented by the Business Teachers' Association of New York State.

The Columbia Business Department offers a variety of academic and enrichment programs for students. This includes three business pathways and technical endorsements (Business Administration, Computer Applications for Business, and Accounting/Finance), the student club Future Business Leaders of America, and the opportunity to join the Business and Marketing Honor Society.



Congratulations!

Kennedy Ring '25 Named High School All-American



In December, CHS Varsity Girls' Soccer player Kennedy Ring '25 was named by the United Soccer Coaches Association to both the High School All-America team and East All-Region team. Kennedy was selected as 1 of 56 girls from across the country and 1 of 5 girls in New York State to receive All-American honors.

Kennedy scored 12 goals and had 14 assists this past season as she helped lead the Blue Devils to an 18-1-2 record and a trip to the NYS Class AA Final Four. She was also named 1st Team All State, Section 2 Class AA Player of the Year, and Times Union Girls Soccer Athlete of the Year.

Kennedy has verbally committed to Penn State.

Congratulations!

HOLIDAY PROJECTS FOR WONDERFUL CAUSES!

Over the holidays, students and staff once again helped to support Community Programs in need, from Adopt-A-Family to St. Anne Institute to performing for community venues. Math League even created mathematically themed ornaments for a "Geom-A-Tree" and collected for the local food pantry. Great jobs all!



The school-wide Adopt-A-Family program brought a brighter holiday as gifts were distributed to 64 local families



CHS Cheerleaders and Athletes brought holiday cheer to St. Anne Institute.

The Music Department performed at Hawthorne Ridge, at the Train Station and for the Veterans, as well as throughout the East Greenbush District.



Evan Rainville - WNYT Channel 13 Student of the week

Columbia Boy's Basketball guard Evan Rainville '25 was selected to the News Channel 13/Rensselaer Honda Boys High School Basketball All Star Team for the week of February 15th.

Rainville is averaging 24 points, nine rebounds and four blocks for the Blue Devils this season.

Congratulations!

Click on link to view video:

<https://t.co/lodVdQciZu>



Columbia Named National Banner Unified Champion School

Columbia High School is one of eight high schools in New York State that was named a National Banner Unified Champion School by Special Olympics New York last fall. The distinction marks the highest level of achievement for Unified Champion Schools in the nation, recognizing their leadership in creating an inclusive school community where all students are accepted and celebrated.

Columbia offers Unified Sports teams in basketball and bowling, which brings together students from regular education and special education classes to compete on the same teams. There is also an informal cheer team that supports the basketball team at games.



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, great value and a friendly atmosphere, kids can start their school day right. **Lunch Prices:** Grades 9-12: \$3.50

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: \$2.50



Columbia High School



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E-mail: www.egcsd.org

Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Please help CHS earn free Educational Equipment.

Sign up with your AdvantageEdge Card at www.pricechopper.com.

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 2024**

(only in session if school had been closed due to unforeseen situation)

#1 No need to make up

#2 March 28 Thursday

#3 April 8, Monday

#4 May 28, Tuesday

#5 May 24, Friday

SCHOOL DANCES :

Junior Prom Saturday, May 18, 2024
Senior Prom Friday, May 31, 2024

Upcoming CHS Dates of Interest

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

- 3/15/24 Prof. Dev. full day
- 3/21/24 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/29 - 4/4 Spring Recess
- 4/19/24 Ed. Foundation Gala
- 4/11/24 Multicultural Fair
- 4/26/24 Half-Day Prof. Dev.
- 5/6 - 5/13 AP Testing
- 5/10/24 Talent Show
- 5/21/24 Budget Vote and Board Election
- 5/22/24 PIG Lobby Day Assembly
- 5/31/24 Columbian Awards
- 6/13/24 Evening Awards Ceremony
- 6/4/24 Regents - Algebra 1
- 6/14 - 26 June Regents & Exams
- 6/19/24 Juneteenth - No School
- 6/29/24 CHS Graduation @ HVCC

