

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Summer 2023

Steger School District 194 Congratulates the Class of 2023

On Monday, June 5th 2023, Steger School District 194 celebrated the graduation of Columbia Central's class of 2023. More than 900 were in attendance in Columbia's main gym that evening including dignitaries from the villages of Steger and South Chicago Heights as well as the District 194 Board of Trustees.

The evening began with a welcome from National Junior Honor Society representative Lola Spada. Spada welcomed the Bloom Trail JROTC Color Guard before leading those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, 8th graders Adrien Perdue and Kendra Killham lead the Columbia Central Band and Choir in the singing of The Star Spangled Banner.

Acting Superintendent and former Steger 194 graduate Dr. Patricia Hahto then began the proceedings with brief remarks to the graduates. Hahto urged graduates to follow their dreams stating, "I hold this district, everyone who works here and everyone who is educated here close to my heart. As a fellow graduate, my message to the Class of 2023 is this - You can, indeed, achieve your dreams. Your years as a Steger 194 student and a graduate of Columbia Central have served you well. My advice is to make the most of all the good things you've learned as you move forward in your life."

Following Dr. Hahto, Valedictorian Aryana Knaack spoke to her classmates. She urged them to remember back to the many setbacks faced by the class of 2023. Knaack recognized, "Review packets replaced learning new things. Then in August 2020, for 6th grade we started online classes and Google Meets. Learning online was hard, but we



persevered." Knaack then quoted Teddy Roosevelt's famous speech "The Man in the Arena." Knaack noted that today, she and the other students joining her on stage as Salutatorian, NJHS representative, and Student Council representative were the women in the arena.

Knaack then turned the proceedings over to Salutatorian Nayla Nardi who's speech focused on adaptability in order to overcome obstacles. Nardi quoted famed martial artist Bruce Lee, "Be water, my friend." Nardi then passed the microphone to Student Council representative Kiera Williams.

Williams began with a brief description of her organization and the various projects they had undertaken throughout the school year including, providing recycling to our school, supplying concessions at home games, decorating a

Christmas tree on the boulevard, creating cards for our local retirement home, and administering a food drive to assist our neighborhood food pantry. Williams thanked Mrs. Doyle and Ms. Pickrum for their support and motivation during her time at Columbia Central.

Continued Pg. 2



Registration Information

2022-23 School Year
Page 3

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

A word from the
Superintendent
Page 4



Around the District

Graduation Cont.

Afterward, Columbia Central's new principal, Dr. Steve Carnes gave a speech to the graduates that stirred both emotion and appreciation. Urging students to recognize that, in the words of Dr. Carl Sagan, "The very matter that makes us up was generated long ago and far away in distant stars." Dr. Carnes emphasized that they were stars, alight with the same brilliance that ignites the cosmos.

Following Dr. Carnes's remarks, they began the presentation of the 8th grade class and the awarding of diplomas. The night ended with thunderous applause celebrating all of our graduates. Steger School District 194 salutes all of your achievements and wishes each of you well.

NJHS Hosts First of Its Kind Craft Fair

On Saturday, April 29, SD194's National Junior Honor Society hosted a craft fair in both gymnasiums at Columbia Central. More than 80 booths representing local crafters including many Columbia Central and District 194 students participated. Large crowds were able to purchase various items and even grab a quick bite to eat as food trucks were on hand to take part in the action. The event was a tremendous success. Thanks to sponsors Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Toran for their efforts.

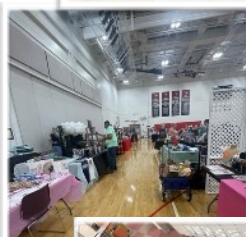


8th Grade Sprinter Michael Watson Finishes on the Podium

Columbia Central 8th grader Michael Watson etched his name into the Columbia Central history books with his performance at the IESA Track and Field State Finals in Peoria, Illinois on May 19th and 20th. Friday night, Michael ran state record times on his way to the 100 meter final that evening where he finished 2nd overall, the highest mark for any athlete in Columbia Central's history. Saturday afternoon, he once again found himself on the podium placing 5th in the 200 meter dash making him the first double medalist in school history.

Annual SD 194 Art Fair is a Hole-in-One

Steger School District 194 hosted its annual Art Fair exhibit on May 4th. Artwork from around the district was on display in the hallways at Columbia Central. In addition to the phenomenal drawings, sculptures, and paintings created by our students from Pre-K through 8th grade, Columbia Central's Art Club created and installed an art themed miniature golf course that patrons could play through that evening. The event was incredibly well attended and Steger School District 194 wishes to offer a tip of the cap to Art teachers, Ms. Samantha Lusby (SPC), Mrs. Melissa Lorenzatti (SIC), and Ms. Megan Whalen (CC).



Curriculum and Instruction Corner

Steger School District 194 is committed to ensuring that learning continues for all students during the summer months. If you have any questions, please call the main office at your child's school.

This summer, students will be participating in a Summer Reading program along with their teachers and classmates to encourage all of our students to continue learning during the summer months. Books will be provided to students entering grades 1 - 8 along with a learning packet full of activities related to the story.

SD194 students will have access to the online learning program IXL. With thousands of skills that match what is being taught in our classrooms, this is a great resource to help your child continue to learn this summer. Students will use their current Log-in information for IXL. You can visit their website at <https://www.ixl.com/signin/steger> or you can access the program by visiting our district website and finding the link under the "Parent Resources" tab found at the top of the page. If you are in need of any technical support while using the program, please send an e-mail to mclark@sd194.org with your child's name and the best way to reach you.

El Distrito Escolar de Steger 194 está comprometido a asegurar que el aprendizaje continúe para todos los estudiantes durante los meses de verano.

Este verano, los estudiantes participarán en un programa de lectura de verano junto con sus maestros y compañeros de clase para alentar a todos nuestros estudiantes a continuar aprendiendo durante los meses de verano. Se proporcionarán libros a los estudiantes que ingresen a los grados 1 al 8 junto con un paquete de aprendizaje lleno de actividades relacionadas con la historia.

Los estudiantes de SD194 también tendrán acceso al programa de aprendizaje en línea IXL. Con miles de habilidades que coinciden con lo que se enseña en nuestras aulas, este es un gran recurso para ayudar a su hijo/a a seguir aprendiendo este verano. El maestro(a) de su hijo/a proporcionará la información de inicio de sesión para IXL antes de que finalice el año escolar. Puede visitar el sitio en internet en <https://www.ixl.com/signin/steger> o puede acceder al programa visitando el sitio internet de nuestro distrito y buscando el enlace en la pestaña "Recursos para padres" que se encuentra en la parte superior de la página. Si necesita asistencia técnica mientras usa el programa, envíe un correo electrónico a mclark@sd194.org con el nombre de su hijo/a y la mejor manera de comunicarnos con usted.



Registration Information

Beginning, July 14, 2023, the registration portal will be open to help expedite the form filling process for registration. This year, parents/guardians will complete and submit most registration documents online. Once you have submitted your updated portal information, you will immediately be notified of your residency verification status. All new students and randomly selected returning students will be required to prove residency at any of the Registration/Help days listed below.

In order to begin the online registration process, the parent/guardian will need access to the internet and must utilize the access ID # and Password included in the mailing being sent out on July 10, 2023, to all returning families and any families that attended Kindergarten Night and turned in a copy of their child's birth certificate.

In order to help facilitate the use of internet access, District 194 is providing the opportunity for parents/guardians to utilize the computers at Columbia Central School on various days and times. **Parents of new students (including kindergartners & Pre-School Program students) are encouraged to visit during these times to obtain access to the registration portal. A copy of the new student's birth certificate is required to receive access to the registration portal.**

Registration HELP Days (Registration \$135 those registering on registration days receive a \$50 discount)

Location: Columbia Central School

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Registration Days (Registration \$135 those registering on registration days receive a \$50 discount)

Location: Columbia Central School

Tuesday, July 25, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 26, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 1, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 2, 2022 * 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Last day to fill out the online registration or residency verification (if required). If you have a returning student and the online process is not completed on August 2nd a full registration will be required at Parkview School on the first day of school.

Three documents are required to verify residency at registration. Without these documents, the family will not be able to register. One (1) document from Category A and two (2) documents from Category B are required. If you are residing with a Steger resident, the homeowner is required to prove residency. Additionally, you must supply at least one document from Category B, if residing with a Steger resident. Everyone must have all required residency information to continue the registration process. If not, you will be asked to return with the necessary documentation. If registration is not completed on August 1st or August 2nd, you will not receive the \$50 discount for attending registration days.

Category A – Provide One (1) Document

Current mortgage document

Current signed lease

(Lease from the Linden Park Apts/Colonies must have child's name)

Current real estate tax bill

Section 8 letter

Military housing letter

Residency Attestation form (for third-party residents)

Category B – Provide Two (2) Documents

Homeowners/Rental Insurance document

Current utility bill (Gas, Electric, Water or TV)

Paycheck Stub

Vehicle Registration Card

Families seeking a fee waiver need to provide a copy of their 2022 tax return.

Page Family Recognizes Columbia Central Graduate

The family of Debbie Page graciously awarded a scholarship at Columbia Central's graduation ceremony. The Debra "Debbie" Page Scholarship was created to honor the life of District 194 Board of Education Member Debbie Page by continuing her commitment to District 194 students. The recipient of this scholarship is a student who mirrors Mrs. Page's love and dedication to serving our community and has exhibited her famous "get it done" attitude. This year's inaugural scholarship was awarded to Salutatorian Nayla Nardi. Nardi was selected by Columbia Central administrators and teachers in recognition of her hard work in the classroom, and through extra-curricular activities including National Junior Honors Society, Student Council, and many Cardinal athletic teams. In addition to these school sponsored activities, Nardi volunteers with young children at St. Liborius Church in Steger. Nardi will be given a \$250 scholarship in recognition for her tireless efforts upon graduation from high school and acceptance to a university, college, or trade program. Mrs. Page lived our mission of learning and growing together as a community, and the purpose of this scholarship is to promote this mission for our students. Congratulations to this year's winner Nayla Nardi.



Steger District 194 Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Eric Diehl presents Nayla Nardi with the inaugural Debbie Page Scholarship.



For the 2023-24 school year, Steger School District 194 looks to further advance attendance initiatives for all students. Look for our new tag line around the district.

STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL 60475
(708) 753-4300

Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL 60475
(708) 753-4700

Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL 60475
(708) 753-4200

Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 753-4100

Non-Profit
Prst. Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
STEGER, IL
Permit #7

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.sd194.org

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
[@Steger School District 194](https://www.facebook.com/StegerSchoolDistrict194)

A Word From Superintendent Dr. Patricia Hahto

Dear Steger School District 194
Community Members,

It is my pleasure to be your Acting Superintendent of Schools in Steger. I served the district once before in this capacity. When I came aboard in 2016, the Steger administrators, faculty and staff welcomed me with open arms and I ending up staying for 3 ½ years. This time, I am once again getting that family feeling that SD 194 has been known for these many years. I appreciate it so very much.

Things have changed for the better in the four years I have been away. Here are some examples.

For one thing, the Professional Learning Communities paradigm has become more widely understood and applied throughout the district. Learning coaches have done a great job in helping teachers to come together as a team to improve student learning. You'll see what I mean when the district publishes the results of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness. Our English Language Arts scores have improved a lot thanks to the hard work of the teachers, learning coaches and principals under the guidance of Director of Teaching and Learning Jan Lenci.

Another example has to do with an upgrade in technology within the

district. Teachers now use Smart TVs which allow them, among other things, to project whatever is on their laptop screens onto the larger Smart TV screen to instruct students.

Additionally, we have adopted a new math textbook series called Eureka Squared. The series is tightly configured to the Illinois Math Standards. The learning coaches will be helping teachers with the ins and outs of the series as implementation takes place.

It's an exciting time in Steger SD 194 and I am pleased to be able to be a part of watching the district grow in service to our students. As you probably know, our mission is all about "learning and growing together." And that's exactly what we are doing.

All the best,

Patricia Fiorenzo Hahto
Acting Superintendent



Steger School District 194 Board of Education

Michele Reichert Helsel
President

Sue Finnin-Edwards
Vice-President
Karen Turner
Nick Hutchison

Beth Butkus
Secretary
Buffy Garcia
Jill Martin-Raymond

**JOIN US FOR A
Substitute
OPEN HOUSE**
This event is for new and returning substitutes!

**THURSDAY
July 27, 2023
9-10AM**

**Columbia
Central**
94 Richton Rd.
Steger, IL

RSVP to Lindsey Coffey at 708.753.4310 or lcoffey@sd194.org

**Preschool
Screening**
August 8, 2023

ENJOY LEARN PLAY

Steger School District will be conducting a preschool screening for children ages three to five years old (child will NOT have free before September 1st of the current school year). Areas to be screened will include:
-Speech and language skills
-Vision and hearing
-Fine and gross motor skills
-Pre-writing skills
-Cognitive ability
Screenings are by appointment only.
Space is limited. To schedule call 708-753-4100.

**Steger School
District 194**