

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Summer 2020

Columbia Central Congratulates the Class of 2020

On Monday, June 1st Columbia Central celebrated the Class of 2020 in a virtual graduation ceremony with Superintendent Dr. David Frusher, Principal Bruce Nieminski, Assistant Principal Tom Aguirre, and Associate Principal Brianne Oliver presiding.

Dr. Frusher began the ceremony by lauding the perseverance of district 194 students in navigating the unknown of distance learning throughout the final months of the school year. Quoting author Christian D. Larson, "As you go on in your education, Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle."

Joining the ceremony remotely were Valedictorian Kiera Ashcraft, and National Junior Honor Society President Christopher Albert, who spoke with pride of his classmates year of firsts, including flying on an airplane, traveling to Washington D.C., and some firsts as simple as meeting new friends. Christopher spoke fondly of his time at Columbia Central before offering thanks for the lessons learned. He and his classmates look forward to new journeys, having mastered Columbia Central's core values of being Respectful, Accountable, and Peaceful. Christopher concluded with the words, "We have all learned so much within these walls, taken chances, and realized aspirations. The memories we've made in this school can never be erased."

Kiera Ashcraft in her speech spoke of learning the value of support systems stating, "I know it may seem more heroic to fight the great war alone but trust me, it helps to have a great army by your side."



Pictured: Student Council President Jada Torres(Top), NJHS President Christopher Albert (Left), Valedictorian Kiera Ashcraft (Right)

She went on to praise supporters who motivate, push, and encourage. She thanked the staff of Columbia Central for their support. She spoke strongly of her own support system in creating an environment that has allowed her to succeed, reminding her classmates to find their support systems in the people they truly trust.

In Savannah Gossmeier's Salutatorian speech read by Mr. Nieminski, Savannah spoke of goals, throughout her eighth grade year. She thanked the teachers, staff, and board members for their support throughout her time at Columbia Central. She went on to talk about some of her memories and struggles including traveling to Washington D.C. and having to make new friends before offering congratulations to the class of 2020.

Student Council President Jada Torres presented, via video, the Class of

2020's gift to the school community. This year, student council provided yard signs to each of the 8th grade class's graduates.

Prior to the reading of the names of graduates, Mr. Nieminski recounted the series of events that lead to the distance learning and unpredictably successful outcome of the 2020 school year. His candid humor, offered graduates condolences for the loss of the end of their eighth grade year, before asking that they not allow that loss to affect their successes in the future. He then set expectations high for the class of 2020 asking that they set their sights high throughout the next four year high school journey.

**Registration
Information
Page 2**



IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2020

Beginning, July 21, 2020, the registration portal will be open to expedite our new online registration process. Beginning 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 this mailing.

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 at various days and times. To help ensure physical distancing is maintained, we ask that parents/guardians attend the appropriate help day; however, you may choose any day that is convenient. **Parents of new students (including Kindergarten & Pre-K 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.**

Monday, July 27, 2020

Returning students 1st - 4th grade

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

New students to the district grades 1st through 8th grade

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Pre-K Students, Kindergarten students

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 3, 2020

Returning students 5th-8th grade

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

New students to the district grades 1st - 8th grade

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Pre-K Students, Kindergarten students

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 10, 2020

Last day to fill out online registration. If you have a returning student and the online process is not completed on August 10th a full registration will be required at Parkview School on the first day of school.

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Residency Verification

Please see our website at www.sd194.org for information regarding the documents needed to prove residency.

Curriculum and Instruction Corner

District 194 Summer Learning Information

Steger School District 194 is committed to ensuring that learning continues for all students during the summer months. We are excited to launch our summer learning opportunities for students entering 1st - 8th grade.

Students are being asked to read the selected books along with their teachers and classmates and complete the provided activities.

SD194 students will also 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. Log-in information for IXL were provided by your child's teacher prior to the end of the school year. 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. 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.



Columbia Central 8th Grade Award Winners

Valedictorian

Kiera Ashcraft

Salutatorian

Savannah Gossmeier

American Legion Award

Christopher Albert and Emma Staley

Kiwanis Award

Omar DelRio and Savannah

Gossmeier

Ricky Pendergrass Award

Peyton Joyce

Jacob Kiepura Award

Blake Boudreau and Dariana Smith

Lorenzo Garcia PBIS Award

Mitchell Stanton and Kieth Johnston

Mr. Lale Science Award

Alyssa Rucker and Jaylin Turk

Mr. Devore Einstein Award

Kiera Ashcraft

Mr. Devore Math Award

Oscar Torres

Daniel Hammond Award

Antoine Barfield

Sandy Siefert Award

Jamari Teague

Susan Boyko Visual Arts Award

Maria Hernandez

Cherie Marzke Award

Cynthia Cosman and Cheyanne

Tandy

John Phillip Sousa Award

Abigail Byrns

Band Director's Award

Emma Staley

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Jason Pomeranski

National School Choral Award

Christopher Albert and Ryan Brazier

Choral Director's Award

Deneshia Howerton and Kiera

Ashcraft

8th Athletes of the Year

Milan Hall and Mitchell Stanton

Bruce Brozinski Outstanding

Athlete Award

Elijah Simon

Sportsmanship Award

Emma Staley and Tyler Marois

Steger Intermediate Center Awards

At the conclusion of each school year, students at Steger Intermediate Center are recognized for their achievements throughout the school year with an awards ceremony. District 194 would like to congratulate the following students for those achievements.

Red Feather Award Winners: Those students from each class that exhibit positive character traits throughout the school year. (each students teacher's name is in parenthesis)

2nd Grade

Roman Zuniga (Mrs. Peterson)
Noah Kunkes-Harris (Mrs. Hubbard)
Natalia Molina (Mr. Faoro)
Leah Kuhlmann (Ms. Husman)
Cameron Rivas (Ms. Babiar)
Henry Leverette (Mrs. Fletcher)
Livia Villarreal (Mrs. Gross)
Charlie Garcia (Ms. Callahan)

3rd Grade

Noah Ramirez (Mrs. Buffano)
Josie Robles (Mrs. Naylor)
Alea Gonzalez (Mrs. Andrews)
Naomi Botello (Mrs. Krout)
Fernanda Lopez (Ms. Wendt)
Kevin Hermosillo (Mrs. DeBoer)
Lizbeth Ramos (Ms. Mizaur)
Allison Botello-Miranda (Mrs. Garcia)
Shamaiah Crayton (Ms. Winters)

4th Grade

Yaretzi Navarro (Mrs. Rosa)
Lincoln Kuhlmann (Mrs. Bernecker)
Celina Rodriguez (Mrs. Stone)
Rolando De La Torre (Mrs. Frakes)
Natalia Perez (Mrs. Warwick)
Jissel Ramirez (Mr. Smock)
Roddrick Johnson (Ms. Kenealy)

Music Helper

Celina Rodriguez

Library Helpers

Christopher Smith
Corbin Diaz
Reyna Lopez
Rogba Ponnile
Joel Guillen

Walk Across America Winners

3rd Grade Boys
1st Place Adrian Mendez
2nd Place Carmello Collins
3rd Place Gabriel Mendez

PTA Awards

Patty O'Brien, Benjamin Straley

Artists of the Year

2nd grade- Ozlin Herrera-Varela
3rd grade- Kevin Hermasillo
4th grade- Rolando De La Torre

Student Council Members

Stephen Carson
Camila Anguiano
Celina Rodriguez
Teresa Nirchi
Natalia Perez
Kijuan Pach
Maggie Nolte
Angel Avalos
Yaretzi Navarro
Julianna Miller

3rd Grade Girls
1st Place Fernanda Lopez
2nd Place Courtney Hajduk & Francesca Lopez

Perfect Attendance

Stephen Zeman (3years)
Christopher Smith (2years)
Jesus DelRio (1 year)
Alexander Liguras (1 year)
Johana Watkins (1 year)
Asia Brown (1 year)
Josue Ramirez (1 year)
Camila Valadez-Delapaz (1 year)

Green Team Members

(Recycling)

Jose Gomez
Lincoln Kuhlmann
Cameron Hood
Leonardo Sanchez
Josue Ramirez
Jackie Ramos
Yaretzi Navarro

4th GradeBoys
1st Place Amir Brown Monroe
2nd Place Angel Avalos & Josue Ramirez

4th Grade Girls
1st Place Mahetzi Gama
2nd Place Camila Valadez
3rd Place Asia Brown

STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL
753-4300
Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL
753-4700
Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL
753-4200
Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL
753-4100

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A Word From Dr. Frusher

Dear Steger School District 194
Community Members,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. On June 23, 2020 the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), released guidance for schools on the 2020-2021 school year.

This 60-page document was much anticipated and goes a long way toward answering critical questions all of us shared about what the 2020-2021 school year will look like in terms of in-person learning, scheduling, transportation, wearing masks, social distancing, and other measures intended to keep everyone safe and healthy, while also re-engaging students in the learning process.

In-person instruction may resume, as regions in Illinois transitioned to Phase 4. School districts must follow IDPH guidelines, which provided the following:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and,
- Require an increase in school wide cleaning and disinfecting.

We kindly ask for your patience as our staff continues to thoroughly review this detailed guidance and implements the suggestions into our school district's own transition plan.

Our school district formed transition teams earlier this month and have been discussing options. In addition, parents and staff have been surveyed. This guidance will accelerate conversations, and I'm confident our school district can put forth a plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our students and staff while maintaining a dynamic learning environment.

SD 194 is keenly aware of the urgent need to communicate to families about what to expect next school year and anticipate releasing our own transition plan in early August 2020. Please visit the SD 194 website at www.sd194.org and our social media outlets for ongoing updates.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as our entire district is navigating a situation together that none of us could have imagined.

Sincerely,

Dr. David. T. Frusher
Superintendent



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