

Linking the Past, Present and Future

The Anchor

CPS Foundation And Alumni
WINTER 2022

1973



'ON DASHER(S)!'
Discoverers Dash Photos, Pg 8.



2022



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Board of Education Representative
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- Annie Sokol, Class of '98
- Abbi Hellbusch, Class of '02
- Cara Barnett, Class of '98
- Megan Valorz, Class of '03

Past, Present, Future

On The Cover: (1973) Juniors Dave McNair, Keith Gilmore, Conny Saafeld, Sue Carter, Grace Rathkamp and Mike Krumland help for the annual AFS light bulb sale. **(2022) From right:** Rex Porter ('74), Mike Krumland ('74), Keith Gilmore ('74), Dave McNair ('74), Mr. and Mrs Chris Dixon, **(back row)** Steve Anderson ('68), Ron Ernst ('74), Bob Markham ('76), Ron Graus ('61), Mike Murray ('74), pose for a photo during a recent gathering to celebrate McNair's World Track Championship gold medal for Team U.S.A. --> **See Story on Page 4.**

Stay in Touch



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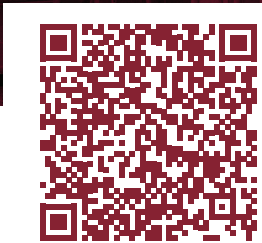
@TheAnchorCPS



@CHSAnchorAlumni

www.cpsanchor.com

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch. Check out our pages for an easy way to stay connected daily.



MEGAN WEMHOFF

Join Us and Meet this 2016 Grad!

Meet The Team, a video series highlighting CPS staff, featured CHS graduate and now fourth-grade teacher and Diamond Dancer coach Megan Wemhoff!

Scan the QR code above or click here to watch!

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\$5,000 Donated!

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columbushosp.org

CPS continues to plan for future growth

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz
CPS Superintendent

At the October 17, 2022 school board meeting, the Columbus Public Schools (CPS) Board of Education approved the hiring of Clark & Enersen Architects as the district's liaison to help determine the scope of work to be done for CPS in the near future.

In the upcoming weeks the staff and community will be engaged in a district wide conversation regarding facilities for the future of Columbus Public Schools.

Because the district has hired an architectural consultant, this does not mean any drawings or configurations will be designed until our community gives us the permission to pursue any projects. Like the bond campaign of 2013, CPS will want to hear from the community their questions and concerns in regards to a future bond election for Columbus. Since our high school and reconfiguration for our middle school was completed in 2016, the dynamics of CPS and our community continue to change.

We have promised our community we will not...

- Proceed without feedback from:
 - Staff
 - Parents
 - Community Leaders
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - CPS Board of Education
 - City Leaders
 - Chamber of Commerce Members
 - Local business and industry

Prior to 2013 there were very few houses or apartment complexes being built. However, since 2014 there have been over 700 new construction and/or renovation permits issued within city limits. This is significant because over 3,000 people commute into Columbus to work each and every day. At last count there were also over 1,200 job openings within the community. This could and likely will mean that our student population will continue to grow.

Speaking of student growth, our enrollment has also grown since the beginning of our last bond campaign in 2013. We have seen a growth of 403 students since that time.

Continued on Page 4

Data Years	PK	KG	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
2020-2021	194	286	282	304	324	269	325	274
2019-2020	236	298	299	320	263	314	271	294
2018-2019	237	302	311	236	310	263	300	287
2017-2018	213	279	228	311	260	297	284	279
2016-2017	229	238	297	263	293	278	284	255
2015-2016	202	285	257	270	272	275	254	271
2014-2015	172	255	272	265	272	252	264	300
2013-2014	149	288	285	277	255	274	300	287
Data Years	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total	
2020-2021	285	291	332	296	334	363	4159	
2019-2020	291	309	287	333	345	344	4204	
2018-2019	292	260	328	334	309	321	4090	
2017-2018	258	289	332	306	284	308	3928	
2016-2017	284	306	296	276	282	310	3891	
2015-2016	308	281	280	278	274	331	3838	
2014-2015	287	259	258	271	293	320	3740	
2013-2014	259	249	267	293	296	277	3756	

Graph provided by the Nebraska Department of Education.



New Waters Discoverer AnchorLines

The CPS student-led journalism project gathered recent graduates to discuss adjustments following graduation, pursuit of their goals and life as a CHS alum. facebook.com/CHSAnchorAlumni and facebook.com/DiscovererAnchorLines.

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A HARD DAYS WORK

By Amy (Busteed) Blaser
CHS Class of 1988



CHS alum McNair now world track champion

When Dave McNair discovered he really enjoyed jump roping in 2008, he told his wife he wanted to see how many days in a row he could jump rope.

The answer turned out to be seven years, nine months (he ended his streak in 2015 after he stepped in a pothole and sprained his ankle).

Then, when he retired in 2016, Dave was concerned he would get out of shape and gain weight.

So, even though he hated running, he forced himself to run a 5K race every month for 17 months so he could still stay in shape.



No one could ever accuse Dave McNair of being a slacker.

So, for those who know the Columbus High School alumnus (Class of 1974), it's little surprise that he is now a World Masters track champion.

In July, Dave traveled to Tampere, Finland, and placed first in the 100-meter hurdles and second in the 300-meter hurdles.

He also has five Masters national championships under his belt.

"It was a pretty cool feeling to win the world championship," he said. "But an even better feeling was standing on the podium and listening to the U.S. national anthem play."

Back at CHS, Dave was a three-sport athlete — wrestling, football and track and field.

Wrestling was by far his greatest love; the CHS wrestling team won the Nebraska state championship his senior year.

"I feel like I did pretty well in high school," he said. "I didn't place at state or anything, but I was a valuable member of the team."

Dave attended college at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on a wrestling scholarship and majored in social sciences.

After college, he taught high school and coached for seven years, then entered the insurance industry for a while.

The last two decades of his career, he worked in management at an educational company, performing in-services for schools across the nation.

Continued on Page 7

"I'm a Discoverer. You're not going to take that out of me." Dave McNair
CHS Class of 1974

Above: The caption of this 1973 yearbook photo reads "Dave McNair gained control over his rival with an ankle ride." Dave said his most loved sport at CHS was wrestling. The team won a state championship his senior year, 1974.

Left: Dave McNair and Bob Markham ('76) pose for a photo during a recent gathering of alumni and friends to celebrate McNair's world championships.

Townhall data, strategic plan help guide discussions of community and school needs

From Page 3

So what does this mean for CPS? Last spring we held two community town hall meetings to look at the enrollment trend data and housing information.

We believe that:

- We need to provide a safe, secure and accessible environment
- That Columbus is supportive of education in all schools.
- The community will guide us

in the right direction.

Our current building and sites list within our strategic plan has the following projects identified:

1. HS Track & Football/Soccer Field Improvements, Concessions, and Storage
2. Anchor Activity Complex
3. Alternative School Center
4. District Administration Offices within the Kramer Early Childhood Center

The town hall presentations and discussions also identified the

following projects that need to be explored.

1. Intermediate School/Middle School Expansion (Grades 5 and 6)
2. Potential Child Development Center Expansion
3. High School Program Expansion
4. Cafeteria expansion at North Park, Emerson, West Park, & Centennial
5. Additional Classrooms at Elementary Schools

6. New cafeteria eating area for Middle School

There are more conversations to be had in the upcoming months. Please be part of that conversation and solution as we move forward to a potential bond campaign and successful election in the Spring of 2023.

We appreciate and value your feedback because as we are sure there are other things and opportunities to think about that have not yet uncovered.

Columbus Public Schools Foundation's

Lighting of the Anchor



WATCH ON FACEBOOK

NOV. 17-23

PERFORMANCES

PREMIER

EACH DAY

AT 7 P.M.



Performances from:

**Columbus Community
Hospital Singers**

ft: Sue Deyke, Class of 1977

Freedom Road

ft: Tim Tarnick, Class of 1970
Don Peterson, Class of 1972
Murry Johnston, Class of 1970
Jan Zaura, Class of 1973
Ken Lee

Emma Benck, Class of 2019

Lauren Benck, Class of 2019

Brooke Benck, Class of 2019

Jenny Brackhan Young, Class of 1999

Beth Fry, Class of 1999

Karissa Gleason, Class of 2020

Aliya Nichols, Class of 2028

Cade Nichols, Class of 2030

Natalie Rieck, Class of 1996

Gina Borer, Class of 1990

Monica Weber

Class of 2015

Brock Bourek

Class of 2015

Jeff Peabody, CHS Band Director

Jarrett Peabody, Class of 2024

Jessie Nelson

Class of 2018

Natalie Raimondo

Class of 2018

Virgil Balmer

Class of 1988

Ryan Sims

Class of 2020

More songs from:

New World Singers

8th-Grade Choir

Captain's Chorale

CMS Vocal Tech

Lost Creek Kindergartners

7th-Grade Choir

Join us in person on November 17th - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. @ Columbus High

Drive-through the main CHS front entrance circle drive for an opportunity to wave hello to Santa Claus and the Grinch. Enjoy the colorful lighted anchor for the 2022 holiday season and receive a complimentary, commemorative ornament. During the drive, tune into KLIR 101.1FM to hear seasonal music from CPS students of all ages!

*ornaments limited to 1 per car, as supplies last

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101

Charitable IRA rollover just one of many ways to give

A charitable IRA rollover is a gift option that enables donors age 70½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 directly from the donor's IRA (or IRAs) to a qualified charity each year.

The donor does not recognize the transfer as taxable income on his or her tax return.

By the same token, this transfer may not be claimed as a charitable income tax deduction.

BENEFITS

When you make a gift through a charitable IRA rollover, you can:

- Count the amount of your rollover toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

- Avoid additional taxable income, which may allow you to avoid taxation at a higher tax bracket.

- Satisfy multi-year pledges to the Annual Fund or your reunion gift to Columbus Public Schools.

- Create or add to a permanent endowment in your name or in memory of a loved one.

FACTORS

TO CONSIDER

- The charitable IRA rollover is available only for gifts from a tradition-

al IRA and not from any other type of retirement plan (401(k), 403(b), 457, Keogh, ESOP, etc.).

- The rollover is allowed only for outright gifts to a qualified public charity like the CPS Foundation for which the donor receives no benefits.

- The donor must be at least 70 years of age on the date of the gift.

- The donor can give up to \$100,000 each year from his or her IRA(s). A couple with separate IRAs can donate up to \$100,000 each from their respective IRAs.

- There is no federal income realized and no income tax deduction for the donor (unless made from documented after-tax contributions to the IRA).

- The gift should be transferred from the IRA directly to the charity. The donor should not accept any distribution of funds intended for a charitable IRA rollover.

- Some states treat the charitable IRA rollover like a withdrawal for state tax purposes, but this varies from state to state.

- Please check with your financial advisor to determine how a charitable IRA rollover gift will impact you.

If you would like to give a gift you can do so online at

<https://www.cpsanchor.com/get-involved/donate.html>

or by sending a check made payable to the:

CPS Foundation

Attention: Nicole Anderson

PO Box 947

Columbus, NE 68602

amazon smile

COLUMBUS
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FOUNDATION

You can now donate to the CPS Foundation through the Amazon Smile program. Be sure to add us at smile.amazon.com/change

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COLUMBUS
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

[columbushosp.org](https://www.columbushosp.org)

MCNAIR

From Page 7

In his quest to stay physically active after retirement, Dave started competing in sprint events at the Cornhusker State Games and the Nebraska Senior Games.

Eventually, he heard about U.S.A. Track & Field's Masters Track & Field, and he began competing in meets across the country.

That led him to the national competition and, this year, to the world competition.

"I'm on the track six days a week and I lift weights every other day," says Dave, who has now thrown himself into the track and field lifestyle.

In August 2022, Dave was featured in the Columbus Days Parade and had the opportunity to talk with former classmates and other acquaintances at a reception following the parade.

While he is now a Springfield, Nebraska, resident, he still closely follows CHS sports.

"I'm a Discoverer," he said. "You're not going to take that out of me. It was one of the most special times of my life when I was competing in high school."

Dave and his wife Cindy have four sons and four grandchildren, and these days, their schedule revolves around which track meets Dave will be competing in next.

"I feel like I work harder these days than I did in high school," he said.



From Left: Rex Porter ('74), Mike Krumland ('74), Keith Gilmore ('74), Dave McNair ('74), Mr. and Mrs Chris Dixon. **(back row)** Steve Anderson ('68), Ron Ernst ('74), Bob Markham ('76), Ron Graus ('61), Mike Murray ('74), pose for a photo during a recent gathering to celebrate McNair's World Track Championship gold medal for Team U.S.A.



Above: Then senior Dave McNair uses a microscope during biology class. **Right:** The caption to this 1972 yearbook reads "Fellow teammates congratulated Dave McNair after his wrestling match."

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CPS Foundation



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Or visit
cpsanchor.com/alumni
and click on
"Become a Member"

I would like to become an annual member for the year of 2022.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20
First-time members will receive an alumni association window cling!
Second-time renewing members will receive a lapel pin!
Third-time renewing members will receive a can cooler!

I would like to become a lifetime member.
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$300
You will receive a brick with your name and graduation year.
Your brick will be found at the anchor located at Columbus High School.



On Dasher(s)!

Community turns out for annual Discoverer Dash



Time to mark you calendars! **Reunion Information**

1956 – Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

1958 – Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

1959 – Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1960 – Meets the first Tuesday of each month at Maximus at 11:30 a.m.

Let us help you plan your reunion

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU:

- Class list and mailing labels
- nonprofit bulk rate for qualifying mailings
- tours of CHS and CMS
- tips on planning reunions

Contact: Jen Augustin
PO Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947
Phone: 402-563-7000 ext. 13033
Email: AugustinJ@discoverers.org

Stop searching. Start your career.

Join our team today.

