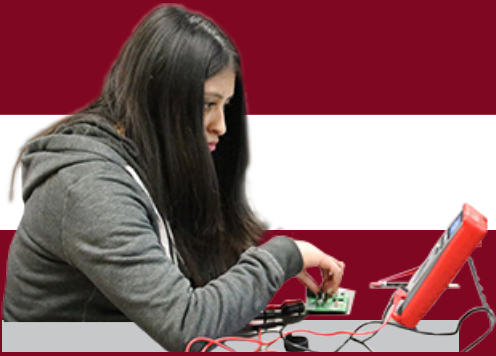


CPS Foundation and Alumni

Linking the Past, Present and Future



# The Anchor

Spring 2020



The Anchor, outside Columbus High School, unveils its lights during a community-wide event in December.

## Lighting of The Anchor



Santa and Lil' C greet their young fans as they took the stage at Lighting of the Anchor in December.

A member of the elementary singers looks out over the crowd of nearly 200 during their performance of holiday classics.



Throughout the night, shoppers had a chance to get their CPS gear as the Discoverer Spirit Shop was open.

**Stay tuned for  
Lighting of the Anchor 2020!**

## Centennial Elementary Planning for 20th Anniversary Celebration

Centennial's 20th Anniversary is just around the corner and will take place during the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal and Class of 1992 alum, Andrew Luebbe would like all Centennial alumni to submit photos that could be shown during the celebration.

Please send digital images to [luebbeaj@discoverers.org](mailto:luebbeaj@discoverers.org) or mail copies or duplicates of printed photos to Centennial Elementary School c/o Andrew Luebbe, 500 Centennial St, Columbus, NE 68601.

Photos will not be returned so please be sure to send a copy or a duplicate image.



**Sports Booster Club  
Golf Tournament**  
**August 1, 2020**

For more information or to reserve a team contact  
**Kurt Shevlin,**  
[kurt@smbyshevlin.com](mailto:kurt@smbyshevlin.com) or 402-564-9192

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Would you like to know more about a health topic, or tips to stay well? Tune in to Columbus Community Hospital's Healthcasts. Each 10-minute segment will offer listeners practical, useful advice for a lifetime of good health. From managing weight to keeping your heart beating strong, you'll find valuable health information on our station, presented by knowledgeable physicians and health experts right here at Columbus Community Hospital.



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



Class of 1969



Class of 1979



Class of 1989



Class of 1999



# 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:** Nicole Anderson  
 PO Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947  
**Phone:** 402-563-7000 ext. 12847  
**Email:** andersonn@discoverers.org

## Time to mark you calendars! **2020 Summer Reunions**

**The Class of 1955** Labor Day Weekend - Friday, Sept. 4 - Gathering at Sandra Knox Lake House - Wagners Lake; Saturday, Sept. 5 - Maximus. To make reservations, call JoAnn Siefken at 402-564-4297

**The Class of 1960** will be having their reunion on August 15, 2020 at the Friedhoff Building in Columbus. For more information please contact Gaylene Hingst at 402-563-2109 or dghingst@email.com.

**Class of 1965** - June 26 & 27, 2020.

For more information contact Carol Syslo at 308-550-0451 or check Facebook CHS Class of 1965 for more details.

**1970s - Class of 1970s** Celebrating 50 Years! Aug. 14-16, 2020. For information, contact Terri Hoesly, thoesly@hotmail.com  
 CMS Tour (Former HS) 1 - 2 p.m.;  
 Class Picture at the CHS Anchor 2:30; CHS Tour 2:45-3:45.

**Class of 1980** - Aug. 15, 2020.

CMS & CHS Tour times TBD; Henry's on 11th 6:30 p.m. - midnight.  
 Connect on Facebook at CHS Class of '80 Reunion.  
 For additional information, contact Julie Barnes Sansoni 402-942-3019 or Lynn Strehle Sjuts 402-910-2370.

## 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.

**1962** - Meets the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Stack 'n Steak. All classmates and spouses are welcome.

SOMETHING



*Columbus.com*

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to their best career choice yet.

Contact Kara Asmus, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
 402-564-2769 • drive45@megavision.com

## Stay Connected

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch.

You can find a variety of posts on our accounts including throwback pictures from past graduating classes, accomplishments by present students and upcoming alumni events.

Show your support for the Columbus High School, Kramer High School and Columbus Public Schools by engaging in posts and providing us feedback on what you would like to see.

We are proud of our school and want to display our past successes, present achievements and future efforts involving our alumni.

Check out our pages for an easy way to stay connected daily.



@The\_Anchor\_CPS



@TheAnchorCPS



@CHSAnchorAlumni

[www.cpsanchor.com](http://www.cpsanchor.com)

## Gifts of any size make an impact

Often times there is a misconception that gifts to the CPS Foundation need to be large in order to make an impact for our students.

When thinking about giving a gift consider this:

**\$5** can buy a paperback book for a classroom.

**\$10** can buy replacement supplies for a lesson in the STEM on the GO trailer that serves our K-6 students.

**\$20** can help to sponsor a student in need to attend 1 STEM summer enrichment camp.

**\$50** can help sponsor the 4th Grade College & Career Day.

**\$75** can help sponsor students who attend the Close-Up program in Washington DC.

**\$100** can get you a legacy brick at the CHS Anchor. All funds raised from the bricks purchased are used for Dual Credit Scholarships and Classroom Grants.

To purchase a brick visit: <https://www.cpsanchor.com/what-we-do/projects/anchor-project/anchor-your-legacy.html> or contact the CPS Foundation at 402-563-7000 X13033 for a form.

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The CPS Alumni Association has strength in numbers. Just think what a donation by each of us could do to help fill the gaps in funding that the School District cannot meet. Together we as Discoverers can make a significant impact.

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

## Save the Date!



**The 2020  
Discoverer Dash**  
Sept. 25 @ 5:30 p.m.

Following the Dash, join us for CHS football vs. Lincoln High.

For more information visit <https://www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/discoverer-dash.html>

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## A Cut Above



Columbus High Alums Cory and Darin Ditter pose in front of a BySmart Fiber Laser Cutter. The machine, housed at their business DiSTAR, cut three signs on display outside the high school. DiSTAR played a key role in the district's Anchor Project, the massive anchor that sits outside of Columbus High School. Darin said they were very proud to fabricate and donate all of the plaques for the project.

# Ditters support CPS through its family-owned business

## Amy (Busteed) Blaser

### CHS Class of 1988

Brothers Cory and Darin Ditter had been involved in local manufacturing companies for more than 20 years when they decided to start DiSTAR Industries, LLC in 2015.

"This was a chance to build upon our experience and move forward with the newest technologies in manufacturing," Darin said.

DiSTAR is a metal fabrication business that provides quality service and products to many industries including: medical, food service, commercial construction, agriculture, transportation and manufacturing.

Cory and Darin are co-owners of DiSTAR which has since grown in number of employees, business reach and facility size. DiSTAR obtained a local economic development loan to expand its facility in 2017, and the company has grown to include 10 employees.

"Columbus has been great with all of the local manufacturing providing a solid

*"It was an honor to be asked to help with the signs and adding to the design details. It is cool to have locally produced signs that will be on the high school for many years to come."*

## Darin Ditter

DiStar Co-owner,  
CHS Class of 1994

customer base," Darin said.

In addition to servicing the local manufacturing industry, DiSTAR has also provided services to several local businesses and organizations, including the Columbus Public Schools District.

For example, DiSTAR played a key role in the district's Anchor Project, the massive anchor that sits outside of Columbus High School that is helping raise money

for scholarships, dual credit classes, classroom grants and other opportunities for CPS students.

Cory is a 1989 CHS graduate and Darin is a 1994 CHS graduate, so as alumni themselves, Darin said they were very proud to fabricate and donate all of the plaques for the project.

DiSTAR also recently designed three, 10-foot in diameter signs that hang on the outside of the high school. Two of the signs have a STEM theme and the other sign has the words "Academics, Athletics, Activities, Community" cut into it. The designs have a compass theme and a three-dimensional look.

DiSTAR donated the signs and B-D Construction donated the installation of the signs.

"It was an honor to be asked to help with the signs and adding to the design details," Darin said. "It is cool to have locally produced signs that will be on the high school for many years to come."

DiSTAR has also donated stainless steel work benches for the machine shop area at the high school and been involved with the Skilled and Technical Science program there. Additionally, they've given tours of DiSTAR to some STS classes.

They've chosen to support these classes because they believe these students will play an important part in the community's future.

"There are lots of good jobs and careers in the manufacturing field in Columbus," Darin said. "The classes at CHS are a great way to get kids introduced to these exciting opportunities. Local businesses need the kids coming out of these classes to be the future workforce."

DiSTAR has also further

**More on Pg. 7**

# Kramer Education Center

## Strategic plan comes to life as Kramer Center construction is being scheduled

Since 2014, The CPS Board of Education (BOE) has had a community based early childhood education center as part of their strategic plan.

Beginning in the summer of 2019, CPS partnered with a community group, Communities for Kids to help assess the needs of Columbus with regards to early childhood education and childcare.

Following the survey, roundtable meetings were held to learn about the thoughts of our community members.

During these meetings we learned of the specific need for more 0-18 month infant childcare opportunities as well as more childcare options in general.

A desire to find ways to help provide a space for mental & physical health services for families.

We also received strong support for our initial goal of increasing

**“The district now has an opportunity to expand its early learning program by adding a community-based early childhood program at the site of the old middle school.”**

**Dr. Troy Loeffelholz**  
CPS Superintendent,  
2018-2019 Annual Report



*The former Columbus Middle School addition sits empty earlier this year. The initial plan is to build a 25,000 square foot one story addition on the lot south of the building, and then to renovate the remaining space into administrative offices.*

preschool opportunities so that all 4-year old children would have an option to attend preschool prior to kindergarten.

When we began the 2019-2020 school year we had a wait list of over 58 families.

\*\*\*

The big question becomes how do you make this dream come true? The RFP process to determine the architectural firm has taken place, and the district is currently in final contract negotiations.

The initial plan is to build a 25,000 square foot one story addition to the former Columbus Middle School addition, and then to renovate the remaining building into administrative offices.

The BOE's number one focus is to

first complete the early childhood section and have committed \$5 million to the project.

The hope is to finalize drawings and begin construction in the Fall of 2020.

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If you would like to see the presentation that has been given at local community roundtables please visit <https://www.cpsanchor.com/what-we-do/projects/kramer-education-center.html>.

If you would like to join the conversation and be a part of the solution please contact Superintendent, Dr. Troy Loeffelholz at 402-563-7000x12175 or [loeffelholz@discoverers.org](mailto:loeffelholz@discoverers.org).

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## Alumni Association, CPS Foundation seeking volunteers

**Amy (Busteed) Blaser**

*CHS Class of 1988*

The Columbus Public Schools (CPS) Foundation has invested more than \$3 million in Columbus Public School students since 1998.

It creates valuable opportunities for these students through new technology, book purchases, classroom grants, dual credit scholarships, and its support of programs like Close Up, Destination Imagination, vocal music, band, sports and STEM.

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association shares regular communications on what alumni are doing, district updates, special information on class reunions and collaborates with the CPS Foundation on special projects and events such as the Discoverer Dash, the Anchor project, Columbus Days and much, much more!

As a graduate of Columbus High School, you're in a unique position to help support this work of the Columbus Public Schools Foundation and Alumni Association.

Both groups are currently recruiting volunteers. We know that our alumni have a bevy of special talents and skills that can help us organize and run special events and activities or assist one or both groups in many other ways as well.

If you're interested in giving back to the Foundation and Alumni Association - and, in turn, current Columbus Public Schools students - please consider donating your time and talents to these worthwhile organizations.

To volunteer, contact Nicole Anderson, Foundation Director, at 402-563-7000 ext. 12847 or [andersonn@discoverers.org](mailto:andersonn@discoverers.org).



Two of DiStar fabricated metal works are displayed at Columbus High School. **Above:** The compass and STEM logos are cut out of a piece of steel 10-foot in diameter and hung on the south east corner of the building. **Right:** A sign noting the Schupbach family is hung underneath the anchor outside CHS.



## A Cut Above

**Continued from pg. 5**

supported CHS students by having a CHS student intern with them. They then hired the student after graduation.

"Internships are a great way to gets kids involved and hopefully interested in the manufacturing field," Darin said. "Kids tell their friends about their experiences

and hopefully spread the word about available careers at our local businesses."

For more information about DiSTAR, visit [www.distarind.com](http://www.distarind.com).

To learn more about how you can support the Anchor Project by purchasing a link, bench or brick, visit [www.cpsanchor.com](http://www.cpsanchor.com).



## Community is Our Middle Name

**Columbus Community Hospital** fosters a culture – built on commitment, compassion and care – that exceeds expectations for our patients. It's a privilege to be making a healthy difference in Columbus, and our dedication shows in all we do.

We are a community-owned, not-for-profit hospital, and our leaders, physicians, nurses and staff nurture this sense of community in every decision and interaction . . . every day. By delivering far-reaching care, advanced technologies and treatments, and expertise that keep our patients close to home, we embrace the shared values and enhance the lives of those we are proud to call friends and neighbors.

*"That's why we're inspired every day by our CCH family."*



To learn more about our quality care or hospital employment opportunities, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org) or call 402-562-3363.

## 8

## Charitable Giving

# Charitable IRA rollover just one of many ways to give back to Columbus schools

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 traditional 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.