

CPS Foundation and Alumni

Linking the Past, Present and Future



The Anchor

Summer 2020

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.

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

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. **Centennial Family Night and 20th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, Sept. 11, from 5-8 p.m. and will include food, fun, music, games and inflatables.**

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 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 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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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.

Update

1970s - Class of 1970s Celebrating 50 Years! - Postponed until 2021
 For information, contact Terri Hoesly, thoesly@hotmail.com

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.

1990 - Postponed until Summer of 2021. For more, visit their Facebook page, [linked here](#).

SOMETHING



Columbus.com

Connecting CHS Graduates

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

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/discover-dash.html>

The 2020 Columbus Public School SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Foundation recognizes outstanding seniors, distributes 30 awards

On May 7th, the CPS Foundation awarded 30 scholarships to our future CHS alumna at a virtual awards ceremony. What an honor it is each year to present

Watch on YouTube!



Click here to watch the 2020 CPS Foundation Awards Night.

hardworking and successful students with these scholarship awards. To learn more about each of these scholarships visit <https://www.cpsanchor.com/what-we-do/scholarships/>. To view the virtual honors night visit <https://youtu.be/Dz94zf8Ye8g>.

- \$250** - Todd Schlender Memorial Scholarship: Erik Matson
- \$250** - Duncan PTO Scholarship: Chloe Micek
- \$250** - Duncan PTO Scholarship: Melany Donoghue
- \$250** - Vocal Music Booster Scholarship: Melany Donoghue
- \$250** - Vocal Music Booster Scholarship: Karissa Gleeson
- \$250** - Pinnacle Bank/Central Community College Scholarship: Estefano Paez
- \$250** - Pinnacle Bank Scholarship: Melany Donoghue
- \$500** - Future Educator Class of 1969 Scholarship: Jaidyn Garrett
- \$500** - Robert "Bob" Johnson Scholarship: Ryan Sims
- \$500** - Lisa Bock Memorial Scholarship: Josie Maberry
- \$500** - Joyce Dohmen Memorial Scholarship: Katelyn Wiegand
- \$500** - Trevor Luckey Memorial Scholarship: Jade Wielgus
- \$500** - Discoverer Athletic Hall of Fame Female Athlete: Gracie Luebbe
- \$500** - Discoverer Athletic Hall of Fame Male Athlete: Blake Edzards
- \$500** - Columbus United Federal Credit Union Scholarship: Anthony DeAnda
- \$750** - Trevor Luckey Memorial Scholarship: Sophia Gomez-Garcia
- \$800** - Taste of Columbus STEM: Estefano Paez
- \$1,000** - Joyce Malena Memorial Scholarship: Ashley Warner
- \$1,000** - Wilson-Covert Centennial Scholarship: Kaitlyn Brandl
- \$1,000** - Wilson-Covert Centennial Scholarship: Taylor Umstead
- \$1,000** - Speice Scholarship: Estefano Paez
- \$1,000** - Edward A. Babka Scholarship: Abigail Gerber
- \$1,000** - Anton Micek and Vincent Mausbach Memorial Scholarship: Jalynn Olson
- \$1,500** - Anton Micek and Vincent Mausbach Memorial Scholarship: Gracie Luebbe
- \$1,800** - Christopher John Saalfeld Scholarship: Ryan Sims
- \$1,800** - Edward M. Nielsen Sr. and Edward M. Nielsen Jr. Memorial Scholarship: Alexis Jeffryes
- \$2,000** - Class of 1940 War Memorial Scholarship: Emily Hall
- \$2,500** - Ron Callan Scholarship: Allie Gotschall
- \$2,500** - Anton Micek and Vincent Mausbach Memorial Scholarship: Karissa Gleeson
- \$5,000** - Nielsen Family Scholarship: Alexis Jeffryes

If you would like to make a gift to one of the established scholarship or would like to establish a scholarship of your own, please contact **CPS Foundation Director Nicole Anderson** at 402-563-7000 x 12847 or andersonn@discoverers.org.

Meet the Aerni Family



Richard (Rich) Aerni

Graduating class: 1962

Favorite class/teachers: Geometry. Chuck Farnham, who was really a dramatics, thespians and speech teacher, really made the class fun and interesting.

CPS teacher that most influenced you: Wayne Krepel. He taught physics and I admired how he handled himself and respect he had for his students, but, at the sametime had excellent discipline in the classroom.

Most memorable high school experience: My most memorable experience was our Senior Class play, playing the role of "Peter" in the Diary of Anne Frank. It was a blast!

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I would take foreign language. All the languages that were offered would have been very useful as I did a lot of travelling internationally with my job.

Where do you live now? Columbus, NE

What are you doing now? I am retired from Vishay Dale Electronics after 40 years. Serve on the Loup Power Board of Directors, Serve as Treasurer on the Platte County Historical Society Board, volunteer for several organizations. I enjoy playing golf, bridge, pickle ball and following the activities fo 13 grandchildrena nd 2 great grandchildren.



Edith (Edie) Kohlmeier Aerni

Graduating class: 1964

Favorite class/teachers: My favorite classes were Bookkeeping with Duane Burton and Office Practice

Classes with Jean Dalton.

CPS teacher that most influenced you: Jean Dalton with Office Practice classes influenced me the most. She was a younger teacher we could relate to easily.

Most memorable high school experience: My most memorable experience was working on "Booster Club" projects with girlfriends. Always a great time!

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I don't think I would really change anything if I had to do high school over, but, I always wished they would have had female sports when I was in high school. I would have enjoyed playing sports.

Where do you live now? Columbus, NE

What are you doing now? I am retired and enjoy playing golf, bridge and following 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



Ron Aerni

Graduating class: 1985

Favorite class/teachers: Economics with Mr. Beckenhauer

CPS teacher that most influenced you: Principal Dierman

Most memorable high school experience: Basketball game days.

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I would have played tennis for Mr. Duranski.

Where do you live now? Shawnee, KS

What are you doing now? Own and operate a contract apparel decoration company. I'm married to Karen and have 3 girls and 1 boy.

Stories continue on Pg. 6

"I don't think I would really change anything if I had to do high school over, but, I always wished they would have had female sports when I was in high school. I would have enjoyed playing sports.

Edith (Edie) Kohlmeier Aerni

CHS Class of 1964

The Aerni Family



(Robb and Gretchen)

Robb Aerni

Graduating class: 1988

Favorite class/teachers: History of Native Americans with Gordon Steinbrook. Didn't really expect to like this class but found it very interesting and really enjoyed it.

CPS teacher that most influenced you: Jack Young influenced me to really enjoy science and I loved his biology class. He had the best field trips to collect data on field mice and our class had the best bird watching trips. He also taught Human Anatomy and Physiology which began my interest in the health care profession.

Most memorable high school experience: My most memorable parts of high school involved sports and more specifically being a member of the basketball program with Coach Schnabel. Our dream of bringing home a state championship our senior year was cut short losing in the semifinals but the friendships that I had on that team are friendships that still last today.

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? The only thing I would change would be to go back and find a way to win that state championship!!

Where do you live now? I live in Shawnee, KS, a suburb outside of Kansas City, the home of the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs!!

What are you doing now? I am married to my high

school sweetheart Gretchen (Markel) Aerni, also a 1988 graduate. We have three children, two in currently in college and one a sophomore in high school. I'm a CRNA at Shawnee Mission Medical Center and have enjoyed working there for the last 22 years.

Gretchen (Markel) Aerni

Graduating class: 1988

Favorite class/teachers: Humanities-Humanities was a short-lived class that was team-taught by teachers from the English, History, Theater and Art departments (Kluck, Dierman, Anderson, Schlobaum and Detlefson if I recall correctly.) It was so awesome to see those classes blend together and come to life, and to experience the expertise and addition of each teacher.

I also loved newspaper. I was editor senior year and assistant editor my junior year.

CPS teacher that most influenced you: Coach Nancy Hegi- having someone believe in me and pour into me is something for which I will be forever grateful!

Most memorable high school experience: Placing fourth at the Nebraska State Track meet in Omaha... an unlikely quartet of runners (a freshman-Tara Went, sophomore-myself, junior-Lisa Bradley and senior-Deanna Swaim) came together and not only placed fourth in the Class A 3200m relay but set a school record that remained over twenty years. Running on that "stage" at Omaha Burke was memorable!! Shenanigans with our friend group deemed "the six pack" also bring back great memories. We are still close friends and though spread across the country, get together frequently. There is just something about that Columbus connection!!

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? If I had to do it all over again, I might have explored what the theater department had to offer. Our kids have been active in theater and that is something I wish I would have been open to in high school.

Where do you live now? Shawnee, KS

More on Pg. 7

Where a **local handshake** still means something.

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The Aerni Family

What are you doing now? After playing volleyball my freshman year at Northeastern University in Boston, MA, I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Journalism. I also earned my teaching certificate in Kansas. I married my high school sweetheart Robb Aerni. We have three children, ages 21 (senior studying Journalism/Graphic Design at Mizzou), 18 (freshman studying Broadcast and Business at Nebraska) and 15 (sophomore at Mill Valley High School.) I was a stay-at-home mom for twenty years. During that time I began my own spirit wear business, Spot On Apparel over ten years ago. I have also worked as a substitute teacher, mostly in high school, in the Desoto (Kansas) school district the last four years and am working on a social media certificate through the University of Kansas Graduate School of Journalism.



Jon Aerni

Graduating class: 1992
Favorite class/teachers: Bernie Nitsch, Calculus
CPS teacher that most influenced you: Mr. Anderson, English
Most memorable high school experience: Having to run an "island" for being late to tennis practice.
What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I would have focused more in German class, I'm annoyed that I can't speak a second language well.
Where do you live now? Omaha, NE
What are you doing now? I am the CFP of Woodmen Life Insurance Company. I'm married to Jenn and have 5 girls and 1 boy.



Columbus Public Schools received \$20,000 from Nebraska Community Foundation and Columbus Arca Future Fund. They were featured on 10/11 News' Pure Nebraska May 29.



EDUCATOR

OPERATIONS

2020 Columbus Public Schools Educator/Operations Employee of the Year

The Educator and Operations Employee of the Year awards were selected from applications by students, staff members and Columbus citizens and businesses. The winners will be recognized on the Wall of Fame at the CPS Administration Building. The operations winner receives a \$500 cash award. The Educator of the Year award runner-up and winner receive \$500 and \$1,000 cash prizes, respectively. The Educator of the Year will go on to apply for the Nebraska Teacher of The Year Award from the Nebraska Department Of Education.



Peggy Jones

Special Education Para - West Park

OPERATIONS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

"Peggy is one of the most positive people on our staff. She helps kids to see they're important."

Paula Lawerence/Principal, West Park Elementary

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP

Kristi Nelson

Special Education Teacher - CMS



"Kristi's main concern every single day is the care and needs of the students she teaches."

Tonja Lusche/Co-worker, Columbus Middle School

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Brian Townsend

Science Teacher - CHS



"He believes heavily in student achievement, heavily in student engagement ... and does this with great patience and positivity."

Adam Witmore/Co-Worker Columbus High School

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Classroom Grants



Michael Klee

Columbus Middle School

Practice Pads for Percussion Ensemble: The percussion ensemble provides an opportunity for students to expand their musical knowledge and/or enrich their current musical abilities by playing percussion instruments.



**COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION**



Heidi Field

Columbus High School

Weighted Fitness Bars for General Fitness Use: These bars will be used to teach perfect squat technique, hamstring strength, use of weights above the head and core strength specifically in the general fitness classes.

2020 CLASSROOM GRANT WINNERS

Find out more about the grant program and each of the projects here.



Michelle Purcell

Centennial, Lost Creek, West Park and Emerson Elementaries

Preschool Gardening Study: The preschool gardening study will allow children a hands-on opportunity for exploring the growing process of seeds, plants and flowers.



Amy Moore

North Park

Classroom Library: The grant will go toward the creation of a classroom library that fits the needs and interests of the students. This will give easier access to the books of high-interest in order to further develop students' love for reading.



Francie May

Columbus Middle School

What Ya Cookin?: This project will help increase the cooking skills for students in the Curriculum Life Skills program. The grant will be used to purchase a variety of adapted cooking utensils and various other cooking items that are needed.

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 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.



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 or call 402-562-3363.