

# The Anchor



DISCOVERERS OF DISTINCTION  
INAUGURAL CLASS ANNOUNCED  
PAGES 4-5



Linking the Past, Present and Future



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 Board of Education Representative

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**K.C. Belitz**, Class of '86  
**Abbi Hellbusch**, Class of '02  
**Kim Kwapniowski**, Class of '88

Past, Present, Future

**On The Cover: (2011)** The Columbus High School student section cheers on the girls basketball team during the opening round of the 2011 state tournament in Lincoln. The team finished the season with a 20-6 record. **(2024)** North Park kindergartners in Savannah Rodriguez's class place numbered Starbursts candy on a chart after finding them around the room. The scavenger hunt was one part of the school's celebration of 100 Days of School, which was recognized in early February.

Stay in Touch



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



BOYS BOWLING

**Head Coach - Bob Jaster**

**Assistant Coach - Jim Henerson**  
 Taylor Cooney  
 Andrew Gassmann  
 Colin Jaster

Ryland Prokopec  
 Jacob Staub  
 Gavin Unger  
 Kelton Zimmerer

A Round of Applause

FALL AND WINTER SPORT STATE CHAMPIONS



WRESTLING - 126LB

Brenyn Delano  
 Senior



WRESTLING - 138LB

Mason Peterson  
 Sophomore



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# District items, bond issue progressing

**Dr. Troy Loeffelholz**  
Superintendent

What is not happening at Columbus Public Schools? From my seat, that list is very short. Our school district continues to distinguish itself from other school districts with the success of our students and staff.

It is our job to continue gaining momentum for the best education we can provide our student body.

This spring we will be starting a new chapter for Columbus Public Schools. Our school district is going through a comprehensive strategic planning process to identify the needs of our school district over the next 3-5 years.

A road map of sense to provide a direction for our board of education, administration, and staff. Our strategic plan is long overdue and we need to look into the future and shape our school district to meet the needs of our community.

The board of education is currently searching for a replacement for myself as superintendent of Columbus Public Schools.

These past fourteen years have been awesome leading a great school district. I can't wait to see what the strategic plan sets in place and the goals for this school district into the future. The board of education will announce the next superintendent on March 25, 2024. I will work with that individual on a transition plan so it will be a smooth process for everyone.

This spring our board of education has decided to pursue a \$26 million dollar bond issue. The bond vote will be during the primary election on May 14, 2024. The bond issue will entail safety and security at all of our school buildings. This will include bullet protection film for all glass doors, secured vestibule entrances at four of our elementary schools, and new security cameras across the school district.

The second part of this bond issue will be to improve and update the kitchens and dining areas of four of our elementary schools.

Currently our kitchens  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



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and click on  
"Become a Member"



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 placed at the Columbus High School Anchor.

I would like to become an annual member for the year of 2023-24.  
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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!  
Fourth-time renewing members will receive a Discoverers notebook!

## Legacy



- **RON LAMBERT**  
Class of 1957 - Entrepreneur  
and Real Estate Developer

Following graduation from Kramer High School, Ron attended Commercial Extension Business School of Commerce and majored in marketing and accounting. After that he worked in sales, returning to Columbus in 1967.

He founded Mid-American Research Chemical (MARC) in 1970. He would go on to sell the company 18 years later and it is still active in business in 2024. Ron was also a founder of Paraclipse, another local company still in the community in 2024.

In addition to these business pursuits, he and his family developed Country Shadows Golf Course and Housing addition and was a co-developer of Country Club Shores Lake and Housing development.

Ron has served on several community boards, one that he is particularly proud of is the Columbus Community Hospital Board and the building of the new Columbus Community Hospital as well as the establishment of the Columbus Community Hospital Foundation.



- **ADRIANNE ELLEFSON ROGERS, M.D.**  
Class of 1950 - Physician,  
Researcher and Educator

Following graduation from Kramer High School, Dr. Rogers received her AB from Radcliffe College followed by her MD from Harvard University in 1958.

She proceeded to conduct her Intern in Medicine at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, MA before becoming a Research Fellow in the pathology department at the Mallory Institute which is part of Harvard University Medical School.

Dr. Rogers held the certification of Diplomate of both the American Board of Pathology and the American Board of Toxicology.

During her career she served as a research associate and senior research scientist at MIT, was an associate pathologist at Boston City Hospital, an associate chair of pathology as well as the director of the office of medical education at Boston University.

She later served as the interim associate dean of Academic Affairs as well as a professor of pathology at Boston University. Dr. Ellefson Rogers held numerous memberships and was a contributing author on various articles and professional journals.

## Legacy



- **DR. JOANN EICKHOFF-SHEMEK, Ph.D**  
Class of 1970 -  
Professor and Author

Following graduation from Columbus High School, she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received her BS and MS in Physical Education.

Prior to receiving her Ph.D. from UNL she worked as a fitness manager and exercise professional in community and clinical settings for nearly 20 years.

She later served as the Coordinator of the Fitness and Wellness Management graduate program at University of Nebraska at Omaha and was the Founding Coordinator of the Exercise Science undergraduate program at the University of South Florida, in Tampa.

Dr. Eickhoff-Shemek is the Founder & President of the Fitness Law Academy, LLC and Professor Emeritus, Exercise Science at the University of South Florida.

She is an internationally known researcher, author and speaker in the areas of legal liability, risk management, and fitness safety.



- **DR. S. KAY (BECHER) ROCKWELL, Ph.D**  
Class of 1957 - Professor  
& Evaluation Specialist in  
the Dept of Ag Leadership,  
Education and Communica-  
tion at UNL, Humanitarian

Following graduation from Kramer High School, she earned her BS in Nursing from UNMC College of Nursing and taught nursing students. She continued her education earning her MA and Ph.D. at UNL.

Then switching professions, Dr. Rockwell became internationally known for Targeting Outcomes of Programs, co-authored with a colleague from USDA. She is currently Professor Emeritus at UNL. Dr. Rockwell volunteered for the Farmer-2-Farmer Program in USAID and taught subsistence farmers in Kenya, East Africa, to work cooperatively with their neighbors to obtain top dollar for their commodities.

Through the Protestant Inland Church, she arranged a partnership with one congregation to build a preschool and a public library, and to establish the Goats for Voo initiative where 1 Billy goat and 3 ewes were given to about 1,000 HIV+ orphan families. The initiative increased the family's income sufficiently to purchase clothing and shoes, and other supplies required for all children in the family to attend public school.

In 2023, a demonstration classroom was funded for the community to respond to the President's mandate to Harvest the Skies so Kenya, a water deficit country, will have sufficient water to meet future needs.

# DISCOVERERS OF DISTINCTION

Inaugural class of alumni, edu

CPS Foundation will hold the first annual Discoverers of Distinction Ceremony on April 18

The inaugural class of inductees will include members in the categories of Legacy Discoverers of Distinction and Honorary Discoverers of Distinction.



**Scan Now To Purchase Your Discoverers of Distinction Ceremony Tickets!**

*The first annual Discoverers of Distinction ceremony will be held on April 18, 2024 at Dusters located in downtown Columbus. Join us as we celebrate this year's inductees! Gu will be served hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.*

## Honorary



- **PHIL RAIMONDO**  
Former Chairman and  
CEO, Behlen Manufacturing

Phil joined Behlen Mfg. Co. in 1990, most recently serving as Chairman and CEO until his passing in 2021. During that time and in previous years he placed an emphasis on STEM education and worked with the district to ensure students and staff had the necessary equipment, tools, and experiences needed. Phil's investment in Columbus Public Schools has included expansion of the drafting program at CHS, investment in 3D printers at CMS and STEM on the Go, and with his guidance partnered with CPS on the Department of Economic Development's Developing Youth Talent initiative Grant to expand career exploration at CMS.

With Phil's guidance, Behlen invested in the Kramer Child Development Center to help address the childcare needs within the community. This investment provided help in construction and provided CHS students with dual credit opportunities to grow the early childhood workforce.

# OVERERS TINCTION

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April 18, 2024.  
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Columbus High School Principal Dave Hiebner watches as a crew from Love Signs installs the Discoverer of Distinction display at CHS in May of 2023.

## Honorary



• **TONY "TR" RAIMONDO**  
Former Chairman and  
CEO, Behlen Manufacturing

TR, former Chairman and CEO of Behlen Mfg. Co., was dedicated to fostering education, career development, and growth opportunities for the students at Columbus Public Schools.

His commitment to helping students understand the rewarding careers in manufacturing and related industries in the STEM field benefited many throughout the years.

TR recognized the importance of bridging the gap between education and industry through initiatives like School-to-Work, Dream It. Do It., Manufacturing Day, and Linkages.

These programs provide valuable insights into career opportunities for students and expanded to include hands-on experiences at Behlen through apprenticeships and internships. Recognizing the significance of STEM education, TR played a crucial role in establishing a STEM education center at Columbus High School.

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FROM PAGE 3

are outdated and not large enough to keep up with our growing student population or the ability to serve over 13,000 meals during the summer lunch program. This program includes all children within our community.

The third part of this bond proposal is to add 12-14 classrooms to our existing middle school and expand our dining area to serve 1,200 students.

Our current middle school enrollment is 1,240 and the building has a capacity of 1,200.

So we are a little cramped in this space. This will allow the school flexibility in space to accommodate not only the growth of our student body but allow us to serve all 1,200 students comfortably in our cafeteria.

Our current cafeteria is set up to serve 800 high school students comfortably. Our high school had an open campus and never had to serve the entire student body.

Please keep informed of what is going on in our school district. Many things are happening and we continue to progress to meet the needs of our community.

Dr. Loeffelholz

# Fast Facts



**HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
CLICK OR SCAN TO REVIEW THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ONLINE!  
[www.columbuspublicschools.org/bondfaqs](http://www.columbuspublicschools.org/bondfaqs)

## DISTRICT BOND REFERENDUM

On March 1st, the Columbus Public Schools Board of Education approved a facilities bond referendum in the amount of \$26 million based on results of voter surveys, a community town hall meeting and the effects that LB 878 could have on our growing school district. The vote will take place on May 14th.

### WHAT'S PROPOSED?

- **Safety and Security Improvements in the District's existing buildings and facilities**
  - Bullet resistant window coverings
  - Security camera updates
  - Secure and controlled entrances
- **Additions and improvements to the existing middle school building to include a classroom addition and remodeling of dining facilities.**
- **Additions and improvements to existing elementary buildings to include dining areas and kitchens at Centennial, Emerson, North Park and West Park.**
- **Providing for the necessary furniture, equipment and apparatus for such additions, renovations and improvements.**

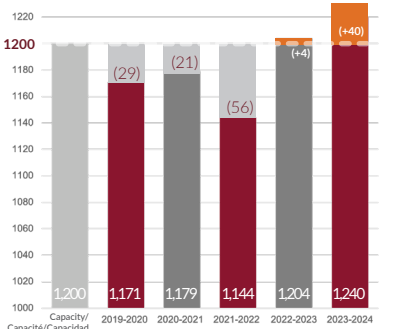


### THE PROPOSED PROJECTS WILL:

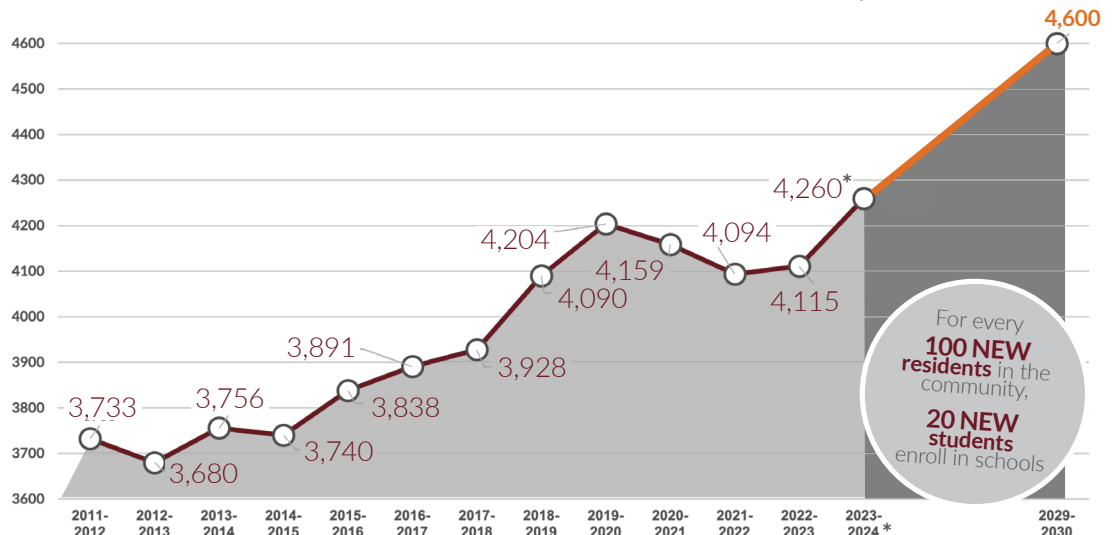
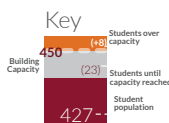
- Will meet the immediate facility needs of Columbus Public Schools.
- Will address safety and security needs across all district buildings.
- Will expand eating and kitchen preparation areas at four elementary schools where they are not large enough to accommodate the student population.
- Will expand CMS dining areas to accommodate 1,200+ students. The current space is designed for 800 high school students.
- Will relieve overcrowded classrooms at Columbus Middle School.

CPS' projected enrollment for 2030 is 4,600 students, an increase of 340 students from the current year.

### COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL



CMS has a current population of 1,240. That is 40 students over capacity and 440 than the building's cafeteria was designed for.



For every 100 NEW residents in the community, 20 NEW students enroll in schools

\* As of 2/1/24

# Calling All Alumni

Share your musical talents and Christmas spirit! Dust off your Santa hat; tune your jingle bells and submit a video of yourself or other alumni singing a classic Christmas carol or holiday original to Nicole Anderson, andersonn@discoverers.org to be featured as a part of the 2024 Lighting of The Anchor.



Watch the past performances on our Facebook channel, @CHSAnchorAlumni by scanning or clicking the QR code.

# Lighting of the Anchor

## Time to mark you calendars! Upcoming Reunions

### 1964 - 60th Class Reunion

The Class of 1964 is planning a 60th Class Reunion in 2024. Icebreaker on Friday, August 9, 2024 at Maximus. Dinner on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at VFW. Contact Carolyn Hasek Fitzke at carfit66@gmail.com.

### 1974 - 50 Year Class Reunion

The class of 1974 50 year class reunion will be held on August 3rd at the VFW. A social will begin at 4 p.m. followed by an informal buffet dinner. Please contact Judy (Michaelsen) Wolf at judykwolf@gmail.com or Ron Ernst at ronannernst@outlook.com or Dave McWilliams at Dmcwilli@gmail.com with questions. Invitations/reservation information will be sent out in early April. Please spread the word to fellow classmates. We look forward to seeing you in August!

### Class of 1981 - 45th Reunion

45th Reunion Planning Committee is planning a reunion for 2025. More information to follow.

### Class of 1994 - 30 Year Class Reunion

30 Year class reunion will be held on August 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Maximus.

**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.

**1966** - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (always on odd months) at the Pizza Ranch at 11:30 a.m.

### Let us help you plan your reunion

**Contact:** Jen Augustin  
402-563-7000 ext. 13033  
AugustinJ@discoverers.org

### What we can do for you:

- Class list and mailing labels
- Discount mailing rates
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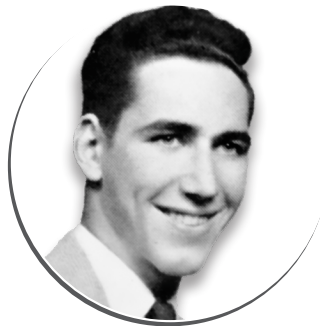
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## The Anchor

**PG 3** District items,  
bond issue progressing

## Lighting of the Anchor

**PG 7** Calling All Alumni to Share  
Their Musical Talents

**PG 7** Upcoming CHS Reunions

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# Discoverers of Distinction

Inaugural class of alumni, education supporters announced

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402-563-7000x12847 or  
andersonn@discoverers.org.

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