

# The Anchor

*Linking the Past, Present and Future*

Spring/Summer 2018



## *Anchoring Opportunities*



**CPS Foundation  
and CHS Alumni**

# Raising funds for Anchor Activities Complex



A proposed Anchor Activities Complex will provide green space between the high school and Lost Creek Elementary as well as meet the needs of many teams and programs.

The project is in the preliminary stages and phase one is gathering input and finalizing a drawing to present to the Columbus Public Schools Board of Education in July.

“When we start this project depends on the funding,” CPS Superintendent Dr. Troy Loeffelholz said. “There are a lot of moving parts that must come together for this to happen.”

The conceptual drawing currently includes two baseball fields, two softball fields, six tennis courts, shaded bleachers, concession stand, restrooms, batting cages, bullpens, additional parking, a warm up area, family play area and some places for future development. Dr. Loeffelholz is encouraging people to dream big.

“If you had an unlimited amount of funding, what could go (in that location),”



he said “We are not going to get hung up on any one thing (right now).”

Dr. Loeffelholz said there has been conversations with the baseball, softball and tennis associations in town. He said the CPS Foundation sent out a Request For Proposal for a conceptual drawing and interviewed three firms. Lamp Rynearson Associates of Omaha was chosen.

“It makes sense to have an activities complex on the 24.4 acres south of the high school,” Dr. Loeffelholz said.

Senior Project Manager for Lamp, Rynearson Associates Joe Zadina said the work started in March. As of now, the baseball field layouts are designed similar to Haymarket Park where the University of Nebraska Lincoln plays. The field is 324 feet down the left and right field lines and 400 feet to center. The softball fields are 200 feet all the way around.

Zadina said the complex is designed with the idea of being able to host tournaments. He said that is why a

family play area is important. With the location being close to the high school, there is also additional parking.

There has been some discussion on adding an indoor practice facility.

“We are trying to think outside of the box (and include many options),” Zadina said.

Zadina said the second phase will involve putting together costs. He said the goal is to have phase one completed by August, so the Columbus Public Schools Foundation can start fundraising.

Dr. Loeffelholz said the fundraising will be the key to what can be built. He said this project is not even on the district’s long range plan yet.

“This won’t be prioritized on our building and sites plan until there is some significant money (raised),” Dr. Loeffelholz said.

If you are interested in donating to the Anchor Activities Complex, please contact Kim Kwapnioski at kwapnioskik@discoverers.org or call 402-563-7000 Ext. 13085.

# Weir teaches around the world

Joy Weir fell in love with teaching kids from different cultures.

This led her to Costa Rica, Kuwait, Egypt, and Greece.

“I can’t really say there was one factor that lured me around the world. I’ve always had a fascination with other cultures,” said the 2003 CHS graduate.

She received her first taste of a different culture when she studied abroad in Spain. Weir was struggling with Spanish and decided to go to Spain to learn.

“It was in Spain that I learned some very valuable lessons. I started tutoring in English and ever since then, I fell in love with teaching kids from different cultures,” she said.

From there, she did her student teaching in Costa Rica. After receiving her master’s degree, she went to an international teaching fair in Iowa. At the time, she thought she was perfectly content to continue teaching in Ralston, NE, until a job in Kuwait found her.

“I was not keen to even consider Kuwait. But something in my spirit told me that this was where I was being called. It wasn’t easy, but I learned a lot about the Arab world and truly grew to love it and the people in it,” Weir said.

While in high school, teaching wasn’t a career she even considered. She was thinking of going into the medical profession.

“It was the influence of several teachers to pursue it,” Weir said. “I thank my teachers for seeing in me what many have continued



**Joy Weir is working on her Arabic with girls from the United Arab Emirates.**

to see, this is my craft.”

She said her favorite high school teacher was Doug Terry. She credits him for helping her realize that history wasn’t unnecessary.

“I’ve now become a serious history nut as a way to understand those I encounter better, or even in trying to educate my own students that where we’ve come from affects where we are going,” Weir said.

After living overseas, Weir realizes how grateful she was for the public school system.

“The amount of resources afforded to us was a blessing, and still is. I often see how other kids go through their school life and I feel pity that they don’t have as many oppor-

tunities to be as active as we were,” she said.

Throughout her career, she has taught Spanish, primary English and most other subjects and ages.

Her most enjoyable job has been working with children in Greece who are fleeing the war. Weir currently is in Egypt taking Arabic courses. When finished, she will hopefully return to Greece to continue to volunteer with Chios Refugee Crisis Education for a few months. In order for that to happen, she has to get her Visa straightened out.

“I’ve made a few job applications in several countries, so I’m waiting to hear back,” Weir said.

## Vocal Music starts Booster Club

The vocal music program at CHS has a longstanding tradition of excellence is offering outstanding experiences for CHS students! In March 2017, the Concert Choir traveled to New York City and performed at Carnegie Hall with arranger/conductor Deke Sharon. It was a once in a lifetime experience. A trip to Nashville to participate and compete in the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Next Generation Youth Chorus Festival is planned for January 2019 in partnership with Pius X High School in Lincoln.

This past year the CHS Vocal Music Boosters was organized to enhance and support the vocal music program. The boosters are working hard to help the program thrive and grow. In May they awarded two \$500 college scholarships to outstanding CHS seniors who have dedicated their time and talents to the program. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual New Voice Music Camp for 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be held in June to give younger performers a chance to show off their skills and gain new ones.

Please help the CHS Vocal Music Boosters support the music program with a tax free donation. Our goal is to enrich the musical experience for students by providing new choir robes, purchasing sound equipment, and helping with trip expenses. Your investment will



help make great memories for the next generation of musical performers and keep our proud CHS music tradition alive! For more information contact director Jacob Ritter at [ritterj@discoverers.org](mailto:ritterj@discoverers.org) or Vocal Music Booster Club President Janice Nichols at [nicholscj4@gmail.com](mailto:nicholscj4@gmail.com).



# Certification gives students edge

Sixty-nine CHS students will be ahead of their competition when applying for jobs.

These students received one or more of the 230 certifications awarded and will be able to use these skills in a wide variety of job fields.

“This certification has made a difference in our students getting employment,” said CHS Career Coordinator Heidi Elliott. “Industry has been heavily recruiting students that have certification.”

CHS currently offers certification in mechanical torque, electronic torque, 6 precision measurement (rules and rulers, micrometers, calipers, dial indicators, angle gauges, gauges and gage blocks), Shopkey, and digital multimeter 525.

CHS senior Jordan Troutman received electronic torque, mechanical torque, rules and rulers and caliper measurement certifications. Students only have three chances to pass the certification test.

Troutman said ever since he was younger, he enjoyed taking things apart. This was re-enforced when he did job shadowing with a mechanic at Sahling Kenworth.

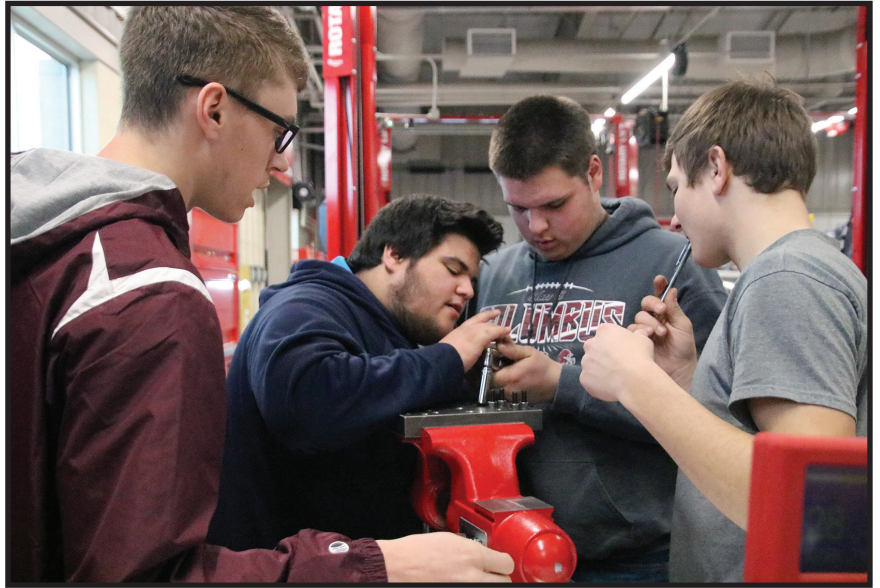
“As a student going into the workforce and into a career, it puts you a step further ahead of others,” Troutman said about the importance of the certification.

He has been working for Freightliner since last June and the company provided a scholarship and will also reimburse him his tuition for attending Northeast Community College in Norfolk. He will have his diesel technology degree in two years.

Troutman said students should take advantage of the opportunity to get certifications while in high school.

“The certifications can often be long and boring sometimes, but they are definitely worth it in the end,” he said.

Even though senior Zach Ciboron doesn’t plan to pursue a career in the technical sciences, he still felt the certifications were worth the effort.



These students are working on their mechanical torque certification.

“It looks really good to an employer, and it is usable skills,” he said.

Ciboron received Multimeter 525, rules and rulers, caliper measurement and Shopkey certifications.

He plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney and pursue a degree in business.

These certifications are recognized in the following industries: automotive, aviation/aerospace, diesel/heavy duty, electrical, energy, engineering, general repair, HVAC, manufacturing, mass transit, mechanical, mechatronics, metal working, metrology lab, pc repair, robotics and transportation.

“The students will now be well equipped to go into the workforce,” Elliott said.

## Sports Booster Golf Tourney

Come out and enjoy some golf while supporting the Discoverers Sports Booster Club. The 24<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament and silent auction will be August 4 at the Elks Country Club with a noon shotgun start. Entry Fee is \$90 per person and includes lunch and dinner, golf, cart, flag prizes, door prizes and more. If you don’t golf, you can join in the fun by attending the dinner and silent auction for \$25 following the tournament at approximately 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kurt Shevlin at 402-910-2855 or email [kurtshevlin@gmail.com](mailto:kurtshevlin@gmail.com).



Making a commitment

# Local companies hire students



Thamid Ahmed signs to go to work at Behlen Mfg.

CHS students signed for full-time employment at two local businesses. A big thank you to Behlen Mfg. and BD for working with these students and allowing them to start their careers in their facilities. Congratulations to the following students.

Thamid Ahmed enjoyed many classes at CHS but his favorite classes include welding and automotives. He earned certifications in SnapOn Precision Measurement and SnapOnDigital Multimeter. Thamid is excited to start his career in the welding department at Behlen Mfg.



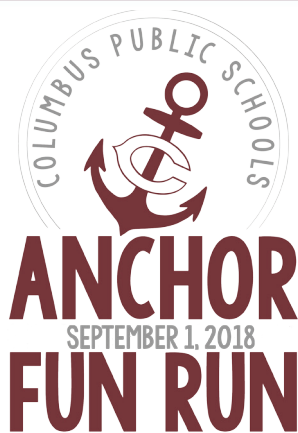
CHS Students will be going to work at BD and Behlen Mfg.

Jesus Marino has taken several courses from the STEM Academy since moving to Columbus in 2016. He has taken Basic Electronics, Advanced Electronics, Mechatronics I, Mechatronics II, Computer-Aided Drafting - Solidworks, Consumer Autos, Manufacturing Processes, and Manufacturing Welding. He has earned his SnapOn Digital Multimeter Certification. Jesus enjoyed learning from the hands-on experiences these classes have offered, and he is excited to begin working full time at BD.

Anthony Rayman has taken classes ranging from Pre-Calculus to Automotives and Construction. He moved away for a period time and completed his electrical apprentice certification with Andress High in El Paso, Texas. He is thrilled to begin working full time at BD as the setup operator.

Dariana Perales is thrilled to be transition from working part time at Panda Express to finishing her high school career and starting with BD.

Blanca Vargas is a CNA working part-time at Meridian Gardens but is looking forward to continuing her career in health sciences by taking the next step with BD.



The second annual 5K Anchor Fun Run will take place Sept. 1 with a shotgun start at 9:15 a.m. at Columbus High School. The entry fee is \$25 per participant. This year there will also be a mile fun run/walk. For more information, contact Kim Kwapnioski at 402-563-7000 Ext. 13085 or 402-649-5308 or by email at [kwapnioskik@discoverers.org](mailto:kwapnioskik@discoverers.org).



The second annual Discoverer Dash will take place August 31 at 5:45 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Pawnee Park. The entry fee is \$10 and all runners will get a T-shirt. There are three divisions: Future Discoverers (ages 3-5); Discoverers in training (ages 6-8); and Discoverer Prospects (ages 9-11). For more information, contact Kim Kwapnioski at 402-563-7000 Ext. 13085 or 402-649-5308 or by email at [kwapnioskik@discoverers.org](mailto:kwapnioskik@discoverers.org). The run will take place prior to the Discoverers football game vs. North Platte at 7 p.m.



# CPS Foundation: Impacting Our Youth

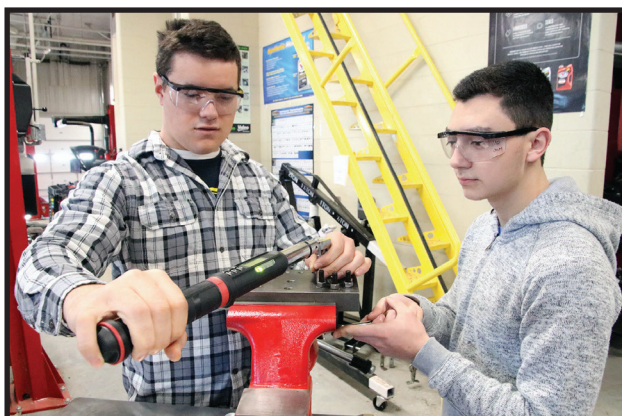


The Foundation organized the Discoverer Dash and Anchor Fun Run. The Discoverer Dash drew 47 participants and raised \$1,785, and the Anchor Fun Run had 39 participants and raised \$1,817.28. The proceeds were divided between the Foundation and CHS athletics. This was the first year for both events, and it will be a regular tradition.



Columbus elementary and middle school teachers are working on creating lessons and curriculum to use in STEM on the Go. The program will target elementary and middle school students. The STEM on the Go trailer will go to sites where students will have the opportunity to do different STEM activities. Several teachers went to Blazer Manufacturing Co. for a tour and to see how the business process works, which will help when creating the lessons.

**The Foundation started CASH (Cookies, Anchoring, Students for Success & Helping Business Retention). The goal is to anchor successful students while helping business & industry.**



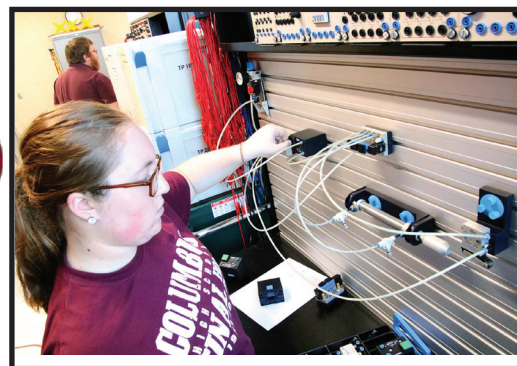
There was more than \$2 million raised for the high school STEM Academy. Students are working on electronic torque certification. In addition, students can currently get certification in six different precision measurements, Shop-key, digital multimeter 525 and mechanical torque.

**The Foundation added six new high school seniors scholarships, which brings the total to 28.**



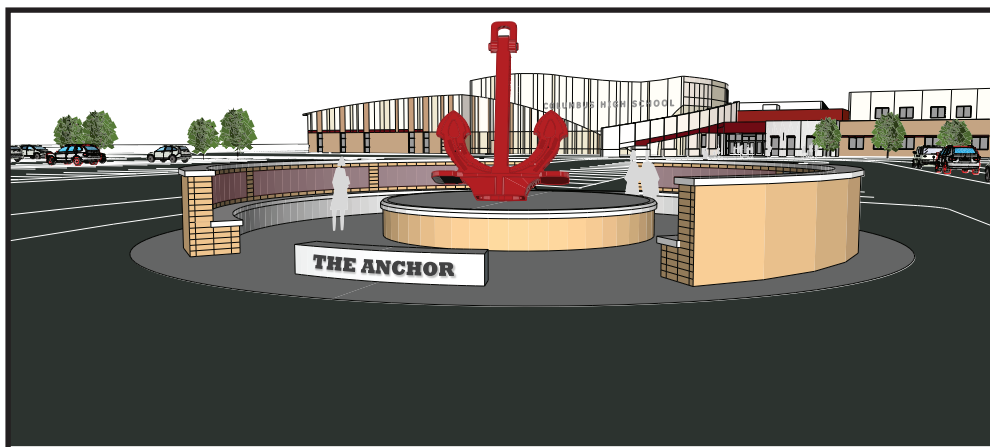
The CPS Foundation helped raise funds for the Lost Creek Inclusive Playground. The playground allows children with special needs to play as independently and freely as possible. The closest playground of this type is in Omaha and Kearney.

**Received \$110,000 in grant monies this school year.**

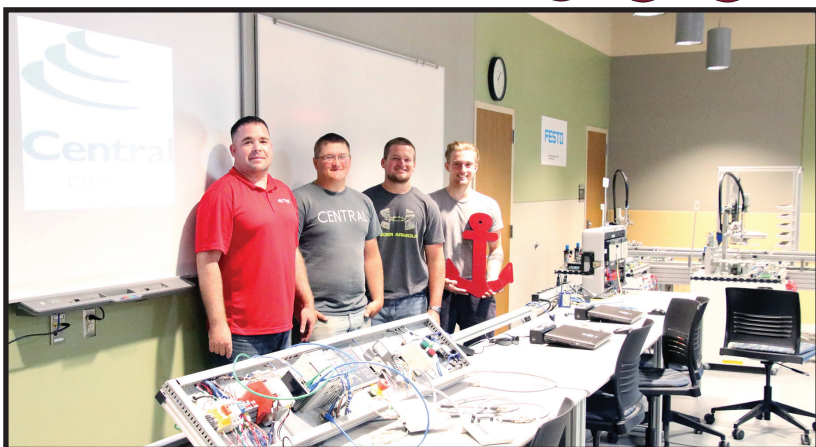


The Foundation provides dual credit scholarships to Central Community College. Currently, all of the scholarships are offered in the STEM area. The Foundation would like to expand the dual credit scholarships into other academic areas. Dual credit allows a student to receive both high school and college credit for taking a course.

# Linking to the Future



The second phase of the Anchor Project involves adding bricks and benches around the anchor. There will also be an anchor lighting. The goal is to have the second phase of the project completed by the start of school in the fall. To help fund the project, the CPS Foundation is selling bricks for \$100 a piece, benches for \$2,500 and links for \$10,000. As of now, there have been 289 bricks, 11 benches and 8 links sold. If you are interested in donating to this project or purchasing a link, bench or brick, contact CPS Executive Director Kim Kwapnioski at 402-649-5308 or [kwapnioskik@discoverers.org](mailto:kwapnioskik@discoverers.org)



## Community

To help the community get on board, a traveling anchor was started. The idea was to create excitement about the Anchor Project. The anchor was given to various people and businesses in the community to take a picture with it and share with Columbus Public Schools Foundation. Central Community College has played an integral role in the STEM Academy and giving our students opportunities for dual credit.

## Present



The CHS student body show their anchor pride at a home basketball game.

## Past



The Class of 1957 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion with a tour of the new high school and a picture by the anchor.

**The Anchor**  
**PO Box 947**  
**Columbus NE 68602-0947**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Columbus, Nebraska  
Permit No. 72

# Reunion Information

**1963** -55th Reunion - Sept. 21 & 22, 2018. There will be a tour of new high school Saturday at 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kay (Sinclair) Ferris at rferris@neb.rr.com or call 402-564-5847.

**1964** – 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion – August 16 & 17, 2019. Rooms have been reserved at the newly renovated Ramada Inn (formerly New World Inn) for the reunion. The ice breaker will take place at the Whiskey Sands Bar on Friday evening. A private buffet will be served in The Loup banquet room on Saturday evening. The Ramada Inn will also hold a block of sleeping rooms under the name Class of 1964 Reunion. More details to follow.

**1968** - 50th Reunion - August 17-18, 2018. Contacts: Diane Schwank at 402-910-1539 or Steve Anderson at 402-563-1347 .

**1973** – 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion – August 17 and 18, 2018. August 17- Casual meet & greet at Maximus Bar, 329 23<sup>rd</sup> St., at 7 p.m. August 18 – informal dinner at Dusters Restaurant, 2804 13 St. Social from 6-7 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. There will be some tables reserved at Frankfort Square to listen to the band. For more information, contact Ardis Bruckner at ardisbruckner@yahoo.com or Jeanne at sjoh145854@aol.com.

**1978** – 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion – August 10 and 11, 2018. August 10 – Columbus Race Track (combined with Scotus Class of 1978) and following the races meeting at Glurs Tavern. August 11 – 10 a.m. tour of CHS (3434 Discoverer Dr.) and 11 a.m. tour of CMS (2200 26 St.); Izaak Walton, 3521 S 9<sup>th</sup> St., from 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Pizza will be provided and bring your own beverage. For more information, contact pottsie359@gmail.com or rodcarstensen@gmail.com.

com Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/CHS-Class-of-78-40th-Reunion-158319894798027/>

**1988** - 30 Year Reunion - August 17 & 18, 2018. Contact: Steve Hughes, shughes@neb.rr.com or 402-270-4647. For updates, follow us on Facebook ColumbusDiscoverers - Class of 1988

**1993** - 25 Year Reunion – August 4, 2018. Tour of the high school (3434 Discoverer Dr. – enter on the south side) 1 p.m. and tour of the middle school (2200 26 St. – enter on the east side) 3 p.m. Social at 7 p.m. at Whiskey Sands (Ramada Inn).

**1998** - 20 Year Reunion – August 3 and 4, 2018. August 3 – Horse races at Ag Park. There will be tables reserved. Meet at Maximus after the races. August 4 – CHS tour at 11 a.m. and CMS tour at 12:30 p.m.; 7 p.m. Whiskey Sands inside Ramada formerly known as New World Inn. There will be a DJ and appetizers. For more information, contact Leslie Anderson Larson at 402-304-6084, Lindsay Berlin Ogle at 402-942-4077, Jesse Bordy at 402-606-9023 or Cory Schaefer at 402-270-0856.

**2008** – 10 Year Reunion – August 31 & Sept. 1, 2018 – August 31 – 7 p.m. CHS Discoverer Football game vs. North Platte. The class will be recognized at the game. Sept. 1 – Husker Football watch party at Maximus. Time TBD. Possibly going to the horse races depending on the football game time. Tours of the old and new high school TBD. For more information join the Columbus High School—Class of 2008 Reunion on Facebook or contact Anne Ronhovde at anneronhovde@gmail.com.