



Columbus Public Schools Alumni News

Spring 2013



2508 27 St. ~ PO Box 947~ Columbus, NE 68602-0947~ Phone: 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102 ~ Fax: 402-563-7005



Educator of the Year

Jessica Kuehler
CPS Foundation Executive Director

Susan Bopp-Esch, 6th grade science teacher at Columbus Middle School, is known for finding unique ways to pique her students' curiosity. She has even arranged for exotic animals to be brought to her classroom to get her students engaged.

See Educator Page 3

Next group to be inducted in Hall of Fame

Steve Anderson '68
Alumni Board President

The Discoverers Athletic Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2013 on September 12th.

Athletes, coaches, teams and meritorious individuals will be recognized for their accomplishments and support. The Discoverer Hall of Fame inductees will cover a span of 42 years (1960 to 2002).

These athletes were extremely dedicated during their playing careers, and they exhibited pride, passion and perseverance. The coaches and meritorious individuals were very instrumental in contributing to the success of the Columbus Public Schools outstanding student athletes.

The evening will again feature a "Sports Center" theme with CHS graduates Ken Siemek (1977) and Dirk Chatelain (2000), as anchors.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 4:30 p.m. at New World Inn in Columbus. Don't miss out on this opportunity to look back at the accomplishments of CPS athletics. Tickets cost \$27 for adults and children 10 and under \$12. To order tickets contact Michelle Cruise at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102, or stop by the CPS Administration Office at 2508 27th St. in Columbus.

The following CHS athletes will be inducted: Lindsay Ball ('75) – Wrestling; Jeni Steiner Bozarth ('02) – Track; Jenny

Operations Employee of the Year



Jessica Kuehler
CPS Foundation Executive Director

Jean Kamrath, nurse at Columbus High School, is the go-to person for anyone with medical concerns. Students come to her with all kinds of needs and questions and she never tells anyone that she doesn't have time for them.

See Operations Page 5

Bosak Brunken ('89) - Track; Amy McPhail Carpenter ('92) – Soccer; Jennifer Carson ('98) – Softball; Randy Griffiths ('79) – Wrestling; Neil Klutman ('71)– Basketball; Mike Mueller ('90) – Basketball ; Dan Pensick ('76) – Football; Brad Scheidegger ('84) – Tennis; Joel Travnicek ('00) – Swimming; and Greg Wiseman ('75) – Football.

Six state championship teams will be inducted this year, which include: 1960 Boys Track Team – All Class Grand Champions; 1966 Boys Tennis State Champions; 1973 Boys Tennis State Champions; 1975 Boys Wrestling State Champions; 1979 Boys Wrestling State Champions; and 1988 Girls State Champion Doubles Tennis Team.

The meritorious inductee is Louis Lutjelusche, who donated the use of his pasture land for a cross country course over 30 years ago. The coach inductees will be: Bart Bartholomew, a longtime head and assistant coach with over 29 years of service; Nancy Hegi-Cuba a Columbus High graduate who became a head and assistant coach for over 33 years in the CPS system; and Cliff Hopp, who was an Athletic Director, head and assistant coach with over 35 years of service to CPS.

If you would like to nominate an individual or a team as a potential inductee for future Discoverer Athletic Hall of Fame classes, please visit <http://www.columbuspublicschools.org/> and click on Alumni/Athletic Hall of Fame.



Meet the Hegi Family

Richard L. Hegi

Graduating Year? 1959. We were the first Senior High School Class to graduate from the then, new High School.

Favorite Class and/or Teacher?

Ralph Eickhoff, Vocational Agriculture

CPS Teacher that influenced you most?

I would say Mr. Eickhoff since he was the Voc. Ag. Teacher, and I knew I would always be a farmer.

Your most memorable high school experience?

When I went out for football and Coach Hopp told me and a classmate that we could put the football dummies away, and I said I could go home and throw bales around for exercise.

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I wish that I had studied a lot more than I did.

Where do you live? We live south of Duncan, on our farm ground, by the Platte River. I married my classmate Betty Kaspersen, and we have three daughters, that also graduated from CHS.

What are you doing now? I have retired from farming and now can enjoy the grand kids when they participate in their sports.

Don Heggi

Graduating Year? 1963

Favorite Class and/or Teacher? Choir / Mr. Larson

CPS Teacher that influenced you most? Coach Miller

Your most memorable high school experience?

Tackling Keith Grimes in football practice and splitting my helmet.

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? Spend more time studying and learning Spanish.

Where do you live? Broomfield, Colorado

What are you doing now? Retired- Work part time at TARGET and umpiring high school baseball.

Robert Hegi

Graduating Year? 1965

Favorite Class and/or Teacher? Enjoyed math with Mr. Bower.

CPS Teacher that influenced you most? Coach Dell Miller, Bart Bartholomew and Ron Callan.

Your most memorable high school experience? Winning the football state championship.

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I wouldn't do anything different.

Where do you live? I live south of Columbus with my wife and high school sweetheart. Enjoy three daughters, three sons-in-law and nine grandchildren.

What are you doing now? I farm now. I'm retired from a cow/calf operation after 30 years.

Nancy Hegi-Cuba

Graduating Year? 1969

Favorite Class and/or Teacher? My favorite teacher was Dorothy Courtier who accepted me as a student assistant my senior year and that experience influenced my future goals in life. My favorite class was accounting with Leon Sanders.

CPS Teacher that influenced you most?

Again the most influential teacher was Dorothy Courtier whose guidance helped direct my goals into teaching. There were no girl's sports during my high school years, and Dorothy started the first GAA (Girl's Athletic Association) as an intramural program at CHS. That was minor compared to the opportunities that

girls have today.

Your most memorable high school experience? Using my accounting experience as treasurer and helping direct the largest Columbus High School Booster Club in school history. It also caused me to have a crown on my front tooth after chipping it from my megaphone hitting my mouth during an exciting basketball play.

What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? I wish I had influenced the beginning of girl's athletics my sophomore year, so there would have been more intramural or even surrounding town competition for females by the time I was a senior in high school. I would have loved the opportunity to compete in girl's sports at CHS, which meant graduating 7 years later.

Where do you live? We live southwest of Columbus about 11 miles.

What are you doing now? I am retired from 33 years of teaching and enjoying life with my husband, Jim. We have an acreage that keeps us very busy. I enjoy gardening and making wine in my spare time. I do volunteer work as an assistant to the Shelby High School volleyball team and take my instructions (which can be very interesting) from Head Coach Sandy (Schaefer) Voss who was a past player of mine at CHS. We do some traveling each year but always return home and wonder why we travel to see scenery and sites when we have all the beautiful scenery and wildlife in our backyard.



Our Principles and Values:

Do what is right.

Do the best you can.

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Community involvement & neighborhood friendly

Caring for the environment

Follow us to www.GreatAgCareer.com and start your agribusiness career today.



Educator of the Year

From front page

For these reasons and more, Bopp-Esch received the 2013 Columbus Public Schools Educator of the Year. In recognition of this honor, she received an engraved desk set from the Columbus Public Schools Foundation and a \$1,000 cash prize, sponsored by the Columbus United Federal Credit Union. Bopp-Esch will also be featured on the CPS Wall of Fame in the district administration building and will represent CPS in the contest for the Nebraska Department of Education's 2014 Teacher of the Year.

Nominations submitted for Bopp-Esch praised her abilities to reach her students. "She shows her students respect and takes the time to get to know them on a personal level to find what motivates each of them to

learn."

"She pours her heart and soul into teaching and makes sure every student is successful in her classroom. Because of this she has had a positive, and in some cases, a profound impact on the lives of her students."

An employee with CPS since 1994, Bopp-Esch earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2000 from Wayne State College. Passionate about hands on learning, she developed 6th grade Ecology Day to expose students to new experiences. She was also instrumental in the development of History Alive, helping students to develop their researching and speaking skills, while also teaching them about public service and

community needs.

Active in the community, Bopp-Esch has served as a coach for the Columbus YMCA basketball program and the Columbus AYSO soccer program. She has also organized book donations to the literacy program and is involved each year in the Platte County Relay for Life.

The Educator of the Year Award was created through a partnership with Columbus Public Schools and the Foundation to recognize CPS teachers for their dedication, knowledge, and skill in the classroom; their ability to gain the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues; the active and useful roles they play within the school and their community; and their talent for inspiring

students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Nominations were accepted from CPS staff, administrators, parents, and students. Fifty-six teachers in the district were considered for the award. Celeste Ditter, vocal music teacher at Columbus Middle School, was the runner-up and received a \$500 cash prize, also sponsored by the Columbus United Federal Credit Union. Other finalists included Ron Haefner, automotive technology instructor at Columbus High School; Jenny Meyer, kindergarten teacher at North Park Elementary; Angie Luebbe, kindergarten teacher at North Park; and Cheryl Ferguson, kindergarten teacher at Lost Creek Elementary.

THE NEBRASKA WAY

COMMUNITY IS FIRST AT THIS BANK.

At Pinnacle Bank, we celebrate the little things that create a community. Each of our locations has its own personality that's defined by the people who work and bank there. We take what we do seriously because we believe that today's choices help to shape the future. That's the spirit we put behind our community bank. And it's the way banking should be.

COLUMBUS 210 East 23rd Street, 402.562.8936 • 2661 33rd Avenue, 402.562.8935

VISIT US TODAY AT PINNBANK.COM



THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE



What's happening

Alvina Brinkman Sherwood '42 – Retired from Eastman Kodak and has been enjoying 25 years of retirement.

Virgil Olson '51 – donated 60 gallons of blood. He has donated blood 480 times and affected 1,440 lives. He was the 11th person at Bonfils Blood Center's Boulder, Colorado location to reach this milestone. As a gift of appreciation, the staff presented him with a donor pin with a ruby set inside. His father and older brothers turned him on to donating blood in the late 1940s or early 1950s when he was in high school. He started donating at Bonfils in 1959 and continued while he served in the Army. Once he finishes his bi-monthly plasma donation, he always schedules his next appointment.

Jane Ellefson '57 – Retired.

S. Kay Becher Rockwell '57 – Retired in 2006 as professor emerita from the Agricultural Leadership Education & Communication Department at UNL. She now volunteers in the Farmer-to-Farmer program in USAID and USDA in Washington D.C. She accepted assignments in monitoring and evaluating leadership curriculum development in developing countries. In the past three years, she has been to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, Africa; and Paraguay, South America.

Rod Goering '58 – Continuing to enjoy retirement and working as a consultant for Behlen Mfg on special projects.



"Optimizing the future of all Discoverers"

More than \$55,000 was given
back to CPS in 2011-2012!



Get on the Bus!

Contact Jessica Kuehler at
(402) 563-7000 x 1103

Visit www.foundationforcps.org today!

The School District of Columbus Foundation is a qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are deductible as allowed by law.

Columbus Alumni Association

Please use this form for address corrections or changes, what's new information, or if you wish to pay dues.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____
(Please include maiden if applicable.)

Spouse _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

What's New (job, degrees, comments, suggestions etc.) _____

I/we would like to become an annual member(s) for the year 2013.

_____ Annual Single \$10 _____ Annual Couple \$15

or

I/we would like to become a lifetime member(s).

_____ Lifetime Single \$200 _____ Lifetime Couple \$300

Return to: Columbus Alumni Association * 2508 27 St. * PO Box 947 * Columbus, NE 68602-0947



Operations Employee of the Year

From front page

Kamrath's commitment to the students led a committee of her peers to select her as the 2013 Columbus Public Schools Operations Employee of the Year. As the award recipient, Kamrath received an engraved clock from the Columbus Public Schools Foundation and a \$500 cash prize, sponsored by Bob Markham (CHS Class of 1976) and his wife, Chris. She will also be featured on the CPS Wall of Fame in the district administration building.

An employee with CPS since 1990, Kamrath is there every day for the students and staff, providing them with advice and cheering them up. One of the parents who nominated her said, "her knowledge of her

job, her consistent and dependable care, make it easier to leave my son's health issues to her while [he's] at school."

Referred to affectionately by the students as "Ms. K.," she truly understands that in order for the students to grow as individuals, they must have their physiological and emotional needs met first. If a student needs anything, she will find a way to get it for them.

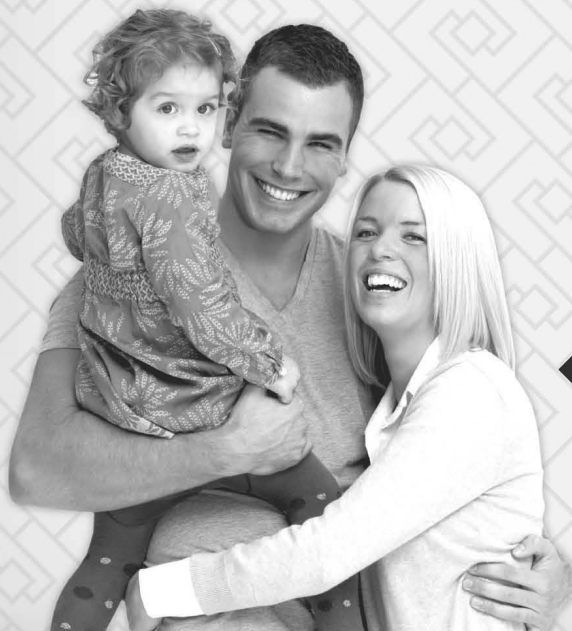
Kamrath has helped to provide students with winter coats, toothbrushes, deodorant, food, and other necessities. In an effort to give every high school girl the opportunity to feel like a princess on prom night, she started the Closet Extravaganza, working endless hours to coordinate the event and even taking hundreds of dresses

home to wash.

The Operations Employee of the Year Award was created by the District in partnership with the Foundation to recognize employees, who excel in their service to the teachers and students, for the contributions that they make to the betterment of the quality and the advancement of CPS.

Nominations were accepted from CPS staff, administrators, parents, students, and the general public. Twenty-three employees were considered for the award. Finalists also included Mike Olson, supplies coordinator; Nancy Baker, social worker; and Shelly DeWispelare, Emerson Elementary special education para educator.

Providing financial options for all Discoverers and the community since 1949.



BankingWithYou.com



Columbus United Federal Credit Union

Banking With You

Federally Insured
By NCUA.



The Alumni Association Board of Directors include: Steve Anderson `68, President; Bob Markham `76, Vice President; Gayleen Oppliger Hingst `60, Treasurer; Jim Schaefer `70, Past President; K.C. Belitz `86; Amy Busteed Blaser `88; Anne Cruickshank Hughes `90; Robert Jaeggi `47; Sue Aerni Mares `71; Shelly Nielsen-Schmidt `88; Lynn Strehle Sjuts `80; Annie Slusarski Sokol `98; and Steve Zaura `81. Michelle Cruise is the CPS Alumni Association Executive Director.



Love of history, family memories lead to book

A time period she loves, a family willing to share stories and a fantastic high school history teacher provided the inspiration needed for Barbara Eymann Mohrman to write a book.

"I have always been very interested in history and this time period," the 1973 CHS graduate said. "I had a fantastic history teacher at CHS – Gordon Steinbrook. He allowed me to pursue my interest in World War II. I knew my family's story was both representative of many Nebraska families and also a bit unique."

From family memories and research, "Four Blue Stars in the Window" was created. The story is about the Chriss and Mae Eymann family and covered their life starting in rural Oakdale NE in the 1920s through WWII. The Eymanns raised 10 children on the Dust Bowl ravaged plains in the depth of the Great Depression.

Mohrman said while writing the book, she was still teaching full time. She taught English as a Second Language for 15 years and then taught Spanish to middle and high school students. She spent 33 years in education.

"I think my teaching experience was a tremendous help with telling the story in a way that would be both entertaining and educational," Mohrman said. "I want to keep people on the edge of their seats with the story."

After the book, she auditioned for the Humanities Nebraska. They liked what they saw, so she travels around the state doing presentations, *Dust Covered Dreams*, which is about the dust bowl years in Nebraska, and *The Divine Wind*, which is about her family's WWII experiences.

Mohrman said she uses vintage photos and memorabilia to help tell the stories. She said she was lucky because her family saved a lot of the items from that time in their lives.

"My true love is speaking to students," she said. "I want them to enjoy the stories but also to learn through my family. To make history real to students is one of my goals."

Her story also made it to television. Last fall, in connection with a PBS documentary, *The Dust Bowl*, she spoke to Omaha high school students. The Durham Museum sponsored a short version of the documentary and she spoke about her family's experiences. These events were filmed. At this time, a NET producer became interested in her family's story and wanted to film a segment for Nebraska stories.

This same producer encouraged her to write a book for

younger students. "The Dust Covered Dreams of Dorie Archer" came out in April.

"I am hoping schools will use this book to teach Nebraska history and more about the 1930s in Nebraska," Mohrman said. There is also a curriculum that accompanies the book.

The second book was much easier to write, she said.

"'Four Blue Stars in the Window' was much more challenging," Mohrman said. "It contains so much history as experienced through my family members. I wanted to make sure it was all accurate and the research was extensive."

Mohrman is currently working on a rough draft for another WWII book, which is being told from the perspective of a Japanese Kamikaze pilot.

To find out more about Mohrman, go to <http://barbaraeymannmohrman.blogspot.com/> or <http://fourbluestarsinthewindow.com/>.

Let us fix your tax problems

Don't get burned by a big national IRS representation firm. Contact someone with strong Nebraska values.



- End wage garnishments
- Stop property seizure
- Reduce what you owe
- Remove penalties

Call Cruise & Associates today for a free consultation!

402-564-5827 or 800-401-4284

www.cruise-associates.com

President Robert Cruise, CHS Class of 1986



Columbus—A Perfect Fit for the Whole Family

Excellent Schools

Over 14 Community Parks

7-Acre Outdoor Water Park

Year-Round Community Events for All Ages

Join us For Columbus Days: August 16—18

We've got all for YOU, here in Columbus!

www.workincolumbus.com - www.thecolumbuspage.com

Foundation awards scholarships

On May 1, members of the Class of 2013 sat waiting in anticipation on the stage of the Nantkes Performing Arts Center. The Columbus High School Honors Night is an important event for many seniors. The CPS Foundation distributed eleven scholarships to members of the Class of 2013 that evening.

Hannah Pauley was awarded the \$5,000 Nielsen Family Scholarship, created by Ken and Leslie (Nielsen) Hitchner (Class of 1979) to honor the Edward Nielsen Jr. family's history of support for education. The scholarship goes to an applicant exhibiting academic excellence and future leadership potential.

Victoria McKinney accepted the \$2,000 Class of 1940 War Memorial Scholarship, created through the generosity of the Class of 1940 as a memorial to friends lost in World War II. The scholarship is awarded to a person based upon academic excellence, participation in school and community activities, and character.

Madison Burger was awarded the \$1,500 Christopher John Saalfeld Memorial Scholarship, created by friends and family to honor Christopher's wonderful, yet short, life. Saalfeld (Class of 1979) always strived for high standards in music and academics. The scholarship is given to a student with exceptional ideals in furthering his or her education in music or engineering at a Nebraska college or university.

Jonathan LeCuyer received the \$1,500 Edward M. Nielsen Sr. and Edward M. Nielsen Jr. Memorial Scholarship, created by Ron and Roberta (Nielsen) Saalfeld and their children to honor

Mrs. Saalfeld's father and brother. Both men were active in the community and education.

Erin Burrows and Tyler Charron each received the \$1,000 Wilson-Covert Centennial Scholarship created by John Covert Wilson (Class of 1943) and Arthur Philip Wilson Jr. (Class of 1940) in honor of their parents, Arthur Philip Wilson (Class of 1910) and Velma Covert Wilson (Class of 1909).

Abigail Bastian was awarded the \$1,000 Speice Scholarship, established by Byron Speice (Class of 1955) in appreciation of the education that CPS provided him and in memory of his mother, Margaret Speice, who taught at CPS.

Preston Oberg accepted the \$1,000 Edward A. Babka Scholarship, established by Edward Babka (Class of 1945). The scholarship goes to an applicant exhibiting academic excellence and future leadership potential, who attends a Nebraska college or university.

Jeremy Dubas and Cory Hladky were both awarded the Duncan Elementary Scholarship, established by the Duncan Elementary PTO after the school was closed in 2008. The PTO raised \$6,000, which is to be divided between all students who attended Duncan Elementary all the years they were able.

The Foundation congratulates each award winner and wishes the Class of 2013 the best of luck in all their endeavors! If you are interested in establishing a scholarship through the Foundation, please contact Jessica Kuehler at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1103.



Yes I wish to support the schools with a tax deductible gift to the Foundation.
Here is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

If you would like someone to contact you about including the CPS Foundation in your estate plans, please call Jessica Kuehler at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1103 to set up an appointment. The role of the Foundation is to provide the students of CPS with as many educational opportunities as possible by filling gaps created in the regular school district budget from funding shortfalls or regulatory constraints.

Please make checks payable to the CPS Foundation.

Return to: CPS Foundation * 2508 27 St. * PO Box 947 * Columbus NE 68602-0947.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.





CPS Alumni News
Columbus Public Schools
2508 27 St.
PO Box 947
Columbus NE 68602-0947

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Columbus Alumni Reunion Plans for 2013 & Beyond

1935 - Local class members meet every 4 months for lunch (Oct., Feb., Jun.). All '35 grads welcome.

1937 - Meets 1st Wed., every 4 months (March, July, Nov.).

1945 - Meets the last Monday of the month at Picket Fence at noon.

1946 - locals meet the first Friday of each month for lunch. All classmates welcome. Contact: Ruth Olson Babka, 402-564-5991 or Laura Eller Stuefer, 402-564-2057.

1948 - 65th Reunion - August 24 and 25, 2013. August 24: 5 p.m. cocktails and 6 p.m. dinner at Dusters. Brunch August 25. Contact is Betty Gant, 402- 564-2040 or cjcsecy@megavision.com.

1949 - Locals meet the first Monday of the month for breakfast at Picket Fence Cafe. All classmates welcome. Contact: Rosella (Blaser) Norris for info. 402-564-7498.

1954 - 60th reunion. April 25-26, 2014. Contact: Colleen Willman.

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.

1958 - 55th Reunion - tentative date, homecoming weekend, September 20 and 21, 2013. Friday - homecoming game and Maximus; Saturday dinner at Dusters. **Please remember to send in your postcards.** Contact Gail Wurdeman at 402-562-5942 or gailwurdemaninc@aol.com or Marva Van Velkinburgh at 402-562-7831 if you plan to attend.

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 - June 13, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at Maximus. Come join us for an afternoon of reminiscing and conversation. Dutch Treat. Spouses welcome. Contact: Marlene Korte - 402-564-8888

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

1963 - 50th Class Reunion, Sept. 6 and 7, 2013. If you have not received contact from a class member, please contact Raynelda Juracek Karlin at karlin@megavision.com.

1964 - 50th Class Reunion, Memorial weekend 2014. May 23 - icebreaker at Husker Bar; May 24 - dinner at VFW; May 25- Picnic at Viergutz Cabin. Notices will be sent shortly. Contact Carloyn Hasek at cf93924@windstream.net.

1968 - 45th Reunion - June 22, 2013 Duncan Rib Fest (Pre-reunion Event). August 16-17, 2013. August 16 - Tailgate and horse races; August 17 - Evening, Columbus Days at Frankfort Square. Contact: Diane Schwank 402-910-1539 or Steve Anderson at 402-563-1347.

1973 - 40th Reunion - July 19 and 20, 2013. July 19 - picnic at Izaak Walton; July 20 - tour of CHS at 1:30 p.m. and dinner at American Legion. More details to come at a later date. Contacts: Jeanne Johnson at sjoh145854@aol.com or Ardis Bruckner at dbruckner@neb.rr.com.

1988 - 25th Reunion- Save the Date: July 26-27, 2013. Contact: Steve Hughes: shughes@neb.rr.com, (402) 270-4647 or Amy Busted-Blaser: cablaser@frontiernet.net, (402) 270-1819.

2003 - 10th Reunion - August 10, 2013. For more information go to the Columbus High Class of 2003 Reunion Facebook page. Contact: Jacque DeBuse, Ashley Hernandez or Brett Mueller.