

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Summer 2018

Congratulations to the Columbia Central Class of 2018

The Columbia Central Class of 2018 celebrated their graduation in front of a capacity crowd on June 5. Superintendent Dr. Patricia Hahto began the ceremony by offering congratulations to all of the graduates and urging them to follow their dreams as she herself did after her Steger District 194 graduation. As Mr. Aguirre read the list, students were encouraged to stand to show participation in the various activities, sports, and clubs offered at Columbia Central. Mr. Smith offered his congratulations to the first four-year class to pass through the doors at Columbia Central signaling the completion of the District's transition from neighborhood schools to a grade center model for instruction. Many members of the graduating class wore gold tassels to signify their achievement of growth goals as measured using the NWEA Map test throughout the year to monitor student growth. Mr. Nieminski honored these students by reading their names and asking that they stand in recognition of their accomplishments.

Valedictorian Cierra Bradford and Salutatorian Angel Flores were given the opportunity to speak, laying out their observations of their years in District 194 and their dreams for the tomorrows of their classmates and themselves. Bradford spoke about following your dreams and being true to yourself. She quoted Apple founder Steve Jobs when she said, "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking."

Flores followed offering his thanks to the teachers, parents, and friends who have



helped on his journey throughout middle school before encouraging his classmates to embrace the journey that awaits in high school. Flores spoke of continuous growth throughout the journey.

The American Legion and District 194 PTA awarded scholarships to four students. The American Legion Scholarship was awarded to Cierra Bradford for having the highest GPA throughout 7th and 8th grade at Columbia Central. The Sons of the American Legion Scholarship was awarded for the first time to Angel Flores. The Steger District 194 PTA scholarship was awarded to two students on the basis of citizenship, achievement, and service throughout their time at Columbia Central. The these scholarships were awarded to Aniyah Booker and Noel Rocha.

Following the scholarship awards, graduation commenced with the awarding of diplomas to the graduates of the class of

2018. Without disruption, the graduates were each honored with the calling of their name and were congratulated by Principal Mike Smith.

Steger School District 194 wishes each of the graduates well on their endeavors and achievements as they move forward. Congratulations Class of 2018.

Upcoming Important Dates

Supply List Online Monday, July 9, 2018
at www.sd194.org

Registration Portal Opens Monday, July 9, 2018

Help Days
Location: Columbia Central School
Thursday, July 12, 2018 1:00PM-4:00PM
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 5:00PM-8:00PM

Registration Days
Location: Columbia Central School
Thursday, August 2, 2018 1:00PM-7:30PM
Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:00PM-7:30PM

Open House
Columbia Central
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 6:00PM-7:30PM
Steger Intermediate Center
Wednesday, August 22, 2018 6:00PM-7:30PM
Steger Primary Center
Thursday, August 23, 2018 6:00PM-7:30PM

First day of School Friday, August 24, 2018

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Registration Information 2018-19

Beginning July 9, 2018, the registration portal will be open to help expedite the form-filling process for registration. The benefits of this portal are two-fold. First, we significantly reduced the lines with this online component. Parents/Guardians will now be able to update and create all documents at home and print the pages to be brought to registration on August 2nd or August 7th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. With completed forms in hand, the parent/guardian will be able to bypass several stations in an effort to swiftly complete the registration process. Secondly, by utilizing the registration portal to type the information into the system, the accuracy of our student database will be greatly improved. Additionally, parents who register their students on August 2nd or August 7th will receive a \$50 discount.

In order to begin the online registration process, the parent/guardian will need access to the internet and must utilize the access ID # and password included in this mailing.

In order to help facilitate the use of internet access, District 194 is providing the opportunity for parents/guardians to utilize the computers and printers at Columbia Central School at various times throughout the month of July. **Parents of new students (including Early Childhood and Kindergarten) are encouraged to visit during these times to obtain access to the registration portal. A copy of the new student's birth certificate is required to receive access to the registration portal.**

Thursday, July 12, 2018 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Three documents are required to verify residency at registration. Without these documents, the family will not be able to register. One (1) document from Category A and two (2) documents from Category B are required. If you are residing with a Steger resident, the homeowner is required to prove residency. Additionally, you must supply at least one document from Category B if residing with a Steger resident. Everyone must have all required residency information to continue the registration process. If not, you will be asked to return with the necessary documentation. If registration is not completed on August 2nd or August 7th, you will not receive the \$50 discount for attending registration days.

Category A – Provide One (1) Document

- Current mortgage document
- Current signed lease
(Lease from the Colonies must have child's name)
- Current real estate tax bill
- Section 8 letter
- Military housing letter
- Residency attestation form (for third party residents)

Category B – Provide Two (2) Documents

- Homeowners/Rental Insurance document
- Current utility bill (Gas, Electric, Water or TV)
- Paycheck stub
- Vehicle registration card

Families seeking a fee waiver need to provide a copy of their 2017 tax return.
See you at registration!

Curriculum and Instruction Corner

Instilling A Growth Mindset At Home

How many of you woke up this morning thinking “*I wonder what I can do today to undermine my children, subvert their effort, turn them off learning and limit their achievement?*”

Not one of you, I bet!

Almost universally, we bet as parents you want your kids to grow up to be happy, healthy and well-adjusted in life and find success in whatever it is they do. And we want to do our best to help them get there.

As you may expect, the particular mindset we have shapes the lens through which we view our world and impacts *every single thought and action we take*.

Many of us want our children to understand that we love them, and to believe that life can be fulfilling. Developing those beliefs will help them prosper. There is another powerful, research-based belief that will help children thrive. It is called a growth mindset.

Research shows that parents can have a powerful impact on their children's mindsets. The language you use and the actions you take show your children what you expect. Giving praise, talking about the brain, accepting mistakes as learning opportunities, and understanding the role of emotions in learning are all practices you can begin today.

Skills that are learned at school like math and reading are crucial to college and career readiness, but so are other skills that can be built at home

- These include perseverance, motivation, social awareness, self-management, etc.
- Many parents have long known the importance of these skills and have taught them to their children

- We often think about these abilities as social-emotional skills or non-cognitive skills

- Teachers and parents can share responsibility for helping children develop these very important skills

- A growth mindset is the belief that we can develop our abilities, including our intelligence, which is our ability to think. It is distinguished from a fixed mindset, which is the belief that abilities can't change, such as thinking that some people can't improve in math, creativity, writing, relationship-building, leadership, sports, and the like.

- Children with a *fixed mindset* believe that their own intelligence and talent are innate traits that don't change. A *fixed mindset* is one where we believe that our core personality, character, talent, abilities and intelligence are fixed.

- Children with a *growth mindset* believe that ability can change as the result of effort, perseverance, and practice. A *growth mindset* on the other hand, is the opposite, where we believe that everything about a person is malleable. Through resilience and effort, anyone can build themselves into anything they want to be.

- Mindset affects all kids regardless of achievement level.

- Differences in mindset can lead to achievement gaps in grades, test scores, class behavior, and other student outcomes that last for years.

- Many parents encourage growth mindset in their kids without putting a label on it.

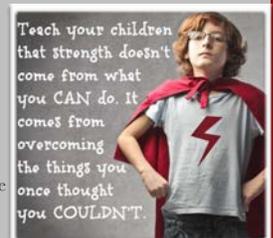
- Making it explicit can be a powerful tool to improve your child's success at school and in life.

- Instead of waiting until kids are done with a chore or homework, check in with them while they are working. Comment on how much progress they have made and ask them whether they have ideas to make the work even better.

- Talk with your children about how the brain, like a muscle, grows and gets stronger with effort.

- Allow your children to see that you, too, make mistakes and that what matters is that we keep trying. In fact, we often learn just as much from the things we do wrong as from the things we do right.

- Let your children know that you have high expectations for them and that you have these expectations because you know they are capable of meeting of them.



Columbia Central Award Recipients

Valedictorian- Cierra Bradford

Salutatorian- Angel Flores

American Legion Award- Isabella Knack and Joshua Rubien

American Legion Scholarship- Cierra Bradford

Sons of the American Legion Scholarship- Angel Flores

PTA Scholarship- Aniyah Booker and Noel Rocha

Kiwanis Award- Alexiana Jackson and Angel Flores

Ricky Pendergrass Award- Joseph Patterson

Jacob Kiepura Award- Justin Etuk

Lorenzo Garcia Award- Bram Karris

Mr. Lale's Science Award- Samuel Ruffalo and Aniyah Booker

Science Award- 7th Anly Flores, 6th Christopher Albert

Mr. Devore's Einstein Award- 8th Angel Flores, 7th Alexander Rodriguez, 6th Natalie Hurtado, 5th Devin Smith

Mr. Devore's Mathematics Award- 8th Mason Carrera, 7th Brandon Haynes, 6th Nevaeh Bush, 5th Ivon Chavez

Daniel Hammond Award- Logan Dobrzenieck

Sandy Siefert Social Studies Award- Alyssa Baine

Susan Boyko Visual Arts Award- Bram Karris

Cheri Marzke Award- Gabrielle Cisneros

Athletes of the Year- 8th Payton Skrezyna and Dakari Bailey, 7th Paige Haut and Max Galvan

Bruce Brozinski SSJHSA Outstanding Athlete Award- Alexiana Jackson and Ivan Mitchell

Sportsmanship Award- Margaret Polewaczyk and Aiden Sylvester

Athletic Director's Outstanding Athlete Award- Margaret Polewaczyk, Payton Skrezyna, Amber Mulder, Alexiana Jackson, and Kaiyelle Rohwedder

Happenings From Around the District



Students from around District 194 participate in activities that build character and community.

Steger Primary Center Encourages Kindness

This year, Steger Primary Center encouraged kindness by having a "fill your bucket" school-wide kindness challenge. Modeled after the book "How Full is Your Bucket?" by Tim Rath and Mary Reckmeyer, classrooms used fuzzy poms to fill their class kindness bucket. After displaying random acts of kindness, students were able to add a kindness pom to their class bucket. Once their classroom bucket was filled, it was emptied into a larger, school-wide bucket. The school-wide bucket was on display in the cafeteria for all to see, and to encourage students to be kind to one another. After the school-wide bucket was filled, students were rewarded for their kindness with a small celebration. District 194 is proud of these students for using kind words, displaying kind gestures, and encouraging others to be kind.

Steger Intermediate Center Hosts Battle of the books

Third and Fourth graders from the Intermediate Center participated in the tenth annual Battle of the Books on May 22 and 24. Student participants answered questions in a Family Feud-style competition that tested their knowledge of the multiple books on the official Battle of the Books list. The battle champs were declared, but all students were winners because they read and participated.

Community Members Participate in Career Day at SIC

A variety of parents came to the Steger Intermediate Center to talk about their careers and what it takes to do what they do.

Some of the careers included firefighter, crane operator, patrol sergeant, transportation director, dental tech, legal

secretary, hair stylist, 911 dispatcher, mechanic, contact lens tech and truck driver.

Students rotated through four stations to hear about different careers.

Intermediate Center Graduates

On the last day of school, 180 fourth grade students were recognized and promoted at the SIC awards assembly. Red Feather Awards were given to one student from each homeroom for exhibiting positive character traits throughout the school year. Congratulations to all our recipients and good luck to our 4th graders.

Kindergarten Graduation Honors District 194's Newest Students.

On Wednesday, June 6, Kindergarteners from Steger Primary Center were honored at a graduation ceremony in the Columbia Central Gymnasium. Students were recognized for their achievements throughout their first year of school in District 194. Each of the Kindergarten teachers had the honor of calling each student by name and presenting each one with a diploma signifying their first step in a long journey toward achievement and excellence in Steger School District 194. Special recognition was given to students who mastered sixty sight words. These students were named as members of the Sixty Word Club. Special thanks to all of our Kindergarten teachers- Miss Helsel, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Arndt, Mrs. Weinbrecht, Mrs. Husarik, Mrs. White, Miss Lagesse, and Miss Cvak. Also a very special thanks to Principal Stephanie Winborn on a fantastic year.

STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL
753-4300

Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL
755-0021

Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL
753-4200

Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL
753-4100

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A Word From Superintendent Hahto

“Continuous Improvement” – This is a phrase that captures the essence of what District 194 has been all about these last two school years. It is a phrase that can carry the district forward in its effort to instill and nurture a growth mindset in its students. And, it can provide them with the knowledge and confidence that they can achieve their dreams, one step at a time. Let me give you some examples of what I am seeing that provides me with this optimism for the future.

Perhaps the most notable embodiment of this phrase was personified at this year’s Columbia Central Eighth Grade Graduation ceremony when students were recognized for their accomplishments and achievements throughout the school year. As has been customary for decades, twenty-two different awards were presented to deserving student scholars and athletes. However, a new award was inaugurated this year that demonstrates the district’s growing understanding and appreciation of the importance of “continuous improvement” – the NWEA MAP awards for Student Growth. Students who achieved their year-long student academic growth goals, as measured by their MAP test scores, wore a gold tassel on their graduation caps and were recognized by Associate Principal Bruce Nieminski for achieving their academic growth goals. I was very pleased to see this. It is a good sign.

Another example of the district’s dedication to continuous improvement has been demonstrated by the district’s administrative team, directors and principals together, who have been studying and discussing the values, beliefs, and cultural mindset shifts associated with the Professional Learning Community mindset. The PLC model is defined in the book, *Revisiting Professional Learning Communities at Work: New Insights for Improving Schools*, as “educators committed to working collaboratively in ongoing processes of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. Professional learning

communities operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded learning for educators (DuFour, Eaker, & Many, 2006).”

When educators – teachers and administrators - collaborate on the same shared mission, vision, action orientation and commitment to continuous improvement with a focus on learning and tangible results, student achievement can dramatically improve.

My optimism in moving the district forward with the PLC mindset comes primarily from one source in which I have great faith – Steger 194 teachers. This district has been blessed with so many talented and caring teachers that there is every reason to feel that the professional learning community model can and will blossom. Truth be told, it already is.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and I look forward to the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Hahto
Superintendent



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