

August 2019

# CENTRAL COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*we are excellence in education*

## BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

### FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

What does it mean to be part of a community? Within our middle school, community is the Memorial Day program where our students, staff, and local residents all come together to honor the service and sacrifice of our military veterans. In the high school, community is the participation of more than 100 business partners, along with our staff, who share their expertise and experiences with our soon-to-be graduates in the Senior Exit Interview process. At the elementary school, community is an active participation in the Parent Teacher Organization that continually supports the activities that encourage and allow our students to reach their full potential.

As Central Columbia School District's new superintendent, I embrace our district as a learning community with diverse assets and resources that all contribute to the growth of our students. It is my goal to continue to develop current programs as well as stimulate new and exciting initiatives for all of our learners from kindergarten through graduation. It is through the work of a dedicated team of educators, staff, students, and community members working together

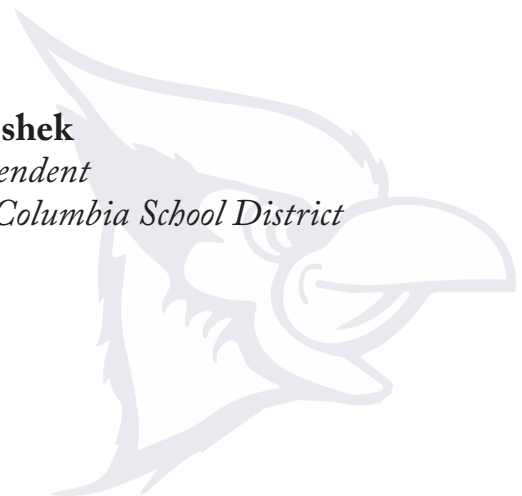
that has allowed Central Columbia School District to flourish. Uniting as a school community strengthens us to continue to succeed academically while also implementing innovative new programs that challenge and prepare our students to be positive and productive members of our community.

As we challenge ourselves to continue the success of the past, we must continually work towards overcoming new challenges and surpassing our performance to become the top-rated school district in the state. It is an honor to have been selected to lead the Central Columbia School District, and I look forward to a very bright future for all of our students as we work together to ensure the continued success of our school community.

**Jeff Groshek**

*Superintendent*

*Central Columbia School District*



## CONGRATULATIONS MR. MATHIAS

Harry Mathias retired from the role of superintendent of the Central Columbia School District at the end of June. Mr. Mathias spent his entire 35 year career serving our district including 19 years as superintendent. He also served as a high school teacher, curriculum coordinator, head football coach and assistant baseball and football coach. He is retiring as the longest serving superintendent in the region.

During his tenure, Mr. Mathias implemented programs such as the STEM Magnet Program, the Digital Conversion initiative, full day kindergarten, Teacher in the Workplace and high level curriculum, assessments, and data-based decision procedures. He fostered the vision for the Career Pathways model available to our students and those from surrounding communities while developing numerous community partnerships. He oversaw the complete renovations of the middle school and high school buildings.

Mr. Mathias served as a board member for the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber, the United Way of Columbia County, the Columbia Alliance for Economic Growth, and the Central PA Workforce Investment Board. He has also served as the superintendent for the Columbia Montour Vocational Technical School five different terms.

As an innovative leader, Mr. Mathias believed and invested in the future of public education in numerous ways. Central Columbia School District partners with Bloomsburg University in a Professional Development School and by hosting field experience and student teaching experiences. The district and university also partner for STEM initiatives as he was one of three original founders of the STEM Magnet program. Mr. Mathias has taught several classes at BU and regularly is asked to speak to education majors.

Mr. Mathias spearheaded the collaborative work of the Heartland Region to include athletic opportunities for all students, shared resources,

and extensive shared training opportunities for regional teachers. Mr. Mathias has been a voice for public education at the state level including his work at the Pennsylvania Association for School Administrators, where he has advocated for funding and educational initiatives to support the needs of all students, especially those with special needs. He served over ten years as the PASA representative of the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit region.

Through his work Central Columbia has a strong Education Foundation. This group raised over \$1.4 million in donations to build the all weather track, turf field, and install baseball and softball field lights. His work included entering into numerous partnerships with community-based youth athletic programs.

Central Columbia School District is truly proud of the accomplishments and the work of Mr. Mathias. Thank you, Mr. Mathias, for your many years of service and best wishes for retirement!



# BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Want to know more about the district? | Just moved to the area? | Need to register a child?

### OPEN HOUSE/ORIENTATIONS TO BE HELD

It's that time of year again when the Central Columbia Elementary, Middle and High Schools hold Open Houses for students and parents. This year's Open House/Orientations are scheduled as follows:

Sun, August 18	9th Grade Orientation	1:00-2:00pm (HS)
Sun, August 18	Community Open House	2:00-4:00pm (HS)
Mon, August 19	Kindergarten Orientation	5:30-7:00pm (ES)
Mon, August 19	5th Grade Orientation	7:00-8:30pm (MS)
Tues, August 20	ES "Meet the Teacher Night" (Grades 1-4)	5:30-7:00pm (ES)
Tues, August 20	6th-8th Grade Open House	7:00-8:30pm (MS)

### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS & MEETINGS

Generally, the Central Columbia School Board (comprised of nine members) holds a regular board meeting on the third Monday of each month at 6pm in the district office board room. Residents are welcome to attend all meetings.

#### School Board Members:

##### Region #1 - Scott Township

James Rafel, Bruce Rhoads, Elaine Spicher

##### Region #2 - Mifflinville & South Centre Townships

Charles Chyko, Robert Fogarty, Brian Klingerman

##### Region #3 - Mt. Pleasant, North Centre, Orange Twps and Orangeville Boro

John Coates, Steve Crawford, Robert Sitrler

#### School Board Meeting Dates:

Aug 12	Sept 16	Oct 21
Nov 18	Dec 2	Jan 20*
Feb 10*	Mar 2*	Mar 16*
Apr 14*	May 4*	May 18*
June 15*		

\*Tentative Dates

### SCHOOL EXTENSIONS AND HOURS

Universal District Phone Number (570) 784-2850

#### Elementary School

Telephone Extension 1000

Office Hours 8:00am - 4:30pm

Student School Hours 8:25am - 3:35pm

#### High School

Telephone Extension 3000

Office Hours 7:00am - 3:30pm

Student School Hours 7:45am - 2:45pm

#### Middle School

Telephone Extension 2000

Office Hours 7:00am - 3:30pm

Student School Hours 7:45am - 2:45pm

#### District Office

Telephone Extension 4000

Office Hours 7:30am - 4:30pm

## STUDENT IPAD INSURANCE, SIMPLIFIED

Parents now have the option to select the new simplified student iPad insurance or opt-out and assume full responsibility to pay for the repair of a damaged iPad and replacement costs of missing technology. More detailed information can be found on the district website under “For Parents.”

On July 18, 2016, the school board updated the “Student iPad Responsible Use Policy and Student/Parent Policy, 815.1; iPad Fees/Insurance.” Parents have the option of purchasing annual, non-refundable insurance for the iPad, the protective case, power adapters, and cables.

### Insurance Costs are as follows:

	<b>Regular Lunch</b>	<b>Reduced Lunch</b>	<b>Free Lunch</b>	<b>No Insurance</b>
<b>Yearly Insurance Cost</b>	\$25	\$15	\$5	N/A
<b>iPad Replacement</b>	\$20/\$80	\$10/\$50	\$10/\$50	\$300
<b>AC Cord</b>	\$5/\$10	\$3/\$10	\$2/\$10	\$20
<b>AC Adapter</b>	\$10/\$20	\$8/\$20	\$5/\$20	\$20
<b>iPad Case</b>	\$15/\$25	\$10/\$25	\$5/\$25	\$25
<b>iPad Sleeve</b>	\$15/\$25	\$10/\$25	\$5/\$25	\$25

\*Replacement costs for regular, reduced and free lunches are noted as 1st offense/additional offenses. No insurance is based on per offense.

Insurance eligibility is based on the Families National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Along with insurance cost, students are also subject to discipline related consequences based on Policy 815.1.

**If insurance is not purchased, the student/parent is liable for the full replacement or repair cost** as determined by the Director of Technology.

### Insurance Coverage Details:

- Accidental Damage: Pays for damage to the iPad on school property or any other location.
- Accidental Damage: Pays for accidental damage caused by liquid spills, drops, falls and collisions.
- Theft: Pays for loss or damage of iPad due to theft; providing the claim is made by the next school day and includes a copy of the official Police Report.
- Fire: Pays for loss or damage due to fire; providing the claim includes a copy of the official Fire Report from the investigating authority.
- Electrical Surge: Pays for damage of the iPad due to an electrical surge.

NOTE: Parent/Guardian may not substitute homeowner insurance or other personal insurance for district iPad insurance. All replacements are Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) replacements.

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In case of an early dismissal, late start, or school closing, the following are called to notify the public:

- **WNEP TV-16**
- **WYOU TV-22**
- **WKRZ 98.5 FM**
- **WHLM 103.5 FM**
- **WBRE TV-28**
- **KISS 102.7 FM**
- **WHLM 930 AM**
- **WFYY 106.5 FM**
- **WPGM 96.7 FM**

## CENTRAL'S DRUG FREE POLICY

The policy, which determines how Central Columbia School District officials deal with students involved with alcohol, drugs, and controlled substances, was established 20 years ago and has served the district well over the years with only minor revisions.

This policy, which was approved by the administration, school board, and the district solicitor, applies to the use, possession, consumption, distribution or sale of the aforementioned substances. After defining the terms controlled substances, drugs, prescription drugs, and alcoholic beverages, the policy stipulates that all substances brought into the school for the treatment of an existing condition must be registered with the school nurse at the time they are first brought onto school premises, and may be used only in accord with the instruction of the school nurse. The policy then proceeds to group types of substance abuse violations into five categories, from the least serious off-campus violation to the most serious on-campus distribution. On-campus violations allow for a student to be suspended for a period of up to two weeks or pending a hearing, along with the possibility of probation. For an on-campus distribution, the student may be suspended for a period of time to be determined by the school board after a proper hearing.

The policy defines probation by stating that a student subject to probation...shall continue to attend school, but shall be required to observe certain conditions relating to in-school conduct and behavior which may include, but need not be limited to:

- a. Prohibition of association with certain students
- b. Prohibition of any further violation of this policy
- c. Prohibition of participation in athletic or social functions
- d. Reporting at stated periods to appropriate persons for counseling
- e. Attending after school hours disciplinary detention or study hall
- f. Assisting in after school hours maintenance and rehabilitation programs
- g. Loss of driving privileges
- h. Placement in alternative education setting
- i. Such other conditions reasonably related to insuring a correction of the misbehavior or misconduct for which the probation was imposed

Violation of any condition of probation by a student shall, after a hearing, result in suspension, expulsion, more restrictive probation, or continuation of studies outside school premises. In each instance when a student is placed on probation or is suspended, the school authorities will endeavor to involve the student in appropriate rehabilitation experiences through the Student Assistance Program. The school will attempt to arrange for psychological or social services appropriate to the student's needs. The school will continue to work closely with authorities and institutions, and in particular those within the community concerned with juveniles, and will seek their advice and assistance in dealing with students violating this policy. The school will make every effort to encourage cooperative action on the part of the offender, their parents, school personnel, and the agencies mentioned above, in planning a program of rehabilitation.

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## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

We would like to advise parents and/or guardians of students regarding the event of an emergency at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant. Our first notification that a potential hazard exists will be an announced "Alert." Should the alert indicate that an escalation of the emergency might occur, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall, at their discretion, dismiss all schools.

**In the event that the emergency is severe**, and that it escalates beyond the alert emergency classification level while the students are still at school, the following procedures will be followed:

1. All students who reside **within a 10-mile radius** of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant will be transferred to the elementary school building where they should be picked up by their parents or guardians. This procedure will include students from the non-public schools. Parents and/or guardians, or other persons authorized in writing to pick up students, will be required to provide identification at the pick-up point and sign a register prior to release of children to their custody.
2. All students who reside outside the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant 10-mile radius will be transported to their place of residence as buses become available. If you reside outside the 10-mile radius, we urge parents **not** to attempt to pick up their children. This will only create confusion.

All families should turn on their radios to the Local Emergency Broadcast System station in the event of an alert.



## CENTRAL COLUMBIA SPORTS TICKET INFORMATION

Season passes for Football, Girls/Boys Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls/Boys Basketball & Wrestling Events are currently on sale in the Athletic Office along with All Sport and Winter passes.

### The costs of passes are as follows:

Football:	Adult- \$20	Student- \$ 8
Girls Soccer:	Adult- \$15	Student- \$ 5
Boys Soccer:	Adult- \$15	Student- \$ 5
Field Hockey	Adult- \$15	Student- \$ 5
Girls Basketball:	Adult- \$35	Student- \$10
Boys Basketball:	Adult- \$35	Student- \$10
Wrestling:	Adult- \$15	Student- \$ 6

### Regular Admission Prices:

**Varsity Football, Basketball, & Wrestling**  
 Adult-\$5      Student/Senior Citizen-\$2

**Varsity Soccer, Field Hockey, & JV Football**  
 Adult-\$3      Student/Senior Citizen-\$1

**Jr. High Events**  
 Adult-\$2      Student/Senior Citizen-\$1

**All Sport Passes:**      Adult- \$60      Student- \$20

**Fall Sport Passes:**      Adult- \$35      Student- \$15

**Winter Sport Passes:**      Adult- \$45      Student- \$15

**Passes are good for all home, regular season, Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Junior High season events during the 2019-20 school year.**

Senior citizens, 65 years and older, living in the Central Columbia School District are eligible for a free lifetime pass simply by picking one up in the Athletic Office at the high school.

## COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & UNLAWFUL ABSENCES

The PA Department of Education has requested schools to monitor absenteeism with greater scrutiny. PDE has defined chronic absenteeism to include any student who is absent for 18 days or more in the school year, regardless of cause. PDE further defines a school day as one where the student receives four or more hours of classroom instruction.

For the 2019-2020 school year, both school board and student handbook policies will be modified in our effort to prevent chronic absenteeism by any student.

Central Columbia will be using a new metric to approve students' educational trip requests and inclusion on school-sponsored field trips. This metric will be based on the requesting student's academic standing, disciplinary and attendance records at the time of the trip, and the actual trip justification. There will also be a limit imposed on the amount of school days missed by any student.

A maximum of 10 excused absences, verified by parental notification, will be allowed during any school year. For all absences beyond those 10 days, an excuse from a physician is mandated in order for an absence to be considered lawful. Physician excuses must include the date and time of the student's visit to their office. This attendance policy complies with Pennsylvania's compulsory attendance laws.

All student absences are treated as unlawful until our school receives a written excuse explaining the reason for an absence. Parents should submit the written explanation for any absences within three school days after the student's return to school. If a written excuse is not provided within that time, the absence will be permanently counted as unlawful.

Students who are absent from school for 10 consecutive school days shall be dropped from the active membership roll unless the school is provided with evidence the absence is legal or compulsory attendance prosecution is being pursued.

A child is "truant" if the child has incurred three or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year. A child is "habitually truant" if the child has incurred six or more school days of unexcused absences during the current year.

## ATTENDANCE CONT.

Habitual truancy negatively impacts a child's school performance and statistically increases the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. Parents will be notified, in writing, within ten school days after the child's third unexcused absence. If the child continues to incur additional unexcused absences after this written notice, we will schedule a Student Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) with the student and parent. The outcome of the SAIC will be documented in a written school attendance improvement plan.

A person convicted of a violation of compulsory attendance laws may be sentenced to pay a fine, to perform community service, or be required to complete an appropriate course or program designed to improve school attendance. These penalties increase per offense, starting at a maximum of \$300 and capping at a maximum of \$750.

Central Columbia School District educates all students for success. Truancy is a barrier to the achievement of that goal.

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## SECURITY/RAPTOR

### Notice to the Central Columbia School District regarding the implementation of additional security measures

In our continuing effort to ensure the safe environment for our children and staff, our school district has acquired an identification verification system that will be utilized in all three Central schools to log in, add, and track visitors allowed to enter our buildings during any school day. This system also instantly checks all visitors through the national sex offender database. Once in our front office, visitors will no longer sign in and be issued a generic visitor's pass to display during their visit; instead, the system will now generate a pass for each visitor displaying their name, photograph, and date of visit.

This security measure does not replace our current security system and practices but will be used to enhance it. Visitors will still be screened before entering our buildings by displaying their identification through our camera system and stating their nature of business before entering the front office.

Due to implementing this new system, we remind all prospective visitors to our schools to bring their driver's

license or state-issued photo ID with them in order to be issued a pass to enter. Failure to provide valid proof of identification will delay, and possibly prohibit, entry into our schools.

We thank you in advance for your compliance in this matter, and for allowing us the opportunity to better protect our school community. Any questions concerning this, and other security measures employed in our district, can be directed to Chief James Murtin at [jmurtin@ccsd.cc](mailto:jmurtin@ccsd.cc)

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## COMMUNICATING WITH THE DISTRICT

The Central Columbia School District encourages active participation and communication with and from all members of our community. This newsletter, the district website ( [www.ccsd.cc](http://www.ccsd.cc) ), press releases to the newspaper, and various district mailings are just a few ways in which we attempt to communicate to our serving public.

We also encourage questions and comments from the community. It is the policy (Policies 002, 326 and 906) of the Board of Education that contacts are made at the level closest to your area of concern. If concerns are not satisfactorily resolved at that level, then you should proceed to the next higher level of authority. For example, questions or comments about your child's classroom should be directed to the teacher. If not resolved, the concerns should be addressed to the building principal. If again not resolved, it should be referred to the Superintendent of Schools. Finally, if not resolved at that level, you may request, through the Superintendent, to meet with the School Board or appropriate school board committee.

Specialized questions or comments include the following:

- Matters of business operations, food services, and transportation should be directed to the business administrator.
- Matters of school building personnel or student discipline should be directed to the appropriate building principal.
- Matters regarding school board policy, school facilities, and an unresolved issue should be directed to the superintendent.

## BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Reduced	Breakfast \$ .30	Lunch \$ .40
High/Middle Schools	Breakfast \$1.60	Lunch \$2.80
Elementary School	Breakfast \$1.60	Lunch \$2.65

The Central Columbia Food Service Program will offer breakfast and lunch services beginning the first day of school. Free and reduced price meals are available based on income guidelines set by the federal government. You can apply for free or reduced price meals by going the COMPASS website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or continue to use the paper "Household Meal Benefit Application" that is available at each school office, nurse's office, or the district office. An internet service is available for checking student account balances and making credit card payments to your child's account. This service is available for a fee payable to the internet provider at the time of the transaction. To establish an account, please go to [mySchoolbucks.com](http://mySchoolbucks.com). The Food Services Director is Kimberly MacDonald and can be contacted in the District Office at (570)784-2850 ext. 4008.

## ENTER TO WIN A FOOTBALL VIP EXPERIENCE!

This year Central Columbia will be raffling off a Football VIP Experience for their regular season home varsity football games. This VIP Experience includes: VIP Parking, FREE Admittance for winner and three (3) guests, VIP Press Box seating (climate controlled!), refreshments, and a gift.

**How to Enter:** First Home Game - To win the VIP experience for the first home game (August 23), please stop by the district office to purchase your ticket. Tickets are \$5 each. Winner will be contacted Wednesday, August 21.

Games 2-5 – You can purchase your ticket during the first half of the preceding home game for \$5. Tickets will be sold inside the main entrance gate. Winning ticket will be announced during half-time. Prize package can be picked up after halftime in the Press Box.

Winning VIP Experience can only be used for game specified on prize package.

*Proceeds benefit Central Columbia Educational Foundation*

## PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO OF SCHOOL PUPILS

On occasion, the Central Columbia School District will photograph or videotape students for use in district publications, including the district website and social media platforms. In addition, newspapers and television stations may photograph or videotape students. Parents who do not want photographic or video images of their child to appear should send a letter to the district superintendent.

## TRANSPORTATION INFO

Transportation is provided for pupils in grades K through 12 to public and non-public schools as required by law. Any student whose behavior is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or refuses to follow directions may be denied the privilege of riding the school bus.

Student transportation information of stop name and stop times are now posted in the Online Parent Portal.

It's recommended that students be at the bus stop **ten minutes** before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Please wait a reasonable amount of time for the bus to arrive, as adverse weather conditions or traffic delays may alter the daily bus schedule. Busing concerns should be first directed to the Transportation Supervisor at (570) 784-2850 x 4001.

Board policy 810 clearly spells out the district's transportation policy. The district provides transportation to and from location throughout the year. *\*No changes will be made regarding bus stops during the first 2 weeks of school.*

Please refer to student handbooks for details.



## STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration for students new to the district is done on line.

To start the K to 12 student registration process, go online to <http://www.ccsd.cc> and select the 'for Parents' header menu and then select, '**Online Student Registration for CCSD**' link.

Or go directly to <http://www.ccsd.cc/Content/onlineRegCCSD> and follow the process.

- Each student needs to be enrolled in the appropriate school within the district (Elementary K-4; Middle 5-8; High 9-12)
- **ONLY** a parent or legal guardian may register a child.
- To complete the online registration, please submit and/or bring the following paperwork for each child with you to the school for verification:
  - Birth Certificate for student (for elementary school original only, no copies).
  - Current immunization records (you may obtain from your doctor or ask current school for a copy).
  - Two documents verifying Proof of Residency in Central Columbia School District – Ex. Lease or purchase agreement, utility bill, bank statement, tax notice, car registration, etc.
  - If applicable, copy of most recent IEP, Agency Letter of Placement or Court Order, custody papers or agency letters.

If you need to contact a school regarding student registration questions, please call:

- ES Guidance Secretary, Lisa Houseknecht, at 570-784-2850 ext 1002
- MS Guidance Secretary, Laurie Aten, at 570-784-2850 ext 2412
- HS Guidance Secretary, Karen Temple, at 570-784-2850 ext 3120

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## TRANSPORTATION - VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING POLICY

The use of video and audio recording equipment supports efforts to maintain discipline and to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, contractors and others being transported on district-owned, operated, or contract-ed school buses or school vehicles.

School bus means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry eleven (11) passengers or more, including the driver, and is used for the transportation of preprimary, primary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such schools or school-related activities.

School vehicle means a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed for carrying no more than ten (10) passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of preprimary, primary or secondary school students while registered by or under contract to the school district. The term includes vehicles having chartered, group and party rights under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used for the transportation of school children.

The Board authorizes the use of video and audio recording on school buses and school vehicles.

The Board prohibits the use of audio recording on any school bus or school vehicle that is not being used for a school-related purpose.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to ensure that:

- Each school bus and school vehicle that is equipped with video and audio recording equipment contains a clearly posted notice informing drivers and passengers of the potential for video and audio recording.
- Parents/Guardians and students are annually informed of the policy authorizing video and audio recording on school buses and school vehicles through: a) the student handbook; b) annual posting in the district newsletter; and c) posting on the school district website.

## NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) —
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of —
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and

3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use—
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Central Columbia does not participate in any surveys or collect information affected by this amendment.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.

If you believe your school age child may qualify for gifted education services, you may contact the district at any time to request a determination of eligibility. The guidance counselors in each building will discuss the evaluation process and answer any specific questions you may have. You may call Kristina Unger, (570) 784-2850 x 1000, at the elementary school; Alice Justice or Kimberly Gobble, (570) 784-2850 x 2412, at the middle school; or Jason Bartholomew or Alycia Fairchild, (570) 784-2850 x 3000, at the high school. Parents may also contact Mrs. Christina Fish, Special Education Director, at (570) 784-2850 x 4043. Please note that entitlement to gifted services includes only those rights provided for by Pennsylvania law.

## PROGRAMS FOR ELIGIBLE OR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Central Columbia School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as a part of its school program for the purpose of identifying disabled students who may be in need of special education and related services (eligible students). Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

1. Autism
2. Deaf/Blindness
3. Deafness

4. Emotional Disturbance
5. Hearing Impairment
6. Mental Retardation
7. Multiple Disabilities
8. Orthopedic Impairment
9. Other Health Impairments
10. Specific Learning Disability
11. Speech/Language Impairment
12. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Visual Impairment

**Potential signs of developmental delays and risk factors that might indicate disabilities include:**

**Early warning signs: Preschool -**

- Late talking, compared to other children.
- Pronunciation problems.
- Slow vocabulary growth, unable to find the right word.
- Difficulty rhyming words.
- Trouble learning numbers, the alphabet, days of the week.

- Extremely restless and easily distracted.
- Trouble interacting with peers.
- Poor ability to follow directions or routines.

## Early warning signs: Kindergarten through 4th grade -

- Slow to learn the connection between letters & sounds.
- Confuses basic words (run, eat, want).
- Makes consistent reading and spelling errors including letter reversals (b/d), inversions (m/w), transpositions (felt/left), and substitutions (house/home).
- Transposes number sequences and confuses arithmetic signs (+, -, x, /, =).
- Slow recall of facts.
- Slow to learn new skills, relies heavily on memorization
- Impulsiveness, lack of planning
- Unstable pencil grip
- Trouble learning about time
- Poor coordination, unaware of physical surroundings, prone to accidents  
([www.Idonline.org](http://www.Idonline.org))

If your child is experiencing any of these difficulties; and you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or your young child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention screening, evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of your child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request.

You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program **Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to Mrs. Christina Fish or any building principal.**

In compliance with state and federal law the Central Columbia School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extra-curricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For additional information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation, and screening (including purpose, time, and location), and rights to due process procedures, you may contact in writing Mrs. Christina Fish or any building principal.

**Confidentiality:** All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The district has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, distribution, and disclosure to third parties of this information. For information about these policies and procedures, as well as rights of confidentiality and access to educational records, you may contact in writing Mrs. Christina Fish or any principal.

## NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 30 days of the day the Central Columbia School District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or director of special education a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal or special education director will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the Central Columbia School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal or special education director, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the Central Columbia School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the Central Columbia School District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when the Central Columbia School District is notified of the request for a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interest. A school official is a person employed by the Central Columbia School District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the Central Columbia School District has contracted to perform a special task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school system to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605.

## ANNUAL STATE COMPLIANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires a number of parental notifications

(Note: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was approved 12/10/15. PDE is currently working on guidelines to school districts for implementation.) They include the following:

- Parents shall have the right to inspect all instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, audiovisuals, and other supplementary instructional materials used in the instructional program in accordance with School Board Policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Such requests shall be in writing and submitted to the building principal.
- Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party prior to administration or distribution to a student. Such a request shall be in writing and submitted to the building principal.
- Parents have the right to inspect materials and opt out their child from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students.
- The school district shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards. Parents who believe their child qualifies for this program should contact the building principal.
- The school district shall provide a program to address the needs and provide appropriate services to migrant students attending the district's schools. Parents who believe their child qualifies for this program should contact the building principal.
- The school district shall provide a program to address the needs and provide appropriate services to homeless students attending the district's schools. Parents who believe their child qualifies for this program should contact the building principal.
- The school district provides health examinations and screenings as defined in School Board Policy #6131. This policy states, "Parents/guardians of students who are to receive physical and dental examinations or screenings shall be notified. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination or screening and notice that the parent/guardian may attend or may have the examination or screening conducted privately at the parents'/guardians' expense." Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade, conducted by the school physician. A private health and/or dental examination conducted at the parents'/guardians' expense will be accepted in lieu of the school examination. In addition, each student shall receive vision tests, hearing tests, height and weight measurements, tuberculosis tests, and other tests deemed advisable at intervals established by the district. Students may be exempted from such examinations or screenings if they conflict with the parent's religious beliefs.
- The School Board permits the disclosure of required student information about secondary students to representatives of postsecondary institutions and to representatives of the armed forces of the United States. The disclosed information to recruiters routinely includes names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Parents have the right to request that information not be disclosed without prior written consent. Parents who desire to request that the district withhold this information should notify the building principal in writing.
- Parents of Title I students shall receive, upon request, information regarding the qualifications and academic degrees of any professional or paraprofessional who provides instruction/instructional support to their child. Parents desiring this information should contact the building principal in writing.

## STUDENT'S RIGHT PERTAINING TO ANIMAL DISSECTION

Former Governor Casey signed into law Act 1992-88, an act amending the Public School Code of 1949. Section 15-1523, Title 24, PA consolidated Statutes, entitled, 'Pupils' Right of Refusal; Animal Dissection', gives all students in public or non-public schools, from kindergarten through grade 12, the right to 'refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture, or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of their course of instruction'. Should any parent and child elect not to dissect, vivisection, incubate, or participate in other activities harmful to animals, a letter should be sent to the teacher with a copy to building principal, requesting an alternative educational project. The letter should be sent prior to the actual lesson so that arrangements can be made for alternate placement of the child on that day.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION/ NON-RETALIATION NOTICE

Title IX-Title VI- Section 504

No person shall...on the basis of sex, race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

If you have any questions about compliance with the provision of Title IX, Title VI, Section 504, please contact compliance coordinator, Mrs. Christina Fish:

(570) 784-2850 x 4043.

## Central Columbia Calendar of Events

### AUGUST

- 12 School Board Meeting – 6pm – District Office
- 16 New Staff Induction – 8am – District Office
- 18 9th Grade Orientation – 1pm – High School
- 18 Community Open House – 2pm – High School
- 19 Opening Day for Staff – 7:30am – High School
- 19 Kindergarten Orientation – 5:30pm – Elementary School
- 19 5th Grade Orientation – 7pm – Middle School
- 20 Teacher-In-Service
- 20 Meet Your Teacher Night (Gr. 1-4) – 5:30pm – Elementary School
- 20 6th-8th Grade Open House – 7pm – Middle School
- 22 First Day of School for Students

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day – Schools Closed
- 16 Board Meeting – 6pm – District Office
- 23-27 Bloomsburg Fair – Schools Closed

### OCTOBER

- 1 MS & HS Mid-point 1st Marking Period
- 21 Board Meeting – 6pm – District Office