

The Connection

December 2013

A Connection Between the School District of Colby and its Citizens

Superintendent's Message

Mr. Steven Kolden, Superintendent

PLEASE take note of the District's Stakeholder Driven Strategic Planning process.

This planning process is designed to produce a long range plan that is sustainable and will provide direction and priorities for the district for the next three to five years. **We have dedicated a specific portion of our web page to keep you informed of the process and meetings.** From the District homepage (<http://www.colby.k12.wi.us>), the left menu include a link to the Strategic Planning page. This contains all information presented and notes from each meeting. You are WELCOME to attend any meeting. You may also follow the meetings through agendas and notes simply by visiting our web page.

Please complete our Community Survey for Strategic Planning on our home page!

CONGRATULATIONS to OUR Fall Student Athletes for a wonderful season. Sam Bach's performance in Cross Country, Swimming, Volleyball and our Football team continue to provide examples of the opportunities for our students to demonstrate their skills outside of the classroom. Their parents and coaches should be commended.

School Closings: It's that time of year! Please note the media locations that will broadcast any closings or cancellations of school. In ADDITION to the media notification, listed on our web page (http://www.colby.k12.wi.us/school_closings.cfm); we have initiated an "electronic" notification to parents and staff of these events through calls and email. Text messaging services MUST be requested by the parent/staff/individual.

UPDATE your contacts! – PLEASE note the contact information for Infinite Campus listed on our web page. If these contacts are not correct, the notification system will not reach you.

- Under the Parents/Community tab
- Log into the Infinite Campus Portal (You may obtain your log in information from the school office).
- Select "household information"
- Next update Household Phone Number (you may enter a cell)
- Select "Contact Preferences" for Primary and secondary emails
- ALSO in "Contact Preferences" you must indicate a cell number for SMS text messages
- FINALLY, you may select reasons for being notified (Emergency, attendance, etc.)
- CLICK SAVE!!
- **THEN, from your cell, text "opt in" to 68453 to allow SMS texts to be sent to your cell phone.**

Some additional "Bits and Pieces"

- School Board Elections are approaching. If you have an interest in serving on the Board please contact Kristen Seifert or myself at the District Education Center (715.223.2301).
- If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Wishing you and your family a warm Holiday Season!
Steve



Colby School District Office Hours

School offices are open from 7:45 AM until 4:00 PM. There is an automated answering service available for parents to call in student absences prior to school if they are sick or will be absent. Please feel free to leave a message after hours so that staff may contact you.

Mark Your Calendars!

There are several important upcoming dates that the Student Services Department would like students and parents to be aware of.

Parents of eighth graders: There will be a freshmen orientation meeting held on two evenings in January, specifically January 13 and January 15. You need to only choose one. At these meetings, counselors, Ms. Melissa Wavrunek and Ms. Jennifer Krauss along with principal, Ms. Marcia Diedrich, will talk with students and parents about the ins and outs of high school including credits, required versus elective courses and the similarities/differences between middle and high school. Students will also begin the registration process for their freshmen year in high school.

Parents of seniors: A Financial Aids Information Night will be held for parents/guardians of Colby and Abbotsford High School seniors who plan on furthering their education. The presentation will be held at the Colby High School cafeteria Tuesday, February 11 at 6:00 PM. Guest speakers will be Dawn Messerschmidt and Renae Gulden from UW-Wood County. Colby High School Counselor Ms. Jennifer Krauss and Abbotsford High School counselor Ms. Lori Huther will also be available.

Parents of juniors: A post-secondary education night will be held Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Abbotsford High School in the Community Room. Planning for life after high school, whether it be college, career or military, can be challenging. Admissions representatives from the UW-system, the private university system, the technical colleges and the military will present information as well as answer any questions you may have. Colby High School Counselor, Ms. Jennifer Krauss and Abbotsford High School Counselor, Ms. Lori Huther, will also be available.

Information Available on Website

The Colby School District home portal can be accessed through the school website at www.colby.k12.wi.us under the parents/community tab. Using this portal, parents can access and view their child's attendance, schedule, and grades. Parents that don't have access to a computer and would like to see their child's grades can contact the office and a progress report can be mailed home at mid quarter. Furthermore, by logging onto the districts website, parents can view daily announcements, lunch menus, up-dated sports schedules, etc.

Child Development Day

Parents in the Colby School District have an opportunity to learn more about child development during the annual Child Development Day. Child Development Day is a preschool screening opportunity provided free of charge to children ages birth to 3½ who live in the School District of Colby. Child Development Days will be held Thursday, February 20, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Brochures will be mailed out to parents of children ages birth to 3½ with more details in early January. At Child Development Day, parents will have an opportunity to learn about services and agencies available in the community for families and young children.

During Child Development Day, a child's motor, thinking, communication, and social skills are observed through play activities. Children will also have the opportunity to have their hearing and vision screened. When the screening process is completed, an educational professional will share the results with parents and provide developmental recommendations as necessary. Refreshments and a gift bag will be provided for the children who participate in the screening. Screening children for developmental delays at an early age allows for greater success in helping children through early intervention services. The Colby School District looks forward to working with your family!



Merry Christmas!

Colby Middle School News

Submitted by Mr. Hagen, Middle School Principal

Biannually, Colby Middle School holds a Theme Basket Fundraiser. Each grade level, fifth through eighth, office staff, support staff, teaching staff, a couple of clubs, and even a few area businesses, brainstorm themes and then contribute toward one or two baskets that will later be raffled off in a drawing. Students, staff, families, and community members buy a ticket for only \$1.00 entering the chance to win the Theme Basket of their liking!



This year's Theme Basket Fundraiser was a HUGE success! A total of 2,640 tickets were sold, which results in a 100% profit since all baskets were collectively donated! These funds will help pay for things like quarterly TRACS fun days that serve as incentives for students to complete work on time and keep track of their materials throughout the quarter. These funds will also aide in providing for whole school assemblies, holiday hot chocolate and cookies, and many other Colby Middle School activities and functions.

A heart felt thank you is expressed to all students and families who contributed items and/or money toward the creation of a basket, the Lilly Family for donating an entire basket in honor of the late Jean Nietzel, the Geiger family who donated an entire basket to add to the 6th grade Cancer Support basket, Cuts Plus for donating a great basket, and to Ray's Market, Designer Advertising, and Back

to Bliss for their generous additions to the teaching staff's basket – Everything Colby! That was our NUMBER ONE SELLING BASKET!

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets! Our grand total of \$2,640.00 will go a long way in adding to our youth's educational experience here at Colby Middle School!

The Middle School is pleased to share some exciting news about a new fundraising program for our school. It's called "scrip" and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop. Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our school at a discount. Families buy the certificates at full face value, you can redeem them for full face value, and our school keeps the difference in revenue. You earn money for school without spending a single additional penny. Scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out. Scrip is exciting because everyone wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling
- Our school gets a regular source of revenue

The money that is raised thru scrip helps the Middle School in many ways like TRACS trips, various activities, school supplies like books, awards, etc.

Second Graders Study Native Americans

The second graders at Colby Elementary recently studied about four different Native American tribes. Each student was asked to make a 3D project with the help of their parents and write a short report describing their project. Students were allowed to use construction paper, material-cloth, popsicle sticks, twigs, clay, cardboard, Lincoln logs, tooth picks, wood, glue, and tape. The projects are on display in the elementary library.

The activity was an enjoyable learning experience for all of the students and families.



High School Happenings

Athletic Highlights

On Saturday, October 19, the cross country teams traveled to Owen-Withee for the Conference Championship Cross Country Meet. The boy's team put a great effort to finish in 1st place. Colby/Abby All-Conference runners were Sam Bach, Preston Mertins, Dakota Rau and Dillon Novak. Sectionals were run in Waupaca on Saturday, October 26 and Sam Bach finished 7th to earn him a place at the state cross country meet in Wisconsin Rapids.

Congratulations to 11th grader Sam Bach for his 54th place finish out of 150 runners at the state cross country meet on Saturday, November 2. Sam finished with a time of 17:26. Thank you to everyone who came to support Sam on Saturday and the teams throughout the season.

Congratulations to the Varsity football team for placing 2nd in the Cloverbelt Conference with a record of 6-1 (8-1 overall) and advancing to the play-offs for the seventh year in a row.

Spanish Class Gets Taste of Mexico

On November 2, the Spanish 1 classes made the "Pan de Muerto" (Day of the Dead bread). Before the bread was made, the students learned about this celebration in one of the Hispanic countries - Mexico. It was a great experience for them to make it and taste it. Together with it, they had "Chocolate Caliente" (Hot cocoa). For Christmas the classes are planning on baking international desserts. Also in January is "Foreign Language Week". The classes will be having many activities to celebrate the diversity of languages, people, food and more.

Items for Sale on District Website

The Colby School District is now selling surplus items on the school district website www.colby.k12.wi.us. Please click on the Parents/Community link and then Items for Sale. Most items are available to view at the Colby District Education Center (CDEC), 505 W. Spence Street, Colby, WI. Items will be for sale on the website until sold.

National Honor Society Ceremony Held

On November 4, 18 new members were inducted into the Colby Chapter of the National Honor Society. Members who had a minimum 3.25 grade point average could apply. Their application, evaluated by five faculty members, required evidence of character, leadership and service, as well as an essay. This year's theme was "Everyday Heroes," and the guest speaker, Mrs. Deb Roth, epitomized the definition as she, along with her husband Jerry, have been foster parents for 33 years.

The students were recognized in front of family and friends, culminating with a reception.

NHS is a service organization providing, among other things, tutoring services to Colby District students.



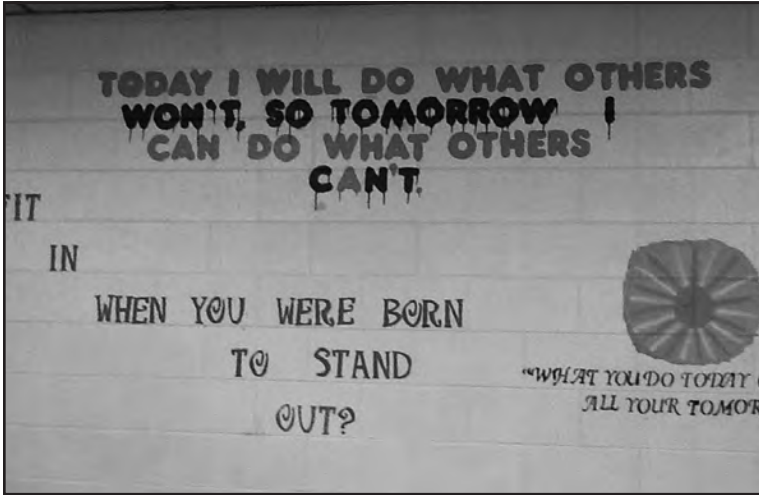
Makayla Bach introduces Guest Speaker, Mrs. Deb Roth



2013 NHS New Members

Cafeteria Gets A New Look

If you think back, you might remember the pictures on the cafeteria walls of athletes playing different sports. Those were painted over a few years ago and since then the walls have looked pretty bare. This summer the CHS Student Council decided to do something about it. They took a day out of their own time to meet and paint positive sayings on the wall opposite the kitchen doors. The sayings are colorful, positive, and certainly add life back to the room. The old computer carts were also removed and replaced with a counter attached to the east wall. The computer holds 3 computers that are used by study hall students. Thanks go out to Student Council!

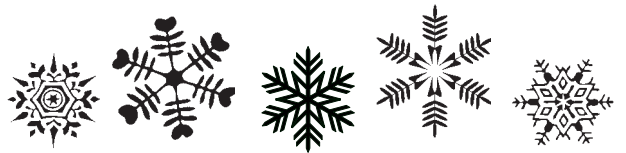


Academic Support Time

The high school again this year has established our Academic Support Time from 3:02 to 3:30 Tuesday through Friday. This time is used by students to make-up tests, get questions answered by teachers, and attend club meetings. Incentives have been built into this time for students who maintain C- and above from week to week on their grades. Some of the incentives are early release from school, access to the gym/ weight room during AST, and library/commons privilege. We also recognize one student each week for maintaining grades above a C- and every 3 to 4 weeks teachers nominate students for our Above and Beyond recognition. Our efforts are always directed towards increasing student achievement.

Cheerleading Returns to CHS

A group of students approached Mr. Hagen and Ms. Diedrich this summer about bringing cheerleading back to Colby High School. They were asked to put together a proposal which included a tentative coach, possible practice schedules, try-out requirements, and rules. They did a great job of putting all of this together. The next step was for the coach, Shirley Gebert, to meet with Mr. Hagen and Ms. Diedrich. The meeting went very well and the next hurdle was board approval which passed easily. The new squad made their debut during the Homecoming game. The girls also participated in the pep rally on Homecoming Friday. They are now planning to cheer for some home basketball games. So far the girls have worked hard in practice and are representing Colby High School in a very positive way.



Help For The Marketplace

Shauna O'Keefe and Amber McNeely, Certified Application Counselors from Clark County are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:40 PM to answer questions about the new Affordable Care Act, as well as schedule appointments with individuals to assist them in applying on the Marketplace.

Shauna O'Keefe
715-743-5264
Shauna.okeefe@co.clark.wi.us

Amber McNeely
715-743-5261
Amber.mcneely@co.clark.wi.us

Public School Open Enrollment

OPEN ENROLLMENT: FEBRUARY 3 – APRIL 30, 2014

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts.

Who may participate in open enrollment?

Students in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.

Open enrollment for prekindergarten, 4-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

Must students reapply every year?

Once a student is accepted into a nonresident school district, the student may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that:

- The nonresident district may require a student to reapply one time—at the beginning of middle school, junior high or high school.
- Under certain circumstances, a student who needs special education may be required to return to the student's resident school district.

Is there a cost to parents for open enrollment?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled students may be charged the same fees as resident students.

Who is responsible for transportation?

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school.

If transportation is required in the individualized education program (IEP) for a child with a disability, it must be provided by the nonresident district.

School districts **may** provide transportation to open enrollment students if they wish. Usually, if transportation is provided, parents must transport the student to a location in the nonresident district.

Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for partial reimbursement of their transportation costs.

How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2014-15 school year is from February 3-April 30, 2014. **The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.**

Parents may apply in one of two ways:

- On-line (recommended) at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

- Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district.

APPLYING FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT USING THE ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

What is the alternative application procedure?

Parents normally apply for open enrollment for the following school year during a three-month application period which begins in February and ends on the last weekday in April. However, 2011 Act 114 established a procedure by which parents may apply for open enrollment outside of the regular application period.

Under what circumstances may parents apply using the alternative procedure?

There are seven circumstances under which a parent may submit an alternative application:

- The pupil's resident school district determines that the pupil is a victim of a violent crime.
- The pupil is or has been homeless in the current or preceding school year.
- The pupil has been the victim of repeated bullying or harassment that has been reported to the resident school district and continues in spite of action taken.
- The pupil's place of residence has changed due to the parent's military orders.
- The pupil moved into this state within the past 30 days.
- The pupil's place of residence has changed as a result of a court order or custody agreement, or the pupil was placed in a foster home or with a person other than the pupil's parent, or removed from a foster home or the home of a person other than the pupil's parent.
- The pupil's parent and the nonresident and resident school districts agree that attending the nonresident school district is in the best interests of the pupil.

When may an alternative application be submitted?

An alternative application to the open enrollment application period must be submitted during the school year in which the pupil wants to begin attending school in the nonresident school district. If the pupil wishes to begin attending the nonresident district at the beginning of the school term in September, the parent may submit the application as early as July 1st of that year. Depending on the specific reason for the alternative application, the parent may be required to submit the application within a specified time period.

Continued

How can parents apply?

The alternative application is available on the open enrollment web site at http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_psctoc. The parent must specify at least one of the allowable criteria upon which the request is based and provide an explanation of the circumstances leading to the request. In some cases, the parent may be required to submit additional documents.

Parents may apply to no more than three different nonresident school districts in a particular school year.

It is strongly recommended that the parent contact the nonresident school district before submitting an application to discuss the possibility of the pupil's transfer.

Is there a cost to parents for open enrollment?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled pupils may be charged the same fees as resident pupils.

Can an application be denied?

Yes. The **nonresident** school district may deny an alternative application for all of the same reasons that they may deny an application during the regular application period: regular or special education **space is not available**; the pupil has been **referred for a special education evaluation** but has not yet been evaluated; the pupil has been **expelled** during the current or two preceding school years for certain violent conduct; or the pupil was **habitually truant** from the nonresident district during any semester in the current or previous school year.

Will my child receive preference because of the alternative procedure?

No. The alternative application allows parents to apply outside of the regular application period. It does not guarantee approval or give the pupil a greater chance of approval.

How is the parent notified of approval or denial?

The nonresident school district must notify the parent, in writing, within 20 calendar days after receiving the application, whether it has been approved or denied.

If an application is approved, when can the pupil begin attending in the nonresident district?

If the nonresident district has approved the application, the pupil may immediately begin attending in that district. The pupil must enroll in or attend the nonresident district within 15 days after receiving the notice of approval; however, the nonresident district may extend this time period.

If a pupil's application is approved, must the parent reapply during the regular application period?

If the pupil's application is approved, and the pupil begins attending in the nonresident school district, the parent does not need to apply for open enrollment during the regular application period unless the pupil will be entering middle school, junior high or high school in the following school year and the nonresident school district's policy requires reapplication.

Can a resident district prevent a pupil from leaving?

Yes. A resident school district may deny a pupil's application for only two reasons: (1) the resident district determines that the criteria on which the application is based does not apply to the pupil; or (2) the tuition charge for the pupil's special education in the nonresident district is an undue financial burden for the resident school district. The resident school district may not deny an application due to undue financial burden if the basis for the application is the resident district's finding that the pupil has been the victim of a violent crime.

Who is responsible for transportation?

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school.

School districts may provide transportation to open enrollment pupils if they wish. Usually, if transportation is provided, parents must transport the pupil to a location in the nonresident district.

If transportation is required in the individualized education program (IEP) for a child with a disability, it must be provided by the nonresident district.

Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for partial reimbursement of their transportation costs.

Can an open enrolled pupil participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?

Open enrolled pupils have the same rights and responsibilities as resident pupils.

Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has recently adopted new rules concerning transfer pupils. Parents should check with the school district's athletic director about eligibility.

If you have any questions regarding open enrollment please contact Kristen Seifert at the District office at 715-223-2301, ext. 2 or email at kseifert@colby.k12.wi.us.

Emergency School Closings

In the event of inclement weather, please consult the following stations for messages regarding the closing of school or the postponing of events and activities sponsored by the School District of Colby:

TV Stations

Channel 7 (WSAW) Wausau
Channel 9 (WAOW) Wausau
Channel 13 (WEAU) Eau Claire
Channel 18 (WQOW) Eau Claire

Radio Stations

95.5 FM (WIFC) Wausau
99.3 (WKEB) Medford
101.9 (WDEZ) Wausau
104.5 (WAXX) Eau Claire



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF COLBY

P.O. Box 139
Colby, WI 54421

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLBY, WI 54421
Permit No. 6**

ECRWSS
Carrier Pre-sort
Box Holder