

# Columbus Gifted Academy

## + News & Updates

It's been a busy few weeks as we prepare to open the Columbus Gifted Academy in the fall. Here are just a few highlights of the progress:

- + We have a director! We welcome Amanda Ridenbaugh to our team. She is a long time CCS educator and most recently served as Asst. Principal at Columbus Alternative High School. Her vision and energy will be a great fit for our program.

## PTO

**Who** A team has come together to get a PTO organized. All are welcome to participate!

**When** The next meeting is July 20 at 6:30. Check the PTO media outlets for location. Come meet the new director of the program!

**How** Join the Columbus Gifted Academy Facebook group to stay up to date with PTO news. The PTO also has an email list being formed. Sign up on the Facebook page or visit their website at [www.columbusgiftedacademy.com](http://www.columbusgiftedacademy.com).

- + A PTO has been formed! See the sidebar to the right for more information.
- Our teaching staff met for the first time and are planning for a great year.
- We have formalized community partnerships galore!

- + The minor building repairs are complete.
- Cleaning is near completion.
- Furniture is being staged in the rooms.
- We are ready to order the technology and library books to equip the school.

## + Spruce Up Day

Join us on Sunday, August 9 from 9-2 at the Beck building as we spruce up the grounds and unpack our spaces. Come for awhile or stay the whole time. Kids and neighbors welcome! Rain date is August 16.

## + Back to School Night

Students and families are invited to our Back to School Night on August 24 from 6-7:30. Come and go to see the school and meet staff. We will have handbooks and other information on hand for families.

## What Is In This Mailer

This sheet has an update on our building plus important dates for upcoming events and news about our amazing PTO. Plus, we have enclosed school supply lists (the sales start soon!), an overview with more details about the curriculum and schedule, and information about parking and pick up/drop off at the school. Be sure to check our website at [www.ccssoh.us/ColumbusGiftedAcademy.aspx](http://www.ccssoh.us/ColumbusGiftedAcademy.aspx) for further news and updates.

## Hot Topics

### *Schedule*

The elementary schedule will look very much like a typical elementary day with lunch, recess, and specials scattered throughout their work in the main subject areas. In reading and math, students will work with both their own teacher and other teachers as students are grouped and regrouped based on their instructional needs for that unit. One hour a week will be set aside for “Power Hour” for students to research and develop projects on a passion topic. The middle school schedule will be a mix of traditional and new. Each day will begin and end with Unified Arts. There will be some days when the rest of the schedule will follow a typical schedule. Other days will include blocks of time for students to work in small groups with the teachers, independently on assignments, or with groups for project development and problem solving. Other days will be off site for experiential learning.

### *Curriculum*

Instruction will be based on state academic content standards with an approach based on Sandra Kaplan’s Depth and Complexity model for gifted learners to ensure appropriate rigor for our students. Language arts for all grades and middle school social studies will utilize materials designed specifically for gifted learners from the College of William and Mary. These units emphasize critical thinking and relate content to big ideas. All grades will have their math instruction personalized in content and pace through use of the ALEKS online program that is part of the district’s new math curriculum adoption; this will allow students to accelerate through math as they are ready, including access to compacted and high school math in middle school. We also will have supplemental math materials designed specifically for gifted learners in grades 3-5. We will not be offering foreign language during our inaugural year but will consider adding it in the future. For now, middle school students wishing to earn high school credit for foreign language will be able to pursue a credit flexibility plan. More information about credit flexibility will be available in the fall.

### *Community Partnerships*

We have an exciting array of partnerships in the work for students at all levels. These partnerships will allow us to embed drama and other fine arts, service learning, environmental studies, purposeful writing, and more into our daily instruction while providing students with a real world purpose for their learning. Our middle school program is being designed in partnership with COSI, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio History Connection, and See Kids Dream. Students will be off site an average of once a week (some weeks more, some weeks less) to gain new content knowledge and apply learning in the contexts of those organizations.

### *Extracurricular Activities*

We are including two enrichment periods a week into the school day for all grade levels. Students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, such as writing club, robotics, book club, debate, and many more, during those periods. Students may also opt for academic assistance or personal project work, including working with volunteers or mentors with a foreign language or other topic of interest, during that time. More information about signing up will be available at the start of the year. Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade interested in participating in sports at their primary enrollment school may do so in lieu of their physical education class during that season. Contact information for coaches will be shared with students who indicated an interest in a fall sport within the next few weeks. Families are responsible for transporting students from Columbus Gifted Academy to primary enrollment schools for sports practice.

### *Special Trips*

The elementary team is tentatively planning a 4<sup>th</sup> grade camp and a 5<sup>th</sup> grade overnight trip to the Wilds. We will also team up with a middle school for a Washington DC trip for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. More information will be available later in the fall.

### *Library*

We are excited to order nearly 5000 new books for our library, which is the average for an elementary school library. We also have acquired approximately 250 additional library-bound books from other source. Our collection is a mix of fiction and non-fiction from a variety of genres and topics for our entire range of grade levels. There will be an opportunity for others to donate to expand the library collection. More information will be shared via the PTO in August.

### *Technology*

Our building will be wireless! That installation should happen in the next few weeks. In addition, we will have Chromebooks for students to use throughout the building and interactive projection systems in the core instructional classrooms. We are also excited to have three digital media stations in our middle school wing for music creation and production, video production, and digital design. We hope we can expand on this technology in future years.

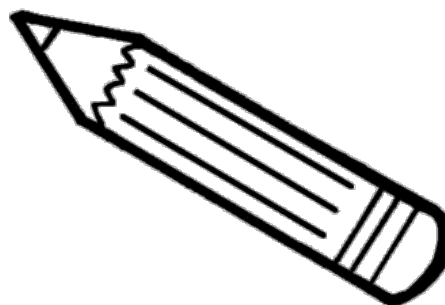
**COLUMBUS GIFTED ACADEMY  
STUDENT SUPPLY LISTS  
2015-2016**

**GRADE 3**

- Ear buds (headphones)
- Flash drive (8 GB min.)
- 10-12 pencils\*
- 1 box tissues
- 1 pkg. colored pencils (twistables preferred)
- 1 box thin Crayola markers
- 1 box thick Crayola markers
- 2-3 thin, black Sharpie permanent markers
- 2-3 thin highlighters
- 2 pkg. wide-ruled notebook paper\*
- 1 Mead composition notebook
- 7 2-pocket folders with binder tabs in the middle (1 folder in each of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple and one other color of choice)
- Scissors
- 1 bottle Elmer's liquid glue\*
- 1" clear-view binder
- Optional – big pink eraser
- Optional – container of disinfectant wipes
- Optional – container of baby wipes
- Optional – pkg. post-it notes
- Optional – Crayola crayons
- Optional – small white boards
- Optional – dry erase markers
- Optional – glue sticks
- Optional – paper towels
- Optional – construction paper
- Optional – bottle hand sanitizer
- Optional – sandwich size Ziploc bags
- Optional – gallon size Ziploc bags

**GRADE 4**

- Ear buds (headphones)
- Flash drive (8 GB min.)
- 24 Dixon or Ticonderoga pencils\*
- 4 thin Expo dry erase markers
- 24 Crayola colored pencils
- 1 box thin Crayola markers
- 2 pkg. 3x3 post-it notes
- 2 thin, black Sharpie permanent markers
- 2 bottles Elmer's glue\*
- Scissors
- 1 pkg. erasable pens
- 3 wide-ruled composition notebooks
- 4 plastic, 2-pocket, 3-ring folders
- 2 highlighters
- 2 pkg. loose-leaf, wide-ruled notebook paper\*
- 1 box of tissues
- Large pencil box
- Girls only – 1 box Ziploc sandwich bags
- Girls only – 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- Boys only – 1 box gallon Ziploc bags
- Boys only - 1 container disinfectant wipes



*\*Replenish as needed throughout the year*

## GRADE 5

- Ear buds (headphones)
- Flash drive (8 GB min.)
- 8 folders
- 2 pkg. loose-leaf, wide-ruled notebook paper\*
- 4 composition books
- 2 large glue sticks or 1 bottle of liquid glue\*
- Scissors
- Ruler with both inches and centimeters markings
- Protractor
- 1 pkg. colored pencils
- 24 count crayons
- 1 pkg. markers
- 2 thin highlighters
- 2 thick, black, dry erase markers
- 2 black Sharpie permanent markers
- 24 pencils\*
- Bar or pencil top erasers\*
- 2 boxes tissues\*
- 2 containers disinfecting wipes
- 1 pencil box or bag
- Backpack or other school bag
- Optional – quart size Ziploc bags
- Optional – gallon size Ziploc bags
- Optional – bottle hand sanitizer
- Optional – pencil sharpener with lid
- Optional – extra tissues
- Optional – extra pencils

## GRADE 6-8

- Ear buds (headphones)
- Flash drive (8 GB min.)
- Pencils (1 sharpened package)\*
- Highlighters – 1 yellow, 1 orange
- 2 glue sticks\*
- 1 package colored pencils
- 2 pkg. 3x3 post-it notes\*
- 1 pkg. notebook paper\*
- Red pen
- Scissors
- Zippered pencil pouch (no boxes)
- Trapper keeper or other zipper 3-ring binder
- 1 pkg. binder dividers
- Backpack capable of carrying a Chromebook between classes (a section to secure a 13" portable electronic device)
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade only – 1 box of tissues
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade only – 1 roll paper towels
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade only – 1 container of disinfectant wipes
- Calculator – Texas Instruments TI-30X-IIS (see image below)



*\*Replenish as needed throughout the year*

# TRAFFIC FLOW AND PARKING FOR COLUMBUS GIFTED ACADEMY

387 E. BECK ST., COLUMBUS, OH 43206

The Columbus Gifted Academy is housed at the Beck building in the historic Shumacher Place/German Village neighborhood. This community is welcoming of our students, and it promises to be a great relationship. However, because of the narrow streets and tight parking, there are few procedures we ask families to follow carefully during drop off and pick up and during school events to ensure we do not interfere with the residents' ability to come and go from their homes. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

## **Student Drop Off and Dismissal (see map on back)**

- Buses will enter the neighborhood from Livingston Rd. via Grant Ave. onto Beck St. and then park along the west side of the building on Briggs St.
- Cars will enter the neighborhood from Livingston Rd. via Lathrop St., pass the east side of the school, turn right into the playground/parking lot area in order to drop students off at the back entrance. The vehicles will then exit through the back gate, left into the alley, and right onto Lathrop St. to navigate away from the school.
- During the school day (9:30-3), please use the front entrance on Beck St.

### *Please consider:*

- Whenever possible, utilize CCS bus transportation or neighborhood carpools to reduce the number of cars in the area.
- Residents may be trying to leave or return to their homes. Please make room as possible for them to do so.
- When dropping off or picking up, please do so quickly to keep the flow of traffic moving through the neighborhood.
- If you need to enter the building with your child, please park in a designated space.
- Please do not drive on Beck St. or on Briggs St. along the west side of the building. This will create a traffic jam with the buses.

## **Event Parking**

- The playground area will be opened up for families to park.
- Vehicles will enter the neighborhood from Livingston Rd. via Lathrop St., pass the east side of the school, and then turn right into the playground/parking lot area.
- At the end of the event, the vehicles will then exit through the back gate, left into the alley, and right onto Lathrop St. to navigate away from the school. This will limit any traffic congestion in the tight streets.

### *Please consider:*

- Whenever possible, drive together as a family or with friends to reduce the number of cars in the area.
- Do not park on the street. This parking is for residents.
- Park in an orderly fashion on the blacktop to enable as many cars to fit as possible without blocking people in.

