



Mrs. Allison Shew, Principal
Ms. Lindsay Fitzer, Secretary
Columbia Crest A-S.T.E.M. Academy
24503 SR 706 E Ashford, WA 98304
School: (360) 569-2567
Facebook: @ColumbiaCrestASTEM

Sunday, August 12th, 2018

Dear Columbia Crest A-S.T.E.M. Academy Families,

August is in full swing and I know that many of you are eagerly awaiting the start of school and at the same time enjoying the remaining days of summer vacation. I am very eager to see all of you back at school in the coming weeks and to welcome all of our new families! The teachers, staff and I are looking forward to working with you this school year. I'm extremely excited to welcome preschool students into our building this year. We still have space available if you have a 3, 4, or 5 year old, please contact our office to reserve a space at 360-569-2567. Below you will find a lot of useful information to help you navigate the start of the school year.

Upcoming Dates to Note

- **August 20th:** Our office reopens from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. daily.
- **August 22nd & 23rd** ASB Retreat. Student reps will receive an email reminder
- **August 23 & 24th:** Kindergarten Boot Camp 8:00-11:00 all kinders expected
- **August 24th & 25th:** School Beautification Days from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Please join us to make our campus great for the First Day of School. Volunteers needed! Frozen treats for all who attend.
- **August 30th:** 5th-8th Grade Band Rental at EMS 4:00-7:00 Drop-in
- **August 31st:** 5th-8th Grade Band Camp 7:45am-7:45pm at EMS FREE
- **September 4th:** 4:00-6:00 Join us for our Back-to-School BBQ Bash.
Classrooms open. Students may drop off supplies. Please visit our information tables in the gym. 6:00 All parents needed in the gym for an important informational assembly.
- **September 5th:** Happy First Day of School for 1st through 8th Grade.
- **September 5th-7th** Kinder WA Kids Meetings & Preschool Meet and Greet.
Parents will receive an invite in the mail with appointment.
- **September 10th:** Happy First Day of Kindergarten Class of 2031.
8:00 am: Boohoo Breakfast in the gym for new kindergarten parents on the First Day of Kindergarten.
First Day of Preschool 9:00-1:00.
- **September 12th:** 2:30 first PTO Meeting of the year. This is a great time to check out how you can support your child's school.
Childcare will be provided at all meetings.

Start Time Change

- **Daily:** 7:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- **Tardy:** 7:50 a.m. daily and 8:50 a.m. on Late Starts
- **Wednesday Late Starts:** 8:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

“Work Hard, Be Nice and Dream Big!”

- **Half Days:** 7:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Back-to-School BBQ Bash 9/4/18

4:00-6:00 with Parent Assembly at 6:00

- Enjoy a hot dog dinner with other families.
- **Preschool-8th grade:** All classrooms will be open. Bring supplies to put away and see your child's classroom.
- Visit our informational tables in the gym to learn about:
 1. PTO:
 - Purchase Bake Sale goods
 - Smencils and Smens for sale
 - Purchase drink and food items
 - Become an active PTO member
 2. 6th-8th Grade:
 - Picture taken for ASB card and yearbook
 - Middle School Sports
 - ASB cards for purchase (\$40)
 3. Purchase Columbia Crest socks. Rock the SOCKS for \$12.
 4. Yearbooks to purchase for \$5.00

Tuesday, September 4th, 2018

Classrooms will be open from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Columbia Crest
Back-to-School
BBQ Bash**

All families are encouraged to attend our Parent Assembly in the Gym at 6:00 p.m. to learn about critical information.

PLEASE BRING ALL SCHOOL SUPPLIES!
ASB Cards available for Middle School Students.

Learn more about the event at www.eatonville.wednet.edu/cca

Welcome New Staff



- Counselor: Mrs. Stephanie Groepper
- Custodian: Coming Soon
- Middle School S.T.E.M. Teacher: Mr. Luke Smith
- Preschool Teacher Assistant: Mrs. Ashley Downs
- Preschool Teacher: Ms. Tavia Halvorsen
- Technology Specialist: Coming Soon

All of these teachers and staff members participated in a rigorous interview process and will be excellent additions to our school. They represent a wide variety of backgrounds and levels of experience. I am confident you will be thrilled with the quality of teachers we have added to the staff.

Middle School Homeroom Teacher Announcement

Our middle school teaching staff is eager to form together as a new team. We will set high academic expectations that will align with standards and our school mission and vision.

6th Grade Advisor: Mr. Luke Smith specializing in S.T.E.M.

7th Grade Advisor: Mr. Carl Hehemann specializing in English Language Arts

8th Grade Advisor: Mrs. Annelise Dattilo specializing in Science

“Work Hard, Be Nice and Dream Big!”

A letter from myself and the middle school teachers will be sent out via email later in the month that will likely answer a lot of questions.

Building and Campus Updates

I'm excited about the upgrades happening to our school. To highlight a few of the projects:

- The hallway near the boy's restroom received a fresh coat of paint.
- A new roof has been installed.
- Our gym floor was refinished and looks brand new.
- A lot of work has been done on the garden over the summer including the complete installation of the greenhouse and tool shed.
- With the addition of our new preschool program, a restroom has been installed within the classroom.
- The main student restrooms had an inspirational decorating take-over done to encourage students.
- Coming soon: solar panels will be installed to offset the cost of our power bill as we've been awarded a \$96,000 grant to fund solar array at our school.



Room Rearrangements

It is of high value to our staff to have our middle school students inside the building. In order to shift the middle school students from the portable inside the main building prompted a host of room reassignments:

- Mr. Hehemann (6th-8th Language Arts) moved to our former Tech Lab.
- Mr. Smith (6th-8th STEM) moved to our former Library.
- Mrs. Dattilo (6th-8th Science) moved to Ms. Dewey's former room.
- Mr. Hunter (Music and Band) moved to Mrs. Dattilo's former portable.
- Mrs. Hilliker and Ms. Stewart's Resource Room moved to the former Music Room.
- Our new Preschool is located in the former Resource Room (across from the office).

"Work Hard, Be Nice and Dream Big!"

- The Library and Technology Lab are now combined. This new space is located in Mr. Hehemann's former portable. The library books were moved to the portable along with the technology devices to create a new Information Zone. This shift is an innovative approach to creating a modern resource center for students.

Coming Soon

In partnership with PTO we are attempting to purchase another bay of lockers for our growing middle school population. If you would like to make a donation of any size please write checks payable to PTO. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Our upcoming Coin Drive will support this cause.

How Can You Be Involved?

There are numerous projects our school will need help with this year. Volunteer clearance lasts for two years. Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer in any area within the school.

Specialist Connection



Mrs. Groepper – Counselor: Hello and Welcome back! I hope that you and your family had a relaxing summer vacation. My name is Stephanie Groepper, and I am thrilled to be the new intern counselor at Columbia Crest! I will be working alongside Mrs. McIlraith this year. This is going to be a fun year filled with learning, growing and lots of new adventures. I cannot wait to get to know you, your family and most importantly your child!

First, I wanted to take a moment to tell you a few things about me. I am originally from a small town in Minnesota. I attended Saint Martin's University where I graduated in 2016 with my bachelor's Degree in psychology. Currently, I am attending City University for a Master's in Education, specializing in counselling. I have a 10-year-old daughter who currently attends school in Puyallup where we reside with our 3 cats, 2 dogs and our new addition of Tim the fish.

This will be my first year as a school counselor, and I consider myself to be so lucky to have the opportunity to pursue my passion, school counseling. I am so excited to get the year started. My hope is that this school year will be filled with fun and successful experiences for all students. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything we can do to assist you and your child!

Mr. Johnson – Art : “We had a great year in our Art Studio and I'm looking forward to expanding our art curriculum. 4th-8th grade families, please have your child return his or her sketchbook. Please provide an oversized t-shirt to be used as a smock (for the messy projects).”



“Work Hard, Be Nice and Dream Big!”



Mrs. Frey – Hands-on-Health Gardening and PE: I'm excited for our new nutrition and garden curriculum. Students will learn about growing and harvesting crops. We will work in the garden weekly growing our own crops this year. Each grade level will have their own raised bed as seen in the picture. I will also continue to teach PE. To preserve our gym floor please be sure to send your child with a clean pair of shoes that may be left at school.

Mr. Hunter – Music and Band: As we are quickly coming to the end of a beautiful summer (for those who like hot weather!), I have very important information for 5th grade parents who's students may want to join beginning band at Columbia Crest. Band Rental & Testing day on Thursday, August 30 at Eatonville Middle School is from 4:00-7:00. Our first Eatonville SD Band Camp all day Friday, August 31 from 7:45am-7:45pm for ALL district band students from beginning band through high school also at Eatonville Middle School! The district music staff are excited about hosting this fast-start program for our students. Additional information will be coming later.



Media Specialist (Tech/Library Teacher) will be hired soon. Stay tuned for an official announcement.

Communication

We post a lot of information and in the moment updates to our school Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please take a moment to connect with us on our social media platforms.

This year we will conserve paper and help the environment by having this be our last printed newsletter. You will find our monthly newsletter published on: our website, emailed to each family and posted on our social media outlets.

We also connect with families the following ways:






- **Monthly:** Calendar of events and monthly newsletter
- **Weekly (Sundays):** Update of events for the upcoming week
- **Robo Calls:** For emergencies and major events
- **Social Media:** Facebook and Twitter: please follow us and like our page

PTO

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) group at our school is a wonderful group of parents who commit their time and resources to ensure our students have extra items, programs and activities. Mrs. Ashley Downs (who is a former CC student) is our new PTO President (pictured on the right). We'd like to expand our PTO membership and increase the attendance at our monthly meetings. The first meeting is Wednesday, September 12th at 2:30 in our 5th grade classroom. Childcare will be provided at ALL meetings this year. For more information or to get involved please email: ColumbiaCrestPTO@gmail.com



School Spirit

- **Mascot:** The Rainiers 
- **Motto:** Work Hard, Be Kind and Dream BIG! 
- **Mission:** Capitalizing on the innate curiosity of students, Columbia Crest A-S.T.E.M. Academy will inspire all students to learn and grow through intentional integration of Art, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math with an environmental focus. 
- **Vision:** Columbia Crest A-S.T.E.M. Academy will provide a strong academic foundation through both exploratory and project based learning. 
- **18-19 Theme:** "Dream Fearlessly!" ~College and Career Ready!~ 

On behalf of the Columbia Crest staff, welcome to a new school year. We are excited about all the positive things this year will hold for your student(s). We look forward to seeing you at Open House. Here is to a great school year. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer vacation.

In partnership with you,

Allison Shew

Allison Shew

Principal

"Work Hard, Be Nice and Dream Big!"