



Columbia Elementary School
3120 St Louis Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63106
(314) 533-2750 (office)

Tiffany D. Houston –Principal



Columbia
Elementary School

Our Mission: Columbia Elementary will be relentless in providing rigorous and robust learning experiences for all students that will empower them to become strategic and independent thinkers who compete globally.

Our Vision: Columbia Elementary will be restored to its original prominence as an integral part of the community by partnering with all stakeholders, empowering students and making academics, attendance and character education our priority.

THE EAGLE ENQUIRER

November 2025 Edition

SLPS Strategic Values



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for learning. Students who attend school regularly achieve higher levels and develop habits that support lifelong success. Consistent attendance helps build responsibility, perseverance, and a strong foundation for future education and careers.

If your child is absent, our staff will reach out to understand and help address any barriers that may be preventing attendance. It is important that your child is at school on time, every day, so they do not miss valuable learning experiences.

We will celebrate students with 100% attendance EACH month beginning now! We look forward to celebrating YOUR child

Arrival

Friendly Reminders:

- **Student Arrival:** Students may **not enter the building before 8:05 AM**. As we continue working together to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all of our students, we would like to remind families that our school doors open at **8:05 AM** each morning. Supervision is not available before this time, and students who are left on campus unsupervised may be at risk.

Please understand that, as educators and staff, we are **mandated reporters**. This means that if a student is left unattended on school grounds before supervision begins, we are required by law to report it to the



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appropriate authorities to ensure the child's safety and well-being. We deeply appreciate your partnership in helping us keep every student safe.

- **Arrival Entrances (8:05 AM – 8:15 AM):**
 - **Door #7:** Pre-K
 - **Door #9:** 1st – 5th Grade
 - **Door #13:** Kindergarten / Inclement Weather Entrance
- **Late Arrivals (After 8:15 AM):**
 - Enter through **Door #1** and check in at the **Main Office**.
 - Students will receive a **grab-and-go breakfast** from the cafeteria before heading to class.

Dismissal Information: All students must **ride the bus or be picked up by 3:17 PM** each day.



2025-2026 STEAM Fair
Grades PreK - 5

The 2025-2026 SLPS STEAM Fair

Important Dates

- **School STEAM Fair Date:** January 15, 2026
- **Project Due Date:** January 7, 2026

Participation

- Every class will complete a project for the STEAM Fair, as a whole class or in small groups.
- Students may also participate in family projects completed at home.
- Families are encouraged to support students in developing home projects.

How to Register

- All projects must be registered using the digital Microsoft Form by October 31, 2025.
- Access project rubrics, guidelines, and the application form at the district's STEAM Fair webpage:
<https://bit.ly/42d5lix>



Recognition

Projects will be scored by judges using district rubrics. Certificates will be awarded based on ratings:

- Blue Rating: 85-100
- Green Rating: 70-84
- Yellow Rating: 55-69

Advancing Projects

The top projects from each school will advance to the Academy of Science St. Louis Science Fair, held in person. Families of advancing students will receive more details closer to April 25, 2026.

The Academy of Science St. Louis Science Fair Awards Ceremony will take place on April 25, 2026, at Webster University.

Encourage your students to participate and celebrate their creativity at the STEAM Fair!

Upcoming Events

**ARE YOU
READY TO
CHEER?**

Join the clinic & tryouts!

The clinic will be led by head cheerleading coach Jocalyn Hearn and supervised by co cheer coach Chantell Thompson. Tryouts will be on Day 3.

If you have any questions please email Miss Hearn at jocalyn.hearn@slps.org or Ms. Thompson at chantell.thompson.org

Grief & Loss Support Group

A virtual weekly support group for individuals experiencing loss and feelings of grief and to provide a space for mutual support.

Mondays @ 6pm on Zoom
October 13 - December 15

Free to participate

Sign up today!

Use the Link or QR code below to sign up!

<https://forms.office.com/r/wT8IGUG2h>

Contact us at csac@umsledu with questions.



Hosted by the Counseling & Social Advocacy Center @ UMSL



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FIELD TRIPS AND VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS UPDATE:

Students will attend the field trips for their grade level. An adult should sign the permission slip. No verbal signatures will be accepted. For a student to go on a field trip, the permission slip must be filled out. *Some students will be required to attend with a chaperone (pending behavior) to attend.* **Parents who chaperone will NOT be able to ride transportation with their students.** Parents are required to drive. Parents, who chaperone, must transport any student who requires a chaperone. **All chaperones are required to have a volunteer application on file.** Contact the child's teacher for more information.

Field Trips by Grade Level:

P3/P4	The Magic House	April 6, 2026
KG-1 st Grade	Missouri Botanical Gardens	TBD
2 nd Grade	Zoo	TBD
3 rd Grade	Science Center	TBD
4 th Grade	History Museum	TBD
5 th Grade	Art Museum	TBD

No School

Tuesday, November 4, 2025: District-wide/Site-Based Professional Development

Tuesday, November 11, 2025: Veteran's Day

Monday, November 24- Friday, November 28, 2025: Thanksgiving Break

iPad Acknowledgement Form Reminder

Parents are required to log in to Focus and complete the iPad Acknowledgement Form to indicate whether or not you would like your child to take their device home each day.

Please note that iPads cannot be distributed to students until the acknowledgement form is completed and signed in Focus. In the event of an AMI (Alternate Methods of Instruction) Day, only students with a completed form on file will be issued a device to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning.

If you have any questions or need assistance with Focus, please contact our **Family Support Specialist, Ms. Ebony Davis**, at **Ebony.Davis2@slps.org**.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important step!

Tissues and Wipes Needed

As we approach cold and flu season, we are asking all parents/guardians to send a box of tissues and wipes to school with their child. This will help to ensure all students have tissue and wipes in their classroom! We appreciate you!



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Uniforms & Cell Phone Policy Reminders

Columbia is a uniform school. All students must wear their uniforms Monday-Thursday. Dress down day is every Friday. Students may wear any color uniform top or bottom. Students can wear the shoes of their choice. Students/Staff may wear jeans every Friday. If you need help with purchasing uniforms, please connect with our Family Support Specialist, Ms. Davis (ebony.davis2@slps.org) and she will connect you to our community resources.

Students are not able to use cell phones during the school day and/or during the before care/after school programs. Columbia will not be responsible for lost or stolen phones. If students are caught using a cell phone during the school day, without permission, the phone will be confiscated, and the parent/guardian will be required to pick it up.

Character Education Word of the Month: Gratitude

Each month our students will learn the definition of a character education word. Students will be able to understand the meaning and how to display this trait daily.

Our students are learning all about Gratitude this month. What is gratitude?

Gratitude is a character trait that teaches a person to be generous to others. Students can demonstrate gratitude by identifying, experiencing, and expressing thankfulness for the good things in their lives. Grateful people are thankful for what they have rather than resentful about what they do not have. Showing gratitude in the face of generosity no matter how big or small, grows a mutual bond of respect between individuals. Let us continue to encourage our students to display GRATITUDE.

Sports Update

Basketball and Cheerleading Seasons are amongst us! Students in grades 3rd-5th are invited to practice and participate on the Columbia Elementary Cheerleading Squad and/or Basketball Team. Students MUST have a physical on file with the nurse prior to participating. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should complete the Team Participation Forms and return to Principal Houston (tiffany.houston@slps.org) for basketball and return to Coach Hearn (jocalyn.hearn@slps.org), Coach Thompson (chantell.thompson@slps.org), or the main office.

District Basketball Team and Cheer Information

1. All games will be played at various high school locations in the district, depending on the date.
2. There is an admission charge of \$4 for anyone who wants to attend the games. (the district remains 100% cashless)- Please purchase single tickets the morning of the games before arrival so it is a seamless entry.
3. Security Policy- Only small clutches for bags are allowed.
4. Students must have a physical on file with Nurse Dawson.



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Uniforms

All students are required to wear uniforms **Monday through Thursday**. Uniform guidelines are as follows:

- **Tops and Bottoms:** Any **color** uniform top or bottom is acceptable.
- **Shoes:** Students may wear **shoes of their choice**.

Fridays are Jeans Days!

Students and staff may wear jeans every Friday.

If you need help with purchasing uniforms, please connect with our Family Support Specialist, Ms. Davis (ebony.davis2@slps.org) and she will connect you to our community resources.

Exciting News – Welcoming New Staff to Our Team

We are excited to share some wonderful news! Our school is growing, and we are thrilled to welcome several new staff members to our team. The addition of these talented educators will allow us to create smaller class sizes, providing even more individualized attention and support for our students' learning and success. Smaller classes mean more opportunities for teachers to connect with students, tailor instruction to their needs, and continue building a strong, engaging learning environment.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new staff members! We are confident they will be a great addition to our school community.

Below, you will find names and contact information of classroom teachers:

Teacher's Name	Grade Level	Email	Room #
Richmond-Brooks	PreK	LaKesia.Richmond-Brooks@slps.org	002
Adams	PreK	Tauwa.Adams@slps.org	001
Brown	KG	Shatiega.Brown@slps.org	102
Hearns	KG	Raquel.Hearns@slps.org	101
Brewer-Clemons	1 st	Joann.Brewer@slps.org	210
Polestico	1 st	Develyn.Polestico@slps.org	209
Davis	2 nd	Deonna.Davis@slps.org	207
Gardner	2 nd	Danielle.Gardner@slps.org	208
Smith-Rockett	3 rd	Annette.Smith-Rockett@slps.org	308
Brown	4 th	Mecha.Brown@slps.org	304
Tongol	4 th	Essel.Tongol@slps.org	307
Hogue	5 th	Alexandria.Hogue@slps.org	303
Boyd	Cross. Cat.	Merrimon.Boyd@slps.org	301
Curtis	STEM	Amanda.Curtis@slps.org	310
Storz-Scherer	Art	Morgan.Storz@slps.org	305
Crystal	Music	Crystal.Hall2@slps.org	108
Collier	PE	Deonte.Collier@slps.org	GYM

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in making our school a wonderful place to learn and grow.



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Why is PTO Important?

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) plays a vital role in creating a supportive and enriching school environment for our children. By working together, parents and teachers can:

- **Enhance Educational Opportunities:** PTO funds help provide resources, technology, and special programs that directly benefit students' learning experiences.
- **Build Community:** PTO events and meetings foster a strong sense of community among families, staff, and students.
- **Support Teachers:** Through fundraising and volunteer efforts, PTO helps supply teachers with classroom materials and recognition.
- **Advocate for Our Students:** PTO serves as a voice for parents and helps address important school issues and initiatives.

Getting involved with PTO is a great way to stay informed, contribute to meaningful projects, and make a positive impact on our children's education.

Together, we can make a difference!

The PTO is looking for more members (parents/guardians) to add to the Columbia Eagles PTO Squad. The next PTO Meeting has been scheduled for: Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

Transportation

We appreciate the ongoing support and patience of our families as we work together to ensure a smooth transition to these new routes. Your understanding and cooperation are appreciated as our drivers adapt to these changes.

If you have further questions or need additional support, please contact our Transportation Department at 314-633-5107 and/or slpstrans.org.

If you are in transition, please contact The Office of Students in Transition for additional support at: 314-345-5750.

Before Care & After Care Update

Our before care and after care programs are now full, however we do have a waitlist.

Our Programs runs Monday-Thursday:

Before Care 7:05 AM- 8:05 AM (students will not be admitted to before care after 7:35 AM)

After Care 3:30 PM-6:00 PM



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There will not be before care/aftercare on the following days this month:

November Staff Meeting: Thursday, November 20, 2025

Thanksgiving Break: Monday November 24, 2025- Friday November 28, 2025

Important November Calendar Dates:

- Tuesday, November 4, 2025: No School (Election Day)
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025: No School (Veteran's Day)
- Friday, November 15, 2025: Q2 Progress Reports Due (will be sent via email)
- Thursday, November 20, 2025: No after-school activities (November Staff Meeting)
- November 24-28, 2025: No School (Thanksgiving Break)

Happy Birthday to ALL students and staff with November Birthdays ☺

Students	Grade	Birthday
Lowary, Alfonso Zamuary	04	02
Mason, Raven Renee	01	02
Singleton, Marniece	05	02
DORA, JU'KYIHADA	05	04
Johnson, Kairo	K	05
Osby, Aiden Montez	K	07
McCoy, Kareem E	K	12
Love, Travis Cavoll	04	13
Jones, Keith A'Maury	04	15
Scott, Ivy L	03	15
Brooks, Kamorion A	01	18
Flenoid, Khalil A	04	18
Dixon, Darriah	01	19
Hughes, Serenity	02	19
Winston, Major Dreshawn	P4	20
Shaw, Noah Corleon	04	24
Williams, Ka'Zeal Zi'ear	K	24
Dawson, James Elliott	04	25
Brisco, Jha'ni	P4	27
Mitchell, DreLeigh	03	30



November STAFF Birthdays:

Coach Collier

November 3rd
(PE Teacher)

Ms. Brown

November 9th
(KG Teacher)

Ms. Davis

November 28th
(2nd Grade Teacher)



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