



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

OCTOBER 2025 Edition

SLPS Strategic Values



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 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.



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Upcoming Events

**FRIDAY
Oct 24TH**
PEP RALLY PROUD
TO BE DRUG FREE
WEAR COLUMBIA
GEAR: RED OR
BLACK

**MONDAY
Oct 27TH**
TURN YOUR BACK ON
DRUGS
WEAR YOUR
CLOTHES
BACKWARDS

**TUESDAY
Oct 28TH**
BE ALL YOU CAN BE
STAY DRUG FREE
DRESS YOUR
BEST OR FAVORITE
OUTFIT

Students & Staff
are invited to
participate in a
week of spirit to
celebrate our
choice to be
DRUG FREE

**Red Ribbon
Week
2025
COLUMBIA
ELEMENTARY**

LIFE IS A
PUZZLE
SOLVE IT
DRUG FREE

**WEDNESDAY
Oct 29TH**
FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS
WEAR PAJAMAS

**THURSDAY
OCT 30TH
TEAM UP
AGAINST DRUGS
WEAR SPORTS
GEAR**

**FRIDAY
OCT 31ST**
SCARE DRUGS AWAY
WEAR COSTUMES
NO
GUNS, WEAPONS, MASK

**ELEMENTARY
AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
EXPO**

AT THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP BUILDING
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

3672 WEST PINE MALL, ST. LOUIS, MO 63108
(FREE PARKING LOCATED ON 3634 LACLEDE STREET)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 5:30 - 8:00 PM

SCHOOLS FEATURED
NEIGHBORHOOD ★ MAGNET ★ GIFTED

PARENTS COME LEARN ABOUT
OUR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE
SCHOOL CHOICES FOR 2025-2026

REFRESHMENTS AND LIGHT DINNER

FREE ENTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION
STEPHEN.ANDERSON@SLPS.ORG

RSVP by
October 14th

SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY



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/42d5ilx>

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!



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/wTSIGUG2th>

Contact us at esac@umsl.edu with questions.

Hosted by the Counseling & Social Advocacy Center @ UMSL



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



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Middle School Here I Come (5th Grade Students)

Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts Middle School is excited to host its “**Middle School, Here I Come**” event on **Thursday, October 23, 2025**, from **12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**.

During the visit, students will have the opportunity to:

- Enjoy a showcase of the arts
- Touring the school and learning more about the middle school experience

This event is open to all 5th grade students.

Please note Carr Lane is unable to provide transportation for this event.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Ms. DeJeanette Williams, Guidance Counselor

DeJeanette.Williams@slps.org

(314) 231-0413

Columbia Elementary School's Annual Candy War

Get ready for some friendly competition! Throughout the month of **October**, each classroom will compete in a **Candy/Treat War** to help stock up for our **Annual Trunk or Treat Harvest Fest** on **Friday, October 31, 2025**.

Each student in each class is encouraged to bring in candy and treats, which will be used for this fun community event. The classroom that collects the **most treats by Thursday, October 30, 2025**, will win an exciting **PIZZA PARTY!**

Let us come together, show our school spirit, and make this the best Trunk or Treat yet.

Let the best classroom win!

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.



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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

iPads

A contract needs to be signed by each student's parent or legal guardian. iPads cannot be given out to the students until the contract is signed. Parents must sign for their child's technology in Focus. If you have any questions about Focus, please contact our Family Support Specialist, Ms. Davis (Ebony.Davis2@slps.org).

No School

Friday, October 10, 2025: Staff Record Keeping Day/Wellness Day

Friday, October 17, 2025: Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conference Week

Before Care & After Care Update

Our before care and after care programs are now full, however we do have a waitlist. Please contact Secretary Hearn to be placed on the waitlist

Our Programs runs Monday-Thursday:

Before Care 7:05 AM- 8:04 AM (student will not be admitted to before care after 7:45 AM)

After Care 3:30 PM-6:00 PM

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

October Staff Record Keeping/Wellness Day: Friday, October 10, 2025

Parent/Guardian/Teacher Week: Monday, October 13 – Thursday October 16, 2025

October Staff Meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2025



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Parent University

Parent University is a series of workshops offered by the school district, designed to support and empower parents in their role as partners in their children's education.

The goal is to provide parents with tools, resources, and knowledge to help their children succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

Topics might include:

- Understanding curriculum and academic expectations
- Supporting homework and study habits
- Navigating social-emotional development
- Learning about school policies and resources
- Technology use and online safety
- College and career readiness

Parent University sessions are interactive, informative, and aimed at building strong home-school partnerships.



Parent University

Parent University is designed to empower parents with the skills and confidence to equip parents with the knowledge to become effective advocates and leaders for their children.

5:30PM-7PM (Light Dinner Served at 5PM)

Thursday, Sept 4th

Thursday, Oct. 2nd

Thursday, Nov. 6th

Thursday, Dec. 4th



Childcare Provided

SLPS Central Office
801 N. 11th St. 63101

www.slps.org/ParentU



Character Education Word of the Month: Self Control

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 Self-Control this month. What is self-control?

Self-control the ability to resist temptations, make thoughtful decisions, regulate emotions, stay focused, and persist in the face of obstacles. Please continue to encourage your children to show self-control.

Magnet School Application Update

The magnet application is open and will close at 11:59pm on 11/7/2025. Families can still apply after the deadline, but their student(s) will not be included in the first lottery so they may not get first choice.

Families will need to use their Focus account. If families have trouble please contact School Counselor, Ms. Hanna (Margaret.Hanna@slps.org). Here is the website for Magnet: <https://www.slps.org/Page/78488>



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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.

Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conference

Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences will be taking place on the following dates/times:

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 3:30 PM- 6:45 PM

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 3:30 PM- 6:45 PM

To ensure meaningful and productive conversations about your child's progress, *all parent-teacher conferences should be scheduled in advance*. Families who book appointments will be given priority during conference times.

We kindly ask that you schedule directly with your child's teacher via email.

****Please note that walk-ins may be asked to wait or return at a later time, depending on availability.****

Avoid the wait and sign up today to secure your preferred time!

For more information or to schedule your appointment, please contact your child's teacher by email.

Teacher's Name	Grade Level	Email	Room #
Richmond-Brooks	PreK	LaKesia.Richmond-Brooks@slps.org	002
Adams	PreK	Tauwa.Adams@slps.org	001
Marci	KG	Marci.Nemtzow@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
Dunbar	2 nd	Brittani.Dunbar@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



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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, October 21, 2025.

Fall Picture Day at Columbia: Friday, November 7, 2025

Your child(ren) must be registered online, prior to Picture Day. See details on the flyer

FREE BACKGROUNDS	PHOTO PACKAGES	CUSTOMIZE YOUR PICTURE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 07, 2025	POSE SELECTION EXAMPLES A \$75 >> FREE IMAGE CD >> FREE 5 OR 6 (2) 8x10 (4) 5x7 (8) 3.5x5 (8) 2x3 B \$65 (2) 8x10 (4) 5x7 (4) 3.5x5 (8) 2x3 C \$50 BEST VALUE! >> FREE 5 OR 6 (2) 8x10 (2) 5x7 (4) 3.5x5 (8) 2x3 D \$45 (1) 8x10 (2) 5x7 (4) 3.5x5 (8) 2x3 E \$35 GREAT VALUE! >> FREE NAME (2) 5x7 (4) 3x3.5 (8) 2x3 F \$30 (1) 5x7 (4) 3x3.5 (8) 2x3 G \$25 (2) 3.5x5 (8) 2x3 H \$20 (8) 2x3 I \$5 IMAGE CD (UNLIMITED PRINTS!!) Students who have prepaid for picture packages will attend the portrait session. SCAN HERE TO ORDER YOU MUST ORDER ONLINE [EVEN IF SENDING CASH OR MONEY ORDER] WWW.MAKINGOFAMODEL.COM	1 3D YEAR 2 NAME 3 ADD A FAMILY 4 NAME YEAR 5 NAME YEAR, DOUBLE EXP. 6 NAME YEAR, MINI ME 1 \$3 = 3D YEAR 4 \$8 = NAME & YEAR 2 \$5 = NAME 5 \$13 = NAME, YEAR, DOUBLE EXP. 3 \$10 = ADD A FAMILY 6 \$13 = NAME, YEAR, MINI ME CUSTOMIZE YOUR PICTURE 1-4 ARE ADD-ONS TO PHOTO PACKAGES

FOR QUESTIONS CALL US
557-204-4402



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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)/Coach Collier (Deonte.Collier@slps.org) for Basketball and Coach Hearn (Jocalyn.Hearn@slps.org) for Cheerleading. **More information to come!**

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.

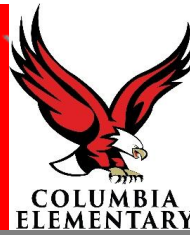
Important October Calendar Dates:

- Entire Month of October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month
National Bully Prevention Month
- Friday, October 10th: Quarter 1 Ends
No School (Record Keeping/Wellness Day)
- Monday, October 13th: Quarter 2 Begins
- October 14th & 15th: Parent-Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, October 14th, 2025, 3:30 PM- 6:45PM
Wednesday, October 15th, 2025, 3:30 PM- 6:45 PM
- Monday, October 13th -Thursday, October 16th: No Before Care/Afterschool
- Friday, October 17th: No School (Parent/Guardian/Teacher's Conference Week)
- October 24th-31st: Red Ribbon "Drug Free" Spirit Prevention Week
- Friday, October 31st: Trunk or Treat Harvest Festival (students can wear Non- Scary/Non-Gruesome costumes. NO BLOOD/MASKS/WEAPON PROPS)



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Happy Birthday to ALL students and staff with OCTOBER Birthdays 😊



OCTOBER STAFF Birthdays:

Mrs. Tate

October 16th

(Academic Instructional Coach)

Ms. Storz-Scherer

October 30th

(Art Teacher)

Student	Grade	Birthday
Oliver, Madison	01	09
Deal, Malcolm Lee	03	13
Hall, Ava	P4	13
Jackson, Autumn Marie	K	13
Watkins, Jacari Keon Malik	01	13
Bondon, Brisen Antonio	03	14
Moss, Xavier Joshua	05	14
Smith Jr., Jordan	P3	15
Bailey, Zayvion Armond	01	17
Holder, Jahshif K	04	18
Watkins, Lars Aodhan	03	18
Williams, Zayvion	P4	18
Wooten, Ar'Rick Lamont	05	19
Dorsey, Angel	P4	20
Ashford, Natalia D	04	21
Clark, Sa'Ryah	K	22
Cole, Jerrell Jaycee	04	25
Davis, Amarion Gregory	P3	28
Watson, Zi'lah M	02	29
Byes, Nayshon Stephen	05	30