



# Columbia Community Education

Annual School Improvement Report  
2008/2009

Columbia School District

CCE  
4600 North Lake Rd  
Clarklake, MI 49234  
517-529-9400

Principal: Ralph Piepkow  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Columbia School District, in partnership with the community, will provide a safe and positive learning environment, which will prepare ALL students to contribute and compete in a global society.

### PROFILE INFO

- Grade Span 8-12
- Number of Students 72
- Attendance Average 83 %
- Teacher/Student Ration 21-1
- School Organization 9th-12th grade, Adult Education, Special Education, Youth Enrichment.
- Cultural Diversity American Indian 1%, African American 2%, White 97%
- Student Retention 15%
- At-Risk 69% of student population
- Free Lunch— 59 students
- Reduced Lunch— 8 students
- Graduation Rate: 19% (See Pg 5 of District Report.
- Employability Skills: Character Education, Portfolio/Community Service, Career Cruising, Social Skills Education and Current Events.



	ED YES	MADE AYP
	Composite Grade	
2008-2009:	No Grade ___	_Yes___
2007-2008:	_D___	_No___
2006-2007:	_D___	_No___

### HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Research shows teacher quality correlates with student academic achievement. Highly qualified teachers go hand-in-hand with a quality education. Under the State of Michigan guidelines and the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, all Columbia School District teachers are certified and highly qualified.

### FACULTY AND STAFF

- Ralph Piepkow, Director
- Justin Claucherty, Science
- Melissa Francis, Social Studies
- Lisa Klink, English
- Josh Kubiak, Math
- Jessica Sexton, Resource Teacher
- Robin Tackett, Student Services
- Lindsey Johns, Child Care
- Jeanne Meinka, Secretary

## Community Education

Approximately 1000 adults and children were involved in the 21 classes offered during the 2008-2009 school year. The following is a list of classes that were available:

- Night school (p.m.)
- Summer School (2 sessions)
- Spanish
- Water Color Painting
- Guitar lessons
- Boaters Safety
- Bitty Basketball
- Cheerleading clinic

- Boys Elementary Basketball
- Girls Elementary Basketball
- JR. High Basketball
- CMS Football
- Pee Wee Football
- CMS Track
- Fall/Spring Soccer
- Girls Golf
- Golf Camp
- Volleyball Clinic
- Wrestling Clinic
- Off road safety class.

### Parent/Community Involvement

Parent and Community Involvement. We have a Spaghetti Dinner/Parent Appreciation night scheduled for fall. We are looking at ways to improve our parent participation. Possibly monthly parent meetings and community service presentations.



Principal Ralph Piepkow

*“Columbia Options High School serves youth seeking another option for their secondary education. In a small, caring, student centered learning environment, we customize our students programs to address individual needs. We encourage respect, by all individuals in the learning process. Teachers have the right to teach, students have the right to learn and Failure is not a Option here at Columbia Options High School.*



Graduating Class of 2008/2009

### **GOAL: Students will increase writing across the curriculum.**

#### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Students will write daily in journals for Science class.
2. Students will write “bell ringer” questions in Social Studies class.
3. Students will define new math terms at the start of each chapter.
4. Students will write 3 essays per 6 week marking period in English class.

#### **RESULTS:**

1. Students wrote daily in their journals.
2. Students did and will continue to do “bell ringer” questions. It is a effective warm up to classroom topics. Reinforces prior knowledge and used learned information.
3. Defining math terms keeps students alert to changes and concept with in their defined Math class. They are able to keep expanding by using prior information gathered in class.
4. Students succeeded in writing assigned essays. Using Collins writing approach students wrote 3 type 4 essays every 6 weeks.

We will be continuing this into the 2009/2010 school year. One of our building goals is to increase our MEAP/ACT/MME writing score.

### **GOAL: Failure is not an option. Decrease drop of out rate by 5%.**

#### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Calling students homes when not present.
2. Give extra credit in each class to students who have excellent attendance during a marking period.
3. Provide financial incentives (through titled monies) for good attendance.
4. Utilize Saturday School, after school, Liaison officer, and student service worker.

#### **RESULTS:**

1. Calling parent/guardians to find out where students are let them know we are keeping heads up on attendance.
2. Students in science class were given extra credit for good attendance. It helped boost attendance and in some cases grade given in class.
3. Students utilized Saturday school, they were able to make up class work and missing days while allowing them to gain credit for the marking period. Students had access to student service worker. Aiding them with the services that they need or matched them up with community programs.

\*See pg. 5 of District Annual Report

This is goal is one that we will continue with for 2009/2010 school year. It is part of our Failure is not an Option program. We were able to see a measurable decrease in our drop out rate compared to last years numbers.



**GOAL: Improve percentage of students who pass ACT/MME by 2%.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Have 6 week classes for 11th grade students taking the test, in each subject area, devoted to preparation for the test.
2. Use textbooks that are aligned with the MME curriculum.
3. Offer the plan test to 10th grade students.

**RESULTS:**

1. Facilitated ACT/MME preparation class. Students participated in on-line and classroom work to prepare for testing.
2. Books are aligned according with curriculum. New books being purchased as needed.
3. Plan test not available at this time. Currently considering testing during next school year.

We put measures in place to help test scores. Professional Development being one of those tools we used and will continue to use to improve test scores.



Jeannie Meinka and her husband Terry coached the co-ed softball team. Pictured is Ralph Piepkow, Principal. Andrew Navarre, Josh Gubics, Alexandra Jurasket, Krista Hatto, Karl Chesser, Ben Garrison, Kaiden Phillips, Jeanne Meinka, Jeff Zaszczurynski, Jennifer Ramsey, Terry Meinka, Brad Marcyan and Mikal Mersereau.

Columbia Options attended the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association State Tournament in Southgate this past May. This is a state league that is set up for Alternative schools to participate. Columbia Options has been a part of the MAAA for over 10 years. It encourages team work, leadership and sportsmanship.

## Special Programs and Community Involvement

English teacher Lisa Klink is piloting a program with her English students during the 09/10 year. It will facilitate on-line discussion forums where her students will be able to participate in a range of discussion forums. Lisa Klink will be using a program called Moodle which is hosted through Jackson County Intermediate School District. It is an online learning system which will engage in substantial conversation remaining focused on subject matter with interchanges building on prior responses or partial conversation or other interactions. It will be a great benefit to our program.

We have other Special programs available to our students.

Special Education-Resource Room  
Student Service Worker  
ISD Social Worker  
Career Center  
Career Cruising

We have had several guest speakers throughout the school year. We have linked students with several outside services to help meet their individual needs. Through referrals from our Student Service worker our students have access to Jackson County programs that are suited to fit their individual needs. We have worked with Jackson County Health Department, Community Action Agency, FIA, Lifeways, Bridgeway, Free Clinics, Center for Family Health all to help meet the needs of our students we are constantly looking for community resources to benefit our students.

*40 % of our teaching staff have earned master's degrees or higher.*



Columbia Options Basketball team. Coach Justin Claucherty. Micah Shaw, Brian Collins, Jim Ellinwood, David Farmer, Toby Burlison, Jeff Zaszczurynski, Josh Kalbarchick, Jackie Bailey and Chelsea Vandenburg.



**COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Brent Beamish, Superintendent

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**STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Columbia School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic, in its programs and activities.

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

2008-2009:	___57%___
2007-2008:	___62%___
2006-2007:	___52%___

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE FOR 2009/2010 IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 21, 2009.

**POINTS OF PRIDE**

- Six week marking periods. Achieve success and credit every six weeks.
- Smaller school setting kids take ownership and pride in their school. Students help to keep the school clean. Also participate in interior and exterior projects.
- Seniors have a choice between doing a traditional portfolio or doing community service project. They must do required number of community service hours and provide necessary documentation and fulfill all parts of service project.

At Columbia Community Education we are the only Adult Education program in Jackson County. We provide High School completions and G.E. D. preparation for any student over the age of 20.

Character Education is part of our curriculum. We offer a 6 week class on the basic principals of Character education. We teach and do classroom exercises on Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship and Integrity. We place a large emphasis on Respecting others and they will respect you.

**CORE AND EXTENDED CURRICULUM**

Columbia School District has a comprehensive curriculum in the four core content areas. Curriculum documents in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies include content expectations, student friendly language, instructional strategies and common assessments. These guides were developed by teachers to aid in creating a quality curriculum guide for all staff. Our documents are revised and updated based on teacher use, input and state mandates. Our curriculum documents are aligned with the Michigan's Curriculum Framework and Content Expectations.

Columbia Community Education also has curriculum offerings in...

- Adult Education
- Summer School
- G.E. D. Preparation
- Night School Classes
- Alpha Math
- Alpha Reading
- Saturday School Classes
- Accelerated Math
- Career Interests



**Core Beliefs**

All Students can learn  
Failure is not an Option  
All students need a safe and positive learning environment.  
The family and community are integral parts of the educational system.  
Character Education and achievement will promote life long learning.  
All students can positively impact and contribute to our community and the global society.