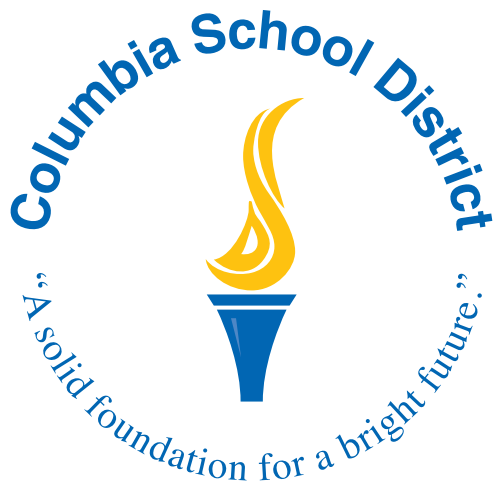


Mission Statement

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

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Powerful Flight of the Eagle

A few years ago we featured on the front page of a *Torchbearer* edition, an innovative class being offered at the middle school that introduced students to media production and the *Friday Afternoon Live* show was created. This was a weekly show written, produced and starring students from the middle school. Three years ago five of these students graduated to the high school and wanted to continue this format as an after school activity with the hope to produce a news program for the high school. The students received encouragement from high school administrators and they began to organize and build on the foundation provided to them at the middle school under the tutelage of Mr. Bill Cryderman. Their enthusiasm soon became apparent and our then Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Dena Dardzinski mentored the students further by providing information on applications for grants as well as field visits to the People Channel and JTV. Those visits were also highlighted in the *Torchbearer*. Now today there is a complete production com-

pany at the high school with production teams, organizational flow charts, mission statements, visual and audio departments, photo editing management, job titles and descriptions, research and development, anchor team, green screen applications, upgraded technology and associated equipment, and a graphic department. Their news program is the *Golden Eagle Report*. It is a full-length media program viewed by the entire student body every week. They have several segments highlighting *Sports Central*, which are current sports supported by action footage and athlete interviews. *News Highlights* which showcase school events covering areas from academic to art and music. They offer a synopsis of world events and how it affects students. They give a weather report for the upcoming weekend and have various commercials to offset some of their expense. Matt Blumhardt serves as Executive Producer & Assistant News Correspondent and strives to have all the students from researchers to anchors feel equally involved in the production. Student, Orin Foster is the Head News Correspondent & Public Relations Representative and he stated, "There is a lot of hard work and dedication involved at every level...we just make it look easy." This year High School Principal, Mr. Dave



Slusher provided two rooms for the production company to set up their business with class time scheduled and supervised by teacher, Mr. Dave McDevitt. Students wanting to become involved with this activity are encouraged to complete an application. They are then interviewed prior to acceptance into the class. There are eighteen students currently involved and they spend countless hours after school and on weekends perfecting their product. When you visit these busy offices after school you will observe graphic designing, ongoing interviews, preparation by the anchors, cameramen, editing films, audio enhancements and just a beehive of enthusiastic activity. They love what they are doing and the experience they are gaining...and it shows! They also have a financial department that establishes fundraisers along with commercials to support the program. One of their stronger endeavors is the DVD production that they sell after graduation, prom, musical and senior video. They capture those precious memories and enhance it with a great laser label for the finishing touch. These young people are self-motivated to succeed, they have passionately sought additional training to improve their result, and they embrace the challenge while exhibiting enormous pride in the *Golden Eagle Report*. With the students obvious integrity and quality of work ethic, this Editor couldn't help but remember these eaglets at the middle school who have certainly grown to the full Eagle and all that it represents and once they graduate from high school, know they will take all they have learned and soar into their individual future.