



Discoverers 
OF
DISTINCTION INSIDE **PG 4-5**
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1964



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Inside

Your Voice Matters

We Need You on March 19th



2016

Linking the Past, Present and Future



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- Karina Perez, Class of '10
- Paige Norton, Class of '89
- Dr. Troy Loeffelholz
- Dennis Hirschbrunner, Class of '65

- Nicole Anderson, Class of '99,
Communications & Foundation Director
- Dr. Chip Kay, Superintendent, Ex-Officio
- Jen Augustin, Class of '05
- Candy Becher, Class of '69,
Board of Education Representative
- Doug Molczyk
Board of Education Representative

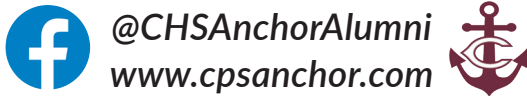
Committee Volunteers

- Shelly Schmidt, Class of '88
- Gayleen Hingst, Class of '60
- Shayna Cepel, Class of '11
- Abbi Hellbusch, Class of '02
- Jamie Ferguson, Class of '76

Past, Present, Future

On The Cover: (1964) This yearbook photo shows students from the class of 1964 rolling a king-sized snowball. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 5 inches of snow fell between February 2 and 3, 1964. **(2016)** Team members of the 2016 CHS Softball team are served Sno-Cones from Jeff Luebe of the sports booster club, in August of 2016.

Stay in Touch



@CHSAnchorAlumni
www.cpsanchor.com

The Columbus Public Schools Foundation wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch. Check out our Facebook page and website for an easy way to stay connected.



Your Voice Matters

We Need You on March 19th

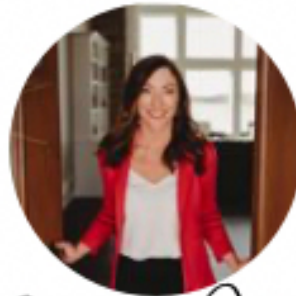
Columbus is growing—and Columbus Public Schools is growing right along with it. As enrollment climbs and new neighborhoods take shape across our community, the district faces a defining question: how do we ensure every student has the space and resources they need to thrive?

Right now, the numbers tell an urgent story. There are no open classrooms remaining at the elementary level. Columbus Middle School (grades 5–8) is operating near capacity. And with current planned developments projected to bring 479 additional stu-

dents into the district, large class sizes are only expected to grow. Schools including Centennial, West Park, North Park, and Lost Creek are all feeling the pressure—and the district is working to find solutions before the strain becomes a crisis.

One option still being explored is the creation of a new 4th – 5th Grade School, which could relieve overcrowding and help preserve the neighborhood school experience.

But this is a decision that should
SEE "URGENT" PG. 3



Jasper Owens

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"URGENT" FROM PG. 2 reflect the values and priorities of the entire Columbus community — not just district leadership.

That's why Columbus Public Schools is inviting you to the table.

On Thursday, March 19th, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Columbus Middle School, the district will host a Community Forum—a structured, facilitated conversation where residents can review key data, hear directly from the School Board and Superintendent, and weigh in on the path forward.

The district has partnered with Kordica to facilitate this important discussion, ensuring all voices are heard and that feedback is gath-

ered in a meaningful way. As a proud CPS alum and if you currently live within the district boundaries, your perspective carries real weight.

As someone who has experienced Columbus schools firsthand — or raised a child through them — you understand what makes this community's educational foundation strong, and what's at stake if we don't plan wisely for the future.

Attendees will be organized into small groups to share input directly with district leadership. That feedback will shape the district's next steps on a potential bond issue and long-term facility plans. Interpretation services will be available

SEE "FUTURE" PG. 3

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Anthony Krueger, MD Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology	Anthony White, MD Orthopedics	Jacob Oran, MD General Surgery	Lauren Jazwick, DO Otolaryngology	Christopher Veale, MD Radiation Oncology	Brandon Borer, DO Podiatry	Tara Sjuts, PhD Psychology	Matthew Piper, MD Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology	Jeremy Albin, MD General Surgery	Dillon Clarey, MD Dermatology	Michael Pitner, MD Orthopedics
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HONORARY INDUCTEE

RON CALLAN

RETIRED CHS SCIENCE TEACHER

A graduate of Peru State College with a degree in English and Biology, he joined Columbus High School

as a science teacher

in 1961. He then

earned a master's

degree in biology

from Emporia State

University in Kansas.



As a 40-year veteran

teacher, Mr. Callan was known as

an exceptional leader and person of

principle who exemplified courage and

creativity in the classroom. Alumni and

fellow staff members remember him as

a teacher who set high standards for

his students which earned him their

respect, resulting in the best learning

environment.

Forming bonds with his students

allowed him to better understand how

they each learned and allowed for more

critical thinking in the classroom. He

prepared many of his students with the

background to pursue careers as doc-

tors and in other science related fields.

In 1994, Callan was the recipient of the

Christa McAuliffe Prize for Courage and

Excellence in Education by the Univer-

sity of Nebraska -Lincoln's College of

Education and Human Sciences.

LEGACY INDUCTEES

JIM AND CONNIE HELLBUSCH | CLASS OF 1964 - CLASS OF 1966

Jim and Connie Hellbusch

are CHS alumni (1964 and

1966) whose vision, work

ethic, and commitment to

community helped build

Duo Lift Manufacturing

into a respected Nebraska

success story.

After graduating from the

University of Nebraska-

Lincoln, Jim returned to

Columbus in 1969 to join

the family business.

In 1981, he became pres-

ident of Duo Lift, guiding

its growth from wagon lifts

into a leading designer and

manufacturer of agricultural

trailers and fertilizer equip-

ment serving customers

across the nation. Jim has

served as a board member

and past president of the

Farm Equipment Man-

ufacturers Association,

the Nebraska Environ-

ment Trust Board and the

Nebraska Department of

Water and Environment

Board.

In 1981, Connie joined the

company, bringing organi-

zational leadership and a

strong sense of customer

service that helped sustain

Duo Lift's expansion in new

product lines and markets.

Beyond the business, Con-

nie emerged as a civic lead-

er, serving on the boards of

the CCH Hospital

Foundation, Columbus



Library Foundation, Unit-
ed Way, Columbus Area
Chamber of Commerce and
earning recognition for her
leadership and support of
local enterprises.

Together, they have been
honored repeatedly for their
contributions to agriculture,
small business, and the Co-
lumbus community, includ-
ing local, state, and nation-
al-level business awards and
agribusiness recognition.

Discoverers OF DISTINCTION



Induction celebration scheduled for April 16

The Columbus Public Schools Academic Hall of Fame honors alumni and those who have positively impacted Columbus Public Schools. We hope that from our inductees current students will take inspiration for their own education and adult lives.

The goals of the Columbus Public School Academic Hall of Fame are:

- To provide positive role models for the students of Columbus Public Schools.
- To recognize achievements of CPS alumni.
- To recognize those who have positively impacted Columbus Public Schools.

This year's event will take place on Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the American Legion. **Tickets may be purchased online at www.cpsanchor.com.**

LEGACY INDUCTEE

DR. BOB LOHR

CLASS OF 1968

Following graduation from CHS, Dr. Lohr earned his B.A. degree from Northwestern University and his M.D. from Northwestern

University Fein-

berg School of

Medicine. He

completed his

residency and

served as Chief

Medical Resident at

Hennepin County Medical Center

in Minneapolis, MN, launching a

distinguished career in internal

medicine, medical leadership, and

academic medicine.



Dr. Lohr has held numerous lead-

ership and faculty roles, including

Division Director, Department

Chair, and Chief of Medicine, in

Minneapolis before joining Mayo

Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. At

Mayo, he served as a consultant

in General Internal Medicine and

Health Care Policy & Research,

held academic appointments

within the Mayo Clinic College of

Medicine and Science, and now

serves as Assistant Professor of

Medicine emeritus.

A nationally recognized physician

leader, he has received multiple

honors, including Laureate Awards

from the American College of Phy-

sicians (ACP) and the Mayo Clinic,

Mastership in the ACP, and

recognition among the Top 20%

of Mayo Clinic educators. He has

contributed to medical education,

quality improvement, research,

and global health service volun-

teering locally and internationally,

while mentoring future physicians

and leaders.

LEGACY INDUCTEE

JUDGE TERRY MICHAEL | CLASS OF 1976

After graduating from Columbus High in 1976, Judge Michael attended Doane College on a National Merit Scholarship, graduating magna cum laude. He went on to law school at the University of Southern California, where he hosted Justice Thurgood Marshall during the Justice's visit in 1983.



Upon graduation from law school, he returned to Nebraska and practiced law in Omaha with the Baird Holm law firm until June 9, 1997, when he was appointed to serve as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

For 28 years, Judge Michael served as a jurist, mentor, professor, and scholar, presiding over tens of thousands of cases and authoring over two hundred published opinions. He was an adjunct professor of law at the University of Tulsa for over 20 years, a nationally recognized speaker on issues of bankruptcy law and ethics, and both served on or chaired numerous committees providing insight and advice on bankruptcy law and procedure.

He published articles in law reviews around the country and served as the Editor in Chief of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal, the nation's oldest publication dedicated to bankruptcy law.

LEGACY INDUCTEE

CHRISTIE HASENKAMP FREDERICK | CLASS OF 2003

Following graduation from Columbus High School in 2003, Christie continued her education as a Walter Scott, Jr. Scholar at the University of Nebraska's Peter Kiewit Institute, graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

She then went on to earn her Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska, serving as the graduate research assistant on a NCHRP project on precast prestressed concrete girders, which resulted in NCHRP Report 654 and a published article in the PCI Journal.

Christie began her career working as a structural engineer with Larson Engineering, focusing on ethanol plants and industrial facilities. She is currently a Senior Associate Structural Engineer at DLR Group in Omaha,

where she has designed a variety of buildings across the US, specializing in educational facilities.

Her work includes numerous K-12 school projects throughout Nebraska and the Midwest, including serving as the lead structural engineer of the current Columbus High School building. Christie is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer and an active member of the Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska.

Christie supports the next generation of engineers by mentoring students within the University of Nebraska's AE Team Design course and Scott Scholar program.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PREVIOUS INDUCTEES VISIT:
WWW.CPSANCHOR.COM/WHAT-WE-DO/DISCOVERER-ACADEMIC-HALL-OF-FAME/INDUCTEES.HTML

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"FUTURE" FROM PG. 3

for those who need them.

When: Thursday, March 19, 2026

| 6-7:30 p.m. **Where:** Columbus Middle School

This is your community. These are your schools. Please join us—and help chart the course for the next generation of Columbus students.

Questions? Contact Columbus Public Schools at 2410 16th Street, Suite A, Columbus, NE. 68601 or calling 402-563-7000.



DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

September 3rd, 2025



Get tickets for the 2026 Induction Ceremony by scanning the QR code and clicking "Register Now."

This year's event will be hosted at the Prime 10 Steakhouse and Venue located at 4174 63rd Ave., Columbus, NE.

Time to mark you calendars! Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1966 - 60th Reunion

1966 - SAVE the Date. The 60th class reunion will be held during Columbus Days, August 7-8. More information to follow. Please contact the CPS Foundation office if your address has changed.

Class of 1971 - 55th Reunion

CHS Class of 1971 55th reunion will be held August 14th and 15th, 2026. The group will be enjoying both evenings at Riverland RV Park. The agenda is TBD. Contact Marjorie Koefoot (Siems) at mkoefoot@gmail.com.

Class of 1976 - 50th Reunion

1976 - 50th Reunion will be on August 1, 2026 meet at 7:00 p.m. for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Eagles Club in Columbus, \$35.00 per person. Payments can be made to Cindy Diederich at 19810 Taylor Street, Omaha, NE 68135 RSVP by June 20, 2026. Casual gathering on Friday, July 31, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Maximus. Those interest in a tour of CHS on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 9 a.m. contact Linda Krumland at fatcatz@neb.rr.com or 402-270-2060. Our Facebook page is CHS Class of 1976-NE.

1981 - 45th Reunion

1981 - 45th Reunion Planning Committee is planning a reunion for 2026. More information to follow.

2006 - 20th Reunion

2006 - 20th Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Micek's Bar.

1958 - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

1959 - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1966 - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (always on odd months) at Pizza Ranch at 11:30 a.m.

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Tickets on sale for 2026 Athletic Hall ceremony 7

The banquet will be held Sept. 3rd; Inductees to be recognized at the Friday, Sept. 4th home football game against Norfolk

Individuals

- **Dick Goc**
1960 Track - State Runner Up 100 yard dash
- **Jon Cole**
1971 Track - State Champion 880 yard run
- **Stuart Bullington**
1970 Football - All State 2nd Team
- **Linda Svoboda**
1980 Track - State Runner Up long jump
- **Tara Went**
1988 Track - State Champion 300 meter low hurdles
- **Austin Carmichael**
2007 State Wrestling Champion 140 lbs & 2008 State Champion 145 lbs.

Golden Era Award

- **Arnold Oehrich**
1923 Football All Nebraska 3rd Team
- **Roy Houdersheldt**
1923 Track State Champion 440 yard dash & State Runner up 880 yard run
- **Llewellyn Watke**
1924 State Runner Up Pole Vault
- **Ward Diederich**
1943 State Champion Mile Run, All Class Gold
- **George "Nick" Rambour**
1948 Track - State Runner Up Discus
- **Herman Person**
1949 Track - State Runner Up 120 yard hurdles

Coach

- **Andrea Smejkal**
Girls Soccer, 2005 State Runner Up

Discoverer Award

- **Discoverer Sports Booster Founding Members**
Members: Doug Williams, Tom Hunt, Prent Roth, Larry and Susie Kobus, Marv Zoucha, Chuck Francis, Bill Ingold, Jerry Brockmeier
- **Steve Heiser**
1st Academic All-American Football Player from CHS
- **Dave McNair**
2022 World Masters Athletic Championships, Gold medal sprint hurdles, silver medal 300 hurdles.

Teams

- **1976 Girls Golf State Runner Up**
Members: Cathy Curry, Karin Saalfeld Leatherberry, Denise Thomsen, Joan Olsen; **Coach** Denny Bargaen.
- **1976 Wrestling Team State Runner Up**
Members: Wayne Wong, Jim Sackett, Ken Ryba, Mike Bartholomew, Mike, Quinn, Jamie Ferguson, Mike Hengler, Kirk McAndrew, Rudy Glur, Craig Person, Collyn Florendo, Tim Arlt, Craig Marsh, Scott Ferguson; **Coaches** Kevin Nolan and Lanny Neese.
- **1982 Boys Swimming Medley Relay - State Champion**
Members: Barry Whitney, Chris Van Dyke, Pete Hoffman, Steve George; **Coach** Hal Wetherford.
- **1996 Boys Basketball State Runner Up**
Members: Chris Richardson, Darren Ivy, Josh Svoboda, Jeff Bures, Nate Warner, Ward Behlen, Kelly Berglund, Nathan Blessen, Dan Kolder, Bruce Zabel, Eric Preister, Marc Modelski, Jeremy Frazer, Troy Watchorn, Mike Schaefer, Ross Wurde-man; **Coaches** Bob Hopp and Tom Nelson.



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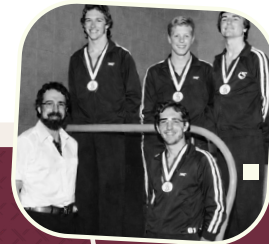
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'82 Boys
Swimming



The Anchor

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SPRING 2026

Discoverers
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PAGES 4-5 Read the
biographies of the latest
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