

August 2021

CENTRAL COLUMBIA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

we are excellence in education

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

As you all know, the past 18 months have been very challenging for our community. Although we have taken enormous pride in Central Columbia's ability to navigate the COVID pandemic, it certainly has been exhausting. It is through the combined efforts of our district employees, health care professionals, students, and parents that we have been able to maintain a safe school environment. Often, communities who excel in solving problems are communities who unite as one to defeat issues that they are facing.

Unfortunately, views on the best methods to safely return to school amidst the pandemic are incredibly wide-ranging. These decisions have divided our country and over the last few months, it has become very apparent that our local community is no different. As your superintendent, I ask only that we all continue to prioritize our students and keep them as our focus.

There is no doubt that in-person learning in front of our extremely talented educators is best for our students. As the new Delta variant enters our communities, please keep in mind that every decision made will have our students' education and safety at the forefront. It is so important that we keep Central Columbia's doors open, fill our classrooms, and teach our kids the essential academic and social skills to be successful.

Central Columbia School District is a great place to be educated. We have a lot of exciting initiatives being developed for the 2021-2022 school year and are excited to see all our students once again on August 26th.

Go Blue Jays!

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The Central Columbia School Board approved the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar on March 15, 2021.

Central Columbia School Calendar 2021-2022

| July 2021 | July | January 2022 | January | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | <p>5 Independence Day - Offices Closed</p> | <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | <p>17 Teacher In-Service - No School 24 MS/HS 2nd Qtr Ends</p> | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | <p>20 New Staff Orientation 23-24 Teacher In-Service - No School 26 First Day of School</p> | <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | <p>21 President's Day - No School/Offices Closed 25 MS/HS Progress Reports</p> | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | <p>6 Labor Day - No School/Offices Closed 24 Act 80 Day/Teacher In-Service - Early Dismissal (MS/HS Noon Dismissal / ES 1:00pm Dismissal) 27-30 Fair Week - No School/Offices Closed</p> | <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | <p>4 Act 80 Day/Teacher In-Service - No School 8 ES Trimester Ends 29 MS/HS 3rd Qtr Ends</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | <p>1 Fair Week - No School/Offices Closed 5 MS/HS Progress Reports</p> | <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | <p>14-18 Easter Break - No School/Offices Closed</p> |
| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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- School Holidays - No School/Offices Closed
- First Day of School
- Last Day of School
- Teacher In-Service - No School for Students
- New Staff Orientation
- Act 80 Day/Teacher In-Service - Early Dismissal
- Act 80 Day/Teacher In-Service - No School for Students
- Graduation - will be the Saturday after the 179th day of school

School Cancellations will be made up as follows:
 1st June 7, 2022
 2nd June 8, 2022
 3rd June 9, 2022
 4th June 10, 2022
 * Additional school cancellations will extend the school year beyond June 10, 2022.

*Board Approved 3/15/2021

OPEN HOUSE/ORIENTATIONS TO BE HELD

This year's Open House/Orientations are scheduled as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Sunday, August 22 | 9 th Grade Orientation | 1:00-2:00pm (HS) |
| Sunday, August 22 | Community Open House | 2:00-4:00pm (HS) |
| Sunday, August 22 | 5 th Grade Orientation | 4:00-5:30pm (MS) |
| Sunday, August 22 | 6 th -8 th Grade Open House | 5:30-7:00pm (MS) |
| Monday, August 23 | Kindergarten Orientation | 5:30-7:00pm (ES) |
| Tuesday, August 24 | ES "Meet the Teacher Night" (Grades 1-4) | 5:30-7:00pm (ES) |

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS & MEETINGS

Generally, the Central Columbia School Board (comprised of nine members) holds a regular board meeting on the third Monday of each month at 6pm in the district office board room. Residents are welcome to attend.

School Board Members

2021-2022 School Board Meeting Dates

Region #1 – Scott Township

Adam Bowman, Bruce Rhoads, Elaine Spicher

Monday, August 16

Monday, September 20

Monday, October 18

Monday, November 15

Monday, December 6

*Monday, January 17

*Monday, February 14

*Monday, March 7

*Monday, March 21

*Monday, April 11

*Monday, May 2

*Monday, May 16

*Monday, June 20

Region #2 – Mifflin & South Centre Townships

Charles Chyko, Robert Fogarty, Tara Mowery

Region #3 – Mt. Pleasant, North Centre, Orange Twps., And Orangeville Boro

Steve Crawford, Tyson Hale, Catherine O'Neil

*Tentative Dates

SCHOOL EXTENSIONS & HOURS

Universal District Phone Number (570) 784-2850

Elementary School

Telephone Extension #1

Office Hours 8:00am-4:30pm

Student School Hours 8:25am-3:35pm

Middle School

Telephone Extension #2

Office Hours 7:00am-3:30pm

Student School Hours 7:45am-2:45pm

High School

Telephone Extension #3

Office Hours 7:00am-3:30pm

Student School Hours 7:45am-2:45pm

District Office

Telephone Extension #4

Office Hours 7am-3:30pm

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In case of an early dismissal, late start, or school closing, the following are called to notify the public:

*WNEP – Channel 16

*WYOU – Channel 22

*WBRE – Channel 28

*WHLM – 103.5FM

*WKRZ – 98.5FM

*KISS – 102.7FM

*WHLM – 930AM

*WFYY – 106.5FM

*WPGM – 96.7FM

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

STUDENT IPAD INSURANCE, SIMPLIFIED

Parents have the option to select the simplified student iPad insurance or opt-out and assume full responsibility to pay for the repair of a damaged iPad and replacement costs of missing technology. More detailed information can be found on the district website under “For Parents.”

On July 18, 2016, the School Board updated the “Student iPad Responsible Use Policy and Student/Parent Policy, 815.1; iPad Fees/Insurance.” Parents have the option of purchasing annual, non-refundable insurance for the iPad, the protective case, power adapters, and cables.

Insurance Costs are as follows:

| | Regular Lunch | Reduced Lunch | Free Lunch | No Insurance |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Yearly Insurance Cost | \$25 | \$15 | \$5 | N/A |
| iPad Replacement | \$20/\$80 | \$10/\$50 | \$10/\$50 | \$300 |
| Screen Replacement | \$15/\$20 | \$10/\$15 | \$5/\$10 | \$20 |
| AC Cord | \$5/\$10 | \$3/\$10 | \$2/\$10 | \$10 |
| AC Adapter | \$10/\$20 | \$8/\$20 | \$5/\$20 | \$20 |
| iPad Case | \$15/\$25 | \$10/\$25 | \$5/\$25 | \$25 |
| iPad Sleeve | \$15/\$25 | \$10/\$25 | \$5/\$25 | \$25 |

*Replacement costs for regular, reduced and free lunches are noted as 1st offense/additional offenses. No insurance is based on per offense.

Insurance eligibility is based on the Families National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Along with insurance cost, students are also subject to discipline related consequences based on Policy 815.1.

If insurance is not purchased, the student/parent is liable for the full replacement or repair cost as determined by the Technology Department.

Insurance Coverage Details:

- Accidental Damage: Pays for damage to the iPad on school property or any other location.
- Accidental Damage: Pays for accidental damage caused by liquid spills, drops, falls or collisions.
- Theft: Pays for loss or damage of iPad due to theft; providing the claim is made by the next school day and includes a copy of the official Police Report.
- Fire: Pays for loss or damage due to fire; providing the claim includes a copy of the official Fire Report from the investigating authority.
- Electrical Surge: Pays for damage of the iPad due to an electrical surge.

NOTE: Parent/Guardian may not substitute homeowner insurance or other personal insurance for district iPad insurance. All replacements are Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) replacements.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & UNLAWFUL ABSENCES

The PA Department of Education (PDE) defines chronic absenteeism to include any student who is absent for eighteen (18) days or more in a school year, regardless of cause. PDE further defines a school day as one where the student receives four or more hours of classroom instruction.

Both our School Board and student handbook policies have been modified in an effort to prevent chronic absenteeism by any student. Central Columbia now uses a new metric to approve students' family and educational trip requests and their inclusion on school-sponsored field trips. This metric is based on the requesting student's academic standing, disciplinary and attendance records at the time of the trip, and the actual trip justification. There is also a five (5) day family or educational trip limit per student per school year.

A maximum of ten (10) excused absences, verified by parental notification, will be allowed during any school year. For all absences beyond those ten (10) days, and any absences of three (3) consecutive days or more, a written excuse from a treating physician is mandated for an absence to be considered lawful. Physician excuses must include the date and time of the student's visit to their office. Parents shall submit the required written explanation or physician's note for any student absences within three (3) school days after the student's return to school. This can be done by the student delivering the excuse personally, or the parent sending the excuse electronically by email, to the school's attendance secretary. If a written excuse is not provided within that time, the absence will be counted as unlawful. Students who are absent from school for ten (10) consecutive school days shall be dropped from the active membership rolls unless the absence is partly or completely excused. School administrators reserve the right to mandate a chronically absent student recover missed class time before receiving credit for any course.

Central Columbia School District educates all students for success. Truancy is a barrier to the achievement of that goal. Habitual truancy negatively impacts a child's school performance and statistically increases the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. The Pennsylvania School Code has recently been revised to define compulsory school age of a child (the age that mandates school attendance) to be when the child turns six (6) years of age to when they turn eighteen (18) years old. A child of compulsory school age is defined as "truant" if they incur three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year. A child is "habitually truant" if the child has incurred six (6) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current year. Parents will be notified, in writing, within ten (10) school days after the child's third (3rd) unexcused absence. If the child continues to incur additional unexcused absences after this written notice, a Student Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) will be scheduled with the student and parent. The outcome of the SAIC will be documented in a written school attendance improvement contract signed by all parties. Further continuing unexcused/unlawful absences will result in a progression through the truancy elimination program defined by Pennsylvania school law, up to and including a referral to County Children and Youth, and the issuance of a citation to the parent or student. A person convicted of a violation of compulsory attendance laws may be sentenced to pay a fine, to perform community service, or be required to complete an appropriate course or program designed to improve school attendance. These penalties increase per offense, starting at \$300 with repeated violations set at a maximum of \$750.

Our School Board policy and student handbooks can be found on our website. The Pennsylvania School Code Attendance law can be found at: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=1949&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=014&chpt=13>.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

CENTRAL'S DRUG FREE POLICY

The policy, which determines how Central Columbia School District officials deal with students involved with alcohol, drugs, and controlled substances, was established 20 years ago and has served the district well over the years with only minor revisions.

This policy, which was approved by administration, School Board, and the district solicitor, applies to the use, possession, consumption, distribution or sale of the aforementioned substances.

After defining the terms controlled substances, drugs, prescription drugs, and alcoholic beverages, the policy stipulates that all substances brought into the school for the treatment of an existing condition must be registered with the school nurse at the time they are first brought onto school premises, and may be used only in accord with the instruction of the school nurse.

The policy then proceeds to group types of substance abuse violations into five (5) categories, from the least serious off-campus violation to the most serious on-campus distribution. On-campus violations allow for a student to be suspended for a period of up to two (2) weeks or pending a hearing, along with the possibility of probation. For an on-campus distribution, the student may be suspended for a period of time to be determined by the School Board after a proper hearing.

The policy defines probation by stating that a student subject to probation...shall continue to attend school, but shall be required to observe certain conditions relating to in-school conduct and behavior which may include, but need not be limited to:

- Prohibition of association with certain students
- Prohibition of any further violation of this policy
- Prohibition of participation in athletic or social functions
- Reporting at stated periods to appropriate persons for counseling
- Attending after school hours disciplinary detention or study hall
- Assisting in after school hours maintenance and rehabilitation programs
- Loss of driving privileges
- Placement in alternative education setting
- Such other conditions reasonably related to insuring a correction of the misbehavior or misconduct for which the probation was imposed

Violation of any condition of probation by a student shall, after a hearing, result in suspension, expulsion, or more restrictive probation, or continuation of studies outside school premises.

In each instance when a student is placed on probation or is suspended, the school authorities will endeavor to involve the student in appropriate rehabilitation experiences through the Student Assistance Program.

The school will attempt to arrange for psychological or social services appropriate to the student's needs. The school will continue to work closely with authorities and institutions, and in particular those within the community concerned with juveniles, and will seek their advice and assistance in dealing with students violating this policy. The school will make every effort to encourage cooperative action on the part of the offender, their parents, school personnel, and the agencies mentioned above, in planning a program of rehabilitation.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

SECURITY/RAPTOR

Notice to the Central Columbia School District regarding the implementation of addition security measures.

In our continuing effort to ensure the safe environment for our children and staff, our school district has acquired an identification verification system that will be utilized in all three (3) school buildings to log-in, add, and track visitors allowed to enter our buildings during the school day. This system also instantly checks all visitors through the national sex offender database. Once in our front office, visitors will no longer sign in and be issued a generic visitor's pass to display during their visit; instead, the system will now generate a pass for each visitor displaying their name, photograph, and date of visit.

This security measure does not replace our current security system and practices but will be used to enhance it. Visitors will still be screened before entering our buildings by displaying their identification through our camera system and stating their nature of business before entering the front office.

Due to implementing this new system, we remind all prospective visitors to our schools to bring their driver's license or state-issued photo ID with them in order to be issued a pass to enter. Failure to provide valid proof of identification will delay, and possibly prohibit, entry into our schools.

We thank you in advance for your compliance in this matter, and for allowing us the opportunity to better protect our school community. Any questions concerning this, and other security measures employed in our district, can be directed to Police Chief James Murtin at jmurtin@ccsd.cc

DIRECTORY INFORMATION NOTICE

The Central Columbia School District may disclose certain information, known as directory information, at its discretion without consent. Parents or eligible students may refuse to let the Central Columbia School District release any or all of this information. If you do not want this information released, you must send written notice annually to the District Office before October 1. The following information regarding students is considered directory information: 1) name, 2) photo, 3) email address, 4) home address, 5) telephone number, 6) date and place of birth, 7) major field of study, 8) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, 9) weight and height of athletic team members, 10) dates of attendance, 11) degrees and awards received, 12) the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO OF SCHOOL PUPILS

On occasion, the Central Columbia School District will photograph or videotape students for use in district publications, including the district website and social media platforms. In addition, newspapers and television stations may photograph or videotape students. Parents who do not want photographic or video images of their child(ren) to appear should send a letter to the Superintendent.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE DISTRICT

The Central Columbia School District encourages active participation and communication with and from all members of our community. This newsletter, the district website (www.ccsd.cc), press releases to the newspaper, and various district mailings are just a few ways in which we attempt to communicate to our serving public.

We also encourage questions and comments from the community. It is the policy (Policies 002, 326 and 906) of the Board of Education that contacts are made at the level closest to your area of concern. If concerns are not satisfactorily resolved at that level, then you should proceed to the next higher level of authority. For example, questions or comments about your child's classroom should be directed to the teacher. If not resolved, the concerns should be addressed to the building principal. If again not resolved, it should be referred to the Superintendent. Finally, if not resolved at that level, you may request, through the Superintendent, to meet with the School Board or appropriate School Board committee.

Specialized questions or comments include the following:

- Matters of business operations, food services, and transportation should be directed to the business administrator.
- Matters of school building personnel or student discipline should be directed to the appropriate building principal.
- Matters regarding School Board policy, school facilities, and an unresolved issue should be directed to the Superintendent.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

District Administrators and Staff have been working diligently on making the Central Columbia campus safe for our students and community members during these trying times. For more information on district education plans/options, safety precautions, etc., please visit the district's COVID-19 tab.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

We would like to advise parents/guardians of students regarding the event of an emergency at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant. Our first notification that a potential hazard exists will be announced “Alert.” Should the alert indicate that an escalation of the emergency might occur, the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall, at their discretion, dismiss all schools.

In the event that the emergency is severe, and that it escalates beyond the alert emergency classification level while the students are still at school the following procedures will be followed:

1. All students who reside **within a 10-mile radius** of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant will be transferred to the elementary school building where they should be picked up by their parents or guardians. This procedure will include students from the non-public schools. Parents/Guardians, or other persons authorized in writing to pick up students, will be required to provide identification at the pick-up point and sign a register prior to release of children to their custody.
2. All students who reside outside the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant 10-mile radius will be transported to their place of residence as buses become available. If you reside outside the 10-mile radius, we urge parents **not** to attempt to pick up their children. This will only create confusion.

All families should turn on their radios to the Local Emergency Broadcast System station in the event of an alert.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The Central Columbia School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. Parents/Guardians of students enrolled in the school may request prior notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the school’s notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, notify the district in writing. Please include your email address if you would like to be notified electronically.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Central Columbia School District recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The district shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. If you, or anyone you know is homeless, please contact Mrs. Christina Fish, at (570) 784-2850 ext 4004.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

TRANSPORTATION INFO

Transportation is provided for pupils in grades K through 12 to public and non-public schools as required by law. Any student whose behavior is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or refuses to follow directions may be denied the privilege of riding the school bus.

Student transportation information of stop name and stop times are posted in the Online Parent Portal.

It's recommended that students be at the bus stop **ten (10) minutes** before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Please wait a reasonable amount of time for the bus to arrive, as adverse weather conditions or traffic delays may alter the daily bus schedule. Busing concerns should be first directed to the Transportation Supervisor, Alyson Livziew, at (570) 784-2850 ext 4026.

Board policy 810 clearly spells out the district's transportation policy. The district provides transportation to and from one location throughout the year. **No changes will be made regarding bus stops during the first 2 weeks of school.*

TRANSPORTATION – VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING POLICY

The use of video and audio recording equipment supports efforts to maintain discipline and to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, contractors and others being transported on district-owned, operated, or contracted school buses or school vehicles.

School bus means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry eleven (11) passengers or more, including the driver, and is used for the transportation of pre-primary, primary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such school or school-related activities.

School vehicle means a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed for carrying no more than ten (10) passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of pre-primary, primary, or secondary school students while registered by or under contract to the school district. The term includes vehicles chartered, group and party rights under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used for the transportation of school children. The Board authorizes the use of video and audio recording on school buses and school vehicles.

The Board prohibits the use of audio recording on any school bus or school vehicle that is not being used for a school-related purpose.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to ensure that:

- Each school bus and school vehicle that is equipped with video and audio recording equipment contains a clearly posted notice informing drivers and passengers of the potential for video and audio recording.
- Parents/Guardians and students are annually informed of the policy authorizing video and recording on school buses and school vehicles through: a) the student handbook; b) annual posting in the district newsletter; and c) posting on the district website.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration for students new to the district is done online.

To start the K through 12 student registration process, go to www.ccsd.cc and select the 'For Parents' header menu and then select, 'Online Student Registration for CCSD' link. You may also go directly to <https://ccsd-sapphire.k12system.com/CommunityWebPortal/Registration/login.cfm> and follow the process.

- Each student needs to be enrolled in the appropriate school within the district (Elementary K-4; Middle 5-8; and High 9-12)
- **ONLY** a parent or legal guardian may register a child.
- To complete the online registration, please submit and/or bring the following paperwork for each child with you to the school for verification:
 - Birth Certificate for student (for elementary school original only, no copies).
 - Current immunization records (you may obtain from your doctor or ask current school for copy).
 - Two documents verifying Proof of Residency in the Central Columbia School District (lease or purchase agreement, utility bill, bank statement, tax notice, car registration, etc.)
 - If applicable, copy of most recent IEP, Agency Letter of Placement or Court Order, custody papers or agency letters.

If you need to contact a school regarding student registration questions, please call:

- ES Guidance Secretary, Lisa Houseknecht, at (570) 784-2850 ext 1002
- MS Guidance Secretary, Laurie Aten, at (570) 784-2850 ext 2412
- HS Guidance Secretary, Heather Kishbaugh, at (570) 784-2850 ext 3120

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Medication: Central Columbia School District will administer prescribed medication during school hours when absolutely necessary. When medication must be given during school hours, designated school personnel will be permitted to administer or supervise the self-administration of the prescribed medication. This medication must be provided in the original labeled pharmaceutical container and delivered to the school nurse by a parent/guardian. The request form, completed in its entirety, must be presented to the school nurse prior to the administration of the medication. This administration of non-prescription medications adheres to the aforementioned guidelines with the exception of the physician's signature. Permission for the administration of Tylenol, Motrin, Roloids, or Benadryl, available through the health office, is indicated on each student's medical update form by the parent or guardian. The parent/guardian must notify appropriate school personnel for medication administered at extra-curricular activities.

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STUDENT’S RIGHT PERTAINING TO ANIMAL DISSECTION

Former Governor Casey signed into law Act 1992-88, an Act amending the Public School Code of 1949. Section 15-1523, Title 24, PA consolidated Statutes, entitled, ‘Pupils’ Right of Refusal; Animal Dissection’, gives all students in public or non-public schools, from kindergarten through grade 12, the right to ‘refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture, or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of their course of instruction’. Should any parent and child elect to not dissect, vivisect, incubate, or participate in other activities harmful to animals, a letter should be sent to the teacher with a copy to the building principal, requesting an alternative educational project. The letter should be sent prior to the actual lesson so that arrangements can be made for alternate placement of the child on that day.

SPORTS TICKET INFORMATION

Season passes for Football, Girls/Boys Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls/Boys Basketball & Wrestling events are currently on sale in the High School Office along with All Sport passes. Passes are good for all home regular season, Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Junior High events during the 2021-22 school year. The costs of season passes are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Football | Adult - \$20 | Student - \$8 |
| Soccer & Field Hockey | | Adult - \$15 Student - \$5 |
| Wrestling | Adult - \$15 | Student - \$6 |
| Basketball | Adult - \$35 | Student - \$10 |
| All Sports Passes: | Adult - \$60 | Student - \$20 |

Regular Admission Prices:

| | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Varsity Football, Basketball, & Wrestling | Adult - \$5 | Student/Senior Citizen - \$2 |
| Varsity Soccer, Field Hockey & JV Football | Adult - \$3 | Student/Senior Citizen - \$1 |
| Jr. High Events | Adult - \$2 | Student/Senior Citizen - \$1 |

Senior citizens, 65 years and older, living in the Central Columbia School District are eligible for a free lifetime pass simply by picking one up in the High School Office.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is available for renters of residential properties who are at risk of eviction or utility shutoffs due to hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Residential tenants may apply for themselves, or a landlord may apply on behalf of a current tenant. If you are in need of assistance, don’t wait. Apply today at: www.dhs.pa.gov/erap.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

METZ CULINARY MANAGEMENT BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Welcome to the NEW model of food service at Central Columbia School District. We look forward to providing your children with the same healthy breakfast and lunch meals that our students are accustomed to! Also new for the 2021-2022 school year is our new partnership with Metz Culinary Management. Please visit metzculinary.com to view more info. We are excited to work closely with Metz Culinary Management and their team to provide continued great guest and student services!

GREAT NEWS! During the 2021-22 school year, ALL students will be eligible to receive breakfast and lunch FREE of charge. The USDA has approved FREE meals for all students through June 30, 2022. Parents/Guardians do not need to do anything further to receive FREE meals.

Despite students receiving free meals for the 2021-22 school year, we are encouraging families who have completed free and reduced applications in the past, or would like to be eligible for free and reduced meals in the future to complete a new application. This can be done through the district website at www.ccsd.cc or the COMPASS website at www.compass.state.pa.us. Paper applications are also available at each school office, nurse's office or the district administration building.

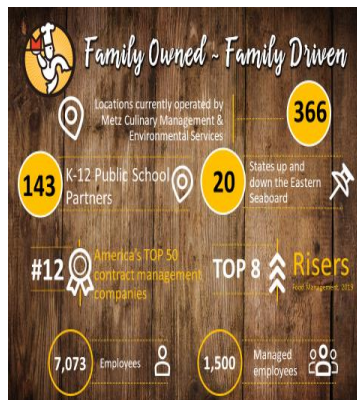
In anticipation of the 2022-23 school year, those who complete an application this year and are approved will have their eligibility carry over for the first 30 days of the next school year. You will still have the ability to complete a free and reduced application in the future as needed.

Online Payments for 2021-22: Central Columbia School District will continue to use www.myschoolbucks.com to review student transactions in the cafeteria, as well as, make online payments. Please note, a fee does apply to online payments. Cash and check payments will continue to be accepted as they have in the past.

Does your child have Food Allergies or Dietary Restrictions??

Central Columbia School District Food Service and Metz Culinary continue to be committed to serving our students a well-balanced, nutritious and healthy meal. We take the safety of our students with special dietary restrictions and allergies as a priority. We will make every effort to accommodate these needs. Our staff in all buildings have been trained to handle dietary restrictions and allergies, as well as, ways to avoid cross contamination with additional potential allergens.

If your child has a specific allergy or dietary restriction, please contact our office at (570) 784-2850 ext. 3426 or via email at ma1139@metzcorp.com for additional information. Please be sure to share this information with your child's teacher and school nurse!



BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

2021-22 Annual State Compliance Announcements

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT OF 2015 (ESSA) NOTIFICATIONS

- Parents shall have the right to inspect all instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, audiovisuals, and other supplementary instructional materials used in the instructional program in accordance with School Board Policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Such requests shall be in writing and submitted to the building principal.
- Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party prior to administration or distribution to a student. Such a request shall be in writing and submitted to the building principal.
- Parents have the right to inspect materials and opt out their child from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students.
- The school district shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards. Parents who believe their child qualifies for this program should contact the building principal.
- The school district shall provide a program to address the needs and provide appropriate services to migrant students attending the district's schools. Parents who believe their child qualifies for this program should contact the building principal.
- The school district shall provide a program to address the needs and provide appropriate services to homeless students attending the district's schools. Parents who believe their child qualifies for this program should contact the building principal.
- The school district provides health examinations and screenings as defined in School Board Policy 209. This policy states, "Parents/Guardians of students who are to receive physical and dental examinations or screenings shall be notified. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination or screening and notice that the parent/guardian may attend or may have the examination or screening conducted privately at the parents'/guardians' expense." Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade, conducted by the school physician. A private health and/or dental examination conducted at the parents'/guardians' expense will be accepted in lieu of the school examination. In addition, each student shall receive vision tests, hearing tests, height and weight measurements, tuberculosis tests, and other tests deemed advisable at intervals established by the district. Students may be exempted from such examinations or screenings if they conflict with the parent's religious beliefs.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

ESSA cont:

- The School Board permits the disclosure of required student information about secondary students to representatives of post-secondary institutes and to representatives of the armed forces of the United States. This disclosed information to recruiters routinely includes names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Parents have the right to request that information not be disclosed without prior written consent. Parents who desire to request that the district withhold this information should notify the building principal in writing.
- Parents of Title I students shall receive, upon request, information regarding the qualifications and academic degrees of any professional or paraprofessional who provides instruction/instructional support to their child. Parents desiring this informational should contact the building principal in writing.

PROGRAMS FOR ELIGIBLE OR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Central Columbia School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as a part of its school program for the purpose of identifying disabled students who may be in need of special education and related services (eligible students). Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

1. Autism
2. Deaf/Blindness
3. Deafness
4. Emotional Disturbance
5. Hearing Impairment
6. Mental Retardation
7. Multiple Disabilities
8. Orthopedic Impairment
9. Other Health Impairments
10. Specific Learning Disability
11. Speech and Language Impairment
12. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Visual Impairment

Potential signs of developmental delays and risk factors that might indicate disabilities include:

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HANDICAPPED STUDENTS cont.

Early warning signs: Preschool –

- Late talking, compared to other children
- Pronunciation problems
- Slow vocabulary growth, often unable to find the right word
- Difficulty rhyming words
- Trouble learning numbers, the alphabet, days of the week
- Extremely restless and easily distracted
- Trouble interacting with peers
- Poor ability to follow directions or routines

Early warning signs: Kindergarten through fourth grade –

- Slow to learn the connection between letters and sounds
- Confuses basic words (run, eat, want)
- Makes consistent reading and spelling errors including letter reversals (b/d), inversions (m/w), transpositions (felt/left), and substitutions (home/house)
- Transposes number sequences and confuses arithmetic signs (+, -, x, /, =)
- Slow recall of facts
- Slow to learn new skills, relies heavily on memorization
- Impulsiveness, lack of planning
- Unstable pencil grip
- Trouble learning about time
- Poor coordination, unaware of physical surroundings, prone to accidents

www.Idonline.org

If your child is experiencing any of these difficulties; and you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or your young child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention or screening, evaluation processes designed to access the needs of your child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. **Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to Mrs. Christina Fish or any building principal.**

In compliance with state and federal law the Central Columbia School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extra-curricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

HANDICAPPED STUDENTS cont.

For additional information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation, and screening (including purpose, time, and location), and rights to due process procedures, you may contact in writing Mrs. Christina Fish or any building principal.

Confidentiality: All informational gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The district has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, distribution, and disclosure to third parties of this information. For informational about these policies and procedures, as well as right of confidentiality and access to educational records, you may contact in writing Mrs. Christina Fish or any building principal.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of—
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

BLUEJAY COMMUNICATOR

PPRA cont.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use—
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. Central Columbia does not participate in any surveys or collect information affected by this amendment.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920

If you believe your school age child may qualify for gifted education services, you may contact the district at any time to request a determination of eligibility. The guidance counselors in each building will discuss the evaluation process and answer any specific questions you may have. You may call Kristina Unger, 784-2850 x 1000, at the elementary school; Jeremy Freeman or Alycia Fairchild, 784-2850 x 2412, at the middle school; or Jason Bartholomew or Kimberly Gible, 784-2850 x 3120, at the high school. Parents may also contact Mrs. Christina Fish, Director of Pupil Services, at 784-2850 x 4004.

Please note that entitlement to gifted services includes only those rights provided for by Pennsylvania law.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 30 days of the day the Central Columbia School District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or director of pupil services a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal or director of pupil services will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the Central Columbia School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal or director of pupil services, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the Central Columbia School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the Central Columbia School District will notify the parent or

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FERPA cont.

eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when the Central Columbia School District is notified of the request for a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interest. A school official is a person employed by the Central Columbia School District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the Central Columbia School District has contracted to perform a special task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school system to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605.

NON-DISCRIMINATION/NON-RETALIATION NOTICE

Title IX-Title VI – Section 504

No person shall, on basis of sex, race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

If you have any questions about compliance with the provision of Title IX, Title VI, Section 504, please contact our compliance coordinator, Mrs. Christina Fish at (570) 784-2850 ext 4004.

GIFTED SERVICES

In compliance with state law, the Central Columbia School District provides services designed to meet the unique needs of gifted students. The Central Columbia School District identifies "gifted" students on a case-by-case basis based on state law and district policy. Under Pennsylvania regulations the term mentally gifted is defined as "including a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher and when multiple criteria indicate gifted ability." A person with an IQ lower than 130 may be gifted when other educational criteria in the child's profile as indicated through a gifted rubric.