



April 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

I appreciate this opportunity to communicate with you and want to thank you for your continued concerns for providing the best educational experience and environment to our students. With all of the school funding issues that our state is discussing it is causing everyone concern and rightfully so. All schools are going to take huge hits in funding, but we must find ways to continue to educate our young people.

We are proceeding with a plan to unify and move all of Columbia School District's preschool through 8th grade students to a central site for the 2011/2012 school year. The plan is to close Norman A. Miller Elementary School. We will then reconfigure the school population and move the students in grades preschool through 8th grade to the campus located on School Street in Brooklyn. The name of Brooklyn Elementary School will be changed to Columbia Elementary School. Columbia Elementary School will house students in grades preschool through fourth grade. Columbia Middle School will house students in grades fifth through eighth.

This reconfiguration is an effort to better coordinate our services, supplies, and reduce class sizes where possible, in order to continue to assure a quality educational delivery of our curriculum to our students. Employees who are located at Brooklyn Elementary, Miller Elementary and Columbia Middle Schools will be integrated into the Columbia School District as resources and funding will allow.

There is room for all students at both buildings. Please know that there is also space for school of choice students and we will do our best to accommodate everyone. The middle school will have a seventh and eighth grade wing and a fifth and sixth grade wing, which are located at opposite sides of the building.

Although centralization creates a significant cost savings, the school district is still in need of further reductions. Your ideas are important to the school board and administrators, as well as to the education of our children. We will be holding a meeting for interested parents and community members in the near future.

M.E.A.P. scores were released today. Both elementary school's scores as well as our middle and high schools were outstanding. These scores reflect the high achievement at all buildings in Columbia School District; we are at or near the top of the county in most areas. You can view the scores at www.columbiaschooldistrict.org.

Please feel free to contact me at the administration office at 592-6641 with any questions, suggestions or ideas. As you all know, the school board and I have the best interest of students and employees at heart. Thank you for all your hard work and continued support.

Educationally yours,

Brent Beamish

Brent Beamish
Superintendent

Mission Statement

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