

PDLS NEWSLETTER

Columbus State University Launches Its First Professional Development Lab School @ Dimon Magnet Academy in Partnership with Columbus Technical College and Muscogee County School District



PDLS Spotlight

BIG thank you to CSU's Servant Leadership students who provided weekly academic support and mentorship for Dimon's students. The teachers noted an increase in their students' confidence, social emotional development, and academic achievement.



Introduced Family Literacy Nights!

In collaboration with Columbus Technical College, Literacy Alliance, and Columbus State University, we were proud to launch Family Literacy Nights. These evenings offered families practical strategies they can use at home to support reading, vocabulary, and language development. Our Dimon families engaged in literacy activities, received tools and resources tailored to their child's needs, and learned effective routines that make reading a natural part of family life. For participating, each family received a free meal and a \$25 gift card. We look forward to continuing this spring!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Literacy Nights

January 20, 2026

February 17, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 14, 2026

5th Grade's Art Exhibition @ the Bo Bartlett Center

May 11, 2026

Principal's Reflections

I am incredibly grateful for the partnerships and people that make the PDLS possible for our students, staff, families, and community. This work is already making a positive difference, and it's exciting to look ahead at what's next through our PDLS. - Emily Wilson



CSU Students In Action @ the PDLS



During the fall 2025 semester, nearly 50 Columbus State University students served in meaningful ways that are already making a difference, laying a strong foundation for an even greater impact in the semesters ahead. From one-on-one tutoring and mentorship to launching Dimon's Uniform Closet and supporting experiences like Planting Day and Maker Space, CSU students became a valued part of daily life at the PDLS.

Professional Development for Teachers!

CSU's Counseling Program faculty and students partnered with Dimon's staff to better understand teachers' confidence and practices related to restorative approaches and social-emotional learning. The survey results highlighted strong confidence in creating safe, supportive classrooms and helping students develop emotional regulation skills, while also identifying areas where teachers would value additional tools and strategies, particularly in recognizing challenges students may face and strengthening student coping skills. These insights helped shape the Counseling Program's Professional Development Series, ensuring the training builds on the strong, relationship-centered practices already in place at Dimon.

Elementary Education Majors @ Dimon!

We're also incredibly grateful for CSU's Elementary Education students who make this work possible while building their professional skills! Whether in classrooms or in the hallways, they support and strengthen students' learning that builds skills, confidence, and relationships.



You can help make a difference too at the PDLS!

If you are interested in getting involved at the PDLS, please scan the QR code and one of our staff members will contact you ASAP!

Thank You!

