

# PDLS NEWSLETTER

## Celebrating the First Year at Columbus State University's Professional Development Lab School @ Dimon Magnet Academy



### PDLS Spotlight

Pictured alongside partners from Columbus Technical College (CTC) and Columbus State University are seven Dimon moms who completed early childhood education coursework through CTC offered at Dimon and at no cost to them. This, like future opportunities, will create pathways toward professional credentialing and career advancement, leading to a stronger, more connected community.

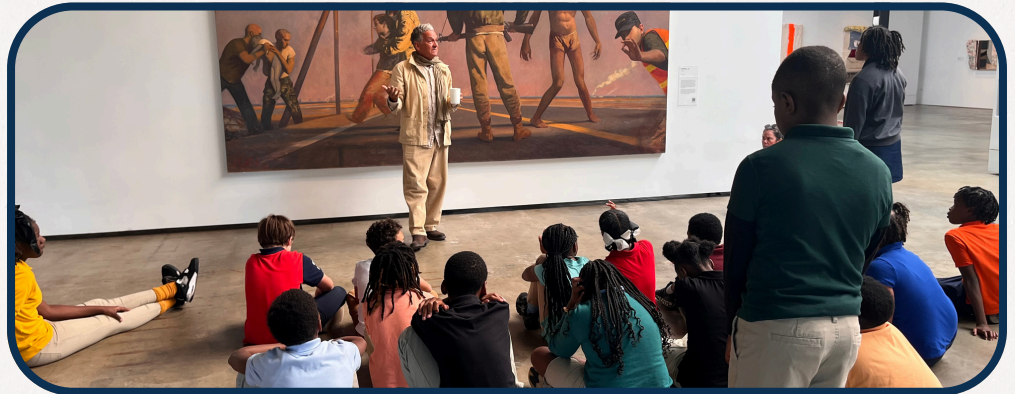
### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Summer Spectacular at Dimon**

June 2 - June 25, 2026

**PDLS's Back-to-School Bash**

July 28, 2026



### STEAM in Action!

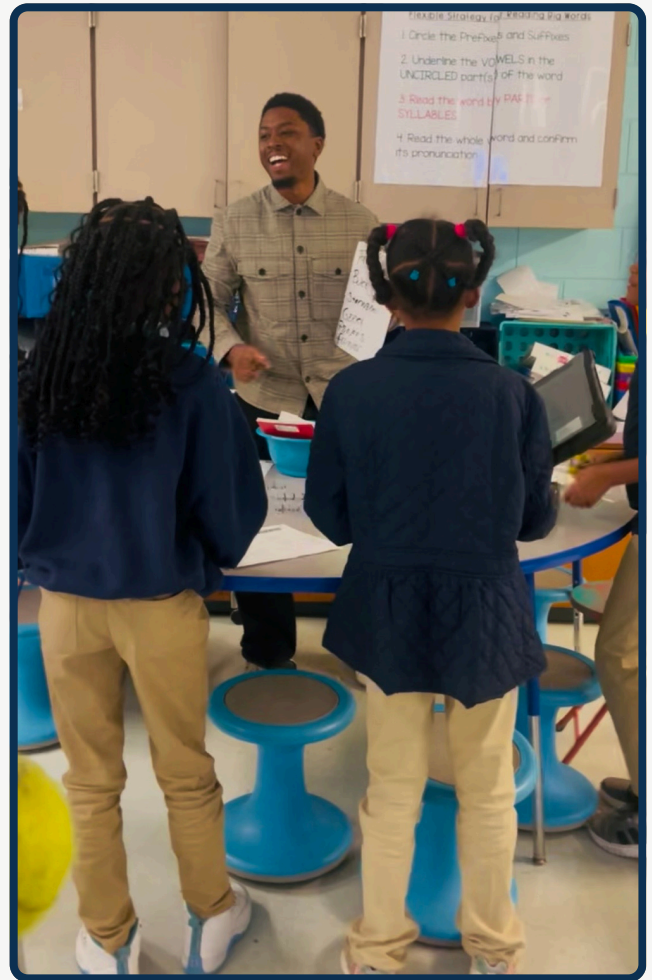
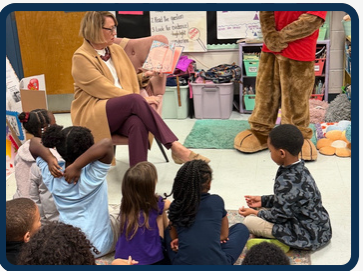
At CSU's Bo Bartlett Center, Dimon's 5th grade students experienced the power of art through the Art Makes You Smart (AMYS) program, highlighted by a memorable moment with Bo Bartlett himself. In the featured image, Bartlett engages students in a meaningful conversation about identity, encouraging them to see that "their roots can be their crown," a guiding belief he carries in both his life and work. That message resonated deeply, allowing students to reflect on their own stories and express them through art and writing, reinforcing the PDLS commitment to connect literacy, creativity, and personal voice in ways that are educational and empowering.

### A Year of Impact

This year has affirmed the power of partnerships, enhancing outcomes for students while providing CSU students with authentic experiences that build the confidence and skills needed for their future careers. - Dr. Pam Wetherington, Director of Education & Community Initiatives



## Read Across America at Dimon



### Dimon's LitLab

Dimon's LitLab, an afterschool tutoring and mentoring program, for Dimon's students in grades 3–5. Led by Columbus State University students, who took on the role of tutors and mentors, LitLab focuses on strengthening vocabulary, comprehension, and overall reading proficiency using strategies grounded in the science of reading. These CSU students lead the day-to-day instructional efforts, building meaningful relationships with Dimon students while delivering consistent, data-informed support. Beyond academics, the program encouraged confidence, engagement, and a love of learning.

During Read Across America Week, Columbus State University's leadership, student-athletes (including Cody!), Servant Leadership students, and a wide range of other CSU students showed up in full force to support Dimon Magnet Academy. Throughout the week, they read aloud to students in every grade level, bringing energy and a genuine love of literacy into each classroom. Their presence reinforced the importance of reading while also modeling service and connection, creating purposeful moments that made the week truly memorable, so much so that we are still talking about it!