

Superintendent: Belief in our students' potential creates limitless possibilities

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! The staff of Community Consolidated School District 89 is incredibly excited to welcome back our returning students and get to know our new learners. I know that this is going to be a year filled with new beginnings and limitless possibilities for the children in this community.

I would like to thank our students, staff, and residents for the warm welcome and many positive messages I have received since I was approved as superintendent by the Board of Education in April. Prior to the end of last school year, I had the opportunity to visit all five CCSD 89 schools. The energy in the buildings was electric and contagious! I feel incredibly grateful and honored to be able to have this opportunity to serve CCSD 89 students and families.

Growing up, I never imagined myself as a school superintendent; a college education seemed far-fetched for a kid from humble beginnings.

I was fortunate that I had family and teachers who believed in me. That allowed me to begin to believe in myself.

The CCSD 89 staff members have that same belief in your children. Many of them talk about how they care for the students in their classroom as if they were their own children.



Doug Eccarius
Superintendent

Indeed, we have many CCSD 89 educators who live in our district. All of this speaks to how special this district is.

As you may already know, this was a very busy summer in our district. We had major construction going on at all five schools. (You can read more about that work on page 2 of this newsletter.) We are so appreciative of the residents' support for these important projects that will ensure our schools remain safe and healthy places for kids to learn.

The construction did not slow down the other traditional work that goes on over the summer months. Hundreds of students participated in our three-week summer school program; dozens more were part of the basketball and volleyball camps at Glen Crest. The district started an online summer challenge this year and students spent more than 233,000 minutes practicing math and reading!

Through partnerships with the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center and the Glen Ellyn Public Library, dozens of students attended summer programming that gave them expanded learning opportunities, supplies, and additional resources.

Our technology team organized and formatted the thousands of laptops and tablets that students will use throughout the year. Our buildings and grounds staff cleaned hundreds of learning spaces so students would have clean, healthy places to learn. And we

welcomed new staff to our schools, including new principals at Arbor View Elementary, Glen Crest Middle School, and Westfield Elementary.

And, of course, groups of staff members gathered to prepare for the school year, build relationships, and refine goals. As I met with these teams, I observed a few things worthy of sharing. Our team is:

- Committed to being visible, approachable, and focused
- Committed to supporting an environment where all students feel safe physically and emotionally
- Committed to continuous improvement
- Committed to finding opportunities for all students to experience challenges and successes

This year, the staff at each school will think deeply about how they show their belief in students and each other on a daily basis. We will focus on helping students find academic success while developing resilience, empathy, and creativity.

Together with the community, we will create learning opportunities that allow our students to believe in themselves as much as we believe in them. It is going to be a great year.

Thank you for all you do to support students and each other.

Sincerely,
Doug Eccarius
Superintendent
Community Consolidated School District 89



The first day of 2023-24 school year is Wednesday, August 23

The 2023-24 school year will start for students on Wednesday, August 23. A full calendar of district and school events is available on the district's website at: www.ccsd89.org/calendar

School times

Elementary: 8:50 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Glen Crest: 7:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

Preschool: 8:30 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
12:30 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Preschool specialized academic classrooms: 8:50 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Half-day dismissal

Middle school: 11:15 a.m.
Elementary: 11:50 a.m.



Curriculum nights

Arbor View: 6:30 p.m. August 29

Briar Glen: 6:30 p.m. August 30

Park View: 6 p.m. September 7

Westfield: 6:30 p.m. September 6

Glen Crest: 6:30 p.m. August 31

for 8th graders

7 p.m. August 31

for all grades

Back-to-school resources

School supplies

www.ccsd89.org/supplies

Transportation info

www.ccsd89.org/transportation

Lunch menus / payments

www.ccsd89.org/lunch

Upcoming events

www.ccsd89.org/calendar

District news

www.ccsd89.org/news

Construction crews complete major work at all five schools ahead of school year

Under the supervision of the CCSD 89 buildings and grounds staff and the district's technology team, construction crews completed significant projects at all five schools during the 2023 summer.

Four schools - Arbor View, Park View, and Westfield elementary schools, as well as Glen Crest Middle School - were mostly closed to the public throughout the summer as crews completed major interior and exterior work at those buildings.

The coal tar/asphalt roofs at Arbor View, Glen Crest, and Westfield were replaced with rubber roofs that will be more energy-efficient and watertight. The roofs are expected to last at least 20 years.

The offices at Arbor View, Briar Glen, and Glen Crest were redesigned and reconstructed to improve safety for students. When a visitor is "buzzed in" by a school employee, they will now be immediately directed to the main office to check in with office staff, rather than allowing guests to start in a hallway. (Park View and Westfield schools already moved visitors directly to the main office.)

This summer, there were also significant upgrades to the heating and air conditioning systems at Arbor View, Glen Crest, Park View, and Westfield. New HVAC rooftop units were installed that will increase

airflow throughout the buildings in a more energy-efficient manner than previous units, which were all significantly beyond their expected lifespan. Ceilings and lighting systems at Arbor View, Park View, and

Westfield were also replaced. Aging wheelchair lifts at Arbor View and Glen Crest were redesigned and improved.

Summer school classes were held at Briar Glen in 2023, which limited the construction at that building. Although the office and entrance were redesigned, most of Briar Glen's construction projects will be done in the summer of 2024. Briar Glen is scheduled to have the boilers, windows, doors, lights, ceilings, sidewalks, and playground blacktop replaced.

In addition to the Briar Glen work, the parking lots at several schools are scheduled to be replaced in the summer of 2024.

All five CCSD 89 schools are more than 50 years old. In June of 2022, more than 71 percent of voters supported a school district proposal to complete these essential health, safety, and accessibility projects.

The construction work remains on time through the summer of 2023. The district will continue to keep the community updated on the ongoing work.



(left) Removing the roof at Arbor View.

(right) Replacing ceiling and lighting at Park View library



To see the full list of proposed projects, scan the QR code or go to www.ccsd89.org/construction

Many families will be able to track student bus travel with app

Many CCSD 89 families will be able to track their student's bus trips to and from school through a free busing app.

Parents can download the FirstView app. The app can show an estimated number of minutes until the bus arrives at a bus stop, and when a bus arrives at school. Learn more: www.ccsd89.org/busapp



Before- and after-school care available

CCSD 89 partners with organizations to provide before- and after-school programs for elementary school students. The Butterfield Park District (RecKids) and the B.R. Ryall YMCA (Safe 'n Sound) both run programs in CCSD 89 schools. More information on both programs is at www.ccsd89.org/beforeafter

Families should contact the Butterfield Park District and B.R. Ryall YMCA directly with questions about those programs.

New to CCSD 89? Get registered ASAP

If your family recently moved into Community Consolidated School District 89, be sure to get your students registered for the 2023-24 school year as soon as possible. Families can start the process by filling out pre-registration forms online.

Registration info can be found at www.ccsd89.org/register. Parents or guardians without internet access may register at the district office, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn.

Once pre-registration is complete, families will receive a SnapCode, which is used to complete registration. Your child's enrollment will not be guaranteed until the entire registration process has been completed and submitted.

New Glen Crest assistant principal Sammy Smith

Samantha "Sammy" Smith is the new assistant principal of Glen Crest Middle School.

Prior to joining CCSD 89, Smith had been assistant principal at Fisher Middle School in Aurora for nine years. Her primary responsibilities included oversight of curriculum and instruction, evaluating staff, schedule planning, organizing assessments, and encouraging positive student behavior.

Smith had spent her entire educational career at Fisher, including six years as a classroom teacher. She taught French, English language arts, intro to world language, and study skills. She was also a team leader, technology liaison, club sponsor, and member of the School Climate Committee.

Smith is familiar with the Glen Crest area; she grew up in the Briarcliffe neighborhood, about one block outside CCSD 89 boundaries. Smith is excited to join a close-knit district where she can make connections with teachers and students at all different levels.

"I want everyone to feel safe, supported, and comfortable coming into school," Smith said. "I truly care about these students, the Glen Crest staff, and this community."



**Community blood drive
2-6:30 p.m. August 23
Glen Crest Middle School**

Ever wondered what it's like to donate blood?
Nervous about needles?

Get answers to common questions about donation:
www.ccsd89.org/blood

Glen Crest Middle School has become a regular host site for blood drives organized by Versiti. Everyone in the community is invited to donate at Glen Crest.

Glen Crest will host its next blood drive from 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23. Appointments will be honored first.

Blood donation is a simple four-step process: registration, medical history, donation, and refreshments. Blood donation usually takes about 10 to 12 minutes. The entire process, from arrival to exit, takes about an hour.

After August, the next blood drive at Glen Crest is scheduled for November 1.

New Arbor View principal Dawn McCray is excited to partner with Roadrunner families

Dawn McCray, an experienced elementary educator and administrator, is the new principal at Arbor View Elementary School. McCray was unanimously approved by the Board on July 17.

McCray had been an assistant principal in Valley View School District 365 for six years. Prior to serving as assistant principal, she was a second-grade teacher for eight years in Romeoville and Joliet.

CCSD 89 Superintendent Doug Eccarius led the process to hire the Arbor View principal. He gathered input from staff and families to determine the qualities they were looking for. Eccarius said McCray stood out for her high expectations for students and staff, the relationships she developed as a building leader, and her special-education experience.

"I am so excited we found a student-centered leader who comes to us with elementary administrative and teaching experience," Eccarius said. "It was evident during the interviews that Dawn will be a visible and approachable principal who will put the needs of students first."

McCray earned her bachelor's degree in biological sciences and began her career working in a laboratory. When her son was born, she left the lab and began substitute teaching. She had long considered a teaching career; when McCray was a high school student, an influential administrator had encouraged McCray to pursue a career in education and nominated her for a Golden Apple teacher preparation award.

When McCray began substitute teaching, it immediately rekindled her love

of working with young learners. She returned to school and earned her master's degree and teaching license from the University of St. Francis. She later earned a second master's degree (in educational leadership) and an administrative endorsement from Lewis University.

McCray was interested in applying at Arbor View because of the school's community feel. She is excited to meet the students and their families.

"If there is something they feel they need, they can reach out to me," McCray said. "I take their thoughts, recommendations, questions, and concerns seriously. I want to work with families to get the best education possible for Arbor View students."

Anyone who works with McCray will often hear her refer to the students as "her babies" because when they are at school with her, she cares for them like they are her own kids.

"When you drop them off with me, I will do everything that I would want someone to do for my children," she said. "I'm always going to do what is best for the children. That's at the core of who I am."

McCray and her husband have two children: an 18-year-old son attending Illinois State University and a 14-year-old daughter who will be a high school freshman this school year.



Make a difference in a student's life! Become a classroom aide or substitute in CCSD 89

Do you enjoy helping kids? Consider being a classroom aide. CCSD 89 is hiring special-education aides. The positions are full-time, five days a week, and include health and dental insurance, as well as retirement benefits.

Applicants only need to be 19 years old with a high school diploma. Find out more or apply: www.ccsd89.org/workwith89

CCSD 89 is also hiring substitute teachers. This is a great opportunity to get to know your community's students and make a difference in their daily learning. Substitute teaching can be an incredibly fulfilling experience.

Substitute teachers make \$140 per day, with an increase to \$155 after 15 days of substitute teaching. Find out more or apply: www.ccsd89.org/substitute

FirstStudent is also hiring bus drivers. No experience necessary. More info is available at: www.WorkAtFirst.com.

Registration for 2024-25: preschool expected to open in January, kindergarten in February

Families interested in having their student attend tuition preschool in the 2024-25 school year will begin registration in January 2024. Families will need to provide an original birth certificate and proof of residency to be placed in a lottery for preschool openings. Families not selected in the lottery are put on a waitlist.

Registration for kindergarten students who will be new to the district in the 2024-25 school year is expected to open in February 2024. All new students will also have to provide an original birth certificate and prove residency.

More information about registration will be posted on the district's website (www.ccsd89.org) in December.

Registration for returning students is expected to open in April 2024.

REGISTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 21

Staff returns

First day of 2023-24 school year for all CCSD 89 staff members

AUGUST 21

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

AUGUST 23

First day of school

Students begin the 2023-24 school year!

AUGUST 23

Blood drive at Glen Crest

2-6:30 p.m. at Glen Crest
Open to community
www.ccsd89.org/blood

SEPT 4

No school

Labor Day. All schools closed. School will resume on Tuesday, September 5

SEPT 8

Preschool screening

At Briar Glen Elementary
More info:
www.ccsd89.org/preschool

SEPT 9

Board of Education workshop

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
8 a.m.

SEPT 18

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

OCT 6

No school

Teacher Institute. All schools closed. School will resume on Tuesday, October 10.

OCT 9

No school

Columbus Day. All schools closed. School will resume on Tuesday, October 10.

OCT 16

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

Stay connected with CCSD 89!



Twitter: @CCSD89



facebook.com/CCSD89



www.youtube.com/@CCSD89

Student spotlight: 2023-24 student board members Molly Clarin and Aspen Usalis

Two exceptional student leaders were selected as the next CCSD 89 student board members. Glen Crest eighth-grade students Molly Clarin and Aspen Usalis will begin their one-year term in August.

"I'm so proud of the emphasis this district places on the importance of student voices," said CCSD 89 Superintendent Doug Eccarius. "I was very impressed when I met Aspen and Molly. They are both exceptional young leaders who want to make this district even better."

Student board members represent their classmates at the monthly Board meetings. Student board members do not vote, but they report on the celebrations and challenges of CCSD 89 students.

Molly Clarin

Molly Clarin hopes that while serving as a student board member, she can make the district an even more welcoming place. The 12-year-old wants to help amplify the voices of all students.

"To me, the role of a student board member means speaking out for everybody - not just your friends and not just yourself," Molly wrote in her application.

Glen Crest math teacher Danielle Bongiorno said Molly is a positive and hard-working student who pushes herself to do her very best.

"Her classmates seek her out because they enjoy being around her positivity," Bongiorno said. "Her drive to reach her full potential encourages her peers to work harder."

At Glen Crest, Molly has been involved in Student Leadership Coalition, Builders Club, was an adaptive PE peer buddy, the school musical, and choir. She was a member of the Glen Crest basketball, cross country, and track teams. Outside of school, she plays travel softball,



volunteers at the Ronald McDonald house, participates in her church youth group, and enjoys helping out around her community.

When she gets older, Molly wants to be a lawyer because she wants to use her voice to help others.

Aspen Usalis

As a student board member, Aspen Usalis wants to find new ways for the students to connect across the district.

"I feel it is very important for students to have a say because this is their community, too," Aspen, 13, wrote in her application.

Glen Crest Social Studies teacher Mubeen Husain praised Aspen as a kind student who is always willing to listen, help, and work with everyone.

"(Aspen) has impressed me with her dedication, insight, leadership skills, and consideration for her fellow peers," Husain said. "In the classroom, Aspen demonstrates her ability to think critically and ask relevant questions that show her deeper level of thinking."

At Glen Crest, Aspen has been an adaptive peer buddy, partnering with students who have disabilities. She has been a member of the Student Leadership Coalition, Builders Club, intramurals, Friends Helping Friends Club, musical crew, and Teen Advisory Board. She is also on the Spartan basketball and volleyball teams.

Outside of school, Aspen plays travel softball, feeder basketball, and has played on various volleyball teams. She has been part of her church's youth ministry, volunteered at coat drives, and helped at Feed My Starving Children.

As an adult, Aspen would like to be an engineer or an architect working on designing houses or sports stadiums.



(630) 469-5220 www.ccisd89.org/glencrest

725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL

Glen Crest Middle School

(630) 858-2770 www.ccisd89.org/westfield

25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL

Westfield School

(630) 858-1600 www.ccisd89.org/parkview

250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL

Park View School

(630) 545-3300 www.ccisd89.org/briarglen

1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL

Briar Glen School

(630) 469-5505 www.ccisd89.org/arborview

22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL

Arbor View School

CCSD 89 Schools

(630) 469-8900

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

22W600 Butterfield Road

www.ccisd89.org



Note: In order to reduce costs, CCSD 89 mails its publications by postal routes. This means a few individuals who are not in the district's attendance areas may receive this newsletter.

Postal Customer

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