A message from the Superintendent

Last month, I had the honor of attending the District’s new Strategic Plan and Enrollment committees, and it reaffirmed what an unbelievable community we are part of. The families in our District don’t simply support education, they are ready to stand beside us to build competitive, forward-thinking educational institutions.

These committees were started to look at two important issues in our District. First, what should education look like in CCSD 89? Then, how can we use our facilities to support that educational experience?

As you will see on page 2, our student’s scores on national exams show that they remain among the nation’s highest achievers. But we cannot rest on those accomplishments. We must provide our students with a curriculum and technology that ensures they are ready for high school and, eventually, a modern workforce.

The Strategic Plan Committee will allow us to make deliberate decisions with input from students, staff, parents, and residents.

Our first meeting was filled with great insights from all groups but what truly stood out were the contributions from Annabel Moore, a fifth grader at Westfield; Nicholas Miranda, fifth grader at Park View; and Malachi Clark, eighth grader at Glen Crest.

One student shared a reminder that technology is a learning tool, not a substitute for effective teaching. Another student asked that teachers give fewer answers and, instead, show students how to make their own discoveries.

Our future is in good hands when young people can respectfully share such insight and be advocates for their classmates.

Our responsibility comes in the Enrollment and Finance committees.

Since 2012, CCSD 89 has added 203 students. That’s a 10-percent increase over five years. This surge has had multiple effects on resources, budgets, and building use. Most prominently, it has increased the number of students who attend an elementary school outside their attendance area.

The Enrollment Committee will use growth projections provided by consultants to make recommendations to the Board. Then, the Finance Committee will examine how to meet ambitious educational goals within a responsible fiscal budget.

Although our community is diverse, we all share a belief in our children, and a hope that we will prepare them to solve the next generation’s challenges.

Whether or not you have students in CCSD 89 schools, you are part of creating an educational legacy.

I thank you for all you do to support our students and our schools.

Dr. Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

Community Consolidated School District 89 is always striving to advance the educational experience for students in all of our schools. Feedback from students and families is essential to that process.

CCSD 89 families are invited to share their thoughts through 5Essentials, a survey that all Illinois public schools use to gather feedback from students, parents, and employees.

The free survey is voluntary and anonymous.

You do not have to enter any of your own or your student’s personal information in order to complete the survey. The survey only requires the student’s grade level and school, so the results are sent to the right location.

The survey asks users to evaluate the school’s performance in several areas, including preparation and communication.

The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

You can go directly to the survey at: illinois.5-essentials.org/2016/

Starting November 16, a link to the survey will also be posted prominently on the District’s website, www.ccsd89.org.

We’re hoping that before December 2, all our families will take a few minutes to complete a survey for each school their children attend.

It is important to hear from you!
This summer, the Butterfield Park District partnered with CCSD 89 to revitalize the playground at Westfield Elementary School.

Staff from the Butterfield Park District helped turn Westfield’s faded blacktop into a vibrant, colorful place for children to exercise and refresh.

The Butterfield staff also installed modern playground equipment where children safely play, all at no cost to CCSD 89.

Westfield Principal Stacey Hewick said the new equipment is a great addition, especially for the school’s youngest students.

“As soon as it opened, it seemed like every child in the neighborhood stopped by to check it out,” Hewick said. “This is such a wonderful addition to our school and this community. This has been another reminder for everyone at Westfield how fortunate we are to have community partners like the Butterfield Park District.”

Community Consolidated School District 89 (CCSD 89) is a public school district in Cook County, Illinois, USA. It is located in the western suburbs of the city of Chicago.

Stay connected with District 89!

Twitter: @CCSD89
Facebook: facebook.com/CCSD89

Search “Community Consolidated School District 89” on YouTube

Important school reminders as winter weather approaches

Whether we like it or not, cold weather is on its way.

It is important that CCSD 89 families ensure that their school has their most current contact information.

The District uses a ‘call-out’ phone system to notify families of any emergency closings. The calls are sent to phone numbers that guardians have registered.

If there is a closing, information will also be posted on the District website’s (ccsd89.org), Facebook page (facebook.com/CCSD89), Twitter account (@CCSD89), and at emergencyclosings.com.

Parents should also ensure that they are sending students with appropriate clothing to go outside during the school day. Elementary age students will continue to have recess outside as the weather allows.

The District encourages community members to help students get to school safely by clearing sidewalks and driveways of snow or ice before the start of the school day, if possible.

District continues to monitor status of state funding while approving 2016-17 budget

Community Consolidated School District 89 met all of its financial goals for the previous fiscal year, which closed on June 30, 2016.

The District met its goal of ending the year with a surplus in the operating funds. The totals will not be finalized until the audit is complete. However, preliminary figures show a surplus of approximately $200,000.

The District has 189 days of cash on hand, a particularly important total as state funding remains in flux. The state recommended level is 180 days of cash on hand, putting the District above state averages.

Additionally, the District set a goal of 50 percent or higher long-term debt margin, and reached 58 percent for the year.

All of these indicators meant that the District maintained its excellent financial rating at Aa2.

The District also anticipates that it will earn the prestigious Financial Recognition status with the Illinois State Board of Education again this year.

Because the state’s overall budget has been delayed, District officials continue to monitor the situation and stay in contact with state officials.

Initial estimates indicate CCSD 89 could have a $566,000 deficit in the next fiscal year, meaning the District may have to use some reserves to maintain current programming.

The District held its annual budget hearing on September 19.

CCSD 89 students continue to show growth in math and reading scores

On both the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests, CCSD 89 students scored above national and state averages in math and reading tests.

CCSD 89 students not only achieved at high levels last year, they showed growth throughout their academic career, indicating the impact that CCSD 89 teachers have had on student learning.

The charts on the right illustrate how the Glen Crest Middle School class of 2016 flourished during their time at CCSD 89.

As fourth graders, 64 percent of those students were above national averages. By the time they reached eighth grade, nearly 83 percent of that same class were scoring higher than the national average. Similarly, in reading, less than 80 percent of those students were above average in fourth grade, but nearly 87 percent were above average by graduation.

See CCSD 89 PARCC score data at cc89.org
PEP Foundation grants create opportunities for students to program robots, give back to community, and build assistive technology

Thirteen staff members were awarded Partnership for Educational Progress (PEP) grants for projects that will increase access to technology; create hands-on ways to explore science, technology, engineering, and math; and expand students’ understanding of the world around them.

We Get By With a Little Help From Our...Machines: ($500)
Under the guidance of Glen Crest teachers Maggie Moran, Julie Ramirez, and Rich Stachon, co-authors of the PEP grant project “We Get By With a Little Help From Our...Machines,” seventh-grade students at Glen Crest Middle School will develop a compound machine to assist a student with a disability perform an everyday task.

The goal of this project is to ensure that students who would typically need assistance using technology will have more opportunities to access technology independently.

District 89 Day of Service ($600)
Social workers Kim Wankel, Kristin Payne, Kristin Kazonovitz, Erin Walsh, Mark Odell, and Carol Marshall will be engaging students from all five CCSD 89 schools to meet important needs in the surrounding community with the help of a PEP grant project called, “District 89 Day of Service.”

The project will culminate on March 24, 2017, when students spend a day working to improve the lives of local residents.

MakerSpace Modules: ($1,500)
All CCSD 89 elementary students will be involved with an exciting PEP project called: “MakerSpace Modules.” Librarians Carolyn Kouwe, Joy Yerly, Sharon Hultquist, and Emily Wysocki, wrote the grant that will provide hands-on interactions with science, technology, engineering, and math lessons.

Students will be able to program Dash and Dot robots, use creative thinking on Dyson Corp. engineering activities, and turn two-dimensional objects into 3-D products.

The annual District 89 PEP grants are supported by tax-deductible gifts contributed by individuals and businesses, and through other fundraising activities.

Since 1992, the PEP foundation has awarded more than 440 Teacher Grants worth more than $240,000.

Further information about PEP and the PEP Grant program is available by calling the PEP office at (630) 942-8605, or at www.thepepfoundation.org.

District 89 upcoming events

November 15: First trimester ends
November 21: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
November 22: Half day: Conferences and report cards
November 23-25: No school (Thanksgiving)
December 6: District 89 Winter Chorus Concert - 7 p.m. at Glen Crest Middle School
December 8: Glen Crest Winter Concert - 7 p.m.
December 13: District 89 Winter Band Concert - 7 p.m. at Glen Crest Middle School
December 19: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center
December 19-30: No school (Winter break)
January 2, 2017: No school (Winter break)
January 3: School resumes after winter break
January 9: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center
January 13: Half day for students (School improvement)
January 16: No school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
January 17: Mid-term
February 3: Half day - morning attendance (Teacher Inservice)
February 4: Board of Education meeting - 8 a.m. Administrative Center
February 6: Preschool screenings, Arbor View Elementary
February 13: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center
February 20: No school (President’s Day)
February 28: Second trimester ends
March 3: No school (Teacher Institute)
March 7: Second trimester report cards distributed
March 20: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center
March 24: Half day - morning attendance (School improvement)

Donate a gift card and help a CCSD 89 family in need

Did you know that nearly one in seven CCSD 89 families are getting by with limited means? There are opportunities for you to to help these families. By partnering with Parent-Teacher Councils, CCSD 89 schools will once again be collecting gift cards to give to local families in need. The school’s social workers coordinate the efforts to collect $10-$25 gift cards for Aldi, Jewel, and Walmart. The cards are then distributed to families at holidays and during times of crisis.

If you would like to donate a card, please drop them at your neighborhood school before December 9.
District 89 Student spotlight: Megan Daca

This Briar Glen fifth grader’s latest charitable work turns out to be stuffed with success

Megan Daca didn’t set out to fill her living room with stuffed animals. Like her other charitable work, the goal was only to help someone in need.

But this time, Megan’s idea grew as big as the fifth grader’s heart.

It started during a school brainstorming session about potential good deeds. Megan already had a charitable history. In the past, she’d donated all her birthday and allowance money to a food pantry.

Megan had heard about a girl who donated stuffed animals for children who had lost their homes to fire. It was a cause that resonated with Megan: her stuffed elephant named ‘Chunky’ was a gift from her brother. Chunky isn’t just a toy; he’s a reminder that she is safe, loved, home.

“If I don’t have him, I can’t rest,” Megan said.

Megan wanted kids going through a rough time to find that same peace. She reached out to Lisle-Woodridge Fire District fire medic Neil Berkowitz, who loved the idea. Megan distributed a flier in her subdivision. Megan also asked for donations. In case they didn’t get many donated toys, so would use the donations to buy more.

But, in August, as her family drove through the neighborhood, the car continued to fill.

“I was saying I should just run home because there wasn’t room for me in the car,” Megan joked. “I knew the fire department was going to be shocked.”

In the end, Megan collected 1,019 stuffed animals and more than $200 in donations.

“It was amazing,” Berkowitz said. “Families call us because it’s one of the worst days of their lives. To be able to give a child something that they can hold and feel, it really helps the child’s mind come away from the tragedy that’s going on. To have a young girl do that, it’s very motivating to us.”

When she gets older, Megan wants to run a bakery. (She has already made a 3-D model of her future shop.) She plans to do charitable work, too.

“I know I have a lot,” Megan said. “We have toys and a lot of things people don’t have. I want them to have these things, too. I try to make things fair. I like seeing the people happy.”

Megan hopes her charitable work inspires other young people.

“I know they can do things like that, too,” she said.