

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 89

Learning for Life

www.ccsd89.org

update

A PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT 89

SERVING GLEN ELLYN, LOMBARD AND WHEATON

2016-17 will be an empowering year for District 89

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year!

After nearly a decade of working in District 89, it was my honor this summer to become the superintendent for this great District. That was a wonderful day but it pales in comparison to the excitement I feel for August 22, when students return to their classrooms to work with our excellent staff.

I want District 89 to be the best school district in Illinois, with an engaging learning environment for every child. When District 89 graduates leave for Glenbard South High School, I believe every student will say they loved learning, they were encouraged to take responsible risks, and they made great friends.

Last year, the District celebrated several landmark accomplishments focused on student achievement: the start of full-day kindergarten, adding 30 minutes to our elementary classrooms, and introducing Next Generation Science Standards. Inside this newsletter, you can read more about the impact those changes had in both our assessment scores and our students' enjoyment of learning.

Throughout my time in District 89, it has been abundantly clear that this community values its schools and our schools value their connection with the community.

Whether or not you have children who attend class, you are part of creating new learning opportunities for a generation of future leaders. Every minute we spend on education is an investment that enriches our entire community.

Our promise to families is that we will keep your children safe, challenged, and excited about learning. Our promise to our residents is that we will continue to make wise investments that strengthen your neighborhoods.

I could not be more thrilled to start this school year. I believe this will be the best year yet for District 89.

Emily K. Tammaru

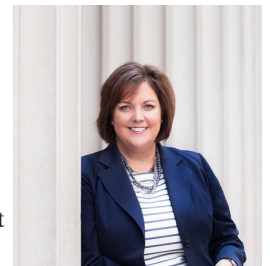
Dr. Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent

Meet the Superintendent: Community Open House 5 - 6:30 p.m. August 24

Community members, District 89 families, and District 89 staff are invited to meet Dr. Emily K. Tammaru at Glen Crest Middle School. Dr. Tammaru will be available to meet with anyone who stops by from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

There is no formal schedule for the event. Light refreshments will be available.

District 89 families will also have a chance to meet with Dr. Tammaru when she visits school curriculum nights.



Just moved in?

Register your children
for 2016-17 school year
at www.ccsd89.org

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FALL 2016

Welcome back!

First day of school: Monday, August 22

Preschool - 8th grade schedule

Preschool morning:	8:30 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
Preschool afternoon:	12:30 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.
Half-day kindergarten:	8:50 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Elementary schools:	8:50 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Glen Crest hours:	7:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

Families invited to Curriculum Nights

Families are invited to meet District 89 staff at Curriculum Nights.

Arbor View: August 30, 6:30-8 p.m.

Briar Glen: August 29, 6:30-8 p.m.

Park View: September 8, 6:30-8 p.m.

Westfield: September 1, 6:30-8 p.m.

Glen Crest: August 25,

7-8 p.m. sixth, seventh grade;

6:30-8 p.m. eighth grade

All District 89 families and students are invited to a free Pro-Kids character building assembly at 6:30 p.m. August 24 at Glen Crest Middle School.

One year later: full-day kindergarten, longer class days show benefits

Last year, District 89 celebrated two landmark changes: the start of full-day kindergarten, and the addition of 30 minutes to the elementary school day. One year later, the District has seen the success of those changes reflected in both assessment scores and students' enjoyment of learning.

The additional kindergarten time had a dramatic impact on students. Teachers had more time to integrate problem solving skills, extend reading lessons, teach science every day, and bring in hands-on math activities.

The results were dramatic. At the beginning of the school year, 36 percent of kindergarten students met or exceeded national benchmarks on reading. By the end of the year, 92 percent were meeting or exceeding those standards.

In previous years (before full-day kindergarten), 75 percent of students had reached the same level by the end of the year.

Writing skills showed similar improvement: 31 percent more students exceeded national

standards than previous years.

"The fact that they had a great year was so crucial," said District 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru. "Building strong foundation early is key for long-term success."

This summer, first grade teachers spent significant professional development time ensuring curriculum was ready to meet the needs of a new group of learners.

More learning time was the theme for last year, as the elementary school day was lengthened from 1,625 minutes per week to 1,775 minutes per week, to be equal with the middle school schedule. The increased instructional time put District 89 at the national average and provided additional time for work on writing and science - critical topics that were sometimes cut short without the additional minutes.

Staff reported that students had time to engage in more science units at greater depth. Teachers were also

able to incorporate a writer's workshop that asked students to delve deeper into topics and produce writing that showed more critical thinking.

District 89 staff received positive feedback from staff, parents and, most importantly, students.

"Science is their favorite part of the day. When they got to plant their seeds and measure growth, set up different conditions to see which helped the plant grow the most, they loved it," said one teacher. "We just didn't have as much time to do this before."



Staff summer work ensures buildings and curriculum ready

Summer is a good time for students to refresh and prepare for the next school year. It's also a time for District 89 staff to refresh and prepare learning spaces and learning opportunities.

This summer, the Buildings and Grounds staff completed a deep clean of all five District 89 buildings. Additionally, the staff worked to replace or repair heating and cooling coils in all buildings so schools will be the best temperature for learning. As a precaution, the water of all five schools was tested for lead. All five schools passed the inspection without concern.

At the same time, the teaching staff completed hundreds of hours of professional development, working to ensure District 89 students have access to the latest educational strategies. A group

of District 89 teachers completed Google training focused on the continued integration of technology and instruction. These teachers will bring that knowledge back their schools to share with other staff. Students and staff will also benefit from the Chrome books that were added to every District 89 school this summer by the Technology Department.

The District 89 first-grade team did significant work to update the curriculum to better align with the learning achievements of the District's first group of full-day kindergarten graduates.

Additionally, dozens of staff members continued to learn about new strategies for assessment, curriculum writing, and behavioral strategies. Teams also did significant work writing math and science curriculum.

Emergency closing information

As we sweat through this summer heat, it's hard to imagine that winter is only a few months away. But now is the time to make sure that all your contact information is up to date.

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.

Information about school closings will also be posted on the District website (ccsd89.org), social media sites, and at emergencyclosings.com.

B. R. Ryall YMCA will offer afterschool programs at all elementary schools this year

District 89 elementary school students will have more opportunities for afterschool enrichment this year, thanks to an expanded partnership with the B.R. Ryall YMCA.

During the 2015-16 school year, the YMCA piloted a program of one-hour enrichment classes in three elementary schools. More than 60 students registered. Based on that success, the YMCA sought additional opportunities to serve District 89 students.

This year, students will have the opportunity to sign up for a variety of classes ranging from

those focusing on STEM, sports, do-it-yourself crafts or languages, to young entrepreneurial classes.

There will be five, five-week sessions per year in all four elementary schools. Classes will run from 3:45 – 4:45 p.m., with the first session starting in September. Two programs will run at each school during every session, then the different programs will rotate through all the schools. The cost of the programs will vary depending on the topic.

More information about these opportunities will be sent home after the start of school.

Support District 89 students through a donation to the PEP Foundation

Looking to help District 89? Consider a PEP Foundation donation.

The Partnership for Educational Progress (PEP) works with all feeder districts for Glenbard School District 87, including District 89. The fund provides enriched learning opportunities and promotes student achievement through grants. Since 1992, the PEP Foundation has handed out more than \$240,000.

The District's Supplies4Success drive will start this fall and donations can be dropped at school buildings. To find out more about making a tax-deductible donation, go to: thepepfoundation.org.

District 89 meets financial goals for fiscal year

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 fund. The totals will not be finalized until the audit is complete. However, preliminary figures show a surplus of approximately \$450,000.

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 retain 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 District 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 will have its annual budget hearing at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 19, in the Administrative Center, prior to the Board meeting.

Quick online survey will help District 89 build a website that gives you the information you need

Over the next year, District 89 will be working to overhaul the District's website.

The goal is to create a website that will provide accurate, easy-to-find information that is relevant to all people interested in District 89, in order to increase community engagement and transparency.

As the District begins the process of designing a new site, it is important to hear from students, families, staff, and community members about what they value in a school website.

Please take our short online survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDBQWWP.

The District hopes to debut the new site before the 2017-18 school year.

District 89 upcoming events

August 15: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m., Administrative Center

August 22: First day of school for all students!

August 22: Preschool screenings at Arbor View

August 31: Orchestra Parent Night for fourth-grade parents at Glen Crest Middle School - 6 p.m.

September 5: No school (Labor Day)

September 10: Board of Education meeting - 5 p.m. Retreat, Administrative Center

September 19: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Budget hearing; 7:10 p.m. Regular meeting Administrative Center

October 1: PSAT test at Glen Crest Middle School

October 3: Mid-term reports

October 7: Half day for students (School improvement)

October 10: No school (Columbus Day)

October 17: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center

October 27: Evening conferences for middle school

November 2: Evening conferences for elementary schools

November 7: Preschool screenings at Arbor View

November 8: No school (Teacher institute)

November 10: Evening conferences for elementary schools

November 15: First trimester ends

November 21: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center

November 22: Half day 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: 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

Follow District 89 on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter

After successfully launching a Twitter account (@CCSD89) in 2015, District 89 has added Facebook and YouTube accounts to provide more ways for local residents to connect with their schools.

The District will share the latest news, photos, and updates about District 89 on its Facebook page, which can be found at: facebook.com/CCSD89.

A survey of families consistently showed that parents use Facebook in their everyday life. Families and interested community members are invited to 'like' the District page.

At the same time, the District has launched a YouTube channel which can be found by searching "Community Consolidated School District 89" on youtube.com. This will be another way to celebrate District 89 staff and students.

These social media tools will be used to share news and celebrate student accomplishments. Of course, all these social media tools are only supplements to the regular communications from schools and teachers, including newsletters and progress reports. Additionally, the District will continue to update the website - www.ccsd89.org - with important information.

The District values two-way communication with families and community members. You can continue to reach District 89 staff through traditional phone and email as well.

Follow District 89!



Twitter: @CCSD89



facebook.com/CCSD89



Search "Community Consolidated School District 89" on YouTube

District 89 Student spotlight: Mint Sungvornyothin



This former Park View and Glen Crest student says her teachers - and some good advice from Mom - helped ease transition from Thailand to school in the U.S.

Being the new kid in class is always a challenge. On top of the academic material, there's a disorienting number of new faces and new places to track.

When learning a new language and a new culture is added to the mix, the first day can be overwhelming.

That was the experience of Mint Sungvornyothin, whose family moved from Thailand to Glen Ellyn when she was in third grade. She remembers her heart beating like a jackhammer and her stomach "coiled like a rattlesnake" when she walked into her Park View Elementary class for the first time.

Last school year, one of her eighth grade projects was to write a memoir. Mint thought most of the students would be writing essays, so she wanted to try something different. Mint turned her journey into a beautiful graphic novel.

In her story, Mint wrote about the differences she immediately noticed in how American students spent their recess and what they ate for lunch. It was a disorienting first day, but she got some great advice.

"The best thing you can do is have patience," Mint's mother told her.

"Everyone is here for you. Accept new possibilities."

The next day, Mint started her English as a Second Language class where her teacher, Kristina Uddenberg, invited her to view the classroom as a second home. Mint found a district that was comforting, welcoming, and supportive. She made friends in class and became an outstanding District 89 student. This fall, she will start her freshman year at Glenbard South High School.

When Superintendent Dr. Emily Tammaru saw Mint's graphic novel, she asked the 14-year-old to share her story with District 89 teachers at the start of the school year.

"Her wisdom was so inspiring to me," Tammaru said. "She is a strong, independent person. We need to hear from her. She had all these teachers who helped her, and I wanted them to be reminded of the difference they were making."

For Mint, District 89 was a place that taught her academics and much more.

"Everything has changed," she said. "Before I got here, I didn't really want to talk to people. Now, I just know how to interact with people."

Hear Mint tell her story

You can hear Mint Sungvornyothin tell her story and see the images from her graphic novel on the District 89 YouTube channel.



Search "Community Consolidated School District 89" on youtube.com

Keep up with all District 89 news!
www.ccsd89.org
Twitter: @CCSD89
Facebook: facebook.com/CCSD89
YouTube: Community Consolidated School District 89

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Learning for Life

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District 89 Schools

Arbor View School

22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5505

Briar Glen School

1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL
(630) 545-3300

Park View School

250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-1600

Westfield School

2S125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-2770

Glen Crest Middle School

725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5220

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