

From the Superintendent: Embracing challenges as an opportunity for learning

We are very near the end of the 2016-17 school year, and I could not be more proud of the work done by our students and our staff.

As I visited classrooms throughout the year, what consistently stood out for me was the focus on embracing both the joy and the learning that come from perseverance. From our own personal experiences, we know that's not always easy to do. I think most of us would usually prefer to avoid the struggle and skip right to the success.



But in our classrooms, a shortcut is always a wrong turn. Students must embrace challenge not only because it helps them complete the task they are assigned, but also because it builds problem-solving endurance that will last a lifetime.

For example: this year, our math teams let our students have the chance to be part of what is sometimes called "the learning pit."

The learning pit means giving students a real-

world problem that will ask them to use skills they have not yet mastered. The students must rely on past knowledge to reach a conclusion.

It's referred to as the learning pit because it's often represented by a bell curve that starts at clarity, dips to confusion, and leads back up to clarity. And, at first, students sometimes feel like they are at the bottom of a pit, unsure whether they can climb out. Rather than being handed a formula, students search among potential options for the best solution.

It can be disorienting at first, but when you see the students reach understanding, it's an empowering moment. Suddenly, students are ready to jump into the next learning pit. The challenge is no longer intimidating; the challenge is an exciting search for deeper understanding.

Of course, this would not be possible unless our staff also accepted the challenge of trying this technique, which was unfamiliar and disorienting to them at first. They, too, jumped in the learning pit and emerged re-energized.

When I take a broader view of the District, I wonder what success will emerge from the current challenges we face. We live in a state that has struggled to provide clarity on funding for schools and, even when they pass an education budget, still misses payments to local districts.

This makes it more difficult to deliver the innovative learning experiences our students need to be part of a modern workforce. I sometimes feel our students are left at the bottom of this legislative pit.

As chief executive of CCSD 89, these are the issues that keep me up at night. I want to be responsible to our taxpayers while also delivering the world-class education that makes this a great place to grow up.

Fortunately, as the lead educator for CCSD 89, I rest easy when thinking about the students who embrace challenge when they are given access and opportunity. I think of our homeless students who stay focused on their studies amid changing life circumstances, or our Special Olympians who competed in their first track meet this year, or the preschoolers who returned from private placement and thrived in our schools.

We know that challenges will always be part of learning. Our students prove that being in the learning pit does not mean facing a bottomless hole, but finding a new opportunity to climb.

I thank you for being a vital part of all our students' learning for life.

Emily K. Cammann



CCSD 89 will look at new District boundaries for 2018-19 school year

Community Consolidated School District 89 will address its imbalanced enrollments with new boundaries for the 2018-19 school year. The boundaries will be student centered, minimally disruptive, and fiscally responsible.

To reach those goals, the District will reconvene the Enrollment Committee as a Boundary Committee before the end of the 2016-17 school year. The expanded committee will look at all data, building plans, and previous feedback to develop a sustainable plan that provides optimal outcomes for all students.

The District's plan is to present a boundary-change recommendation to the Board of Education in October 2017, with the Board possibly taking action in December 2017. The new boundaries would go into place for the 2018-19 school year.

The District will continue to communicate with all stakeholders through the District website, social media sites, newsletters, and PTC meetings.

For the 2017-18 school year, the District has worked on ways to reduce the number of students who could lose instructional min-

utes when they are bused away from their home school to balance building enrollments.

The District had originally planned to change the school boundaries for the 2017-18 school year. After receiving feedback from the community, the Board agreed to re-examine enrollment proposals.

The enrollment at CCSD 89 has increased by 11 percent over the last five years. The uneven patterns of growth has meant more students are bused or driven to schools outside the boundaries where they live.

**Make sure your student is
registered for 2017-18!
Go to: www.ccsd89.org**

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Board of Education welcomes new members, elects new Board President

The Community Consolidated School District 89 Board of Education recently welcomed two new members and elected three Board members to new leadership positions.

Jay Lerch and La Sridhar took the oath for the Board. Beth Powers was elected as Board President, Haydee Núñez as Vice President, and Scott Pope as Board Secretary.

Lerch and Sridhar were both elected to serve four-year terms. Lerch and Sridhar fill the seats of retiring Board President Mike Nelson and retiring Board Member Jeff Hume. Board members Núñez and Powers were also re-elected to the Board.

New Board members

Lerch has lived in CCSD 89 for 11 years. He and his wife Julie have a son, Max, in first grade at Arbor View Elementary School. Lerch earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Illinois Col-

lege in Jacksonville, Illinois, and currently works as an Assistant Vice President at First Bank/Il-

linois in Palatine. Lerch has long been drawn to volunteer work, from Boy Scouts to Alpha Phi Omega - a national service fraternity. He has been involved in the Arbor View PTC, where he served as treasurer. He was interested in running for the Board of Education to continue to positively contribute to his community.

Sridhar sees the Board as an opportunity to give back to a school district that has given so much to her child. Sridhar and her husband have one son, Param, who is in sixth grade at Glen Crest Middle School. She has lived in Glen Ellyn since 2003.

Sridhar earned her Bachelor's Degree from Dehli University, an MBA from Michigan State University, and Master's in Food Science from the University of Missouri at Columbia. She is the



**New Board Member
La Sridhar**

Global Director of Strategy and Insights for Molson-Coors in Chicago.



**New Board Member
Jay Lerch**

New Board leadership

Powers has been on the Board since 2012. Before serving on the Board, she was Co-President of the Park View Parent Teacher Council. She is a former member of the District's Community Finance Committee.

Núñez has one child attending Briar Glen School. She is Director of Adult, Veteran and Com-



**New Board President
Beth Powers**

munity Student Affairs at DePaul University. Núñez has served on the Board of Directors the United Way of DuPage/West Cook since 2006 and chaired the Community Impact Committee.

Pope was elected in April 2015. He has been active in a variety of PTC-sponsored events and as a parent volunteer at Westfield School. Pope is employed as an engineering group leader at Argonne National Laboratory.

Board OKs 2017-18 District calendars

The Community Consolidated School District 89 Board of Education recently approved the school and Board of Education calendars for 2017-18.

The school year will begin for all students on August 16, 2017, to match schedule of high school

District 87.

The Board of Education will continue to meet most often on the third Monday of the month, with some exceptions.

Both the school and Board calendars are on the District's website: www.ccsd89.org.

CCSD 89 earns financial excellence recognition for 17th straight year

For the 17th consecutive year, the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) recognized Community Consolidated School District 89 with its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The award is given to school districts that have met or exceeded the ASBO's high standards for financial reporting and accountability.

"I want to congratulate the Finance Department team, led by Assistant Superintendent Maureen Jones. This award is public recognition of the tireless,

sustained excellence we see in that department every day," said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily Tammaru. "The work of the Finance Department is essential to maintaining that balance of delivering a high level of service to our students and being fiscally responsible for our residents."

The award reflects the District's reporting for fiscal year 2016. Recognition through the ASBO program demonstrates commitment of fiscal integrity, shows the District's dedication to transparency, and can help achieve a better bond rating.



Students work to help others on CCSD 89's Day of Service

In March, social workers Kristin Kazonvitz (Westfield), Carol Marshall (Glen Crest), Mark Odell (Glen Crest), Kristin Payne (Briar Glen), Erin Walsh (Park View), and Kim Wankel (Arbor View) led students from all five CCSD 89 schools in a "District 89 Day of Service".

The students spent the day working together to improve the lives of residents in the area.

Among the projects: making wreaths for local senior living centers; creating place mats and collecting funds for PADS; creating Valentines for veterans; collecting first-aid supplies for PADS participants; picking up trash around the school grounds;

collecting used books for Bernie's Book Bank; making cards for hospitalized children; decorating Meals on Wheels bags and making cards for recipients.

This Day of Service was made possible thanks to a \$600 grant from the annual Partnership for Educational Progress Grant Program.

The Partnership for Educational Progress is a charitable foundation that works with Glenbard School District 87 and its feeder elementary districts to provide enrichment opportunities for all students.

To donate, or for more information about the PEP Foundation, go to thepepfoundation.org.

Stay connected with your school district!



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Park View fifth grader earns perfect score on national vocabulary competition

Park View Elementary student Andrew Ford-Taggart was one of only 22 fifth graders in the country to earn a perfect score on a recent WordMasters vocabulary competition. Ford-Taggart is the first Park View student to earn a perfect score on a WordMasters Challenge in more than a decade.

Ford-Taggart got all 20 questions correct in the competition, which involves nearly 250,000 students each year. He competed in the Gold Division - the highest level - designed for students with superior language skills.

The WordMasters Challenge is for third-through eighth-grade students. It emphasizes logic and reading comprehension with analogy problems.

Three times a year, the students receive a set of words that are significantly harder than grade level. The quiz then asks them to find relationships between words.

A WordMasters Challenge question might look like:

proud: swagger :: ashamed: ____
(a) boast (b) resume (c) shrink (d) quiver (e) swell.

The student would then have to determine the relationship between the first two words and how that would relate to the third. In this example, a proud person has a swagger, as an ashamed person has a quiver.

Three times a year, the students take a 20-question quiz. Each quiz gets progressively harder because it includes words from the most recent set, as well as words



Andrew Ford-Taggart

from any previous sets. Ford-Taggart studies each set of words with his mom. They make flashcards and practice around the dinner table.

"Andrew is a hard worker, and we're very proud of him," said his mother, Lauren Ford.

In class, the students make one-page study sheets that include definitions, synonyms, illustrations, root words, sentences, and more.

Ford-Taggart was coached by Park View teacher Jessica Bainter. "He has a knack for figuring out how things go together," Bainter said. "He's accepted the challenge and hasn't given up on it. He's definitely excelling at this."

Elementary lunch prices raised by 10 cents, middle school steady

In April, the Board of Education approved a small increase in the cost of elementary lunch and milk prices.

The price for elementary school lunch will increase from \$3 to \$3.10 in 2017-18. Elementary milk will increase from 40 cents to 45 cents.

The 3-percent increase is in response to a 9.7-percent increase in the cost of meals to the District.

The cost of middle school food and drinks will remain the same for 2017-18. CCSD 89 operates the lunch service at a small loss, as required by law.

Briar Glen teacher Linda Perlini is named Educator of the Year

Briar Glen Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Linda Perlini was recognized as the District 89 "Educator of the Year" at the Glen Ellyn Community Awards Banquet held in March. Perlini was one of 16 people recognized by the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce for their contributions to the village.

"Linda is dynamic, passionate, and she cares about every single kid that walks through our doors, every single minute they're in our building," Briar Glen Principal Mitch Dubinsky said when introducing Perlini. "As a parent,

as a principal, that's the kind of teacher I want in the classroom. She flat-out loves teaching. She's great at it, and this community is better for having Linda Perlini leading young learners."

Perlini started working at CCSD 89 in 1993. She has worked as a special education middle school teacher and elementary school teacher. Perlini still loves coming into the classroom every day because she never knows what she'll learn from her students.

"I love those 'Aha!' moments," she said. "Sometimes it's with the whole class, sometimes it's in

a small meeting with a student.

Sometimes it's when they're coming from recess and someone makes a connection. I'm constantly learning something and it's wonderful."

Community Consolidated School District 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru praised Perlini's leadership, energy, and knowledge.

"Linda is dedicated to her craft, always striving to improve herself and others," Tammaru said. "She

puts her students first, providing

the extra attention each one of them needs. Linda's passion for teaching resonates beyond the classroom and her students; she also inspires those with whom she works to grow and learn. Linda Perlini is a joy to work with, learn from, and especially

to have in the classroom."

Perlini was humbled by the award and gave credit to the co-workers who share their expertise.



Linda Perlini

District 89 upcoming events

May 29: No school (Memorial Day)

May 30: Glen Crest Middle School promotion ceremony

May 31: Last day of classes for students and staff (half day for students)

June 1: Summer!

June 19: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

July 4: District offices closed for Independence Day

July 17: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

August 14: First day of school year for CCSD 89 staff

August 16: First day of school for CCSD 89 students

August 21: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

Redesigned District website in June

In June, Community Consolidated School District 89 will be launching a redesigned website to better communicate with families and community members.

The website will still be found at www.ccsd89.org.

The District launched an initiative to redesign the site to provide

more information in a better organized, easier-to-read format.

The site will also have a responsive design that adjusts to the size of the viewers' screen, a critical change as more people access the site through different devices.

The work to redesign the website was done by CCSD 89 staff.

Just moved in? Make sure to get registered for 2017-18 school year

If you have just moved into CCSD 89, be sure to get your students registered for the 2017-18 school year as soon as possible.

Families can start the process by filling out pre-registration forms online. The forms are under the "registration" tab on the District's webpage. Parents/guardians with-

out Internet access may register at the district office.

Families will then receive a SnapCode via U.S. Mail, which is used to complete registration.

Your child's enrollment will not be guaranteed until the entire registration process has been completed and submitted.





District 89 Student spotlight: Stefan Loest



Glen Crest Middle School student has earned big honors, but finds joy in the details of preparation

In jazz band, Stefan Loest loves the solos. Yes, the eighth-grade saxophone player still gets nervous before a performance. But the solo is his chance to improvise – a public display of his musical dedication that is both part of a larger ensemble and an opportunity to be on his own.

When the solo is over, there's relief in a good performance. But there is also satisfaction in a job well done, and well prepared for.

For Stefan, 14, learning music is his own reward. In addition to being part of the jazz band at Glen Crest Middle School, Stefan will often practice for an hour after dinner in his dad's office. Often, the pieces he plays aren't for competition or for school. Instead, he finds music that he wants to explore and work at.

Lately, he's been trying out songs from a Charlie Parker solo book he received for Christmas.

"I'm still trying to figure out what I want to listen to and who I want to sound like," he said. "I like the end product and how it sounds when it is

finished. When there's something hard I'm trying to learn, eventually I get it and that really gives me a sense of satisfaction."

Stefan grew up in a musical family. Both his parents have music degrees and his father composes middle school band music. Still, Stefan felt a little unsure when he first picked up a saxophone in fifth grade at Briar Glen Elementary School.

Pretty quickly, he discovered that he enjoyed the preparation as much as the performance.

The hard work has been noticed. Last summer, he earned second chair at an Illinois State University's middle school band competition camp that drew young musicians from across the state.

Then, in February, he participated in the Auburn University Middle School Honor Band Festival in Alabama.

About 450 students apply to the competition; only half are selected to participate.

Stefan was not only chosen, he earned first chair for alto saxophone in the competition's festival's highest band.

Stefan plans to continue playing saxophone in high school. After college, he'd like to work

in music – either as a musician or a teacher. That's why he hopes other CCSD 89 students will take a chance and pick up that first instrument.

"I think it's really fun. I would encourage them to at least try," he said. "Being in a group and working toward a common goal is fun and the

end result is satisfying."

Watch Stefan play his saxophone at a recent Board meeting by going to the CCSD 89 YouTube channel or using this link: <https://youtu.be/bnFviMPVCBo>

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.

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District 89 Schools

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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
25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL
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Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
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