From the Superintendent: High expectations for another great school year

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

I hope you all had a safe and relaxing summer. These past few months have been important for Community Consolidated School District 89. Our buildings were active throughout June and July, as students visited schools to check out books and take summer school classes offered by our staff and the Butterfield Park District.

Over that same time, our staff prepared curriculum and classrooms to welcome back returning students and to greet children who are beginning their journey in our District.

It was particularly exciting to see so many students visiting our library this summer. That indicates to me they are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure they’re ready to start school.

‘Whatever it takes’ is a theme I will return to often this year. I am asking our staff, our students, and this community to raise their expectations for what is possible.

Last year, CCSD 89 set its sights on creating new opportunities for our students. At the end of 2016, I had the pleasure of working on an update to the District’s strategic plan. We use the strategic plan – which can be viewed at www.ccsd89.org/strategicplan - to help us set our priorities and guide the District through difficult decisions.

The students on the Strategic Plan Committee set the tone in those meetings. They asked for greater challenges and higher expectations. These young learners understand that they need educational environments that are engaging and applicable to the real world.

To meet that goal this year, we have expanded the opportunities for all students to engage with the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills that will apply to jobs of the future. We’ll also be in the second year with our re-written science curriculum, which has inspired more students to go beyond surface-level knowledge in search of deeper understanding.

These are important steps for our students, and they wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our staff and our community.

Similarly, I applaud our librarians, who have taken on the challenge of re-imagining what a library can be. This year, our libraries will have more areas for students to use computers, robots, and engineering tools to engage in problem solving. Students will have additional time and space to work on design and modeling. They won’t be handed answers; instead, they will experiment on their way to solutions.

We will also be realigning our exploratory classes – art, computers, health, music, and physical education - at the middle school. Staff will be working with experts to write new curriculum and develop new courses that will challenge students to communicate, collaborate, create, and think critically more often. Students will have new ways to experience and explore STEM careers. It will be an empowering time for staff and students.

As you can see, I can’t wait for school to start. I hope your student feels the same excitement to see friends and take on new learning challenges.

For those of you who don’t have a student in our District, I hope you know that your contributions are an essential part of making this community a learning leader. Our staff is committed to doing whatever it takes to make this a school district that our families and this community can continue to be proud of.

Thank you for all you do to support learning for life. I am looking forward to the best year yet in our District!

Emily K. Tammen

Welcome back! School starts August 16

The 2017-2018 school year will start for all CCSD 89 students on Wednesday, August 16. The first day was moved up by three school days to align with the calendar change at Glenbard South High School.

A full calendar is available on the District’s website, www.ccsd89.org.

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

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: 9:30 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Curriculum nights
Arbor View: Aug. 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Briar Glen: Aug. 29, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Park View: Sept. 7, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Westfield: Aug. 31, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Glen Crest: Aug. 24
6:30 p.m. PSAT info for 8th graders
7-9 p.m. open to all grades

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

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CCSD 89 monitoring state budget talks

Administrators at Community Consolidated School District 89 continue to keep a close eye on the state’s budget process and its effect on educational funding.

In July, the General Assembly passed a state budget, which included funding for public schools. However, at the time this newsletter was sent to print, the governor and legislators had not yet come to an agreement on what formula would be used to distribute education funds. That formula could dramatically impact how CCSD 89 uses its reserves, and how it plans for future spending needs.

Additionally, the District is monitoring a proposed property-tax freeze which could severely limit CCSD 89’s ability to compete with neighboring school districts. The District will continue to provide updates on this issue.

Community Service Award: Mel and Ina Konsoer

In June, CCSD 89 residents Mel and Ina Konsoer’s four decades of service were honored with the School Board’s “Community Service Award”.

The Konsoers have participated in dozens of committees and activities at Arbor View and Glen Crest. At Arbor View, either Mel, Ina, or both, have served as basketball coaches, chaperones, playground rebuild chairman, classroom aides, and French Program Committee Chairman. They’ve held all leadership positions with the school’s PTC. They built the first haunted house for Halloween Harvest. The Konsoers were presidents of the Band Boosters at Glen Crest and helped fund-raise for new band uniforms.

Hear Mel and Ina talk about why they got involved and advice for other volunteers at www.ccsd89.org/MelAndIna

Glen Crest athletes earn honors at Special Olympics state meet

Two Glen Crest Middle School students who competed at the Special Olympics state track and field meet returned home with honors and memories of an incredible event. Isaiah Hayes earned a gold medal in the long jump and a ribbon in the 50-meter run. (See page 4 for more about Isaiah.) J.J. Holder earned a ribbon in the softball throw.

Both students competed in the Special Olympics state meet held in June at Illinois State University. The state meet is known as the “Summer Games”, and is considered the premier sports competition for more than 4,000 Illinois athletes competing in six sports.

CCSD 89 elementary teacher Mike Casmer coached the students at the state meet. At the opening ceremony, the stadium was filled with athletes, coaches, families, and hundreds of volunteers. Firefighters and police officers lined the stadium and gave high fives to the athletes who were introduced.

“They were thrilled to be there, both of them,” Casmer said. “It was definitely evident that they were having a great time.”

Multiple medals at regional meet

Isaiah and J.J. qualified for the state meet by finishing first at the regional qualifier held at the College of DuPage, where seven students earned medals or ribbons:

- Aiden Bosley (Glen Crest): Gold in 50-meter run
- Jake Doyle (GC): Bronze in softball throw; Participation ribbon in 50-meter run
- Mia Foster-Simbulan (Westfield): Silver in the 50-meter run; silver in tennis ball throw
- Isaiah Hayes (GC): Gold in 50-meter run; gold in standing long jump
- J.J. Holder (GC): Gold in softball throw; silver in 50-meter run
- Lexi Koenig (GC): Silver in 50-meter run; bronze in softball throw
- Wyatt Salek (GC): Fifth-place ribbon in softball throw; Seventh-place ribbon in 50-meter run

Stay connected with your school district!

Twitter: @CCSD89
facebook.com/CCSD89
YouTube: Search “CCSD 89” on YouTube
YMCA offers elementary enrichment classes

The B.R. Ryall YMCA will again offer after-school enrichment programs at the four Community Consolidated School District 89 elementary schools.

The 2017-2018 enrichment topics include: science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities; Spanish language classes; and karate. Basketball and chess will also be available at some CCSD 89 elementary schools.

Classes run from dismissal to 4:45 p.m. Some scholarships are available for families in need. Families can look for more information from their principal once school begins, or on the B.R. Ryall YMCA website.

The B.R. Ryall YMCA also offers before- and after-school care at all elementary schools from 6:30 a.m. until the start of school, and dismissal until 6 p.m. Limited spaces are available. More information is available at www.brrlyallymca.org.

Committee of parents, staff continues work toward new school boundaries for 2018-2019

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 reconvened the Enrollment Committee as a Boundary Committee. The expanded committee will look at all data, building plans, and previous feedback to develop a sustainable plan that provides optimal outcomes.

The District’s plan is to present a boundary-change recommendation to the Board of Education in October, with the Board possibly taking action in December. 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 worked on ways to reduce the number of students who could lose instructional minutes when they are bused away from their home school to balance enrollments.

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.

New website will help families stay connected

Community Consolidated School District 89 has redesigned its website to help families and community members stay better informed about important school information. The website still uses the same address – www.ccsd89.org - but has a new design and layout.

The new website features “responsive design”, meaning it adapts to the size of the viewers’ screens.

Additional new features on the updated website include a “Quick Links” menu that allows users to jump straight to the most commonly used information, such as lunch menus and upcoming events.

The website also uses more friendly URLs (website addresses) to make information easier to find. For instance, the school supply lists are now found at www.ccsd89.org/supplies.

The District will continue to develop the website so that it remains a detailed and user-friendly communication tool.

New to District? Get registered for 2017-18

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 can be found at www.ccsd.org/register. Parents/guardians without Internet access may register at the District office.

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.

District 89 upcoming events

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
August 28: Preschool screening at Arbor View Elementary
September 4: NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
September 9: Board of Education workshop - 8 a.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
September 25: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. budget hearing; 7:10 p.m. Board meeting; Both at Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
September 27: Mid-term of first trimester
October 6: MORNING ATTENDANCE - School Improvement Day
October 9: NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
October 10: NO SCHOOL - Teacher Institute Day
October 16: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
October 19: Evening conferences for Glen Crest Middle School
November 2: Evening conferences for Glen Crest Middle School
November 6: Preschool screening at Arbor View Elementary
November 9: End of first trimester
November 16: First trimester report cards sent home
November 20: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
November 21: MORNING ATTENDANCE - Conferences
November 22-24: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
December 9: Board of Education workshop - 8 a.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
December 12: CCSD 89 Winter Orchestra Concert - 7 p.m. Glen Crest Middle School
December 14: CCSD 89 Winter Chorus Concert - 7 p.m. Glen Crest Middle School
December 18: Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
December 19: CCSD 89 Winter Band Concert - 7 p.m. Glen Crest Middle School
December 29 - January 5: NO SCHOOL - Winter break
January 8: School resumes after winter break
January 9: Mid-term of second trimester
District 89 student spotlight: Isaiah Hayes

Glen Crest Middle School student earned gold medal at Special Olympics state meet

Isaiah Hayes is a natural athlete. The Glen Crest eighth grader is tall, thin, and it doesn’t take much prompting for him to assure you that he is “the fastest man alive.”

Isaiah loves to play basketball, mostly with his family and neighborhood friends.

But until last year, Isaiah, 13, has not had many opportunities to compete in larger groups.

In 2016, Community Consolidated School District 89 started its first Special Olympics track team. (See page 2 for more on the Special Olympics team.) Since you can’t have a track team without the fastest man alive, Isaiah was one of the first CCSD 89 students to sign up.

For weeks, he practiced with his CCSD 89 teammates, the teachers who coached the team, and the student track mentors who volunteered with the Special Olympians.

The hard work paid off. Among hundreds of athletes in the regional competition held at the College of DuPage, Isaiah took first place in the 50-meter run and standing long jump - qualifying for state in both events.

For his parents, the state meet was intimidating and exciting. They were thrilled the meet was in Bloomington, Ill., where Isaiah was born. It meant plenty of family members could see him compete.

But his parents were worried that the big atmosphere – 4,000 athletes and their supporters filling a big stadium – might overwhelm him. Isaiah has a speech impediment and they were concerned he might not be able to communicate his needs to unfamiliar officials.

And then there was the competition: Isaiah was pitted in the long jump against young man who was more than 6 feet tall.

“Isaiah jumped like he’d never jumped before,” said his mother, Nicola. “I think he understood it was competition time and he had to bring out his best.”

Isaiah became Community Consolidated School District 89’s first Special Olympics state champion.

The athletic success was great but the meet was about much more.

“I think it is important to his growth and development to see people who may have challenges but are able to achieve at high levels,” Nicola said. “Everyone was cheering whether they got sixth or first. That was a great environment to be a part of.”

Isaiah’s father Clarence was moved by the support from the District and the Special Olympics community.

“It was definitely worth it to give him an opportunity to work as a team,” Clarence said. “We couldn’t stop talking about it. The District is really doing great things.”

For the 2017-18 school year, the District has added soccer and Isaiah’s specialty: basketball. Isaiah already knows exactly which NBA superstar he’ll be.

“I’m going to be Curry,” he says with a huge smile.

Watch out, Steph Curry. The fastest man alive is right on your heels.