

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning for Life

www.ccsd89.org

89

update

A PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT 89

SERVING GLEN ELLYN, LOMBARD AND WHEATON

2013-2014: A Year of Many Improvements in CCSD89

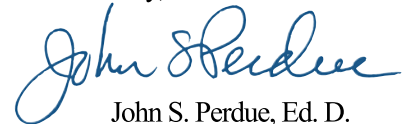
The 2013-2014 school year is off to a great start, and there is a contagious level of excitement throughout the hallways in our five schools. Students and staff members are energized and ready for a great school year.

As an educational system, CCSD89 continually strives to maximize learning outcomes for students, while maintaining efficient budgeting, spending practices and high levels of stakeholder satisfaction. To that end, during the winter and spring of 2013, CCSD89 engaged in a rewrite of the District's Strategic Plan. A group of 24 community members, staff members and administrators, under the guidance of Perry Soldwedel from the Consortium for Educational Change, worked many hours to create an updated vision for CCSD89. While some of key initiatives from our previous strategic plan are being carried forward, there are new goals and priorities incorporated into this plan. In the pages that follow, you will be able to read about the process used to create the plan and also learn about the initiatives that will guide learning and teaching.

For the last several months, CCSD89 has also been working to improve parental and community access to information about the District. In January of 2014 we will officially launch a new website. A committee met for months to explore different options and decided to use Edline as our new website provider. Since that site choice was made, a core group has been creating a revamped website that features easier navigation and enhanced information. We look forward to the launch of this valuable tool.

Since we value a strong home-school relationship and consider it paramount to student success, I encourage you to take an active role this year in your child's education. Please do not hesitate to contact teachers or administrators with comments or concerns. We look forward to working with you this year in achieving our motto of "Learning for Life."

Sincerely,



John S. Perdue, Ed. D.
Superintendent

First Day of School



Glen Crest Middle School 7th Grader Olivia Williams puts some supplies in her locker before her first class on the first day of school.

Children from across CCSD89 returned to school on August 26 and were greeted by teachers and support staff who provided an engaging environment for learning. Preliminary enrollment data suggests that district-wide resident enrollment is down slightly with 28 fewer students enrolled across the K-8 grade levels. As of the middle of September, the PreK-8 enrollment was 1,968, or one student less than last year. This total enrollment count includes preschool and all special education programs.



Briar Glen Elementary Principal Mitch Dubinsky (right) greets the Madison family for their first day ever at Briar Glen. Robert started second grade and James started fourth grade.

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FALL 2013

Strategic Planning Team Engages in Past, Current and Future Look at CCSD89

When the Strategic Planning Team met for the first time, the group engaged in a thorough review of the current strategic plan and learned about how the pillars of mission, vision, values and goals would drive the creation of the new plan. At their second meeting, team members spent several hours digesting a great deal of data that outlined the District's strengths and challenges. This information included data on academic performance, finances and facilities, the educational environment that currently exists in CCSD89, and the results of surveys completed by community members and former CCSD89 students.

Community Survey Shows High Marks for Educational Quality, Programming and Safety

A community survey was mailed to all CCSD89 households in the spring, and an online version was also made available. Responses were received from all areas of the District and from residents of all age ranges.

Top Three Survey Findings

- 97% of the respondents said they believe CCSD89 offers a high quality education.
- 96% of the respondents expressed their approval of the variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities offered to students.
- 95% of the respondents said they felt the schools were safe and secure.

Top Three Opportunities for Improvement

- In the extended response section, many current and former parents felt the curriculum needs to be more challenging
- 15% of the respondents felt CCSD89 could do a better job of reporting comparative achievement data that showed how CCSD89 was doing as compared to the other Glenbard feeder districts.
- 13% of the respondents said they believe discipline could be handled in a manner that had less of a negative impact on learning and teaching success.

Former Students Express Technology Readiness and Success in Transitioning to High School

Former CCSD89 students were invited last spring to participate in an online survey. Several current Glenbard South (GBS) students from grades 9-12 also participated and shared their opinions as part of the strategic planning process.

Top Three Survey Findings

- 89% said they had technological skill development prior to entering high school that allowed them to be successful at GBS.
- 86% said they felt their transition from CCSD89 to GBS was successful.
- 85% of the respondents expressed confidence with beginning their high school experience.

Top Three Opportunities for Improvement

- 50% of the respondents felt their middle school classes were not adequately challenging, and that they felt unprepared for the difficulty level and amount of homework at GBS.
- 40% said discipline issues at the middle school negatively affected learning and that discipline was too harsh and rules were too strict.
- In the extended response section, many students felt there were gaps in their English/Language Arts readiness in the areas of proper annotation in papers and proper writing mechanics.

Committee Sets Vision for 2013-2016 and Beyond

During their third and fourth meetings, the Strategic Planning Team engaged in deep discussions about the preferred vision for the district and then spent several hours setting a specific direction for the next five years. The new plan was reviewed and approved by the Board of Education in September. The complete new Strategic Plan may be viewed at www.ccsd89.org from a link available on the home page.

Revised Mission

CCSD89 will empower all learners to recognize and optimize their full potential.

Motto

“Learning for Life”

Revised Vision for Excellence

CCSD89 aspires to:

- Employ rigorous, relevant curriculum and learning opportunities
- Engage in innovative problem solving, critical thinking and effective collaboration
- Enable self-sufficiency, responsibility and accountability
- Encourage empathy, acceptance and self-efficacy
- Embrace the strengths in our differences as members of a global community
- Ensure the essential resources necessary to remain a premier school district

Revised Core Values

- A partnership with home, school and community is important for all students to learn, grow and develop to their full potential.
- It is essential to hold high expectations for all students.
- Members of our learning community must treat one another respectfully and work collaboratively to achieve our mission and vision.
- Data-driven decisions and high levels of satisfaction are essential for continuous improvement.
- Students, families and staff must collaborate to guide students toward responsibility and accountability for their growth and learning.
- 21st century learning and the integration of technology enables and enriches skills essential for future readiness.
- Alignment and efficient use of resources (people, time, space and money) enhances learning and supports improvement goals.

Strategic Plan Team Sets Long-Range Goals for CCSD89

As a key part of their work, team members developed clear and concise long-range goals for CCSD89 in the areas of student achievement, learning conditions, resources, staff and family/community. They also developed strategies for accomplishing the goals and indicators, which would be the “proof” that the goals were producing positive results.

Student Achievement Goal: Ensure student growth and proficiency toward college and career readiness

Learning Conditions Goal: Provide a safe, nurturing, and academically engaging learning environment

Resources Goal: Make optimal use of our resources in achieving our mission, vision, values and goals

Staff Goal: Recruit, recognize, retain, inspire and reward an exceptional workforce.

Family & Community Goal: Engage families and the community in partnerships to advance the mission and vision of the district.



Critical Strategies for Action

- We will implement with fidelity shared units of instruction aligned to Common Core or other state learning standards.
- We will increase rigor and challenge for all students to meet the needs of every student and close achievement gaps.
- We will set goals with clear measures and targets and use data to monitor and report progress: student, classroom, team/department, school and district.
- We will explore new ways of using time to create optimal learning and teaching opportunities that provide staff with time to collaborate and students with time to ensure growth and mastery of grade level learning outcomes.
- We will continue to study appropriate and effective ways of using technology that leads to enhanced learning and teaching and prepares our students for digital citizenship.
- We will address the impact of available financial resources on the quality of programs and services offered in CCSD89 in an effort to keep our district a premier school district.
- We will improve social emotional learning in an effort to promote good self-concept and social awareness.
- We will communicate and collaborate with families and the greater learning community to establish trust, respect and pride in the district's performance.

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