

Superintendent: Academic achievement, school safety remain our cornerstones

I would like to thank all the students, families, and community members who have made it such a great start to the 2022-23 school year in Community Consolidated School District 89.

Our district is always working on a variety of initiatives to ensure we provide the best educational experience for every single student. The projects vary but they all point back to two essential objectives: academic achievement and student safety. I would like to provide an update on both of these issues.

I'm proud to say that on the recently released state report card, all five CCSD 89 schools were named as exemplary or commendable – the state's two highest rankings. On the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, students in CCSD 89 scored significantly above state averages in both reading and math, and showed growth in both areas from the previous year.

Additionally, on the most recent Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), CCSD 89 students scored well above national averages at every grade level – in some cases more than twice the national average.

I'd also like to highlight our students' success

in algebra. Our staff set a long-term goal of increasing the number of students who complete algebra before eighth grade because students who complete algebra will be able to get further in high school math before their sophomore year. Consequently, they will be better prepared for college entrance exams.

Thanks to the hard work of our students and staff, a CCSD 89 eighth grader is now twice as likely to finish algebra before they start high school as compared to other Illinois children.

This is just one example of how students are at the forefront of every decision this district makes. We are always focused on giving every single child a solid foundation so they have as many opportunities as possible.

For the same reason, our district has taken a multi-layer approach to student safety, focusing on staff training, reporting systems, safe structures, and social-emotional health.

In October, sergeants from the Glen Ellyn Police Department and DuPage County Sheriff's Office met with our entire staff to share strategies for keeping buildings safe and advice on how to protect students in a crisis. It was a heavy topic but one that is critical for our preparedness.

It was also another reminder that safety is the entire community's responsibility. Any

time you know of a safety issue related to our schools, you must reach out to the school or local police. Don't assume someone else has called. You can make a huge difference.

In addition to regular police reviews of our buildings, the recently passed bond referendum includes updates at the three school entrances that need additional safety features.

Finally, we look to prevent future violence by helping students build the social-emotional skills to deal with conflicts in a healthy and responsible way as adults. In order to better measure students' ability to manage emotions and make good decisions, CCSD 89 students in third through eighth grades now participate in the Behavioral and Emotional Screening System (commonly known as BESS). BESS gives the school data about how a child internalizes feelings, self-regulates, and establishes good relationships. This data is paired with in-class observations to help track student growth over time.

Students who can manage their emotions are better able to focus on building their academic skills.

I hope our focus on safety means students don't have to think about it as often, so they can focus on learning and being kids.

Of course, there is still work to do. We will never stop striving for higher achievement and even safer schools.

Together, we ensure this community remains committed to learning for life.



Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent



Residents invited to be part of CCSD 89 Conversations with the Community

All residents are invited to learn more about their school district at the CCSD 89 Conversations with the Community events on Thursday, December 1, and Thursday, February 9.

The inaugural community conversations are scheduled for noon and 6 p.m. on December 1, in the board room of the district office, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

On December 1, CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily Tammaru will present information about social-emotional learning. The information presented at the noon and 6 p.m. meetings will be identical.

After the brief presentation, community members can ask any additional questions related to the district.

The CCSD 89 Community Conversations were created by Tammaru as another opportunity for community members to learn and ask questions about the district.

The second meeting will be held at noon and 6 p.m. Thursday, February 9. The noon February 9 meeting will hold in the district office. The 6 p.m. meeting may be moved to a school building. Check the district's website for the location. The topic for the February 9 meeting will be determined after getting input at the first meeting.

Thursday, December 1

Noon and 6 p.m.

In the district office

22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

Information on social-emotional learning, opportunity to ask questions

Thursday, February 9

Noon and 6 p.m.

In the district office

22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

Presentation and questions

District earns statewide recognition for financial excellence and leadership

CCSD 89 was recently notified that the district's bond rating improved to AA+. Only the most conservative and financially secure districts receive this rating from Standard & Poor's, which is a testament to the finance department's work and the Board of Education's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

The AA+ rating is expected to save taxpayers about \$225,000 in interest payments on the bonds that were recently approved for repairs and updates to educational environments and safety systems.

Shortly after the district was notified of the bond rating, the district also received news that the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) honored CCSD 89 with its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 22nd consecutive year.

The award is earned by school districts that have met or exceeded the ASBO's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. Recognition through the ASBO program demonstrates commitment to fiscal integrity, shows the district's dedication to transparency, and can help achieve a better bond rating.

"Our staff and our Board of Education are always focused on ways to provide a great education to this community's children while being responsible stewards of public resources," said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru. "This honor is public recognition of the consistently excellent work done by the district's business department."

ASBO International is a professional organization with approximately 5,000 members. ASBO provides programs and services to promote the highest standards of business practices, professional growth, and effective use of educational resources.

CCSD 89 Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Mau-

reen Jones recently concluded a three-year term on the Illinois ASBO Board of Directors. In recognition of her service, IASBO made a \$1,000 donation in Jones' name to the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center, which provides afterschool tutoring and mentoring to Glen Crest Middle School students. IASBO treasurer Dr. David Bein called Jones as an amazing leader.

"IASBO, your district, and all of the school districts around the state of Illinois are better because of what you have done," Bein said.

The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC) is a afterschool mentoring program at Glen Crest Middle School for students who need additional academic support. Two CCSD 89 employees design the daily activities for the afterschool program while community volunteers help students with classwork.

GECRC is looking for donors and volunteers to be a part of the program in CCSD 89.

Learn how you can help at www.gecrc.com.



Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center Director of Program and Volunteers Lisa Hepner (left) and GECRC Executive Director Leah Harding (right) accept a donation from CCSD 89 Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Maureen Jones. The donation was made by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials to recognize Jones' service on their board.

CCSD 89 video stories

There are amazing stories happening every day in Community Consolidated School District 89! You can see and hear more of these stories, including the three below, at www.ccsd89.org/video

Little Library makes trading books fun!

Need a good read? Have a great book to share? The Glen Crest Library Teen Advisory Board opened a "Little Library" outside the school, where community members can make literary exchanges!



Liaisons strengthen connection between school, home

The family engagement liaisons are community members focused on fostering relationships with parents to strengthen the connection between home and school. Find out how they can help you!



Visiting author shares tips for young writers

Gina Lehman visited Park View Elementary School to talk about her latest book. She started her own writing career as a third-grade author. She shares some writing advice for aspiring authors!



Donate blood January 18 at Glen Crest



Community Blood Drive
2-6:30 p.m. January 18
Glen Crest Middle School

Ever wondered what it's like to donate blood?
Nervous about needles?

Get answers to common questions about donation:
www.ccsd89.org/blood

Glen Crest Middle School has become a regular host site for blood drives organized by Versiti Blood Centers. Everyone in the community is invited to donate blood at Glen Crest.

Glen Crest will host its next blood drive from 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18. Appointments will be honored first.

Blood donation is a simple four-step process: registration, medical history, donation, and refreshments. Blood donation usually takes about 10 to 12 minutes. The entire process, from arrival to exit, takes about an hour.

Future blood drives: March 15, 2023; May 10, 2023; August 23, 2023; and November 1, 2023.

No online learning for 'snow days' in 2022-23

When school buildings need to close due to extreme weather (such as heavy snow), CCSD 89 will not be providing online learning this school year. If a snow day is necessary, schools will be closed and the day will be added to the end of the school year.

The last day of school is scheduled to be a half-day on Thursday, May 25. The district builds five emergency days into the calendar. If all five emergency days are used, the last day of this school year would be Friday, June 2.

Learn more: www.ccsd89.org/weather



To see these stories and more, search "CCSD 89" on YouTube

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Search "CCSD 89" on YouTube



Nine Glen Crest students selected to participate in prestigious middle school music concert

Nine Glen Crest Middle School students were selected to play in the Illinois Music Education Association District IX Junior Division Festival. The five band students and four orchestra students were selected from hundreds of middle-school students that auditioned. The ILMEA Festival - held Saturday, November 19 - is at Bartlett High School. These Spartans were chosen to be a part of the ILMEA concert:

Band: Charlotte Edwards (trumpet) 7th grade; Emily Goodin (trumpet) 7th grade; Soren Loest (trombone) 8th grade; Maggie McIntyre (French Horn) 8th grade; Milo Mufich (tuba) 8th grade

Orchestra: Sophia Assaf (double bass) 8th grade; Dea Gjata (violin) 7th grade; Logan Sassi (cello) 7th grade; Erin Whitehead (viola) 8th grade

The students submitted an online audition and were chosen by professional music educators for the honors ensembles. At the festival, the students rehearse throughout the morning and conclude with a public concert in the afternoon. Glen Crest band teachers are Katrina Berry and Lev Garbar. Glen Crest orchestra teachers are Kristi Kline and Andrew Ladendorf.

Make a difference in a student's life! Become a classroom aide or substitute teacher in CCSD 89

Do you enjoy helping kids? Consider being a classroom aide. CCSD 89 is hiring special-education aides. The positions are full-time, five days a week, and include health and dental insurance, as well as retirement benefits.

Applicants only need to be 19 years old with a high school diploma. Find out more or apply: www.ccsd89.org/employ

CCSD 89 is also hiring substitute teachers. This is a great opportunity to get to know your community's students and make a difference in their daily learning. Substitute teaching can be an incredibly fulfilling experience.

Teachers and principals often request certain substitute teachers in an effort to continue a positive relationships in that building.

Substitute teachers make \$140 per day, with an increase to \$155 after 15 days of substitute teaching. Find out more or apply: www.ccsd89.org/substitute

FirstStudent is also hiring bus drivers. No experience necessary. More info: www.WorkAtFirst.com.

2022-23 preschool, kindergarten student registration scheduled to open in January

Families interested in having their student attend tuition preschool in the 2023-24 school year will begin registration in January 2023. Families will need to provide an original birth certificate and proof of residency to be placed in a lottery for pre-school openings. Families not selected in the lottery are put on a waitlist.

Registration for kindergarten students who will be new to the district in the 2023-24 school year will open in February 2023. All new students will also have to provide an original birth certificate and prove residency.

More information about registration will be posted on the district's website (www.ccsd89.org) in December.

Registration for returning students will open in April 2023.

REGISTER



Many families can track bus travel through FirstView app

Many CCSD 89 families will now be able to track their student's bus trips to and from school through a free busing app.

Parents can download the FirstView app. The app can show an estimated number of minutes until the bus arrive at bus stops, and when buses arrive at school.

Learn more: www.ccsd89.org/busapp

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOV 21** **Board of Education meeting**
Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.
- NOV 22** **Morning attendance**
Morning attendance for students
Parent-teacher conferences
- NOV 23-25** **No school**
Thanksgiving break. All schools closed.
School resumes November 28
- DEC 1** **Conversations with the Community**
Community members invited to meet with the superintendent to learn about social-emotional skills
- DEC 8** **Winter chorus concert**
At Glen Crest Middle School
7 p.m.
- DEC 12** **Board of Education meeting**
Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.
- DEC 13** **Winter band concert**
At Glenbard South High School
6 p.m. (5th grade), 7 p.m. (6th grade),
8 p.m. (7th/8th grade)
- DEC 14** **Winter orchestra concert**
At Glenbard South High School
6 p.m. (5th/6th grade)
7:30 p.m. (7th/8th/chamber)
- DEC 19** **Start of winter break**
All schools closed.
School resumes for students on January 3.
- JAN 2** **No school**
Institute Day.
Staff returns from winter break
- JAN 3** **School resumes**
School resumes after winter break
- JAN 16** **No school**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School resumes on January 17
- JAN 18** **Blood drive at Glen Crest**
Community invited to donate blood at
Glen Crest Middle School
2-6:30 p.m.

Student spotlight: Park View fourth-grade student Ketan Dubey

It was July 2020, the pandemic was disrupting almost everything, and Anupam Dubey was facing a challenge many parents can relate to: he needed an exciting and safe activity for his kids, and he didn't want them sitting in front of a TV or video game.

Dubey's daughter Nishtha suggested something fun, socially distanced, and active: badminton. The family set up a net in the backyard and dad started playing against Nishtha.

At first, younger brother Ketan wasn't interested. He liked soccer.

But Ketan watched his sister play and saw her have success in some local tournaments. He asked if maybe he could try one badminton lesson – just to see if he liked it.

Goodbye, soccer.

"He picked it up very quickly," Anupam Dubey said. "The coaches were very positive about him being a good learner and being very hard working."

Two years later, the Park View fourth-grade student is among the seven best under-11 badminton players in the United States, and he's still only nine years old. This past July, he played 13 matches in seven days at the U.S. Junior National Championships in Texas, earning two bronze medals.

But in his fourth-grade class? You'd hardly suspect the tall, humble kid is a nationally-ranked badminton player. He's known as the excellent math student who the whole class enjoys being around.

"He's the student that everyone is friends with because he can work with anyone," said his teacher, Stephanie Roberts. "It doesn't matter who he's sitting next to, he's interested in what they have to say."

Roberts had no idea about the badminton success until the class was talking about weekend plans and Ketan mentioned his family was traveling.

For what?, Roberts asked.

Oh, a badminton tournament.

It was not just any tournament. In October, Ketan won both the boys' singles and boys' doubles gold medals at the USA Badminton Open Regional Championships in New York.

"You already see that he has so much potential," Roberts said.

Ketan, who credits his father with teaching him most of his badminton skills, likes the game because it moves fast and to be successful you have to practice, work hard, and focus.

Ketan certainly does that.

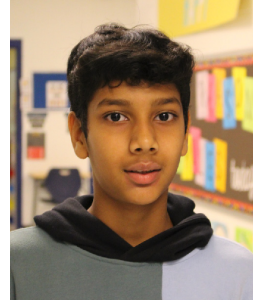
Ketan sets his alarm for 6 a.m. so he can get up and do fitness and stretching exercises every day before school.

At the end of the school day, he hustles home, eats healthy food prepared by his mom, and heads to practice at the Midwest Badminton Club, where he plays six days a week. When he's not practicing or doing homework, he likes to study video of other players' footwork.

Ketan's goals are to be the Junior National Champion and, someday, a badminton professional like his favorite player: Lee Zii Jai of Malaysia. If badminton doesn't work out, he's keeping scientist as a backup career option.

Despite all of his success so far, Ketan's still working on winning the family championship. Dad and sister Nishtha (an eighth grader at Glen Crest) have the upper hand – for now.

"She beats me all the time," Ketan said. "I beat her sometimes."



(630) 469-5220 www.ccisd89.org/glencrest

725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL

Glen Crest Middle School

(630) 858-2770 www.ccisd89.org/westfield

25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL

Westfield School

(630) 858-1600 www.ccisd89.org/parkview

250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL

Park View School

(630) 545-3300 www.ccisd89.org/briarglen

1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL

Briar Glen School

(630) 469-5505 www.ccisd89.org/arborview

22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL

Arbor View School

CCSD 89 Schools

(630) 469-8900

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

22W600 Butterfield Road

www.ccisd89.org



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