

## From the Superintendent: Thankful to be part of the CCSD 89 community

We're three months into a busy and exciting school year in Community Consolidated School District 89, and it's been thrilling to see our students and staff doing whatever it takes for learning.

This year, students had the chance to view a rare eclipse; librarians reimagined their learning spaces to bring in more opportunities for coding, problem solving, and collaboration; and teachers continue to empower learners so they can take on greater academic challenges.

When you see everyone engaged in educational excellence, you can't help but feel grateful. Like many of you, I use this time of year to consider the many things for which I am thankful.

Of course, the highlights of my professional life are the CCSD 89 students who fill every day with joy and inspiration. Likewise, I am grateful to our staff, who have high expectations for

those children, and a passionate dedication to their educational and emotional growth.

The last few months have also reinforced why I love being part of this community. A conversation about boundaries was never going to be easy. There is no simple solution. No matter the outcome, there are families who will feel some frustration.

But what I've seen - and what I've appreciated - is that we were able to have a healthy, productive dialog about an important community issue. Families have been strong advocates for their children, as they should be. At the same time, they've been respectful to the concerns and questions from families across the district.

Throughout this process, I've led nearly a dozen public meetings about boundaries. At each, the community showed up and engaged in the process. Parents, students, and staff asked insightful questions and made important contributions. Even families who no longer had students in the district - and families who do not yet have children in the district - took the time to learn and weigh in.

Twenty three community members on the Enrollment and Boundary committees went above and beyond, volunteering for more than a year to

study this issue.

Thanks to this work, the district was able to put back the instructional minutes some students were losing due to busing transfers. We found new solutions that were best for kids and fiscally responsible. Based on feedback, the Board will be able to consider a phase-in option that would allow students to finish their elementary school time in one building.

In the end, the community conversation strengthened the boundary proposals that were presented to the Board of Education.

While the Board will still have to make a difficult decision at the December 18 meeting, they can feel confident they will move forward having heard the insights and passion of residents.

How wonderful to be in a place where education and children are a central part of the public conversation.

I am proud - and thankful - to be part of such a community.

*Emily K. Tammaru*

Dr. Emily K. Tammaru  
Superintendent



## Board to vote on proposed 2018-19 boundary changes at December meeting

Over the last five years, CCSD 89 has seen a steady increase in enrollment. In the 2012-13 school year, there were 1,968 students enrolled in CCSD 89 schools. Five years later, there were 2,192 students in those same schools - an 11-percent increase. A demographer estimates this population increase will continue for the next five years.

These increases have created imbalanced school populations. The district has enough space to educate all the children in the district, but not in the way the boundaries are currently aligned.

Park View has significantly more students in its boundaries than will fit in the school. Currently, the district balances school populations

through administrative transfer busing - moving students to other CCSD 89 schools. What started as a small program is now busing more than 100 students daily.

In October, the Board of Education was presented with a proposal to adjust the school boundaries. The Board was also presented with a phase-in option, which would allow

**Learn more: [www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryProposal](http://www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryProposal)**

current K-5 CCSD 89 students to stay in their elementary school until they are promoted to middle school. The Board will discuss these options in November, and vote at the December 18 Board meeting.

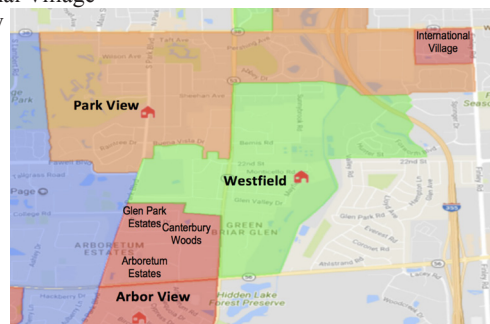
These proposals emerged after district administrators reviewed

dozens of potential scenarios, and the Boundary Committee unanimously moved one recommendation forward.

This proposed boundary change would move: International Village students from Park View to Arbor View; Canterbury Woods students from Westfield to Arbor View; Arboretum Estates students from Westfield to Arbor View; Glen Park Estates students from Westfield to Arbor View; four preschool classrooms from Arbor View to Briar Glen; one specialized classroom from Briar Glen to

Westfield.

This boundary proposal would move approximately 192 kindergarten-through-fifth grade students and 90 preschool students.



A close view of the proposed boundary changes, labeling the four affected neighborhoods. A detailed map can be found at [www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryProposal](http://www.ccsd89.org/BoundaryProposal)



## Families grateful for Westfield Programming Center to honor creative mom

In August, Westfield Elementary dedicated the Park Programming Center, a space that will be used to teach students coding and programming. The Center is named in honor of Catherine Park, the mother of three CCSD 89 students. Catherine Park, 46, died unexpectedly during a family trip in 2016. Her family made a \$22,000 donation to provide opportunities for all students to learn more about the field she worked in.

Westfield purchased robots and other computer programming tools that will be accessible to students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Catherine's mother, Anna Byrne, said the family is thrilled to know that Catherine's "creativity, tenacity, attention to detail, and unconventional ideas"

will live on. Byrne hopes the Center will be a place where rules "are not so much followed as developed, where imagination flies in minds without wings, where failure merely means try again."

"As time passes and names are forgotten, Catherine's family will continue to find joy because the Center is here," Byrne said.

Kenneth Park met his future wife on a mission trip to China in 2000.

"The passion that she (Catherine) had, I would like that be to transmitted to young people," Kenneth Park said. "I hope this program will become contagious in a positive way to other schools."

To see a video of the dedication ceremony, go to: [www.ccsd89.org/parkcenter](http://www.ccsd89.org/parkcenter)



## Special Olympians, peer buddies celebrate inaugural soccer season

Athletes found new ways to bond with their classmates during the first season for the Community Consolidated District 89 Special Olympics soccer team.

CCSD 89 added soccer in the fall and basketball in the winter after a successful Special Olympics track-and-field season during the 2016-17 school year. District staff was inspired to add more sports, with more options for athletes.

The CCSD 89 unified team had seven athletes this season. After six practices, the team concluded the season with a two-game tournament.

While track and field was only open to Special Olympic athletes, the soccer team blends traditional Special Olympics with peer buddies. For coach Mike Casmer, watching the mix of students playing together left a memorable impression.

"The connections were awesome," Casmer said. "The target of unified sports is to get people to recognize that we're all in this together to achieve a common goal."

In October, the CCSD 89 team played in the 2017 Unified Soccer Tournament at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, where there was a spirit of both competition and camaraderie. During the second game, an opposing coach offered Casmer a suggestion on where to place Lexi, one of the CCSD 89 players. Lexi went on to score three goals.

"She was smiling and happy because she was put in a place to succeed," Casmer said. "When you see that kind of success, it was a reminder that this really works."

Casmer noted that these athletic competitions allow

families to see their students in new ways.

"I'm sure some parents thought their son or daughter would never be on a soccer team," he said. "Seeing it all come together, it was absolutely awesome, and I think something we should continue for many years."

Glen Crest Middle School teacher Danny Sheridan will coach the CCSD 89 Special Olympics basketball team. Anyone interested in participating should contact Sheridan at [dsheridan@ccsd89.org](mailto:dsheridan@ccsd89.org), or Paige Martino at [pmartino@ccsd89.org](mailto:pmartino@ccsd89.org).



## PEP Foundation funds four innovative educational opportunities in CCSD 89 schools

The Partnership for Educational Progress (PEP) awarded grants to CCSD 89 projects that will inspire readers, focus learners, empower students, and allow families to explore STEM, including:

### "Breakfast (and more!) With Books": \$500 grant

The goal of this project is for students at Glen Crest Middle School to have extra opportunities for reading in a low-pressure environment. Staff will inspire students to amplify what they've read through activities, which might include: creating projects, reading to younger students, or Skyping with students who have read the same books.

### "Flexible seating": \$500 grant

Through the use of flexible seating, Wendy Jacoby's third-grade

students can identify how they learn and support their learning style.

Students will be able to sit on yoga balls or hokki stools; stand; or use rocker chairs on the floor. By allowing students different options, students have more freedom to communicate, collaborate and be creative.

### "Sensory Station": \$500 grant

Westfield will create a "Sensory Station" to

give students more opportunities for increased movement throughout the day. The staff has seen more students who don't qualify for occupational therapy but could benefit

from increased movement, fine-motor supports, or brain breaks.

### "STEM Imagination": \$370 grant

The district's first STEM Imagination Night on October 24, had students participating in science, technology, engineering, and math activities to spark and reinforce their interest, discovery, persistence, and creativity.

The annual Partnership for Educational Progress Grant Program is supported by tax-deductible gifts.

Further information about the PEP Grant program is available by calling the PEP office at (630) 942-7656, or at [www.thepepfoundation.org](http://www.thepepfoundation.org).



*Families at the District's first STEM Imagination Night.*



## CCSD 89 VIDEO: See, hear our stories What happens on Institute Days?

School Improvement, Teacher Institute days: You see them on calendars, but do you know what happens when teachers stay in school, and how that time impacts student learning?

At the CCSD 89 YouTube channel, you'll hear about the learning that takes place when kids are home. See the video: [www.ccsd89.org/Institute](http://www.ccsd89.org/Institute)

### Students' views on back to school

Before school began, CCSD 89 students from kindergarten through eighth grade shared their thoughts about the best and hardest parts of school, their advice for teachers, their hopes for the school year, and more! Hear their thoughts at: [www.ccsd89.org/StudentsTalk](http://www.ccsd89.org/StudentsTalk)

### Whatever it takes for Hazel

CCSD 89 is committed to making sure every student has a full educational experience. The district recently highlighted this commitment in a video about Arbor View student Hazel, and the team of educators who are part of changing her life.

Hazel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and Angelman Syndrome.

Some believed she might never walk, but with the support of her parents and help from

staff at CCSD 89, Hazel has made incredible progress and growth.

You can learn more about Hazel and the team that is creating new opportunities for her at: [www.ccsd89.org/Hazel](http://www.ccsd89.org/Hazel)



## District has multiple ways to notify families of any school closings due to weather

As winter weather approaches, it's important for CCSD 89 families to ensure their school has the most current contact information.

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.

If there is a closing, information will also be posted on the District's website ([ccsd89.org](http://ccsd89.org)), Facebook page ([facebook.com/CCSD89](https://facebook.com/CCSD89)),

Twitter account (@CCSD89), and at [emergencyclosings.com](http://emergencyclosings.com).

When school is in, parents should send students in clothing appropriate to wear outside. Elementary age students will continue to have recess outside as the weather allows.

The District encourages community members to help students get to school safely by clearing sidewalks and driveways of snow or ice before the start of the school day, if possible.

## Community can donate blood at Glen Crest

Did you know that more than 500 donations of blood are needed daily?

With more local blood centers closing, CCSD 89 has begun hosting regular blood drives at Glen Crest Middle School, 725 Sheehan Drive, Glen Ellyn. The drives are open to anyone.

The next drives will be held 2-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, and 2-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. The process of donating blood takes about 45 minutes.

The blood drives are hosted by Heartland Blood Centers, which

provides blood to hospitals across the country.

Walk ins are always welcome at the blood drives. More information about donating will be posted on

the CCSD 89 website closer to the dates of the drives.

In order to donate, you need to be at least 17 years

old and in good health. You must weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated blood for at least eight weeks. Please check Heartland's website for more information: [www.heartlandbc.org](http://www.heartlandbc.org).

### Upcoming blood drives

2-6 p.m. Wednesday March 7

2-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 7

Both held at Glen Crest

Open to community

## CCSD 89 upcoming events

**November 16:** First trimester report cards sent home

Evening conferences for elementary schools

**November 20:** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Glen Crest Middle School

Evening conferences for elementary schools

**November 21:** MORNING ATTENDANCE - Conferences

**November 22-24:** NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving

**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. Glen Crest Middle School, 725 Sheehan Avenue, Glen Ellyn

**December 19:** CCSD 89 Winter Band Concert - 7 p.m. Glen Crest Middle School

**December 25 - January 5:** NO SCHOOL - Winter break

**January 8:** School resumes after winter break

**January 9:** Mid-term of second trimester

**January 12:** MORNING ATTENDANCE - School Improvement

**January 15:** NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

**February 2:** MORNING ATTENDANCE - Conferences

**February 3:** Board of Education workshop - 8 a.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

**February 5:** Preschool screenings, Arbor View

**February 12:** Board of Education meeting - 7 p.m. Administrative Center, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

**February 19:** NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day

**February 21:** Second trimester grading period ends

**February 28:** Second trimester report cards sent home

**March 2:** NO SCHOOL - Institute Day

## 2018-19 new student registration opens February 1

Registration for families who will be new to CCSD 89 in the 2018-19 school year will open February 1.

Information on how to register will be posted on the district's website ([www.ccsd89.org](http://www.ccsd89.org)) in January.

Residency checks will take place 1-7 p.m. March 6 and March 7, and 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 8 in the District Office, 22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn.

Registration for returning students will open on April 4.

If you've recently moved into the

district with children who should be attending school right now, be sure to register 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.ccsd89.org/register](http://www.ccsd89.org/register). Parents/guardians without Internet access may register at the district office.

Families will receive a SnapCode, which is used to complete registration.

# CCSD 89 student spotlight: Ella Pope

## Westfield fifth grade student earns prestigious honor from Northwestern University

If you ask Ella Pope why she likes math so much, it's only natural that the Westfield Elementary fifth grader answers with a calculation.

"I'm not 100 percent sure why I like math. I've just worked toward it more than anything else," she said. "I like working with fractions, multiplying and dividing them. That's fun."

Ella has loved math since kindergarten, when lessons on counting just weren't hard enough and she kept asking for more challenges.

This year, she's starts her day an hour early, tackling algebra equations at Glen Crest Middle School before busing back to Westfield to start the day with her classmates.

Her work ethic and talent are already taking her places. Ella qualified for classes with the Center for Talent Development, a program for academically talented students run by Northwestern University. In fifth grade, hundreds of students who are a part of the Center for Talent Development take a PSAT test.

From that group of elite students, Ella finished in the top 3 percent on the math portion of the exam. The letter informing Ella called her score "an exceptional scholastic achievement".

She received a certificate, a medallion, and an invite to a banquet held on Northwestern's campus.



"We went to the library and it was just huge," Ella gushed.

While she was there with her dad, Ella sent pictures back to a Westfield friend who has already agreed to be Ella's roommate when they both attend the prestigious university in Evanston.

After that, Ella thinks she'd like to work in business or finance, where she can put her math skills to good use.

But before Northwestern and the career in finance, Ella has fifth grade to finish. The bubbly, happy fifth grader is making the most of her time. Ella's homeroom teacher, Nadia Bardack, praises her student's intelligence, inquisitive nature, and organizational skills.

But Bardack is even more impressed by how Ella inspires her classmates.

"She's obviously a really intelligent child - but not in a dominating way," Bardack said. "By the type of questions Ella asks and the things she's curious about, she brings out the best in other students."

That balance comes from a life filled with more than just academics. Ella loves spending time with her friends and her two younger siblings, Will and Clara. She's also on cheerleading and swimming teams.

And when she's not practicing backflips for the latest cheer routine, Ella sometimes logs on to the computer for extra math after school. Ella says if she misses one of 15 questions, she'll usually go back and start again.

That persistence is at the heart of her advice for other students.

"You just have to try your best and not give up, even if it's hard," she said. "You can skip past hard parts and come back to them - but you have to come back. If you give up on every hard problem, then you're really not learning."

*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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www.ccscd89.org

Keep up with all District 89 news!

Postal Customer

\*\*ECRWSS\*\*

(630) 469-5220 [www.ccscd89.org/glencrest](http://www.ccscd89.org/glencrest)

725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL

**Glen Crest Middle School**

(630) 858-2770 [www.ccscd89.org/westfield](http://www.ccscd89.org/westfield)

25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL

**Westfield School**

(630) 858-1600 [www.ccscd89.org/parkview](http://www.ccscd89.org/parkview)

250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL

**Park View School**

(630) 545-3300 [www.ccscd89.org/briarlglen](http://www.ccscd89.org/briarlglen)

1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL

**Briar Glen School**

(630) 469-5505 [www.ccscd89.org/arborview](http://www.ccscd89.org/arborview)

22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL

**Arbor View School**

**District 89 Schools**

(630) 469-8900

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

22W600 Butterfield Road

[www.ccscd89.org](http://www.ccscd89.org)

*Learning for Life*

**COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 89**

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