

From the Superintendent: Ensuring every student reaches their greatest success

There is a lot to be proud of in Community Consolidated School District 89.

You may have seen that the state of Illinois released its school report cards - the annual update on district data and student test scores. All five CCSD 89 schools received the highest designations. None were underperforming or lowest performing.



Among local districts, CCSD 89 students were in the top two for both math and reading. Just as important, our students showed the most growth of any local district.

This is what we strive for: high achieving students who continue to learn and grow.

This success is directly attributable to the hard work of our students, their families, and our amazing staff.

I'm very proud the state report shows what I already know: when the children in this community are sent to a CCSD 89 school, they will have the best opportunity to reach their full potential. That doesn't only apply to test scores. Our teachers are helping students

build resiliency, empathy, and other skills that will make them better people, not just better test takers.

While there is much to celebrate, we want the district to be a high achieving organization that continues to learn and grow.

This year, our staff has been engaged in a district-wide conversation about equity. Together, we are learning about how our life experiences can sometimes be a barrier to understanding students' needs or actions. We have been in deep discussions about how we can make sure every student has a successful and equitable experience in school - no matter their physical ability, cultural background, or cognitive capacities.

Why do I say 'equity' instead of 'equality'? What's the difference? Equality means treating everyone the same. Equity is making sure everyone gets what they need to be successful.

If we were treating everyone equally, we wouldn't let any students wear glasses. If some students don't get extra help in seeing the board or reading books, then equal treatment would dictate that no students should get that extra help. Of course, this is absurd.

Supporting one student doesn't mean subtracting opportunities from another student.

Fortunately, public education is about providing every child the best access to oppor-

tunities, then supporting them as they reach for their goals. To do that, each student gets the supports they need to engage with their schoolwork and be successful. For some students, this means the teacher will wear a microphone so the lessons can be heard clearly. For others, it might mean additional time with a language specialist or access to books that reflect their cultural experiences. Still other students might need a set of extra challenging math problems.

When we treat students equally, some students get left behind and others are held back. When we treat students equitably, we ensure each child finds their greatest level of success.

I'm so proud to be part of CCSD 89. That pride does not come from good test scores; it is because we live in a diverse community that uses our unique stories to support young learners. That doesn't show up on a state report card but it does make this a wonderful place to raise children.

Emily K. Tammaru

SUPERINTENDENT DR. EMILY K. TAMMARU



Board honored for outstanding service

The CCSD 89 Board of Education has again been recognized for excellence in governance. In November, the Illinois Association of School Boards honored CCSD 89 board members with the "School Board Governance Recognition". CCSD 89 was one of just 20 school districts in the state to earn this honor.

The Governance Recognition commends school boards that learn and practice effective governance behaviors. It requires a full board commitment to obtaining knowledge and skills critical to government practices that serve the public.

Three CCSD 89 Board Members also earned Level I Master Board member status for their service to public education. Board President Beth Powers, Board Vice President Haydee Núñez, and Board Member Tim Jedlicka were recognized as Level I Master Board Members at the fall IASB meeting.

Powers, Núñez, and Jedlicka earned the IASB recognition based on their commitment to leadership activities. Board members earn points for each leadership event they participated in between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.



Powers



Núñez



Jedlicka

CCSD 89 schools earn high marks from state

When Illinois released the annual school report cards in November, all five CCSD 89 schools were ranked at the two highest designations.

"This marker of success is directly attributable to the hard work of students, families, and our staff," said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru. "Our educators take pride in creating a learning environment that engages students and provides them opportunities to grow."

On the state math test, 28 percent more CCSD 89 students met or exceeded expectations than the average state of Illinois school. In reading, 12 percent more CCSD 89 students reached the highest achievement levels compared to state averages. CCSD 89 students also showed significantly higher rates of academic growth than the state averages.

"While we're incredibly proud of the work highlighted in these state scores, they do not represent a finish line," Tammaru said. "We still continue to work to ensure that every student reaches their highest levels of success."

Support CCSD 89 students in need by donating gift cards at schools

Did you know that there are more than 400 students in CCSD 89 getting by with very limited resources? At times, the family's budget can make it challenging to afford rent or have enough food in the house. The district is again collecting gift cards to benefit the families of children in CCSD 89 schools.

Social workers at all five schools will be collecting gift cards from Walmart, Target, Jewel, and Aldi.

Donate as many cards as you'd like, but the district requests the increment for each card be between \$10 and \$25.

The outreach continues through Friday, December 13. Gift cards can be dropped off in a school's main office. CCSD 89 social workers will see that these gifts are shared where there is a need. Together, we will make a difference for our friends and neighbors.

New app keeps families informed on busing

Many CCSD 89 families will now be able to track their student's trips to and from school through a free busing app. Parents can download the FirstView app, which will give them access to real-time information about their student's bus stops.

The FirstView app gives an estimated number of minutes until the bus will arrive at a

specific student's stop, and shows when buses arrive or depart from school. Families can also set up the app to send out customized alerts when a bus is a certain distance or certain number of minutes away

from their child's bus stop.

The app only allows families to see busing information for their student. Families will need their student's ID number in order to be linked to the correct account.

Families can download the

FirstView app from the App Store or Google Play. There is no cost. The app only works for students riding the First Student

buses. It is not available for special education transportation, early or late buses, or student field trips.

There is more information about the FirstView app at www.ccsd89.org/busapp



CCSD 89 hiring aides, substitute teachers

CCSD 89 has several openings for full- and part-time classroom aides at both the elementary and middle school levels.

The full-time aide positions have benefits, including paid dental and health insurance. Aides work with

classroom teachers to support students, or a group of students, with specific educational needs. You can learn more and apply for open positions by visiting the "Human Resources" department on the district's website.

Residents invited to give blood January 8

Community members are invited to donate blood at the next blood drive: 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8 at Glen Crest Middle School, 725 Sheehan Avenue.

Appointments will be honored first.

Glen Crest Middle School is a regular host site for blood drives organized by Versiti Blood Centers.

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.

For more information about blood donation, or to sign up for January 8, go to: www.ccsd89.org/blood

The lives of approximately 4.5 million Americans are saved each year by blood transfusions.

About 38,000 pints of donated blood are used every day in the U.S.

Future blood drives will be held at Glen Crest on March 4, 2020; May 6, 2020; August 26, 2020; and November 11, 2020.

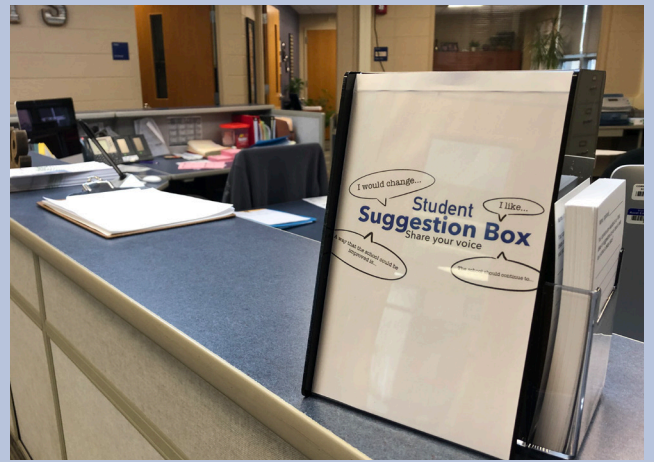


**Community Blood Drive
2-6:30 p.m. January 8
Glen Crest Middle School**

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

Get answers to some of your common questions in this video:

www.ccsd89.org/blood



Student Board Members bring new ideas for increasing student voice

CCSD 89 continues to empower students by giving them a voice in their education. Glen Crest eighth-grade students Ashley Krebs and Emily Puchalski are serving as the district's first-ever Student Board Members.

Krebs and Puchalski attend Board meetings and provide a student perspective. Although they are non-voting members of the Board, they make a presentation at each meeting.

At the start of the school year, Krebs and Puchalski proposed giving students more opportunities to provide feedback to the school through student suggestion boxes.

The suggestion boxes are now available at all five CCSD 89 schools. Students can share their ideas for how they would make their school better by dropping a card into the box in the main office.

The student board members are also working to bring a Diversity of Voices Club to all CCSD 89 schools, which would connect students from all over the world to share their experiences.

Additionally, the district has added Principal Advisory Committees at all five schools. Students on these committees give principals feedback on school initiatives and help them keep all school projects student-centered.



Krebs



Puchalski

Stay connected with CCSD 89!



Twitter: @CCSD89



facebook.com/CCSD89



Search "CCSD 89" on YouTube

Are you new to CCSD 89? Get registered

If your family recently moved into CCSD 89, be sure to get your students registered as soon as possible.

Families can start by filling out pre-registration forms online. Parents/guardians without Internet access may register at the district office, 22W600 Butterfield Road.

Registration for the 2020-21 school year will open to new students on February 5. Registration for returning students will open on April 8.

More information about the process for registering, residency verification, and more will be posted on the district's website at www.ccsd.org/register.

Support CCSD 89 musicians by attending concerts, joining Music Boosters Association

The community can show their support for CCSD 89 musicians of all ages by attending winter concerts and joining the CCSD 89 Music Boosters Association.

The winter orchestra concerts will be held at 6 and 7:30 p.m. December 10, at Glen Crest. The winter chorus concert will be held at 7 p.m. December 12, also at Glen Crest. The winter band concert will be held at 7 p.m. December 17, at Glen Crest.

Music Boosters is a volunteer organization that fundraises for music scholarships, instrument repairs, transportation, and assists with music programs in all CCSD 89 schools. The Music Boosters support music programming at both the middle- and elementary-school levels.

To find out more about Music Boosters, make a donation, or sign up for membership, go to: www.ccsd89mba.com



CCSD 89 alums use Eagle Scout projects to help schools

Two CCSD 89 alums decided to give back to their former schools as part of their Eagle Scout projects.

In September, Andrew Ursitti returned to Briar Glen to create a butterfly inspirational garden. Ursitti worked with Briar Glen aide Sandy Pakula to secure and install the supplies for the garden.

Each year, millions of Monarch butterflies migrate from the U.S. to Mexico to wait out the winter months. However, their journey has been imperiled by the destruction of monarch habitats. Ursitti planted flowers that would give the butterflies the nectar to migrate and produce successive generations.

Ryan Dodd is a sophomore at Glenbard South High School who previously attended Park View Elementary and Glen Crest Middle School. Dodd decided to rebuild the benches in the courtyard off the Glen Crest library.

Dodd, a member of Troop 46, rebuilt the courtyard benches and put new mulch in the flowerbeds. Dodd spent several months planning the projects, then did the repairs and installations over two weekends in August.

"I hope other people get the chance to use it so they can read and enjoy a nice day," Dodd said.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America program. Only about 4 percent of Scouts earn their Eagle Scout.



Andrew Ursitti



Ryan Dodd

Stay informed about weather closings

Community Consolidated School District 89 families are reminded that there are multiple places to check for information about weather-related school closings.

Information about closings will be released through:

- A phone message to families
- The district website: www.ccsd89.org
- The district Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CCSD89
- The district Twitter account: @CCSD89

The district will send out a notice if the schools are closed. If there is no notice posted, schools are open on a regular schedule.

The district's messaging system uses phone numbers and email addresses supplied by guardians during registration. If your phone number or email address has changed, it is important to contact your school secretary and update your records.

Even when school is open, students should dress for winter conditions. Students will continue to go outside for recess as long as the weather remains above 10 degrees, as measured by weather.com. If schools are open, it is the responsibility of guardians to determine if conditions allow for their children to attend school.

CCSD 89 makes every effort to communicate a decision on closing schools by 5:30 a.m. If schools are closed, the days will be added to the end of the school year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC
10

CCSD 89 winter orchestra concerts
At Glen Crest Middle School

DEC
12

CCSD 89 winter chorus concerts
At Glen Crest Middle School

DEC
16

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

DEC
17

CCSD 89 winter band concert
At Glen Crest Middle School

DEC
20

Mid-term for second semester
All CCSD 89 schools

DEC
23

Winter break begins
All CCSD 89 schools will be closed
from December 23 through January
3 for winter break

JAN
6

School resumes after winter break
All CCSD 89 schools re-open

JAN
8

Blood drive at Glen Crest
Open to the community
Find out more at
www.ccsd89.org/blood

JAN
13

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

JAN
17

HALF DAY
Morning attendance
All CCSD 89 schools

JAN
20

NO SCHOOL
All schools closed for Martin Luther
King Jr. Day

JAN
31

Preschool screening
At Arbor View Elementary

FEB
7

HALF DAY
Morning attendance
Parent-teacher conferences
All CCSD 89 schools

CCSD 89 student story: Christian Pogorzelski

For Christian Pogorzelski, the path to the state geography bee started with a classmate's challenge.

While in fifth grade at Westfield, Christian and a friend were debating where Puerto Rico was. When they consulted the map, Christian discovered that his classmate was correct.

Christian decided right then that wouldn't happen to him again. He began studying maps, cultures, and geographical formations around the world.

"It was competitive nature that got me into it and now I really like it," said the 14-year-old Glen Crest eighth grader.

Last school year, Christian won the school's National Geographic GeoBee championship by getting all 70 questions correct – the first Glen Crest student to earn a perfect score.

Christian then advanced to the state finals by earning one of the top scores in Illinois on an online geography test.

His goal is to make it to state geography bee again this school year and hopefully do even a little better than last year. In preparation, he's been studying local cultures, geography, and a lot more. A weather cycle question caught him off guard last year so Christian added that to his studies.

"I guess I'm going to have to study science to do the geography bee," he remembered thinking.

Glen Crest teacher Pat Doyle isn't surprised by Christian's inquisitive nature.

"Christian makes connections with his prior knowledge and brings that into what we are doing in class," Doyle said. "He really understands the relationship between geography, location, people, movement – and how they all work together."

During his GeoBee preparation, Christian learned more about international politics, and he's interested in possibly pursuing a career in that field.

Outside of school, Christian is a switch-hitting pitcher, catcher, third baseman, and first baseman who plays travel baseball. He also plays on the Glen Crest basketball team.

It's all part of a busy schedule for a student who is going places – and will probably know a lot about those places when he gets there.



Spotlight on 89



A full-court basketball lesson

CCSD 89 physical education teacher Michael Casmer is using his basketball unit to develop skills well beyond dribbling and defense.

Students learn basketball basics - but they are also referees, scorekeepers, fans, and coaches. Students play music at halftime and create their own team logos.

See more about this exciting unit:

Video: www.ccsd89.org/bball



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.

Postal Customer
ECRWSS

89
COMMUNITY
CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning for Life

www.ccsd89.org

22W600 Butterfield Road

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

(630) 469-8900

CCSD 89 Schools

Arbor View School

22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL

(630) 469-5505 www.ccsd89.org/orborview

Briar Glen School

1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL

(630) 545-3300 www.ccsd89.org/briarglen

Park View School

250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL

(630) 858-1600 www.ccsd89.org/parkview

Westfield School

25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL

(630) 858-2770 www.ccsd89.org/westfield

Glen Crest Middle School

725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL

(630) 469-5220 www.ccsd89.org/glencrest

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Glen Ellyn, IL
Permit #145