

From the Superintendent: Managing the present while planning for the future

The last two years have been a challenging time in our community, including our schools. The Community Consolidated School District 89 staff has been navigating situations we never expected and, once the pandemic is over, I hope we never have to deal with again.

I'm very proud of the work our team has done to keep kids learning during an unprecedented educational situation. I'm also pleased to say that while there is a national narrative about learning loss, that has not been the case in CCSD 89.

On the Measure of Academic Progress tests, CCSD 89 students remain well above U.S. averages. Nationally, students were 9 to 11 percentile points behind their expected growth in math, and 3 to 7 percentile points behind their expected growth in reading on winter 2021 tests.

But in CCSD 89, students scored only slightly below grade-level expectations in math and they showed higher-than-expected growth in reading. These scores were not adjusted for the pandemic so it is encouraging to see that

CCSD 89 have been able to maintain their academic achievements.

Of course, many people also have concerns about young people's emotional health at this time. When comparing to pre-pandemic years, CCSD 89 has not seen an increase in mental-health referrals. To more closely monitor this situation, we instituted the first Behavioral and Emotional Screening System, a short student survey that allows us to monitor mental and emotional health from year to year.

To be sure, some students have struggled. Because our mission is to make sure that every single student success, our staff has put in supports for those students, including expanded summer school, individualized learning plans, and academic goal setting.

CCSD 89 students have persevered through difficult circumstances, and our classrooms remain vibrant places to participate in learning for life.

Even as we work through the day-to-day challenges of educating students during a global pandemic, we have kept our focus on the long-term.

At this time, we have a unique opportunity to reduce resident's tax obligation while also preserving your investment in CCSD 89 buildings.

The district recently paid off a set of bonds that were set to expire in 2021. That means

the average district resident will see a decrease of \$239 in annual taxes starting this year. (See page 2 for more info.)

The district has a second set of bonds set to expire. The community needs to consider how much of this second set of bonds to renew so the district can address infrastructure projects while still providing additional property-tax relief.

Each of our buildings is at least 50 years old, and we want them to be healthy, energy-efficient places to learn for the next five decades. As you will see, there are no flashy additions or renovations in our plans. Instead, our goal is to protect the school's infrastructure, improve educational environments, and keep students and teachers safe while providing property-tax relief.

Your participation in this conversation is essential. These are your buildings and we want to know your priorities. You can learn more in at www.ccsd89.org/buildings

Whether it has been navigating COVID-19 or setting a long-term vision for the district, we are so grateful to have a community that values public education as an essential part of a strong community.

Emily K. Tammaru

Superintendent Dr. Emily K. Tammaru



District looking for feedback on best ways to keep schools safe, healthy, and accessible

The CCSD 89 community has made an investment to ensure students can learn in buildings that are safe, healthy, and accessible. This has been done in a careful, conservative approach that has kept CCSD 89 per-student spending the lowest of the Glenbard feeder schools and fifth-lowest of all DuPage County elementary districts.

All five CCSD 89 schools are more than 50 years old. After five decades, even the most well-maintained buildings require long-term investment in the behind-the-scenes infrastructure that keeps schools running: roofs, heating and air conditioning, lights, security systems, plumbing, technology systems, and more. These infrastructure projects are essential for healthy and energy-

efficient buildings.

At this time, the district has a unique opportunity to preserve the community's investment in CCSD 89 buildings while also accomplishing tax relief.

In 2020, the district made the final pay-

Learn more at www.ccsd89.org/buildings

ment on a set of bonds initially issued in 2008. School districts issue bonds to pay for construction and maintenance projects; they cannot be used to pay for staff or supplies.

This 2008 set of bonds were not renewed. On the April 2022 tax bills, the average CCSD 89 taxpayer will see a savings of \$239 per year because those bonds were paid off on

time. (See page 2 for more information.)

The district has a second set of bonds; these bonds will expire in 2022. The district is seeking feedback from residents about the most fiscally responsible way to protect the community's investment in CCSD 89 buildings while ensuring the schools remain healthy, safe, and accessible environments for every single student's learning.

Community members will be able to provide input on how much of this second set of bonds to renew for the infrastructure projects. The district is only considering finance options that would further reduce the tax burden for the CCSD 89 community.

Any tax reduction would be in addition to the savings from bonds that were paid off in 2020.

Board of Education welcomes new members, elects new leadership

The CCSD 89 Board of Education has welcomed three new members in the last year, and elected new leadership.

In May 2021, Glen Ellyn residents Donna Kemp and Steve Neurauter were both sworn in to the Board of Education. Kemp and Neurauter both elected in April. Board members Jay Lerch and Haydee Núñez were both re-elected in the same election.

In December 2021, Wheaton resident Yannick Koger was unanimously approved to fill a vacant seat on the Board. Koger will fill the remainder of Tim Jedlicka's term, which runs through 2023. Jedlicka resigned from the Board in October, when he moved out of state.

Because Jedlicka had been Board President at the time of this resignation, the Board elected new leadership. Haydee Núñez was elected as President of the Board of Education, Jay Lerch was elected Board Vice President, and Scott Pope was elected to continue as Board Secretary Pro Tem.

About the new Board members:

Donna Kemp

Donna Kemp is a Glen Ellyn resident. She and her husband have a first-grade and a fifth-grade student at Park View, where Kemp has been a frequent volunteer.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Lake Forest College with minors in education and English. She earned a master's degree in education from Quincy University, with endorsements in special education and middle school.

Kemp has had various roles in education since 1997. She began her career teaching in a special-education program in Northshore District 112. She has also taught in West Chicago District 33, Waukegan District 60, and Glen Ellyn District 41. She has worked in early childhood,



middle school, and special education. Kemp has also worked in business since 1999.

Kemp has been a tutor since she was in grade school and has volunteered at various community fundraisers through her church.

Yannick Koger

Koger has lived in Wheaton for five years. He and his wife have three girls who attend Arbor View Elementary School.

Koger has participated in the Arbor View PTC and the district's strategic plan committees. He also helped with the district's referendum campaign in 2018. These experiences encouraged him to look for more opportunities to serve the local educational community.

Koger grew up in Virginia and double-majored in marketing and neuroscience at The College of William & Mary. He is now a marketing analytics consultant for Meta Platforms Inc., and helps coach his daughters' soccer and volleyball teams.



Steve Neurauter

Steve Neurauter has served on several CCSD 89 advisory committees since moving to Glen Ellyn in 2016 with his wife and three children. He volunteers at Park View Elementary for school events and through the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program.

Neurauter earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, then a Master of Business Administration from Leeds University in the United Kingdom.

Neurauter works for his business strategy and engineering consulting company, PMB Consulting, advising the federal government, small businesses, and large companies.



Residents can expect lower spring tax bills as district completes bond payment

Community Consolidated School District 89 has completed payments on a set of bonds that were issued in 2008 to pay for building improvements, including air conditioning in buildings.

Now that the payments on this first set of bonds are complete, that portion of the district's tax bill will fall off resident's taxes.

For the average CCSD 89 taxpayer, this will mean a reduction of about \$239 dollars annually.

The district has a second set of bonds that were issued in 2009. Those bonds are set to expire and the district is working with the community to determine how much of those bonds should be

renewed while also providing tax relief that would be in addition to the reduction from the first set of bonds.

The district is committed to only renewing bonds for an amount that further reduces the tax rate.

School districts issue municipal bonds to fund capital projects and infrastructure.

Bonds cannot be used for supplies, salaries, transportation. Similar to a home equity loan, bonds must be paid off in a fixed amount of time.

When they are paid in full, they fall off the district's tax rate if the community chooses not to renew them.

2008 bonds

Refinanced in 2015 for a savings to taxpayers: \$664,127

Paid off in 2021

Average annual savings to residents this spring: \$239

2009 bonds

Refinanced in 2015 for a savings to taxpayers: \$84,820

Community will determine how much of bonds should be renewed while achieving tax relief

Registering for the 2022-23 school year

Pre-registration for families with students who will be starting kindergarten or new to CCSD 89 in the 2022-23 school year will open on 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 9.

Pre-registration is not complete until you have submitted an original birth certificate and the proof of residency documents.

Learn more: www.ccsd89.org/register

In March, families of returning students will receive the SnapCode they need to register via U.S. mail. The SnapCode will be used when registration opens to all students on April 6.

Community invited to donate blood March 16

Community members are invited to support the urgent need for blood by donating between 2 and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, at Glen Crest Middle School, 725 Sheehan Avenue, Glen Ellyn. All staff and visitors will wear masks.

Blood donation is a simple four-step process: registration, medical history, donation, and refreshment. Blood donation usually takes about 10 to 12 minutes. You can learn more about the process of donating blood at www.ccsd89.org/blood

Future blood drives are scheduled for Glen Crest on May 11, 2022; August 24, 2022; and November 2, 2022.

Stay connected with CCSD 89!



Twitter: @CCSD89



facebook.com/CCSD89



Search "CCSD 89" on YouTube

Board approves 2022-23 school calendar

The CCSD 89 Board has approved the 2022-23 school year calendar. The first day of school for students will be August 17. The last day will be May 25, if no emergency days are used.

The district worked to reduce the number of student half days in the school calendar, based on feedback from parents

and staff. The state of Illinois granted the district's waiver to combine several half-days into full days of staff professional development.

You can see the full calendar on the district's website (www.ccsd89.org) under the "About CCSD 89" menu at the top of the page.

You can support the afterschool tutoring program that launched at Glen Crest in 2021

After school in Glen Crest room ###, tables are spread out across the room. Adult mentors sit next to middle school students. The room is filled with the conversations about math equations, sentence structure, and science.

The students and volunteer mentors are part of the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center afterschool tutoring and mentoring program.

"While we are here for homework help, we do a lot of relationship-building," said Lauren Shagena, the Glen Crest teacher who is GECRC program director in CCSD 89. "We know that doing a program after school isn't always the most exciting thing for students. But when they look forward to the people they will see, it motivates them to get a foot in the door each day."

A similar GECRC program in District 41 has shown powerful results: With the support of trained staff and dedicated

volunteers, students who consistently participated in the mentoring program showed significant academic acceleration.

In 2019, GECRC launched a CCSD 89 Expansion committee, composed of GECRC board members, CCSD 89 administrators, and local community members. The group's goal was to raise \$60,000 to fund two years of programming at Glen Crest Middle School. In 2021, they met and exceeded the expansion fundraising goal.

GECRC is looking for donors and volunteers who can keep the program in CCSD 89. To learn how you can help, go to www.gecrc.com.



Learn more, donate at
www.ccsd89.org/GECRC

CCSD 89 is hiring aides and 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.

'Snow days' are now online learning days

CCSD 89 families are reminded that there are multiple places to check for information about weather-related school closings. Information is released through:

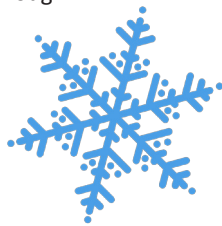
- A phone message to families
- The district website: www.ccsd89.org
- The district Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CCSD89
- The district Twitter account: @CCSD89

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 at registration. If your phone number or email 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

FEB
9

Pre-registration opens

For students who will be new to CCSD 89 in the 2022-23 school year

FEB
21

NO SCHOOL

All schools closed for President's Day

FEB
23

Second-trimester ends

All CCSD 89 schools

FEB
28

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

MARCH
4

NO SCHOOL

All schools closed for Teacher Institute Day

MARCH
16

Blood drive at Glen Crest

Open to the community
Find out more at
www.ccsd89.org/blood

MARCH
21

Board of Education meeting

Administrative Center
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn
7 p.m.

MARCH
25

HALF DAY

Morning attendance
All CCSD 89 schools

MARCH
28

NO SCHOOL

All CCSD 89 schools will be closed
March 28 through April 1 for spring
break

APRIL
4

SCHOOL RESUMES

All CCSD 89 schools open after
spring break

APRIL
6

Registration opens

Registration opens for all students.
Families will use the SnapCode they
received in the mail to register.

APRIL
14

HALF DAY

Morning attendance
All CCSD 89 schools

APRIL
15

NO SCHOOL

All schools CCSD 89 schools close

CCSD 89 student spotlight: Jillian DeMayo and Kavya Uppal

Two outstanding student leaders were selected as Student Representatives to the Board of Education. Glen Crest Middle School eighth-grade students Jillian DeMayo and Kavya Uppal began their one-year term at the Community Consolidated School District 89 Board of Education meeting in August.

"I'm so excited to have Jillian and Kavya at the board table this year," said CCSD 89 Superintendent Dr. Emily Tammaru. "Every year, our student board members bring such great insights to our conversations about the district's work. They always seem wise beyond their age. Jillian and Kavya certainly show that wisdom, as well as a passion for helping others. I know they're going to help us preserve the best parts of our district while preparing us for the next steps."

The Student Board Members will represent their classmates at the monthly Board of Education meetings. Student Board Members do not vote, but they discuss what motivates them, the challenges they face, and the successes they've achieved.

This is the third year CCSD 89 will have Student Board Members. CCSD 89 is one of the few Illinois districts to have middle school students serving as Student Board Members.

Jillian DeMayo

Jillian DeMayo sees the Student Board Member role as an opportunity to amplify other students' ideas.

"I want to give a voice to all the kids in the district," Jillian said. "I think it's really important for young kids to have a voice. This is their community."

Jillian has been part of Builder's Club, Drama Club, Student Council, Best Buddies, safety patrol, and intramural basketball. Outside of school, Jillian has been a Girl Scout since she was in first grade at Arbor View. She plays both travel softball and travel basketball, and volunteers at an animal rescue shelter.

"She is a mature, thoughtful student who is sensitive to the needs and ideas of others; she considers these before she speaks and is cognizant of the impact her words might have on classmates," former Glen Crest social studies teacher Deb Pruitt wrote in Jillian's nomination. "She gets the balance just right."

When she gets older, Jillian would like to travel to work with animals or be the head softball coach at UCLA.



Kavya Uppal

Kavya Uppal hopes she will have the opportunity to hear from students of all ages.

"I really want all kids to feel like they're equal," she said.

Glen Crest math teacher Monica Shekar said Kavya never shies away from difficult tasks.

"She is a natural leader and is capable of articulating her ideas and backing her arguments with factual information," Shekar wrote.

At Glen Crest, Kavya plays percussion in the Glen Crest band. She has also been a member of Drama Club, Builders Club, Teen Advisory Board, and Math Club. She was in the school's musical as a sixth grader and completed the 25-book Spartacus Challenge in 2021.

Outside of school, she plays piano and volunteers at her temple. She has earned her black belt in taekwondo and participated in a national Girls Steam Institute challenge.

Kavya is interested in using her knowledge of front-end and back-end coding to creating artificial intelligence for the medical or automotive fields.



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

www.ccisd89.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.ccisd89.org/arborview
Briar Glen School
1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL
(630) 545-3300 www.ccisd89.org/briarglen
Park View School
250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-1600 www.ccisd89.org/parkview
Westfield School
25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 858-2770 www.ccisd89.org/westfield
Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
(630) 469-5220 www.ccisd89.org/glencrest

Learning for Life

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 89

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