

## Superintendent: What do you value about education in this community?

December marks the start of my sixth month as superintendent of Community Consolidated School District 89. I'm very grateful that I have been welcomed by so many students, staff members, and residents who can't wait to tell me what they love about our district.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege getting to know the students and families in this community. At the start of the school year, I attended a back-to-school event at each of our five schools. All of those events were organized by our Parent-Teacher Councils (PTCs). I love how our families play such a huge role in enhancing the supportive and inclusive cultures in our buildings.

I've also been able to visit several classrooms each week, participating in everything from science labs to being a mystery (or "Mr. E") reader. It is a joy to be around these amazing kids!

Your students continue to learn in caring, safe environments where they are consistently inspired to reach their full potential. From preschool to eighth grade, our teaching team encourages students to take on new challenges while building habits that will make them lifelong learners.

We see the results of that support in our data. All five CCSD 89 schools were recently

rated as exemplary or commendable – the state's two highest designations. CCSD 89 students scored well above state averages in both math and reading on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness.

We saw year-to-year increases in the percentage of students who met or exceeded state standards in both math and reading.

More than half of eighth-grade students complete a high-school-level algebra class before they leave Glen Crest Middle School. Of course, there is still work to do but I feel residents should be very proud of our student's academic achievement.

During my classroom visits, it has also been great to see our staff's continued commitment to safety. In October, our entire staff participated in reunification training so we can be sure that if a school had to close unexpectedly, we would be able to safely reunite every student with their guardian. This training is part of broader ongoing safety training that staff members regularly participate in.

During every classroom visit and community event, I learn more about each school's traditions and culture. I still want to know more so I'm excited to be offering some opportunities for the community to share feedback. Our first "Talking 89" sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 7. All are welcome.

This time is set aside for me to listen to you

and learn more about:

- What do you value about education in CCSD 89?
- How do you determine if we are meeting your educational expectations?
- Where is the district meeting (or exceeding) your expectations and where are there opportunities for growth?

If you can't make it to the December meetings, I hope you will join us at a future "Talking 89" listening session. Please check the district's website for dates.

Thank you for all you do to support learning for life in our classrooms and our community. I hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Doug Eccarius  
Superintendent  
Community Consolidated School District 89



**Doug Eccarius**  
Superintendent

### "Talking 89" superintendent listening sessions

9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 7

at district office,

22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn

All community members are welcome



## With 2023 summer construction complete, district prepares for more work in 2024

During the summer of 2023, Community Consolidated School District 89 completed major efficiency and safety upgrades at all five schools while ensuring schools could open on time.

The coal tar/asphalt roofs at Arbor View, Glen Crest, and Westfield were replaced with rubber roofs that will be more energy-efficient and watertight.

The offices at Arbor View, Briar Glen, and Glen Crest were redesigned and reconstructed to improve safety for students and staff. (Park View and Westfield schools already had secure entrances.)

There were also significant upgrades to the heating and air conditioning systems at Arbor View, Glen Crest, Park View, and Westfield. New HVAC rooftop units were installed to increase airflow throughout

the buildings in a more energy-efficient manner than the previous units, which were significantly beyond their expected lifespan.

The district has begun planning for the construction that will take place throughout the summer of 2024. The work is expected to start as soon as the 2023-24 school year ends.

In the summer of 2024, the district is planning to replace the parking lots at all five schools. Briar Glen will be closed throughout the summer as the school's heating, air conditioning, water boilers, and fire alarm systems will be replaced. Additionally, the district plans to renovate the Glen Crest kitchen.

The district will continue to provide updates at [www.ccsd89.org/construction](http://www.ccsd89.org/construction).

Want to see the 2023 summer transformation?

You can watch a brief video of the work by scanning the QR code or by going to [ccsd89.org/construction](http://ccsd89.org/construction)





## Seven band, orchestra students selected for prestigious music festival

Seven Glen Crest Middle School band and orchestra students were selected to play in the Illinois Music Education Association District IX Junior Division Festival. The Spartan musicians were selected from hundreds of students who auditioned by submitting an online audition that was evaluated by professional musicians. At the ILMEA Festival, students rehearsed and participated in workshops, followed by an evening performance.

These Spartans were chosen to be a part of the ILMEA concert:

- Charlotte Edwards (trumpet) 8th grade
- Dea Gjata (violin) 8th grade
- Emily Goodin (violin) 8th grade
- Madelyn Govertsen (viola) 8th grade
- Max Klaus (double bass) 7th grade
- Logan Sassi (cello) 8th grade
- Micah Williamson (cello) 8th grade

Glen Crest band is led by Katie Berry and Lev Garbar. Glen Crest orchestra is led Kristi Kline and Andrew Ladendorf.



## Glen Crest singers are first to be part of state's middle school Honor Choir

Five Glen Crest students are the first Spartans to be selected for the Illinois American Choral Directors Association (IL-ACDA) Middle School Honor Choir.

The students chosen were: eighth graders Lillian Archer, Amelia Bartoli, Nora Martinez, and Sophie Sweeney, and seventh grader Hannah Mastro. For their audition, students had to learn excerpts from three songs and record themselves performing. The students' performances were then evaluated by professional musicians.

Only 120 middle school students from across the state were selected to be part of the Middle School Honor Choir Fall Conference, which took place October

28 and 29 at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

At the conference, students participated in all-day rehearsals with professional accompanists. At the end of the day, the newly formed ensemble performed under the direction of Joliet Central High School choir director Belford Hernandez in the University's Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

This is the first year that Glen Crest singers were selected for the IL-ACDA Honor Choir.

"We're so glad these students were able to participate in this experience," said Glen Crest choir teacher Sam Koppitz. "They were excited to do lots of singing and lots of hard work."

## Volleyball: Glen Crest seventh-grade girls earn conference championship

The girls on the Glen Crest seventh-grade volleyball team are DuPage Metro Valley Association Conference regular-season champions after they completed the season with just two losses.

Glen Crest head coach Caroline Stauber was impressed with how the team grew throughout the season. While some girls had played club volleyball before, several Spartans were playing volleyball with a team for the first time. The team only had three practices before their first game.

"They consistently worked hard at practices and were eager to improve throughout the season,"

Stauber said. "They just kept getting better and better"

During the season, the Spartans recorded 260 aces (serves that are not returned), an impressive seven aces per set.

"They were probably the strongest serving team in the whole conference," Stauber said.

The members of the seventh-grade girls volleyball team are: Kelsey Ames, Eva Bogdanov, Ava Egan, Molly Egan, Estelle Eltigani, Faith Gibson, Izzie Jasper, Makena Minkley, Pippa Narrajos, Nora Schmall, Colbie Schmidt, Milla Spinks, Avery Todhunter. Managers: Gia Micek and Norah Soto.



## Cross country: Eighth grade runners earn team and individual conference titles

Glen Crest had a successful day at the DuPage Metro Valley Association cross country conference meet with one team champion and two individual winners.

Mia Siguenza was conference champion in the eighth-grade girls race. The eighth-grade boys won the team title, led by conference champion Evan Rubinas. (see back page for more about Rubinas and Siguenza)

In the eighth-grade boys race, the Spartans' fifth runner crossed the finish line before any other team's second runner. Rubinas was fol-

lowed by Patrick O'Reilly in third, Andrew Walter in fourth, Nicholas Crawford in sixth, Daniel Alcala in eighth, Ali Hamied in ninth, and Benjamin Machaj in 19th.

Siguenza won the eighth grade girls two-mile race in 12:09, finishing 38 seconds ahead of the next runner.

"These runners were incredibly hard-working and they showed that hard work pays off," said Glen Crest cross country coach Michelle Bolker. "They're all very supportive; it was really about supporting everybody's successes."



## 2024-25 registration: preschool will open in January, kindergarten opens on February 7

The application for tuition preschool in the 2024-25 school year will be posted on the district website on January 11. Anyone who fills out the preschool application will be placed in a 2024-25 preschool lottery. Families will need to complete the application and provide an original birth certificate and proof of residency by February 1. Students not selected will be put on a waitlist.

Registration for kindergarten students who will be new to the district in the 2024-25 school year will open on February 7, 2024. All new students will also have to provide an original birth certificate and prove residency.

The "Snapcodes" that are used to register students will be sent via US Mail the week of March 11. If you do not receive it or misplace it you need to re-prove residency. Registration for returning students will open at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 3.



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

If you enjoy working with kids and you're looking for a job with good benefits, consider working in CCSD 89. The district is hiring general-education aides, special-education aides, substitute teachers, as well as other positions.

Some positions offer health and dental insurance, as well as retirement benefits. Substitute teachers make \$140 per day, with an increase to \$155 after 15 days of substitute teaching. To find out more, or apply, go to: [www.ccsd89.org/apply](http://www.ccsd89.org/apply)

## Community can donate blood on January 17



2-6:30 p.m. January 17  
Glen Crest Middle School

Have you wondered what it's like to donate blood? Get answers and get registered:

[www.ccsd89.org/blood](http://www.ccsd89.org/blood)

Anyone is invited to donate during the next blood drive at Glen Crest Middle School, 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17. Appointments are honored first.

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

Future Glen Crest blood drives are scheduled for March 20, May 15, August 28, and November 6.

## No online learning for 'snow days' in 2023-24 school year

When school buildings need to close due to extreme weather (such as heavy snow), CCSD 89 will not be providing online learning. If a snow day is necessary, schools will be closed and the day will be added to the end of the school year. Learn more: [www.ccsd89.org/weather](http://www.ccsd89.org/weather)

The last day of school is scheduled to be a half-day on Wednesday, May 29. 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 Wednesday, June 5.



## Tutoring program looking for donors, volunteers

We were thrilled to cut the ribbon and officially open the district's first elementary Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC) program. Park View Elementary is the first CCSD 89 elementary school to host a GECRC afterschool tutoring program.

The district has run an afterschool program at Glen Crest Middle School since You can learn more about GECRC and how you can contribute at [www.gecrc.com/](http://www.gecrc.com/) donate-today/ You can also donate by mailing a check to GECRC, 346 Taft Avenue, Suite 205, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

In addition to monetary donations, the Park View program is looking for volunteers to tutor and mentor students. GECRC welcomes tutors from local high schools, colleges, and community groups to work with students afterschool.

To complete a volunteer application, go to: [www.gecrc.com/volunteer](http://www.gecrc.com/volunteer)



## UPCOMINGEVENTS

DEC  
7

Superintendent listening session  
Community members are welcome to attend 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. meeting at district office

DEC  
11

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

DEC  
19

CCSD 89 winter band concert  
7 p.m. at Glenbard South High School

DEC  
20

Winter orchestra concert  
6 p.m. at Glenbard South High School

DEC  
25

No school  
First day of winter break. There will be no school from December 25 to January 8. School resumes January 9.

JAN  
8

No school  
School Institute Day

JAN  
9

School resumes  
All students will return to school on a regular schedule on Tuesday, January 9.

JAN  
15

No school  
All schools closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. School resumes on January 16.

JAN  
17

Blood drive at Glen Crest  
2-6:30 p.m. at Glen Crest  
Open to community  
[www.ccsd89.org/blood](http://www.ccsd89.org/blood)

JAN  
22

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

FEB  
2

Morning attendance  
Students attend in the morning. Conferences in the afternoon for all schools.

FEB  
3

Tentative Board of Education meeting  
Administrative Center  
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn  
9 a.m.

FEB  
7

New student registration opens  
Families who will be new to CCSD 89 in the 2024-25 school year can begin registration.

Check [www.ccsd89.org/calendar](http://www.ccsd89.org/calendar) for the latest information



## Student spotlight: cross country champions Evan Rubinas and Mia Siguenza

Glen Crest eighth graders Evan Rubinas and Mia Siguenza earned DuPage Metro Valley Conference championships.

### Evan Rubinas

Going into middle school, Evan Rubinas wasn't all that interested in running. He just didn't like running far.

But his mom loves running and she suggested he try out for cross country. When he joined the sixth-grade team he discovered he was able to keep up with older runners. That's when Evan began to realize: he might be pretty good at running.

"I wasn't expecting it at all," said the 14-year-old.

In seventh grade, he placed third in the conference. In eighth grade, he hadn't lost a race all year going in to the conference meet. He won the two-mile race in 11:32, beating the second-place finisher by 29 seconds.

Cross country coach Michelle Bolker said despite his success, Evan always has a humble approach.

"He has always been one of our top runners, and a leader on the team," she said. "He always takes on a challenge, wants to improve, and leads with a quiet confidence."

Evan is also a power forward on the school's basketball team. He plans to keep participating in athletics in high school. He loves math and is interested in analyzing sports statistics as an adult.



### Mia Siguenza

There wasn't much 'break' in Mia Siguenza's 2023 summer break. The days started with running camp in the morning at Glenbard South High School, then volleyball camp at Glen Crest, and finally softball camp.

"I don't want to quit anything because that's a missed opportunity," Mia said.

And Mia doesn't miss many chances to excel. In her first year on the cross country team, she won all but one of her races. She went into the October 3 conference meet thinking she would have a pretty good chance of winning.

She finished the two-mile race in 12:09 -- 38 seconds ahead of the next runner.

"It was a huge relief," Mia said. "You feel proud afterwards."

Glen Crest cross country coach Michelle Bolker said Mia blew away everyone's expectations in her first season – but not just as a runner. Mia was also a leader and example to the younger students.

In high school, Mia plans to keep running and playing softball. (She pitches and plays second base.)

Right now, she's debating whether she'll want to be a professional athlete or a physicist when she grows up. Sounds like more great opportunities ahead.



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.

\*\*ECRWS\*  
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