

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning for Life

89

update

www.ccsd89.org

A PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT 89
SERVING GLEN ELLYN, LOMBARD AND WHEATON

Full-day kindergarten, longer school day ahead

One of the joys of leading an educational institution is looking back each year to recognize the accomplishments and progress made in improving learning for our students.

This has been a transition year in measuring student achievement. Our district successfully participated in a new statewide, standardized assessment - Partnership for College and Career Readiness (PARCC). District 89's robust technology and curriculum alignment work by our teachers made it possible for students in grades three through eight to complete the assessments online as they were intended. The District eagerly awaits the results of this baseline year from the Illinois

State Board of Education.

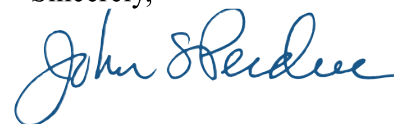
Two significant initiatives from this year will be implemented with the 2015-16 school year - full-day kindergarten and a longer school day for elementary schools. Full-day kindergarten will provide more time to work with our youngest learners to acquire the skills essential for future success. Extending the elementary school day by 30 minutes brings our school day up to the national average and balances the school day time with Glen Crest Middle School.

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, District 89 will implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS integrates science, tech-

nology, math, engineering, and analytical thinking to better prepare students. The science committee has been working to create curriculum and professional development to meet the teachers' and students' needs.

The work of an educational institution is never done, and District 89 continues to enrich educational opportunity for all students. Thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89!

Sincerely,



John S. Perdue, Ed. D.
Superintendent



Just Moved In?

Register for the 2015-16 school year online today! Follow step-by-step instructions at www.ccsd89.org and click on "Registration."

Inside

District offers full-day kindergarten 2

Community grant boosts music education..... 2

Good credit rating, bond refinance bring savings .. 3

Watch DOGS make a difference 3

Board recognizes veterans, welcomes newcomers..... 4

Congratulations Retirees!

Sally Dillon, Arbor View & Briar Glen Art Teacher, 29 years

Lynn Eichhorn, Arbor View, Special Ed. Teacher, 14.5 years

Diane Gresher, Briar Glen, Rtl Coach, 15 years

Nancy Hemstreet, Park View, 4th grade Teacher, 18 years

Jean Kosiara, Westfield, Special Education Teacher, 24 years

Kathleen Leimbach, Glen Crest Math Teacher, 34 years

Mary Fran McBreen, Briar Glen P.E. Teacher, 17 years

Pam McDermott, Glen Crest LMC Director, 22 years

Patricia Straza, Arbor View Secretary, 35 years

Zoe Ann Tomaras, Music Teacher, 19 years

Diane Ward, Westfield, Skills Teacher, 24 years



Educator of the Year

Superintendent Dr. John Perdue and Board Member Beth Powers congratulate District Nurse Sandy Lawinger, who was named District 89 Educator of the Year at the Glen Ellyn Community Awards. She is also one of five winners nationally of Healthy Schools Campaign's 2015 School Nurse Leadership Award by School Health.

SPRING 2015

Academic Spotlight: Full-day kindergarten targets reading, math

District 89 will offer full-day kindergarten to all students next school year, joining a growing local and national trend to provide more learning time to meet increasing academic rigor and social needs.

The Board of Education approved the program change after a six-month study that reviewed student literacy and math skills, staffing needs and school space.

The new Illinois Learning Standards set the academic bar higher, requiring students to acquire literacy and math skills earlier. Last year, nearly 25 percent of kindergarten students tested in District 89 were not reading at the first-grade level at the end of the year.

Nationally, 76 percent of kindergarteners attend a full day of school. In DuPage County, District 89 joins approximately 20 of 35 districts that provide elementary education with a full-day kindergarten program.

The full-day program will provide more time to develop language and math skills, but also time for social studies, science, art and expanded times for physical education and music.

“What we’re hearing loud and clear from our teachers is that there isn’t enough time. The full-day program will allow them to slow down and build activities that meet both academic as well as social and emotional needs of our students,” said Dr. Emily Tammaru, Assistant Superintendent for Learning.



‘The full-day program will allow (teachers) to slow down and build activities that meet both academic as well as social and emotional needs of our students.’

- Dr. Emily Tammaru,
Assistant Superintendent for Learning

The program will affect approximately 200 students who will attend Arbor View, Briar Glen, Park View and Westfield schools. Parents still have the option to enroll students in a half-day program.

“Providing full-day kindergarten aligns directly with our strategic plan,” Superintendent Dr. John Perdue said.

Music education grant benefits all grades

iPads, ukeleles and master classes offer enrichment for students



Fifth and sixth grade students can learn to play the ukelele while students in all grades explore music and sound concepts on iPads. Master classes offer band orchestra students small group lessons with professional musicians. All were funded with a grant from the DuPage Community Foundation.

Elementary students are grasping sound and rhythm concept through iPad Apps. Middle School students are creating music with Garage Band. Orchestra and band students are improving technique with instruction from professionals in “Master classes.” Fifth- and sixth-grade students are learning to play the ukulele.

Music is blooming all around District 89 due to these initiatives, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the DuPage Community Foundation.

Professional musicians share their expertise in Master Classes three times a year. “We have seen students become more experimental in their playing performance; such as trying out different fingerings and using vibrato,” said Kristi Ditsch, instrumental music director.

“At Glen Crest, the ukuleles have been a great way to reinforce students’ understanding of harmony in music,” said Choral Director Paul Ropp.

iPads are used across all grades to help students master concepts and create music.

“iPads are a unique tool to help teach musical concepts and to explore sound,” said elementary music teacher Caitlin Leman. “It gives them the opportunity to listen what they’ve recorded and understand music.”

District Finances: Strong credit rating, transparent reporting

Bond refinancing saves taxpayer

District 89's strong financial standing is saving taxpayers interest charges on 2008 construction bonds that were recently refinanced. The District's strong credit rating resulted in a lower interest rate for \$9.1 million in bonds, according to PMA Securities. The bond refinancing will result in a total savings of \$726,000 over the life of the bonds.

These savings are being passed directly to the District 89 taxpayers by lowering the amount the District levies for property taxes.

District receives financial reporting award

School District 89 received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials for the 15th consecutive year.

The district was recognized for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending 2014 for having met or exceeded the pro-

gram's high standards for financial reporting and accountability.

Full-day kindergarten possible without expanding staff budget

The Board of Education approved expanding the kindergarten program to a full day. District 89 will be reallocating staffing positions to accommodate the program instead of creating new teaching positions.

In addition, each school is utilizing existing space to create the needed new classrooms. Expanding kindergarten to a full-day program will offer more time to develop language and math skills for higher Illinois Learning Standards.

Dads make a difference in elementary schools

District 89 elementary schools have welcomed dads -- and grandpas and uncles -- into the classroom as part of the Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) Program for the past three years.

Teachers get some extra help for special projects or skill building, students beam with pride when their dads visit, and dads get to take a break from work and have some fun. The program benefits all students by offering positive male role models who assist with small group learning and individual help. They always get to eat lunch with their children but otherwise spend time in classrooms throughout the school.

Each of the four elementary schools had more than 50 dads participate in the program this school year, and many dads completing multiple visits in one year.

"The students overall enjoy the light-heartedness that dads bring into the room. They're just different!" said Erin Ricci, a fifth-grade teacher at Briar Glen School who helps organize the program with fourth-grade teacher Vicki Faust.

"Kids who don't have a dad in their life eat it up," Faust said.

"Every time I come here I am reminded at how incredible our teachers are," said Pat McCluskey, who has four children at Arbor View School. "It's well worth the day to spend it with your kids showing them and other kids that dads are just as interested as anyone else in their education."

The program was modeled after the national program launched by the National Center for Fathering. The main caveat is to make sure the volunteers are working with kids. They move around the school to teachers who have signed up to have dad for an hour or so.

"It's great to have them here. They are a positive influence throughout the building," said Stacey Hewick, Westfield Principal.



"The opportunity to come to school and interact with your child and other children and witness what great educators we have is worth every minute."

-Brice DeMayo



"It's actually pretty fun. I get to see a different side of all the kids. It gives me new-found respect for the teachers."

-Dustin Scharf



"Even when I help out in the other grades, kids are delighted to have a parent there. I come back for the energy and excitement."

-Eddie Kuns

Election brings new faces to Board of Education

After serving 12 years each on the Board of Education, Lori Gaspar and Terry Lachcik vacated their seats in May. A community reception recognized the Board's accomplishments during their tenure.

The work of the Board included hiring a new superintendent, supporting two strategic plans, modernizing school technology and implementing full-day kindergarten.

A \$25 million bond referendum was approved by voters, allowing for improved and modernized schools buildings, including air conditioning, new roofs and windows.

Lori Gaspar attended Westfield School and Glen Crest as a student, making District 89 a part of her childhood and adult life. Mrs. Gaspar served more than years six years as Board President. She championed student health, physical education and wellness.

"The administrators and teachers have more integrity than any other organization I've worked with. Thank you for being such a great place for me to serve," Mrs. Gaspar said.



Board Members Terry Lachcik, left, and Lori Gaspar stepped down after 12 years. They were recognized at a reception in May. Superintendent Dr. John Perdue thanked them for their service to District 89.

Terry Lachcik served as Board Secretary, IASB liaison and authored the board governance award for the Illinois Association of School Boards.

"It's been an incredible experience," Mr. Lachcik said.

Newly elected board members Scott Pope and Dr. Giselle Sandi-Tapia along with incumbent Tim Jedlicka were sworn in to four-year terms. Mr. Jedlicka is serving his second four-year term.



Dr. Giselle Sandi-Tapia



Scott Pope



Tim Jedlicka

Follow District 89 on Twitter
@CCSD89



ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Learning for Life
22W600 Butterfield Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630.469.8900
Arbor View School
22W430 Ironwood Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL
630-469-5505
Briar Glen School
1800 Briarcliffe Blvd., Wheaton, IL
630-545-3300
Park View School
250 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL
630-858-1600
Westfield School
2S125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL
630-858-2770
Glen Crest Middle School
725 Sheehan Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL
630-469-5220

89
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.ccsc89.org

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