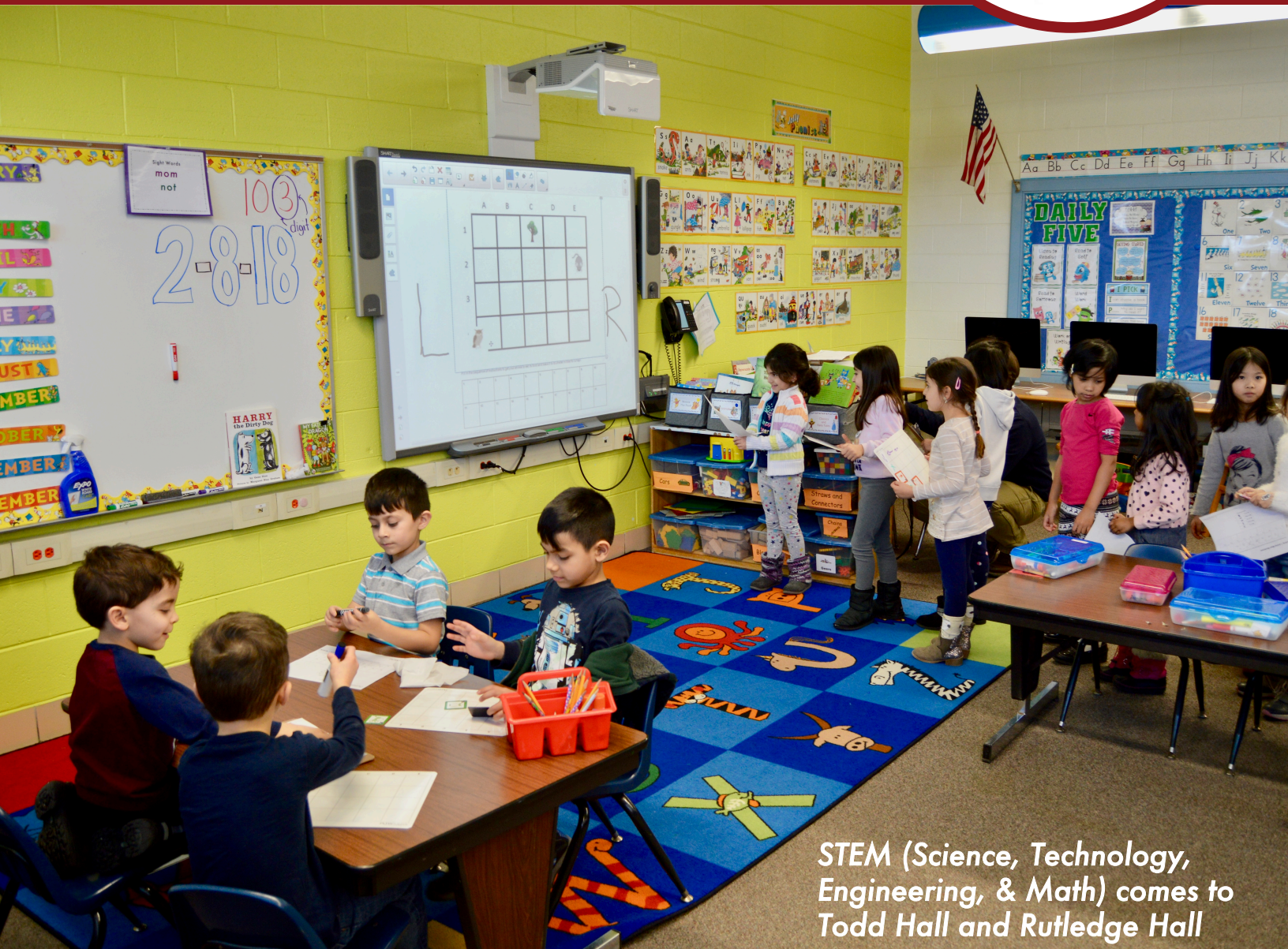


# COMPASS POINTS

LINCOLNWOOD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 74



FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION



*STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) comes to Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall*

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# Community Plan Guides District Development

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Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

Please accept wishes for a joyous, happy, healthy 2018. The District team and myself would like to take this moment to thank you, the Lincolnwood Community, for your continued support for the children of Lincolnwood. Together, we all play a part in shaping your young Lincolnwood neighbors.

As the District moves into the second half of the academic school year, we would like to take this opportunity to share school information and news with the community.

To begin with, the five-year strategic plan is currently in its fourth year. During the last four years, the District has continued to work towards improved academic performance. Curriculum committees have been working to align goals and standards to better address student learning needs. Through all the curriculum implementation, we continue to teach communication, collaboration, leadership, curiosity, and perseverance. We utilize curriculum to build these skills in our students. Please read more details about this in Dr. Russo's letter.

Another goal area of the plan is to promote programs for the health and well-being of students. This area heavily focused on the Food Services program and nutritional items offered to students. The District is proud to share that we serve a fresh salad bar and scratch cooking items throughout our lunch service. The children most certainly enjoy their choices and the District is dedicated to continue revamping the menu items to consistently satisfy the children's palates.

Strengthening community outreach and collaboration is also a target area of our plan. The District continues to offer Parent Education Nights, with topics of interest for our families. With the continuation of updating the District facilities there will be new spaces and opportunities for the community to work together with the District. As a matter of fact, we are pleased to have more of Lincolnwood Police presence around campus. The Police Department and the District have collaborated to have officers rotate through the campus much more frequently. We are thrilled to have the officers talking, working, and connecting with our students.

It was such a privilege to meet so many community members at the Lincoln Hall Open House. I feel so honored to have worked in Lincolnwood the last six years and be part of the ongoing improvements and renovations. The community has been instrumental in providing newly updated, flexible learning spaces for the students.

As we move forward through the remainder of the school year, please do not hesitate to schedule a visit, stay connected through our website, community email list, and please attend the annual school play, *Beauty and the Beast*, on May 18, 19, or 20.

Together as one learning community,  
Dr. Kimberly A. Nasshan  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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**@lincolnwoodsd74**







## Curriculum Expansion and Upward Trends in Testing

Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

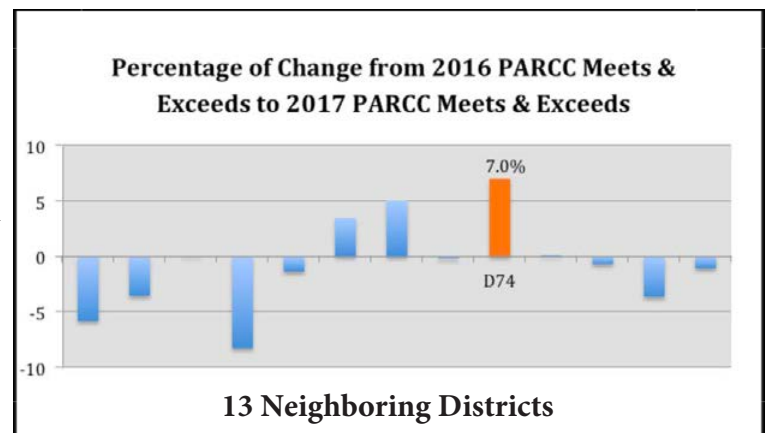
I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and a joyful start to 2018! As the District moves through the school year, the students of Lincolnwood School District 74 continue to make me proud to serve in your wonderful community. Thus far, my first year in the District has been extremely rewarding. Everyone has been a tremendous support helping me learn more about the District each day. I thank the community for your continuous support.

Due to this ongoing community support, our new spaces have allowed students and teachers to pursue innovative interdisciplinary projects and units of study. Interdisciplinary learning experiences bring together concepts from different subject matters such as science, math, and social studies into one project or outcome. In these types of activities, ideas are reinforced to gain deeper understanding. In this edition of *Compass Points*, you will read about the Project Lead the Way Launch program. This initiative is manifestation for the District's Strategic Plan goal to expand the STEM curriculum to Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall Schools. Implementation continues throughout the rest of the school year.

Earlier in the year, the State of Illinois released the District's performance on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam taken in the spring of 2017. The District is trending in a positive direction. As seen in the graph to the right, in a sample pool of 13 neighboring districts, the District showed the greatest percentage of gain in students meeting or exceeding standards from 2016 to 2017.

As we move forward, the District will work to maintain the upward trajectory of performance by:

- Continuing to align curriculum with the new Illinois Learning Standards. The PARCC assessment is designed to measure knowledge of these standards.
- Analyzing data from the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test to adjust learning experiences to personalize instruction to meet student needs.



Stay in touch with all the latest District news and classroom activities through the District's bi-weekly newsletter, *Tuesday Newsday*, which you can sign-up to receive directly online at [www.sd74.org/page/539](http://www.sd74.org/page/539).

Sincerely,

Dr. David L. Russo,

*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction*

# Engineering Beginning in Kindergarten

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum is being introduced and explored in kindergarten through fifth grade. Students are using the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch program to learn about computer science and programming. Students start out with introductory lessons that evolve into problem-solving, answering complex questions, and completing a project.

Each module contains three lessons in which students gain skills and knowledge related to that topic. After the lessons are completed, students answer challenging open-ended questions and complete a project that requires application of the skills learned. This program is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and classroom teachers are working to integrate STEM instruction into the general science curriculum with the assistance of the Instructional Coaches. With the use of their iPads, students record data into their respective Launch Logs which they can always revisit to use as a reference point throughout the module. As educators reflect on the rollout, they have found that students are more engaged and excited to learn more.



Beyond computers and coding, PLTW Launch allows students to explore topics such as the human brain and how it processes information. In this module, students research concussions and create a product that will help prevent brain injuries. Students appreciate that they can connect PLTW programming to real-world situations. Additionally, students will study the transmission of diseases through a simulation. In this module, students will gather data that supports their research on preventing the spread of germs. This project allows students to investigate how the body protects itself from infectious diseases and ways to prevent the spread of diseases. The Launch program builds foundational skills for the STEM curriculum at Lincoln Hall as well as the Health curriculum.

Staff and students are excited to continue exploring PLTW Launch. As the school year continues, stay up-to-date on all of the latest District news by visiting the website at [www.sd74.org](http://www.sd74.org).

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

**@lincolnwoodsd74**





# Thousands of Cans Donated to Niles Township Food Pantry

Niles Township officially declared December as Niles Township Food Pantry Month. Students, families, and staff worked together from Monday, November 13, 2017 through Friday, December 8, 2017, bringing in canned food for the annual SD74 Canned Food Drive. Lincolnwood School District 74 had the honor of kicking off the drive by donating all items locally to the pantry for our neighbors in need living in Lincolnwood, Skokie, Niles, and Morton Grove. Each STAR (Students Taking Active Responsibility) group at Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall coordinated the drives at the school level alongside their peers, while the District Office shared information about the drive to the parents and community members.

All together, Lincolnwood School District 74 donated over 9,000 cans of food to the pantry. The donated items were used in the boxes created for families who seek help from the Township to provide a meal during the Holiday season. "Aligning the food drive across the district has created a strong sense of togetherness in our students. They are seeing the power of what can be accomplished when a community works together toward a common goal. We are very proud of the work they are doing," said Rutledge Hall STAR Coordinators Chris Smith and Mari Maldonado.

"I feel really good because I'm donating to people in need and I'm someone that is more fortunate and I'm giving to those that are less fortunate than I am. I have a really big family and we are always spending time together so I went up to each family member individually and asked them each to bring cans to my home so that I can donate them," said 7th grade student Asiya Khan, who donated 1,756 cans herself.



**Students and staff with Niles Township Trustee**



**Students speak to the Lincolnwood Review**

Last year, students collected just over 5,000 cans. With that in mind, Lincoln Hall 7th Grade Spanish Teacher Michelle Lange and 7th Grade Humanities Teacher Mallory Berk set a heightened goal of 6,000 cans. In just five days, Lincoln Hall students had exceeded the goal. "Last year, we really put more emphasis on the canned food drive. We wanted students to understand that they could make a difference! Students love seeing progress and success overtime. Therefore, we put it in the announcements, talked about it in our classes and posted a board at the front of the school for students to see everyday. It was a constant reminder that we could and would make a difference for those in need. It worked! Overall, I think Lincoln Hall has had such success with the food drive because it is something that provides the entire school with a role to play. Teachers and staff are excited about it, students are excited about it, and it brings an energy into the school that makes everyone proud to be here. It is wonderful to see that we are making a difference when we all come together," said Mallory Berk.

Thank you, students and staff, for your generous donations and hard work throughout this Holiday season.

# Lincolnwood Provides a Strong Fine Arts Foundation

Fine Arts participation at Lincolnwood School District 74 is on the rise and student interest in band, orchestra, chorale, and theatre continues to grow as the program offers a wide variety of choices, opportunities, and an overall enjoyable hobby and talent. Last year, the Lincoln Hall Spring Musical, *Shrek Jr.*, had 70 students participating in the cast and crew. This year, students have newly renovated Fine Arts classrooms and private music studios (added to the building during Phase II of the Lincoln Hall Building Plan, photo below) to practice their instruments and hold band and orchestra sectionals for group practice and improvement.

In pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade, students at Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall experience music and art on a weekly basis. Once students begin the fourth grade at Rutledge Hall, they are given the opportunity to participate in band and orchestra. The newly renovated private music studios built at Lincoln Hall as part of Phase II are also shared by Rutledge Hall students. In the sixth grade, student opportunity in the Fine Arts expands to band, orchestra, chorale, and theatre. Several students participate in three of the four groups (band, orchestra, chorale, and theatre), pursuing the Fine Arts at every opportunity.

Lincoln Hall Music Teacher and Theatre Director Erin Egan reflected on her roles and experiences at Lincoln Hall, stating; "Speaking as a fine arts teacher, there is nothing more special than watching the complete transformation of students who participate in the arts. Seeing the growth and newfound confidence in each student is the best part of my job. When middle schoolers allow themselves to be expressive, amazing things can happen. I truly believe participation in the fine arts provides students with a strong work ethic, determination, and collaborative skills that will be invaluable to them in the future."

Lincolnwood School District 74 strongly supports the Fine Arts program and encourages each student to get involved in the opportunity that best fits their interest. From theatre to band to orchestra or chorale, there is a place for every student to get involved in the Fine Arts program. Please see below for SD74 Alumni fine arts involvement data from Niles Township High School District 219.

As the school year continues and the groups work on their programs, save the dates and join us at the spring awards concerts, scheduled for Tuesday, April 17th (Chorale), Monday, April 23rd (Orchestra), and Tuesday, April 24th (Band), at Lincoln Hall at 7:00 p.m. as well as the Spring Musical, *Beauty and the Beast* (dates and showtimes on back cover).

Niles West statistics (below) show the percentage of SD74 ALUMNI in each Fine Arts group:

**Advanced Choir: 40%**

**Advanced Theatre Studies: 50%**

**Symphonic Wind Ensemble: 36%**

**Jazz Band: 36%**



**Chorale Performance at the 2017-18 Multicultural Concert**



**New Private Music Studios at Lincoln Hall**



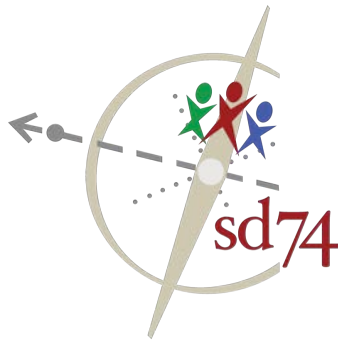
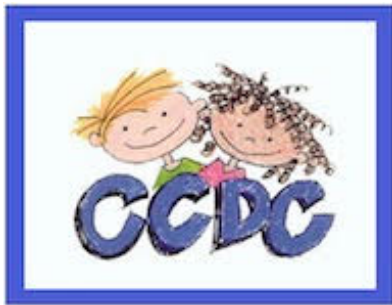
# Opportunities for Advanced and Extended Learning

The learning opportunities on the Lincolnwood School District 74 campus extend beyond the traditional pre-kindergarten through eighth grade classroom settings. Our campus provides students and families a variety of resources and programs prior to pre-kindergarten as well as some that allow students to pursue advanced grade level learning experiences.

At Todd Hall, we share some of our school building with Children's Care and Development Center (CCDC), a nationally accredited education development center who just received the 2018 Gold Circle of Quality - ExceleRate award. CCDC is an educational daycare facility that provides care for children from the age of 6 weeks (infant daycare) through 4 years old. Children residing in Lincolnwood then transition into pre-kindergarten or kindergarten at Todd Hall. Several staff members also bring their own children to CCDC while they teach. Also, CCDC provides after school programming for students in kindergarten through fifth grade at Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall.

SD74 School Psychologist Kristin Kennedy reflected on the care her daughter receives at CCDC, stating; "The ease and convenience of bringing my daughter to work with me and dropping her off down the hall has been tremendously helpful. It has also made it easier to come to work early or stay after school, knowing that I don't have to make special arrangements for childcare. And while the convenience can't be overstated, I appreciate CCDC even more because of the quality, kindness and competence of the staff. I can leave her in their hands and focus on my work, knowing that she is being cared for by people who are genuinely concerned with her well-being and development. I think my daughter sees the staff in the infant room as members of the extended family, and we are so grateful that they have created that sense of home for her right down the hall from my office."

"District 74 is a very special community, and CCDC is proud of our unique partnership serving Lincolnwood families and their youngest learners. It is gratifying to see our preschoolers ready to transition confidently to kindergarten at Todd Hall, continue on through Rutledge Hall, and come back to complete service hours for Lincoln Hall graduation! Those strong relationships with families and continuity of care build community and empower children for life. District 74 and CCDC share that mission," said CCDC Director Susan Fahey.



At Lincoln Hall, students excelling in math can qualify for an opportunity to take high school level courses at Niles West while still in middle school. This year, 8th grader Christian Ranon takes advantage of this opportunity at Niles West. "This is a very unique opportunity and experience for me and it helps me prepare for next year when I'll be a freshman at Niles West. I'm currently taking Honors Geometry with Mr. Larrabee and there are several Lincoln Hall alumni in my class which is really nice," said Christian.

Lincolnwood School District 74 is dedicated to providing not only our current students, but the Lincolnwood community as a whole, with educational opportunities across all ages. To learn more about the curriculum and opportunities on the District campus, please call Christina Audisho, Communications Coordinator, at 847-675-8234.

**SD74 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) volunteer opportunities are available year-round! Email the PTA at [sd74lincolnwoodpta@gmail.com](mailto:sd74lincolnwoodpta@gmail.com) to learn more today.**



## LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74

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Twitter: @lincolnwoodsd74

ECRWSS

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# COMPASS POINTS

LINCOLNWOOD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 74



## SAVE THE DATE! YOU ARE INVITED SD74'S ANNUAL SPRING MUSICAL

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*Superintendent of Schools*

Dr. David Russo,  
*Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction*

Robert J. Ciserella,  
*Business Manager, CSBO*

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

### SHOWTIMES

Friday, May 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

