# **KEENEYVILLE**

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 20**



### **2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

















On a mission to ignite the power and potential of each student!

Early Childhood Center • Greenbrook Elementary School • Waterbury Elementary School • Spring Wood Middle School Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @KeeneyvilleD20 #esd20learns

www.esd20.org



#### **District 20 Schools**

Preschool
Early Childhood Center
Pre-K

5212 Arlington Circle, Hanover Park 630-894-4544

Principal: Mr. John Gustafson Student Enrollment: 81 *Home of the Penguins* 

## Elementary Schools Greenbrook Elementary School K-5

5208 Arlington Circle, Hanover Park 630-894-4544

Principal: Mr. John Gustafson Student Enrollment: 544 *Home of the Gators* 

## Waterbury Elementary School K-5

355 S. Rodenburg Road, Roselle 630-893-8180 Principal: Dr. Debbie Guzan Student Enrollment: 453 Home of the Wildcats

## Middle School Spring Wood Middle School 6-8

5540 Arlington Drive E, Hanover Park 630-893-8900 Principal: Mr. Jamison Pearce

Principal: Mr. Jamison Pearce Student Enrollment: 504 *Home of the Chargers* 

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2019 Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 Annual Report to the Community. I hope you find this annual publication informative. On the following pages, we will share our successes from the 2018-2019 school year.

The next chapter of "My Story"

school year.

began after accepting the position of Superintendent of Schools in March of 2018! I quickly began the transition to this wonderful school district and prepared to provide the needed support to continue moving our school district forward, with the vision of making it the best place to learn and work. My 90-Day Transition Plan became a roadmap for me as we kicked-off the

Traditions are important to me; therefore, I began the school year with one that I have been doing for years, riding the bus with students on the first day of school. My first Keeneyville ESD20 bus ride was exciting! It was wonderful to greet the students on the bus and meet parents at the bus stop. Look for me every first day of school; I might be on your child's bus route.

Connecting with the whole school community was a priority for me. It is important to me to make connections with students, whether on the bus or at the schools. The same for parents — if I see you at the bus stop, a school event or even the grocery store, please come over and say hello. Staff is no exception, so last year I made sure to meet with every single staff member to have a collegial conversation and discuss successes and areas of need from their point of view. I used the collected information to prioritize my tasks for the school year.

I believe in a student-centered education, which makes students the highest priority

for me. Working together as a school community we can strive to make their school experience the best possible. To meet this goal, I conducted regular building and classroom visits to see student learning first-hand.

We have made changes in the district with the input of key



Dr. Omar Castillo

school community stakeholders in order to improve student experiences. Our Greenbrook library redesign moved our outdated library to a new learning space, our first Innovation Center. We have already started planning for Innovation Centers at both Waterbury and Spring Wood. Both elementary campuses also underwent renovations this summer, with a goal of maintaining a safe school environment.

It is my pleasure to serve you as the Superintendent of Schools and continue making our school community the best place to live, learn and work. I hope you find the information in this annual report helpful. Please join me in continuing to write "Our Story"!

Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo Superintendent of Schools

## Welcome to the New Members of District 20 Administration

In July, District 20 welcomed several new administrators to the leadership team which places the district in a strong position with trust, collaboration, and confidence to prepare our students for a successful future. The new administrators include:

Mr. Phil Aliano,

Spring Wood Assistant Principal

Mrs. Becky Cortesi-Caruso,

Director of Student Services

Mr. Jamie Pearce,

Spring Wood Principal

Mrs. Julie Relihan,

**Director of Community Relations** 

Ms. Kristine Stalzer,

Waterbury Assistant Principal

Dr. Carrie Stange,

Director of Teaching and Learning

#### **Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 Board of Education**

#### Board of Education Earns Elite Recognition for Their Work

The District 20 Board of Education was one of just 24 school boards in the state to earn the 2018 School Board Governance Recognition designation from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). The Board was recognized because they "engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education," stated Thomas E. Bertrand, Executive Director at IASB.

A rigorous application process included providing evidence and written summaries to demonstrate: engaging in efforts to communicate the District 20 mission, vision and goals, connecting with stakeholders, implementing a superintendent evaluation, conducting regular policy reviews, monitoring progress toward District 20 goals, implementing an orientation program for new board members, conducting self-evaluations and actively participating in IASB workshops and designating voting delegates for the IASB Delegate Assembly.

#### **Members of the District 20 Board of Education**



Pictured from left sitting: Vice-President, Sara Bruno, President, Heather Weishaar and Secretary, Andrea Schnorr. Pictured from left standing: Board members: April Dislers, Jennifer Kuban, Darletta Anderson, and Terry Walloch.

#### **ESD20 Future Ready Learning Spaces**

The District is excited to open the new "ESD20 Innovation Center" at Greenbrook after extensive renovations to the library, creating a future-ready learning space to ignite and inspire the students as they explore, learn, and innovate new ideas. The Innovation Center features independent and collaborative workspaces, mobile and comfortable furniture, a state-of-the-art STEM makerspace, and a presentation area with video wall. Some of the new technology available to the students will include green screen for creative video-making, 3D printing, robotics, electronic circuits, and much more! Several classrooms across the district have already been updated and the District is planning for future ready learning centers at the other schools as well.



#### 2019 – 2020 Board of Education

Mrs. Heather Weishaar President hweishaar@esd20.org

Mrs. Sara Bruno Vice President sbruno@esd20.org

Mrs. Andrea Schnorr Secretary aschnorr@esd20.org

Mrs. Darletta Anderson Board Member danderson@esd20.org

Mrs. April Dislers
Board Member
adislers@esd20.org

Mrs. Jennifer Kuban Board Member jkuban@esd20.org

Mr. Terry Walloch Board Member twalloch@esd20.org

#### **Meeting Dates 2019 – 2020**

Board of Education meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Spring Wood Library on the second floor, 5540 Arlington Drive East in Hanover Park, unless otherwise noted.

July 22, 2019 Special Meeting 6:00pm August 15, 2019 September 26, 2019 Innovation Ctr October 24, 2019 November 21, 2019 December 19, 2019 January 23, 2020 February 27, 2020 March 26, 2020 April 23, 2020 May 21, 2020 June 18, 2020

Additional Board information can be found on the District website <a href="https://www.esd20.org">www.esd20.org</a>.

#### Work Concludes on the 2016 – 2019 Strategic Plan

As District 20 completes the third and final year of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, we are proud to reflect on what we have accomplished around the six themes below:

#### Theme 1: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The District incorporated Eureka Math into the elementary curriculum to teach math as a coherent body of knowledge with learning progressions required for true math fluency, not just teaching a set of skills. Eureka Math focuses on long-term success and is designed to instill deep understanding of math concepts that students can build on as they progress, while still allowing them

to find joy in math. We have already seen significant improvement in math assessment scores, with math proficiency increasing by 9% at Waterbury and 16% at Greenbrook.

Our teachers integrated the use of technology into curriculum at all levels,



empowering students to develop and utilize future-ready learning skills and digital literacy. This enhanced creativity and fostered collaboration in our classrooms. The 7th Grade Language Arts classes introduced CoSpaces into their narrative writing projects and gave students the ability to create 3D scenes, animate with code, and explore their scenes with Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR). District educators presented this innovative curriculum to other districts demonstrating the exciting new digital learning experience for students.



Elementary and middle curriculum also school embraced Social Emotional Learning (SEL). SEL lessons helped students to develop skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy, establish and maintain positive

relationships, and make responsible decisions. The SEL curriculum helped to provide a safe, supported learning environment and encourage students on a path to academic and lifelong success.

#### **Theme 2: Technology**

The District successfully met its goal to provide every student with access to a Chromebook laptop, which has allowed teachers to integrate technology and digital learning into all of our classrooms. Students in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade across the District utilized touch screen devices to further assist student learning at the younger ages.

Elementary teachers at Greenbrook used the Seesaw platform to meaningfully engage students in digital learning. Students displayed their work to teachers and their parents using technology,



motivating students to do better and improving communication between home and school. Approximately 80 students participated in a before-school program offered at both elementary buildings. STEM Club provided students with hands-on activities and allowed them to use technology to design and create their own bubble wands. Technology has been integrated into middle school curriculum in a wide-variety of innovative ways as well, allowing students to create videos, movies, coding, 3D printed items, and use Virtual and Augmented Reality.

In July, the District launched a new and improved website providing a sleek and modern design that is easier for users to navigate. The website is updated regularly with helpful information and resources, and can be found at <a href="https://www.esd20.org">www.esd20.org</a>.

#### Theme 3: Meeting the Unique Needs of Children

District 20 implemented a variety of unique learning experiences to meet the individual needs of our students. The District provided a range of programming and activities to allow students with special needs to learn academic and life skills. Partnerships with several community organizations allowed for unique learning opportunities, including, including a local grocery store, the area post office, several park district facilities, and the YMCA. Through the Early CHOICES Program at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and the Reach Program at the elementary schools, the District continued to work towards providing the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) to students, by expanding inclusive learning opportunities for all students to help them grow and learn.

The District added Enrichment teachers so that each school could have daily learning opportunities for gifted children. Activities focused on creative and critical thinking skills, where students worked within their areas of academic strength (reading and/ or math). Students worked to broaden reading comprehension, increase vocabulary skills, and dive deeper into mathematics concepts. The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) curriculum in middle school replaced the general English/Language Arts classes for gifted students. Students engaged in problem-based learning, posing real-world questions for students to solve. GATE students worked collaboratively to research, gather information, and prepare presentations to present their creative solutions to experts in those fields. Multiple expositions during the school year allowed enrichment students to showcase their hard work to parents and the community.

#### **Theme 4: Student Life**

The District implemented programs to expand extracurricular activities and partnerships, to provide many opportunities for students of all ages to get involved and collaborate with their peers. Spring Wood's student council, called Charger Changers, promoted positive change in their community and school through service-related activities. The group hosted activities ranging from antibullying awareness, fundraising events for many worthy causes, and social activities to bring students and staff together. Another student group, Dare to Dream, offered Latina and non-Latina students many activities to promote academic, cultural and social growth. Students volunteered in the community, toured college campuses, attended an annual conference, and held various fundraising activities during the school year.

The annual musical for 5th through 8th Grade students allowed students to engage in performing arts and encouraged social emotional learning. Students performed High School Musical, Jr. which tells the story of how classmates navigate issues of love

and friendship while balancing the challenges of school work and extracurricular activities. The Literacy Through the Arts Program provided by Faubourg Theatre also used performing arts as a vehicle to engage children to express themselves and bridge their development as thoughtful and creative thinkers. This program helped to improve reading comprehension and math concepts through project-based learning, heightened social-emotional awareness, and increased parent and family engagement.



#### Theme 5: Community, Collaboration and Culture

District 20 partnered with the DuPage Regional Office of Education and created Parent Café to help strengthen and grow the relationship between home and school through a year-long series of parent and family engagement activities. The events were free and well-attended by district families from all schools and included dinner, childcare, and speakers on various topics selected by the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee.

Guest Speaker Arlene Pellicane spoke about her book Growing Up Social: Raising Relational Kids in a Screen-Driven World and empowered parents to make positive changes in our digital age where children are often over-dependent on screens. Another Parent Café was led by Psychologist Dr. Todd Huenecke and Counselor Stacey Sanicki and focused on helping children's stress and anxiety. In May 2019, Parent Café collaborated with the District's Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) to



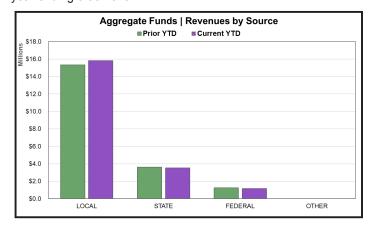
host the first district-wide International Celebration of the Child. The event drew a large crowd from across the district and featured games, crafts, food, and entertainment from a variety of cultures around the world.

#### **Theme 6: Finance and Facilities**

District 20 was successful in meeting the Finance and Facilities goals under the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, including to: continually monitor the district finances and fund balances to assure fiscal stability; explore new revenue sources such as grants and business partnerships; and review and update facilities and the study of learning space and furnishings.

#### **District Finances**

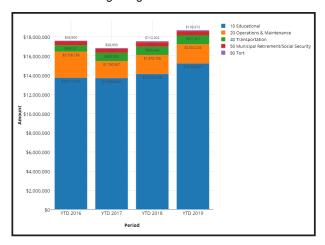
The District continues to maintain adequate fund balances and remains fiscally stable. The District Financial Profile is a 3.9 or Financial Recognition, the highest a school can achieve. Additionally, the District receive the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting again for the year ended FY 2018. As with most Illinois school districts, Keeneyville receives the majority of its revenues from local property taxes. Below is a chart of the unaudited revenues received for the FY 18-19 school year ending 6/30/2019:



Revenues were higher than the prior year as a result of the State passing the Evidence Based Funding Model. This funding formula provides more funds to District's that have greater needs. Keeneyville 20 was in Tier 1 in the funding model at 65% adequacy. This resulted in an additional \$146,491 in state revenues. The District received 100% of all general state aid payments as well as five categorical payments for transportation covering funds owed from FY 2018 by the State. With the additional funding, the District focused on providing some additional staff members including the following;

- Greenbrook Enrichment Teacher; EL Teacher
- Waterbury Special Education teacher and two resource paraprofessionals
- Spring Wood One Seventh Grade Science/Social Studies Teacher and a Special Education Teacher
- Early Childhood Center One Special Education Teacher and a paraprofessional

These positions focus on supporting student needs throughout the District and maintaining the goal of lower class sizes.



Excluding Debt Service, Capital Projects and Life Safety funds, the chart above reflects how the District spends a majority of its operation funds. The majority of the funds, 83%, are spend on

education including staff salaries, benefits, supplies and technology items. This chart reflects the past four years of expenditures and reflects an increase in education spending as a result of additional staffing.

#### **New Revenue Sources**

Over the past several years the district implemented a long term investing strategy following Illinois Investment guidelines found in policy 4:30. By laddering out our portfolio over a three year period the district was able to increase investment earnings from \$111,000 in FY 2017 to \$521,717 in FY 2019. This helped us with our goal of increasing revenues through new revenues sources.

#### Long Range Facilities Planning & Upgrades

In 2017 the Board began working with our architects to develop a master facilities plan that looked at future ready spaces and needs of the district. The District buildings have been well maintained. The HVAC systems were updated the summer of 2017, the roofs were replaced the summer of 2018 and we began our interior updates with the remodeling of the Greenbrook Library during the summer of 2019 to create a new Innovation Center that brings STEM activities to the elementary students. In addition to the Greenbrook Innovation Center, the district renovated 4 classrooms at Spring Wood with new classroom furniture as well as 4 classrooms at Waterbury. These renovations were completed through a combination of operating funds and the sale of bonds.

As we look to the future, we are excited to bring new innovated spaces to both Spring Wood and Waterbury to create collaborative, energizing spaces for all students.



Early Childhood Center



Waterbury Elementary



Greenbrook Elementary



Spring Wood Middle

#### New Three-Year Strategic Plan for 2019-2022

On Saturday, January 12, a retreat was held to begin work on the 2019-2022 Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 Strategic Plan. The current plan that spanned 2016-2019 ended on June 30, 2019. The all-day retreat was facilitated by Field Services Director, Reatha Owen from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) and included a morning and afternoon session. District 20 board members, school staff, parents, students and community members worked together in small groups to define current values and beliefs. The groups also participated in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (S.W.O.T) analysis. The following goals were to help move the District forward:

- 1. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Technology
- 2. The Keeneyville Experience Student Life and Culture
- 3. Collaboration and Communication
- 4. District Finance and Facilities



It is important to note that the Strategic Plan is a fluid document and that resources will be necessary to accomplish many of the goals. District 20 administrators and members of the District 20 Board of Education will work collaboratively and continuously monitor, prioritize and make changes as needed. The District will also continue to provide updates on progress of the plan.

Please visit <u>www.esd20.org</u> to see the full details of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.



#### **DISTRICT 20 PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS**

District 20 implements a wide variety of programs and activities to ignite and inspire students. Some of the activities are incorporated into classroom activities, while others are before or after school programs. The overviews below offer a highlight of some of the programs offered during the 2018-2019 school year.

## Preschool for All Program Named Gold Circle of Quality Designee

District 20's Preschool for All (PFA) program was named a Gold Circle of Quality designee by ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs. The Early Childhood Center serves approximately 80 preschool students ages three through five within the District 20 boundaries.



## Students Run Coffee Cart and Mail Delivery Programs

The District has several unique learning opportunities for special education students. For example, the Greenbrook Structured Classroom runs a Friday Coffee Cart Program which provides a fun learning activity for the students to learn and utilize skills such as making signs, organizing materials and supplies, reading a menu, using a checklist, counting money and making change, handling food, entering a classroom, and work on other social skills and exchanges during delivery. Waterbury runs a similar program where Destiny students with special needs deliver mail to the staff throughout the building.



#### **Spring Wood Hosts Drive for Veterans**

Spring Wood Middle School's eighth grade team, under the direction of Mr. Karner, collected household items to help support veterans transitioning out of homelessness. The event, called 11:11:11, is held annually at Spring Wood and sponsored by Military Outreach USA. The outpouring of support

and generosity from our district community is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about our veterans and the importance of helping others in need.



#### **Students Start Their Day With STEM**

From January through April, eighty Greenbrook and Waterbury students participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) club. The before school extra-curricular program focuses on a variety of hands-on science activities and exposes them to using technology for fun and innovative projects.



#### **New Illinois State Report Card 2018**

Each year, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) publishes state, district and school report cards that include data on assessment, student demographics, instructional setting, district staffing and finance. ISBE made several changes to the report card in 2018, implementing a new accountability system that "will help us have a better picture of how our schools are doing by looking at a number of variables based on student growth," stated District 20 Superintendent, Dr. Castillo. "For years district leaders have been asking for change with the state system to focus more on student needs and growth. It looks like the state has listened and will be providing professional development and financial support to districts."

For the 2018 report card, ISBE used data from the 2017-2018 school year, designating Waterbury as a "commendable school" and finding that both Spring Wood and Greenbrook were in need of "Targeted Support." This support consists of extra money and approved learning partners in order to provide extra support to help students in these schools grow at a faster rate. To view the District 20 report card, visit <a href="www.esd20.org">www.esd20.org</a>. The next report card was published in late October, 2019.

## Thank You and Congratulations to the 2018-2019 Board Salute Recipients!

#### **District 20 Staff**

Mandy Aubry Denise Glennon Christina Martin Catie Kafitz Lindsy Koldon Claudia Tolwinski Randi Walters Eleni Vrettos Rita Lawrence Zac Minelli Jamie Jovanovic Courtney Anzalone Joyce Lewis Jamie O'Brien Kathleen March Jaime Bolognone Lauren Schmidt Hilary Young Laurie Leahv Jennifer Rolinski Alexandra Johnson Barbara Fang Lauren Schmidt Alexandria Johnson Megan Haines

#### Illinois Central Bus Company

Ramona Smola Cindy Vega Rich Gawron Bill Cole Vince Ramirez Ryan Kujawski

### Score Tennis & Fitness Outreach Program Martina Wodzinski

### D20 Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee

Beatriz Cisneros Karla Iveth Chee Sara Hernandez Maria Hernandez



#### Keeneyville Elementary School District 20

5540 Arlington Drive E Hanover Park, Illinois 60133 Phone: 630-894-2250 Fax: 630-894-9661

#### District Administration 2019 – 2020

Dr. Omar Castillo Superintendent ocastillo@esd20.org

Mr. Art Andersen Director of Technology aandersen@esd20.org

Mrs. Becky Cortesi-Caruso Director of Student Services bcaruso@esd20.org

Mrs. Wendy Flaherty
Director of Operations and Treasurer
wflaherty@esd20.org

Mrs. Julie Relihan
Director of Community Relations
jrelihan@esd20.org

Dr. Carrie Stange
Director of Teaching and Learning
cstange@esd20.org

Please visit our website at <a href="https://www.esd20.org">www.esd20.org</a> and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @ KeeneyvilleD20, #esd20learns.