

# KEENEYVILLE

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 20



### 2020 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](http://www.esd20.org)

District 20 Schools

Early Childhood Center  
Pre-Kindergarten

5212 Arlington Circle  
Hanover Park IL 60133  
(630) 894-4544  
Asst. Principal: Ms. Amanda Aubry  
*Home of the Penguins*

Greenbrook Elementary School  
Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

5208 Arlington Circle  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
(630) 894-4544  
Principal: Mr. John Gustafson  
*Home of the Gators*

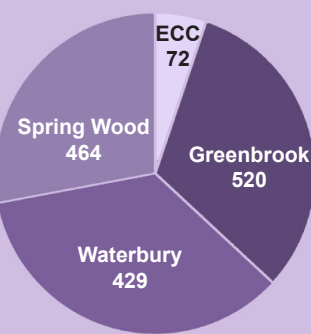
Waterbury Elementary School  
Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

355 S. Rodenburg Road  
Roselle, IL 60172  
(630) 893-8180  
Principal: Dr. Jon Pokora  
*Home of the Wildcats*

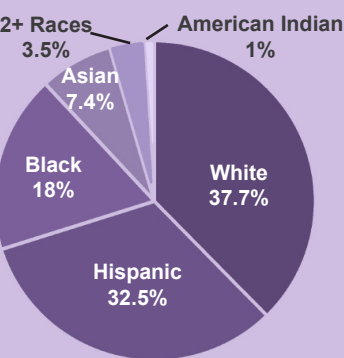
Spring Wood Middle School  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

5540 Arlington Drive E  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
(630) 893-8900  
Principal: Mr. Jamison Pearce  
*Home of the Chargers*

STUDENT ENROLLMENT



RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY



SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Keeneyville School District 20 Annual Report to the Community for 2020. While this year began like any other year, it soon changed beyond anything we could have imagined. On March 16, we had to close our schools to in-person learning and quickly pivot to remote learning to protect our community from the spread of the new coronavirus. I had not managed through a pandemic before and the situation required everyone in the district community to learn new ways of educating students. And we all learned a lot!



We learned how to Zoom very quickly. While not perfect, this allowed us to connect with students and continue their daily studies. The spring remote learning was new to everyone and required several days of planning. Our main focus was on SEL (social emotional learning), literacy, and math skills. We knew that our students would likely have some gaps from not being in the classroom. We quickly decided to offer a Remote Summer Program for the entire district to help bridge learning gaps. During these programs, teachers honed-in on remote teaching skills and were much better equipped to continue this unconventional way of teaching, which we needed to rely upon as COVID cases continued to rise into the Fall. We were able to bring our elementary and some special education students back into the buildings for a short period of time, which brought everyone such joy and excitement. It allowed us to do what we were trained to do, teach in-person. We are hopeful that with the new vaccine, we will soon have more consistency and can have students back into the buildings regularly.

While we had challenges with teaching and learning, we continued to follow our goal of creating new Innovation Centers at both Spring Wood and Waterbury this year. I can’t wait to have students in the buildings to see these updated and exciting new spaces. They will allow for more collaboration, creative thinking, STEM activities, and fun for our students!

This year really has been more of a roller coaster ride than my typical motorcycle ride. I would have never imagined this to be part of “Our Story” or journey. With all the challenges we have faced, I am grateful for the Keeneyville 20 Community and all the support during this trying year. It is my pleasure to serve you as Superintendent of Schools. I hope you find the information in this annual report to be helpful. You will want to keep this report as a memento, we may never have another year like this!



Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo  
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The District 20 Board of Education consists of seven elected members of the community who volunteer their time to work collaboratively to ensure that a balanced budget is maintained while providing students with the resources that they need for success.

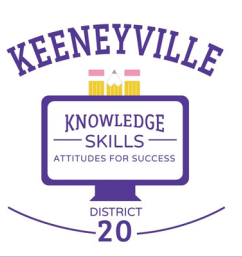
In addition to regular School Board business this year, members faced many unique challenges during the coronavirus pandemic. The Board developed a crisis management plan for the Spring, approved a return to learn plan for the 2020-21 school year, and continued to adapt as needed in the ever-changing environment. The Board’s leadership through this unprecedented year was exceptional.

Beginning in March, Board Meetings were often held virtually due to health concerns. Meetings were shared “live” on Zoom, which allowed the community to safely attend the meetings virtually and engage in public comment. Some of the meetings had over 150 attendees. We are grateful for the commitment and patience of the Board and the entire community during this challenging year.



THANK YOU D20 STAFF!

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our District 20 Staff and the Keeneyville Education Association. We know that the pandemic has been very challenging for everyone. We could not accomplish all that we do for our students without your commitment to learning!



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

New Members of  
D20 Administration

Dr. Jon Pokora  
Principal of Waterbury

Mr. Phil Dorjath  
Assistant Principal of Greenbrook

2019-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

As Keeneyville District 20 completes the first year of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, we are proud to reflect on what we have accomplished.

Theme 1: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, & Technology

District 20 strives to develop a unique pathway for each student to reach his or her full potential. The MAP Assessment is one of the ways that we measure academic growth in order to determine students' learning needs. We were very pleased that Winter 2019-20 MAP data showed positive growth at all grade levels for literacy and math. Teachers engaged in professional development to utilize MAP data to focus instruction to the specific needs of their students. During the pandemic, students were not assessed due to State guidelines and building closures. Student assessments resumed in Fall 2020, and will be given to students again in early 2021. These assessments will help teachers to continue to support student growth and bridge any learning gaps that may have occurred during this unique and challenging year.



District 20 staff participated in various professional growth experiences to help facilitate the unexpected need to teach remotely, including how to utilize the many digital tools needed for effective remote instruction and student engagement. Some of the digital resources have included Zoom, Google Classroom, Seesaw, WeVideo, Padlet, Google Forms, Eureka, Raz-Kids, MobyMax, Newsela, and more. The District Teaching & Learning Team has remained available to teachers to provide ongoing professional development and technical support.

Teachers also engaged in professional development focusing on the planning and procedures for the safe return of our students. Teachers have had to adapt to the new norm of virtual parent-teacher conferences, school safety protocols, and working remotely when necessary. District 20 is very proud of our staff who have worked hard to remain flexible throughout the ever-changing pandemic and each phase of the ESD20 Return to Learn Plan.



Theme 2: The Keeneyville Experience - Student Life & Culture

The District is committed to providing a safe, caring, and supportive working and learning environment for all students and staff. Our goal is to make Keeneyville District 20 a long-term community to live in and work in, by engaging parents and staff to support our students' educational endeavors.

District 20 offers a variety of activities and events to encourage families to support their children's learning. Families are invited to participate in Parent Cafe workshops and Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings that provide valuable information and resources. Virtual opportunities have been offered during the pandemic, including parent teacher conferences via zoom, student promotion and honor roll ceremonies, tutoring and homework clubs, and after school activities. Greenbrook and Waterbury hosted Family Reading Nights during the Fall which had over 250 virtual attendees. Sharing videos of events, as well as the #ESD20ReturntoLearn, #ESD20PositiveVibes and #ESD20Thankful social media campaigns have helped to keep staff and community spirits high.

Student and staff recognition programs such as the Board of Education's Student Ignite Awards celebrate hard work, dedication, and the pursuit of excellence. Virtual presentations have allowed students and their families to continue to participate in academic achievements. This Fall, Spring Wood hosted virtual celebrations for 34 Charger Pride Student Awards and 265 Honor Roll Students (54% of the student body) for the first trimester during remote learning.

The District encourages a unified curriculum and teaching environment across each grade level and at all schools, including special education services and programming. Our staff has worked hard to support special education students and their families as they frequently faced unique challenges when adapting to new safety protocols. For this reason, the District offered in-person learning at the earliest date possible this Fall for self-contained special education classrooms.

Theme 3: Collaboration & Communication

District 20 seeks to maintain proactive and consistent communication with the community, especially during the fluid COVID-19 landscape. Weekly updates are shared with families and staff by email, website, phone calls, and social media. The District released a new mobile app to help make information even more convenient for the community. The D20 Communication Center on our District website also provides frequent updates, information and resources, including current Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and direct links to request information.

One of the District's key objectives has been to collaborate with staff and the community to support student learning and meet student and family needs as much as possible. Gathering meaningful feedback has been an important part of the planning process to reopen our schools. Survey responses revealed the comfort level with in-person learning and highlighted which safety measures were most important. Community members and staff also participated on the District's reopening planning team to help develop the Return to Learn Plan for 2020-21.

District 20 has worked diligently to provide programs and resources to help support our families through the pandemic and times of economic hardship:

- Free meals for all children (age 18 and under)
- Free internet at home through Comcast partnership
- Free D20 WiFi hot spot loan program
- Distribution of donated laptops
- Distribution of donated winter coats
- Childcare through Park District partnerships
- Social-emotional support through D20 schools/staff
- Drive-up technology support and help desk
- Open communication through info@esd20.org email
- Information and resources related to COVID-19



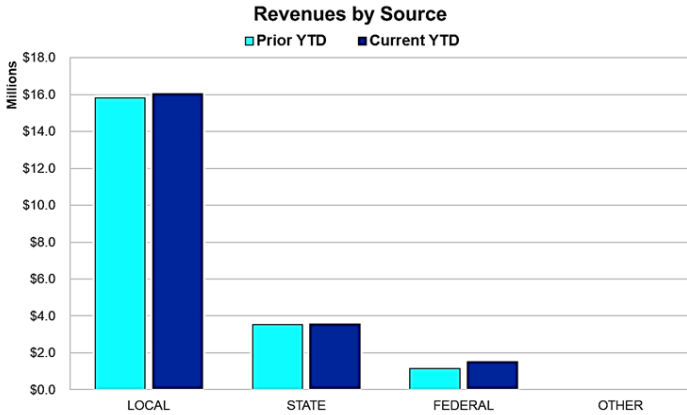
Theme 4: District Finance & Facilities

District 20 successfully met the Finance & Facilities goals this year, including to: align district resources with programs providing the strongest academic outcomes for all

students, maintain safe, future ready buildings that enhance the learning experience; and sustain strong fiscal stewardship.

District Finances

The District continues to maintain strong 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 received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting again for the year ended FY 2019. 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 19-20 school year ending 6/30/2020:



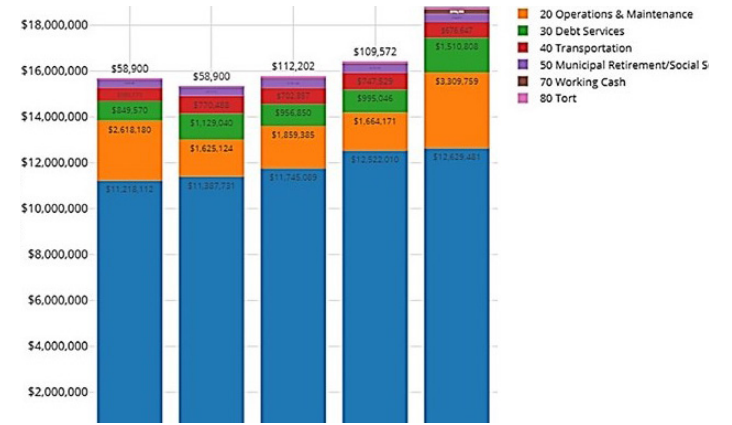
Revenues were higher than the prior year as a result of the State passing the Evidence Based Funding Model. This funding formula provides more funds to District's that have greater needs. Keeneyville 20 was in Tier 1 in the funding model at 65% adequacy, resulting in an additional \$109,350 of state revenues. The District received 100% of all general state aid payments as well as five categorical payments for transportation covering funds owed from FY 2019.

With the additional funding, the District focused on providing some additional staff members in FY 2019 and maintained them in FY 2020. New positions focus on supporting student needs throughout the District and maintaining the goal of lower class sizes:

- *Greenbrook*: Enrichment Teacher & EL Teacher
- *Waterbury*: Special Education Teacher & 2 Resource Paraprofessionals
- *Spring Wood*: 7th Grade Science/Social Studies Teacher & Special Education Teacher
- *Early Childhood Center*: Special Education Teacher & Paraprofessional

Excluding Debt Service, Capital Projects and Life Safety funds, the following chart reflects how the District spends a majority of its operating funds. The majority of the funds, 83%, are spent on education including staff sala-

ries, benefits, supplies and technology items. This chart compares the past five years of expenditures and reflects an increase in education spending as a result of additional staffing. Included in the Operations and Maintenance category (in orange) is the transfer of \$1.5 million to Capital Projects for the renovation of the Spring Wood and Waterbury libraries.



**New Revenue Sources**

The District has implemented a long term investing strategy following Illinois Investment guidelines 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 \$473,421 in FY 2020. While this was below the prior year due to low interest rates, it still helped us with our goal of increasing revenues through new revenue sources.

Additionally, the District saw an increase in federal funding as a result of the COVID-19-CARES Act. Those funds were used to provide PPE equipment as well as fund the District's Remote Summer School Program.

**ESD20 RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2020-21**

District 20 began to plan for our students to return to in-person learning for the 2020-21 school year as soon as Governor Pritzker released the Restore Illinois Plan in May, 2020. The District worked collaboratively with local health and government agencies, as well as other area school districts to develop a plan that fit the needs of our community.

The State of Illinois issued the first detailed guidelines for schools to reopen in late June, strongly encouraging in-person instruction with required social distancing, face coverings, enhanced sanitation measures, and many other safety accommodations. State guidelines have frequently been updated and modified as the pandemic has progressed, which has required the District to remain flexible to adapt plans to fit the changing circumstances. District 20's Core Reopening Team quickly established

**Long Range Facilities Planning**

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. Our buildings have been well maintained. The HVAC systems were updated the summer of 2017, the roofs were replaced the summer of 2018 and we finalized our traffic safety projects at Waterbury and Greenbrook in 2019.

Also in 2019, we began interior updates with the remodeling of the Greenbrook Library to create a new Innovation Center that brings STEM activities to the students. The District also renovated four classrooms at Spring Wood and four classrooms at Waterbury. These renovations were completed with a combination of operating funds and the sale of bonds. In FY 2020, we utilized operating funds and the sale of bonds to update the Waterbury and Spring Wood Libraries to future ready Innovation Centers. We cannot wait to have our kids back more regularly to fully utilize these energizing spaces.

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

In March of 2020 we were all challenged with the COVID-19 pandemic requiring our students to move to full remote instruction. Financially, we had increased costs in technology supplies and instructional applications that we could push out to students. We also had savings due to reductions in food service and transportation costs. While this allowed the District to end the year increasing our fund balances, we anticipate these funds will be needed in FY 2021 for the increased costs required to open schools and maintaining a safe environment. We also anticipate reduced funding from the State as it continues to deal with reduced revenues and deficits.

sub-committees to focus on several areas: in-person learning, remote learning, health and wellness, facilities and operations, and communication. The committees were comprised of district and building administrators, teachers, staff, and community members. District families and staff were also asked to provide feedback in various surveys to share their thoughts and needs for re-opening to school in the Fall. Together, we developed a Return to Learn Plan for our entire District.

District 20 foundational beliefs have been at the heart of all planning and decision-making:

- Protect the health and safety of all students and staff.
- Safely bring students and staff back to school.
- Ensure appropriate rigor to promote student academic and social growth.

- Re-establish relationships and meet social emotional needs of students and wellness needs of families.
- Develop a learning plan that complies with state and local directives and guidance.

The original **ESD20 Return to Learn Plan** allowed families to make an informed choice for in-person or remote learning for their children. After gathering the preferences of all families, we determined that due to student numbers, staffing, and state and local requirements, we were not able to provide a safe and effective in-person learning environment for students as originally hoped.


District 20 quickly pivoted to a Revised Return to Learn Plan providing for **Enhanced Remote Learning for All Students (Phase 1)** through the first trimester. The overarching goal was to work toward a second phase, which would allow for an in-person or hybrid learning model, if we were able to do so in a safe manner.

The transition to **Hybrid Learning (Phase 2)** began on October 19, with a gradual grade-level transition plan for students to return to in-person learning using an AM/PM schedule. In Phase 2, families were again allowed to opt-out of in-person learning. All elementary grades successfully moved to the hybrid plan in October and we welcomed students back to our classrooms for the first time since March. Special Education Students in self-contained classrooms were also welcomed back

at that time. All students (whether in-person or full remote) participated in a combination of synchronous (live) instruction for core subjects and asynchronous learning for specials, interventions, as well as independent work and assignments.



Before middle school students were able to transition to the hybrid plan, the number of COVID-19 cases in our area began to rise and District 20 needed to take an **Adaptive Pause** in the Hybrid Learning Plan as a mitigation effort to keep our students and staff safe. All students were moved to full remote learning after Thanksgiving. District 20's goal is to return to in-person/hybrid learning in January, if we can do so safely at that time. We will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 metrics to determine how best to keep our Keeneyville District 20 community safe.



### VIRTUAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

District 20 hosted the first Virtual Summer School to help bridge the gap in learning during the pandemic and keep students engaged. The PreK-8th Grade Program was held four days a week in June/July, with 156 general education and special education students participating in the virtual program and 21 students taking paper packets home to work on.

Approximately 20 teachers taught essential content standards in literacy, math and SEL, with lessons emphasizing the most important standards, skills, and strategies by grade level. Daily synchronous (live) instruction was an important component to ensure full understanding of content. Virtual class meetings were held twice daily to support social emotional well-being.

A Virtual STEM and Coding Club was also offered to provide additional summer learning opportunities for Grade 3-8 students. The program was held twice a week on afternoons following summer school classes. Over 100 students participated in virtual lessons and completed activities at home. Activities included creating a spinner, paper chains, bridge or skyscraper, zip line, confetti launcher, and a fireworks coding project. Students engaged in challenges involving building a roller coaster, floating a boat, inventing a catapult, and more. After creating their project, students submitted photos and video recordings of their work. Both remote summer programs were very successful and we anticipate offering virtual learning again in the Summer of 2021.



## KEENEYVILLE D20 IS FUTURE READY!

### Keeneyville Elementary School District 20

5540 Arlington Drive East  
Hanover Park, Illinois 60133  
(630) 894-2250 Phone  
(630) 894-9661 Fax  
info@esd20.org Email

### 2020 District Leadership

Dr. Omar Castillo  
*Superintendent of Schools*

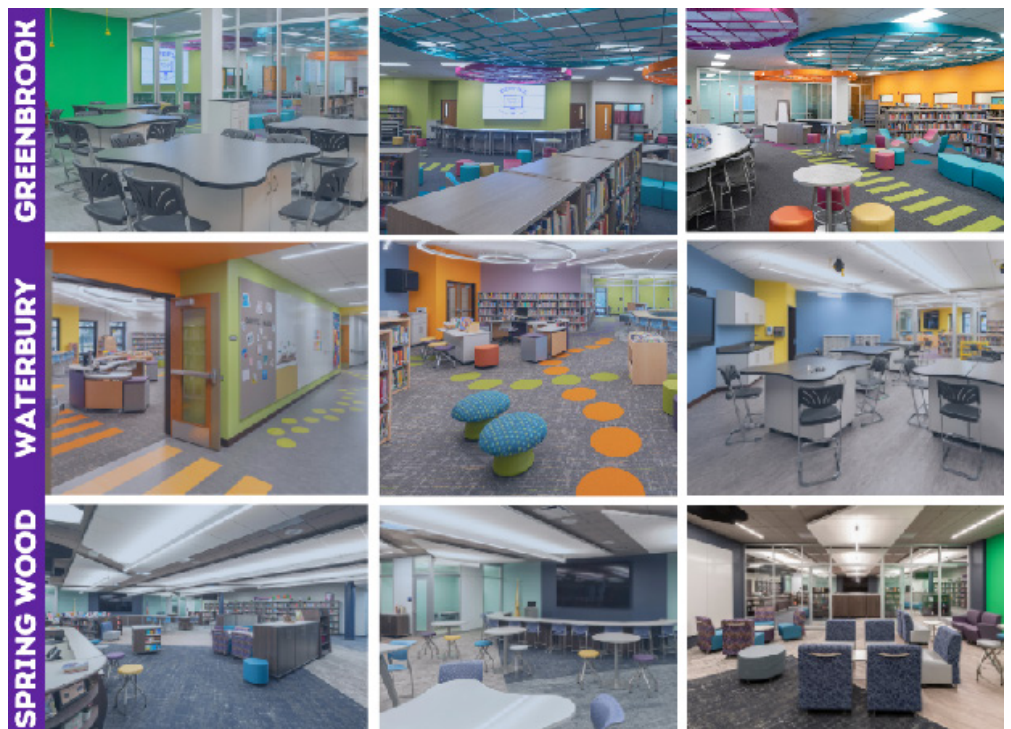
Mrs. Wendy Flaherty  
*Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations*

Mr. Art Andersen  
*Director of Technology*

Mrs. Becky Cortesi-Caruso  
*Director of Student Services*

Dr. Carrie Fogarty  
*Director of Teaching & Learning*

Mrs. Julie Relihan  
*Director of Communications & Community Relations*



District 20 completed renovations to the libraries at Waterbury Elementary and Spring Wood Middle School, creating future ready learning spaces to inspire our students. Each school now has an energizing "Innovation Center" with independent and collaborative work spaces, mobile and comfortable furniture, large video wall, and green screens for making videos. The "Idea Labs" have state-of-the art equipment and provide the perfect space for STEM activities, collaboration and innovation.

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