



Learning for all. Every one. Every day.

Hawthorn

DISTRICT 73 COMMUNITY UPDATE | JUNE 2022



IN THIS ISSUE, LEARN ABOUT:

Our district's new Strategic Plan goals and projects

Technology advancements in our classrooms,
Personal learning devices for all students

Facility improvements and repairs made possible
by the 2018 referendum

Improvements and innovations that help our
students soar, while we work to close the
achievement gap and focus on the whole child

The launch of the Hawthorn Leadership Academy

Field Day 2022

A special thank you... to our supportive Hawthorn District 73 community!

Dear Hawthorn District 73 Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and district leadership, thank you for your continued confidence in Hawthorn District 73. Your support is critical to our success, especially over the last few years. Time and time again, our residents have stood with us and for that we are incredibly grateful.

This past year we have focused on getting back to business, as school returned to a more typical year. Families and staff were especially excited to have our spring musicals return to our middle schools!

Academically, we have a lot to be proud of as well. The new Strategic Plan, adopted in February 2021, provides specific direction for every major decision the district makes, while the newly-outlined district goals provide accountability for each and every staff member. This newsletter shares some of the fantastic ways the Strategic Plan is being put into action.

Our steadfast focus at Hawthorn District 73 is based on our mission to ensure "Learning for All." The Strategic Plan initiatives outline our commitment to continually strive to improve as we earn recognition as a lighthouse district.

The 2021-22 school year certainly was one to celebrate. The upcoming 2022-23 school year truly will be one for the books as it is our district's 100th anniversary as a pillar in our Vernon Hills community. We plan to commemorate this milestone all year long, so be on the lookout for opportunities to celebrate with us!

Go Eagles!

Mrs. Robin Cleek
BOARD PRESIDENT

Dr. Pete Hannigan
SUPERINTENDENT



DR. PETE HANNIGAN, DISTRICT 73 SUPERINTENDENT, EXAMINES ELECTRONIC CIRCUITRY ALONG WITH STUDENTS.

District 73 five-year Strategic Plan goals

Hawthorn School District 73 will be a high performing school district with at least 90% of PreK-8th grade students scoring proficient or better in both reading and math, as measured by district, state, and/or national assessments.



District 73 will perform in the top 10% of all schools in reading and math for both growth and proficiency, as measured by state and local assessments.



District 73 will close the achievement gap for all students in reading and math, as measured by state and local assessments, while improving academic performance for all students.

District 73 will ensure the success of the whole child by providing comprehensive approaches and programming, grounded in the belief that each child deserves to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged.

Our Mission: Learning for all. Every one. Every day.

Technology in learning

Throughout the last three years, Hawthorn schools have grown from providing shared technology to our students (focused primarily at the middle school level) **to now ensuring that every student has their own iPad (elementary) or Chromebook (middle school) to access the tools they need to make their creative and academic ideas come alive.** This year alone, we have set the stage for a robust new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) resource at our middle schools, and kicked off redesigns for each school's library to meet the 21st century needs of our students and staff.



PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICES

Providing high-quality learning experiences for all students is at the center of our district mission. Our teachers are equipped with the tools to empower, engage and guide our students to become curators of knowledge, imaginative problem-solvers and designers, and effective communicators in our local and global communities.

Teachers' expertise in orchestrating learning experiences and opportunities for their students is the most vital step in the process. A personal learning device is the instrument that allows students to engage fully within those experiences.

"Having 1:1 iPads in the classroom has opened up many possibilities in the classroom," says Mrs. Katie Pinkos, a 3rd grade teacher at Townline Elementary. "Students can access, analyze, present and share information in ways they were not able to before."

When we encourage students to be self-reflective learners and give them the tools to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, we have expanded the options available for our staff.

As students engage with their learning more meaningfully, teachers gain a more holistic picture of their students' knowledge and understanding. This can boost students' sense of agency and ownership over their learning. Teachers also have the tools to provide timely, specific and meaningful student interventions to help close achievement gaps.

STEM AT HAWTHORN

At Hawthorn middle schools, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) courses allow students to work together on engaging problem-solving experiences that draw on knowledge and skills from these disciplines.



Every middle school student has the opportunity to develop their "design thinking" skills that encourage continuous improvement through learning from mistakes and successes. These future entrepreneurs and engineers have many opportunities to learn new skills and hone them over their years at Hawthorn, from preK through 8th grade.

Middle School North and Middle School South will be implementing **Project Lead The Way** modules focusing on engineering, biomedical science and computer science during the 2022-23 school year. In 2023-24, we anticipate expanding the STEM offerings at the middle schools with additional courses.

During the 2022-23 school year, we will also gather feedback from students, staff and administrators in the elementary grades to determine the needs and criteria to identify how the district can expand STEM and computer science opportunities to our elementary students.

HAWTHORN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The role of the library in society and schools has shifted significantly in recent years, and we are working to ensure our libraries meet the diverse and evolving needs of our students and staff. Our libraries are becoming more flexible and adaptable, giving students a place to come for quiet reading, research, presentations, STEM activities and more.

The next few years will be an exciting time as we watch the transformation of our libraries take place.



Rooms and spaces encourage a child's creativity, critical thinking and love of reading but can only do so much. To supplement this, we have added a library assistant to support day-to-day operations in each building. Allison Riley, a librarian at Aspen Elementary, remarked that this will improve the connection between the curriculum and the library. As a result, Hawthorn students will receive more time and attention from their librarian.

The extra support in the libraries will allow librarians "to spend more time developing lessons, planning special programs and events, meeting and collaborating with teachers and more."

A focus on new funding

In July 2021, the district created a "Grant and Budget Specialist" position to support district administrators in maximizing grant funding. This individual supports the operational pieces of grants, such as applying, reporting and reconciling.

The creation of this position allowed the district to apply for new funding opportunities.

At the federal level, Hawthorn received several grants, including:

- 1 **\$600,000** to focus on students and staff members' social and emotional needs over two fiscal years.
- 2 **\$45,000** to facilitate our Jump Start Program to supplement learning for incoming kindergartners.

At the state level, the district was also awarded: **\$50,000** through the School Maintenance Project Grant to fund the resurfacing of the Townline/Dual Language parking lot this summer.



At the local level, opportunities include a partnership with the Vernon Hills Police Department to apply for a holiday season grant for **"Shop with a Cop"** to bring gifts and joy to families in need.



Referendum project update

Over the past three years, construction has progressed on the referendum projects approved by the voters in November 2018. Community support approved the issuance of \$48.7 million in bonds to fund facility improvements through five phases.

1 NEW KINDERGARTEN FACILITY *(See photo above)*

Phase one saw the construction of a new kindergarten building adjacent to the Sullivan Center to house all non-dual language kindergarten students from across the district. This new facility, Hawthorn School for Young Learners, opened for the 2020-21 school year during COVID-19 remote learning with students returning to in-person instruction in Feb. 2021. The building features 16 classrooms, four large maker spaces, an art room, a music room and a sensory room. The district partnered with the Vernon Hills Park District to give kindergarten students a state-of-the-art playground and gymnasium.

2 MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH ADDITION *(See photo above)*

Phase two of construction included an addition to Middle School North. Ten classrooms were added, and the building now features updated music areas, STEM spaces and a new gymnasium. Students and staff began using these spaces at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

3 ELEMENTARY SOUTH ADDITIONS

Phase three will be completed in the fall of 2022. Elementary South will feature two new art rooms, sensory spaces, a new music room, as well as flooring and cabinetry updates to sections of the existing building.

4 MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH + ASPEN RENOVATIONS

Phase four has just begun at Middle School South and Aspen. Work at Middle South includes renovating the existing band room and constructing a new choir room. Existing classrooms will be renovated to create STEM spaces. Both locations will benefit from mechanical equipment updates for clocks and intercom systems.

5 ELEMENTARY NORTH + TOWNLINE/DUAL LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Phase five is the final construction phase, beginning in the summer of 2023. Because of the age of Elementary North, the scope of work encompasses repairs and updates to the majority of the building envelope. The renovation needs for Townline/Dual Language are still to be determined.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

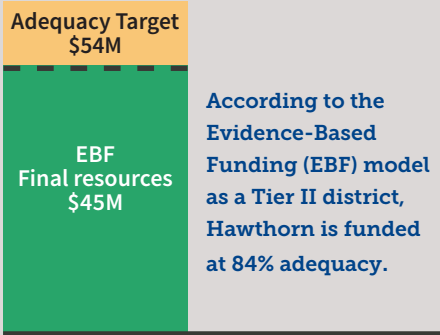
We now have issued all bonds and are starting to plan the last phase of construction. Reflecting on what was promised to the community at the start of the process, we have some excellent news.

Because of historically low amortization rates and the ability to pay off our debt sooner, **the district is able to save our taxpayers the interest on \$19 million.** The savings equates to a \$50 property tax reduction on a \$350,000 home. However small, this savings demonstrates how the Board performed better than initially predicted with our community.

Financial highlights

The District 73 annual budget for fiscal year 2022 estimated \$55 million in operating expenses. Federal, state and local sources fund district expenditures. In recent years, federal funding has increased because of the availability of emergency relief funds.

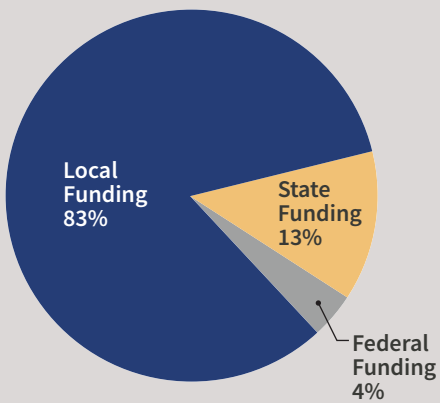
Most state resources are allocated to Illinois districts based on assigned tiers, representing adequate funding levels.



SOURCE: ILLINOISREPORTCARD.COM | JUNE 2022

The goal of EBF is to work toward 100% funding adequacy for all Illinois districts. Although the state temporarily halted EBF increases because of the pandemic, the district remains fiscally responsible and maintains quality services and programs to support all students.

HAWTHORN DISTRICT 73 OPERATING REVENUE RESOURCES



As with most school districts in Lake County, our funding relies heavily on local sources. On an annual basis, the district strategically prepares the tax levy considering the impact on community households while maintaining efficient and academically-focused school operations.



ESSER COVID Response funding

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Education released three federal grants to support schools' local response to the unique challenges of educating during the pandemic. Congress authorized these grants, known as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Grants or ESSER I, ESSER II and ESSER III.

All ESSER Funds are supplemental to Hawthorn 73's budget. At this time, we have fully utilized the first round of ESSER funding to benefit our school community.

ESSER I GRANT \$244,323	ESSER II GRANT \$956,695	ESSER III GRANT \$2,277,056
Hawthorn used the first round of funding to purchase digital subscriptions and supplies for remote instruction for physical education, art, music and consumer education.	The second round of funding was allocated to hire interventionists to assist students in areas of learning loss. Other items purchased include personal protection equipment (PPE) specifically for band, desks to meet ISBE spacing requirements, and stand-alone air purifiers for music rooms and common spaces.	The district will begin spending this allocation in fiscal year 2023, with the opportunity to carry over expenditures into fiscal year 2024. Hawthorn's plan for ESSER III funds is to continue to support the salaries and benefits of the interventionist positions hired in fiscal year 2022 and supplement the cost of an improved ventilation system at Aspen.

Through the support of our recently hired Grant and Budget Specialist, the district has collaborated with multiple stakeholder groups to strategically utilize the funds on the projects and staffing mentioned above. **These projects would not have been possible without this funding and the efforts of staff to prioritize the needs of students and the district.**



Raising home-grown leaders at Hawthorn

This year, the Hawthorn Leadership Academy was created for staff members interested in learning and developing their leadership skills. Designed to recognize and cultivate the leaders around Hawthorn, we were excited to welcome 24 enthusiastic participants to this year's Academy.

In these meetings, participants learned about various leadership styles and heard firsthand experiences from current administrators about the professional paths they took to arrive in their current roles. We developed leadership topics and engaged in conversations that included all types of education leadership, not just administration. Members discussed the Patrick Lencioni book, *The Advantage*. Discussions proved to be thought-provoking and stretched the participants' perception of leadership while developing meaningful skills.

As we review the year and the feedback from our inaugural Leadership Academy participants, the overwhelming tenor of responses has been incredibly positive. Many shared how it has shifted their mindset and broadened their perspectives.

Some positive comments shared after these sessions:

“ This academy is one of the most beneficial professional development sessions I have attended. Helping build our skills as leaders in a capacity that can be used in many ways is great. There is truly something for us to learn no matter the leadership path we are taking. I enjoy working with colleagues and having the opportunity to learn from current administrators.

I am so grateful for the honest and open dialogue. I feel like I am back in grad school, in the best sense. The collaboration and high-level communication amongst peers in this setting are refreshing and rewarding.

”

Finally, as we had the opportunity to add building and educational leaders to Hawthorn for the 2022-23 school year, we are proud to share that we filled seven of these roles with participants from the Leadership Academy. This Academy will undoubtedly become an annual tradition at Hawthorn in the years to come.



Taking learning to the next level

As a district, our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all students. The Teaching & Learning Department has spearheaded several comprehensive projects (see next page) to improve student growth and learning. These projects are aligned with the district's Strategic Plan and approved by the Board of Education.

Hawthorn educators work together as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to support student growth and learning. A PLC is an ongoing process in which educators collaborate to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLC practices and structures support a learning-focused culture with a collective focus on results. All of our projects reflect our district's efforts to accomplish shared goals as a PLC.



1 MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

One of our Board projects for this year was an update to our Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This includes improving district-wide practices and processes specific to intervention and enrichment services. Our MTSS Intervention Teams have participated in training and data-driven intervention cycles to promote student growth and learning. In addition, we adjusted our elementary enrichment program to ensure increased access to flexible services and support. Improvements to our MTSS process will continue during the 2022-23 school year.

2 GUARANTEED AND VIABLE CURRICULUM (GVC)

This year, two of our Board projects specifically called for a reboot of our Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC). This is a curriculum in which content for specific courses and grade levels is identified, and time is made available to teach this critical content. We are fortunate to have several dedicated and skillful teachers and administrators serving on our GVC Leadership Teams. These team members prioritize learning standards, and then revise our unit plans, pacing calendars and assessments through the lens of those essential standards. In developing our GVC, we continually update our understanding of what all students should know and be able to do. This cycle reflects an ongoing process of review and refinement.

In recent school years, we focused on English language arts (ELA) and Spanish language arts (SLA) in grades K-5 and ELA and math in grades 6-8. This year, our GVC Leadership Teams worked to improve student learning in math K-5, preK reading and math, and social studies K-8. Our GVC redevelopment in social studies has helped us prepare to implement ISBE's updated social science standards during our 2022-23 school year.

3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS: FOUNDATIONAL RESOURCE ADOPTION

This year, one of our Board projects provided for adopting a foundational resource in English language arts (ELA) and Spanish language arts (SLA). Implementation of a common resource provides students with equitable access to high-quality

learning materials and supports our teachers' implementation of a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC). We are so appreciative of our many resource pilot teams across the district for engaging in implementation trials.

In April, the Board of Education approved our proposal to adopt **Into Reading/¡Arriba la Lectura!** as our foundational resource in grades K-5 and **myPerspectives** as our foundational resource in grades 6-8. This spring, staff participated in professional development to prepare for implementation at the start of our 2022-23 school year. Formal training will continue throughout our next school year to further support the successful implementation of these high-quality resources toward improved student growth and learning.

4 MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM: PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

This year, we have been preparing for our 2022-23 launch of **Project Lead The Way** at both middle schools. Project Lead The Way is a hands-on, project-based STEM resource aligned with Common Core Standards in Math and Next Generation Science Standards. Students participate in learning modules grounded in computer science, engineering and biomedical science within a collaborative, creative and inquiry-based framework. Our 6th and 7th grade students will participate during our 2022-23 school year, and 8th graders will begin the following year.

5 ELEMENTARY MATH: BRIDGES IN MATHEMATICS

We are celebrating the completion of our second year with **Bridges in Mathematics!** This research-based, high-quality resource supports the implementation of our GVC in math for students in grades K-5. Student learning with Bridges is collaborative, rigorous, engaging and focused on the process of constructing mathematical meaning and concepts. Staff members have participated in various professional development sessions to support the implementation of each Bridges component. Bridges in Mathematics also includes an intervention series and enrichment opportunities to support the continued growth of all learners.



HAWTHORN SCHOOL DISTRICT 73

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New playgrounds for Aspen Elementary and Elementary South



This summer, we will be replacing the playgrounds at Aspen Elementary and Elementary South. The current equipment has exceeded its life expectancy.

After a careful review of all facility projects, replacing and expanding the playground area at Elementary School South and Aspen Elementary became an immediate priority.

Project details were shared with the Board of Education in April and approved in May. The total cost of this project, including equipment and installation, is projected to be approximately \$500,700.



This summer, the playground replacement and expansion project will occur. Students can look forward to enjoying the new playgrounds this fall.



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¿Quiere recibir los boletines futuros en español? Haga contacto con: mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org