

Challenge. Collaborate. Create!

# THE 109 WAY

A bi-annual publication of the sights, sounds,  
and news from Deerfield Public Schools District 109



Spring/Summer 2023

[www.dps109.org](http://www.dps109.org)

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TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THE RENOVATED CARUSO AUDITORIUM

## *A new space to create!*



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WHAT'S IN THIS  
TIME CAPSULE?



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## A Word from Mike

To the 109 community,

Overstating our relief at having a more typical school year would be hard. District 109 placed continuing emphasis on our students' social/emotional well-being in addition to their academic growth. We are fortunate to have a deeply dedicated and talented staff that are always looking for new ways to tap into the potential of our students. I have been fortunate to see much of this play out, from judging a spirited debate at South Park about composting to chatting over a steaming cup with the Shepard Tea Club. Thank you for your partnership and your support of public education here in Deerfield. I could not be more proud and thankful to be here in DPS 109. I hope everyone has a great summer!

Sincerely,

**Michael V. Simeck**  
Superintendent, Deerfield Public Schools District 109



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Live stream and recording of all meetings available at  
[dps109.org](http://dps109.org)



## Spelling Like a C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N

The end to her middle school career was not how Daphne G. originally drew it up. The Shepard 8th grader had to miss graduation night this year because she was competing in Washington, D.C. in the Scripps National Spelling Bee!

Daphne made it all the way to the 8th round in our nation's capital, outlasting hundreds of other spellers before finally finishing in a tie for 12th place. Since they knew she was going to miss 8th grade graduation, the staff at Shepard planned a surprise assembly for Daphne before she left so she could receive her diploma!

We are proud of how you represented DPS 109, Daphne! Good luck in high school!



# A New Creative Space

Check out more pics on the DPS 109 Facebook page!



The new auditorium at Caruso Middle School is officially open! The Board of Education, along with several special guests, held a ribbon cutting and offered public tours of the new facility in March. The CMS orchestra (pictured above) was the first group to ever perform on the new stage!



**7,330**  
Square Feet



**290**  
Seats



**\$6.3**  
Million (cost to build\*)

\*\$1,000,000 contribution from Deerfield Park District

## Hands On SCIENCE



Above: Deerfield High School's Robotics team showed off their creation to 5th grade students during an assembly at Wilmot.



Left: 3rd Graders at South Park were faced a unique challenge: engineering a tunnel to safely transport roly-poly bugs under a roadway!



Left: Early Learners got to watch as baby chickens hatched from their incubator and joined the classroom!



Left: The Kipling Inquiry Fair! 5th graders asked themselves a question, researched that topic, and then presented the answer to their peers and community members.



Left: Caruso 6th Graders were given a physics problem; build an arcade game using Newton's Third Law of Motion. Then they had to draw a paper with a surprise challenge on it and adjust their design.

# The Path Forward For Our School Buildings

DPS 109 is undergoing a master facility planning process, which will help us determine the short and long-term needs to make our schools the best educational environments possible for our community.

In the coming months, the Board of Education will review strategies and recommendations from the master facility planning committee as they work to develop a long-range plan. As previously promised, we pledge to engage stakeholders and walk families and staff through this journey as we navigate through it.

## Aaa

*DPS 109 has held a "Aaa" bond rating, the highest possible rating, from Moody's since 2019. This rating means the District should have little difficulty issuing bonds if needed in the future.*



*DPS 109 has had a balanced operating budget for 19 consecutive years.*



*Our district has been awarded the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials for 12 consecutive years!*

**Learn more at: [www.dps109.org/ourfuture](http://www.dps109.org/ourfuture)**



WALDEN  
Built: 1957



KIPLING  
Built: 1948



WILMOT  
Built: 1955



SOUTH PARK  
Built: 1959



SHEPARD  
Built: 1961



CARUSO  
Built: 1968

## Being Good Stewards of Your Tax Dollars

### DPS 109 Saves Nearly \$1 Million On Internet Connectivity Project

DPS 109 will soon be switched over to a private dedicated strand fiber wide area network that will provide all of our facilities with fast internet coverage. The entire cost of the project to the district and its taxpayers? Nothing!

Our technology department received funding through the Illinois State Board of Education and USAC to spearhead the project. When completed, monthly costs of using this new wide area network (compared to our previous setup) are expected to be **80% less! – or roughly \$7,000 a month!**

### 5th Graders Make the Case For Composting

South Park students did some impressive research as they took a closer look at whether bringing a composting bin to their school would be a good idea. They presented their research to Superintendent Simeck, Dr. Faust, and Dr. Filippi for consideration.



### Did You Know...

In honor of Arbor Day, the Village of Deerfield has generously donated and planted a tree at a DPS 109 school for the last 3 years? We have been proud to have students help lead the way!



2021 @ Kipling



2022 @ Walden



2023 @ South Park



# Bringing Schools & Communities Together

RIGHT: Shepard students teamed up with the Deerfield Police and DBFD to host a charity basketball game this winter. It was a close game that came down to the final minutes!



LEFT: We were happy to partner with the Deerfield Area Historical Society to bring back student field trips to the historic village this year! South Park 2nd graders pictured above learn a lesson inside the historic schoolhouse located off of Deerfield Road.

## \$2,400!

RIGHT: Walden held a schoolwide philanthropy fair where 2nd-5th graders made their own crafts and assorted gifts. Nothing could be sold for more than one dollar. They sold SO MANY things that they ended up making over \$2,400 to benefit St. Jude's! Way to go, Wildcats!



LEFT: We are so thankful to live in a community where education is a team sport! In honor of World Read Aloud Day, we partnered up with one person from each of our schools along with a number of agencies in town to read a book as a village! Scan the QR code above to watch the cute video!



# WILMOT TURNS 175!

Wilmot Elementary School celebrated its demisemiseptcentennial this year... that's 175 years! The school held a yearlong celebration of its history, culminating in a big birthday party on June 2nd!



A big event this year was opening a time capsule from 1997! Students and staff then filled a new time capsule that will be opened 25 years from now for the 200th!



Wilmot was thrilled to welcome back actress and former student Marlee Matlin! She visited the school to film part of a documentary in production about her life.



Wilmot was honored to welcome back so many alums & former staff for a reception held in the school's main gym.



We had lots of fun digging through old photos and documenting Wilmot history... the included photos are from the 1940's and 50's. Thank you to the Deerfield Area Historical Society for their significant contributions.

# New Adventures Ahead!



## *Congratulations!* Class of 2023!

The first day of June marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the lives of over 350 students... they're on to high school! Caruso and Shepard Middle Schools held their annual graduation ceremonies at Deerfield High School, in front of packed houses.

These students began their 6th grade journeys online during the COVID pandemic, not seeing many of their classmates in person for much of the year. We are so proud of them and look forward to seeing all of the great things they accomplish in high school!

## Our Retiree Class of 2023

313 total years spent with DPS 109



Dennis Jensen  
20 years



Angela Stocco  
20 years



Marley Boruszak  
21 years



Ruth Brill  
19 years



Gerry Simon  
25 years



Randie Bricker  
33 years



Lori Wolff  
39 years



Sarah Puccio  
18 years



Thomas Samorian  
33 years



Shenach Cameron  
18 years



Kathleen Kerner  
15 years



Janet Conlin  
15 years

“Working with [students] to build a community where learning is both challenging and joyful has been my privilege and purpose.”



*Marie Doherty – 25 years*

“I will miss creating a library of diverse books where all students can see themselves in.”



*Andrea Lathan – 15 years*

“Seeing the light-bulb go on in kid’s heads when you truly get through to them. That’s a feeling that all teachers [strive] for.”



*Lynn Surico – >19 years*



Deerfield Public Schools District 109  
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*Caruso Teacher  
honored by Disney!*

# What's Good In 109

Have you heard about all of the GOOD things happening in your local schools? Visit [www.dps109.org/whatsgood](http://www.dps109.org/whatsgood) or check out the district's YouTube channel to see more!



MAILING PANEL  
3.75" x 2"

# Come Work With Us!

Full-Time & Substitute Positions Available!  
[www.dps109.org/jobs](http://www.dps109.org/jobs)

## Spring 2023 Featured Stories



*Leprechauns cause trouble in 1st Grade at Kipling*



*Who's That New Kid? Caruso Teachers experience a day as a Middle Schooler*

# Connect With Us!



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Look for another issue of **The 109 Way** in Fall 2023!