

Challenge. Collaborate. Create!

THE 109 WAY



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



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Riding In Style!

Two lucky Kipling kindergarteners got a ride to school from the Deerfield Bannockburn Fire Department this fall, after winning a coloring contest at the DBFD's open house. The entire class came out to greet them and got to explore the fire engine a bit!



Hangin' With The Principal
Wilmot Elementary School hosted a movie night this fall behind the school and these students got a surprise visit from Dr. Brett, the principal!

2,655

August 2022
Student
Enrollment

295

Full-Time
Teachers

70.8%

Of Teachers
Have Masters
Degree or
Higher

Brag About Your Schools!



6 for 6

All DPS 109 schools have had the distinction as Blue Ribbon Schools



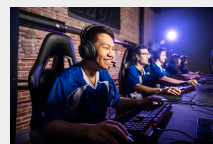
Four languages

Our district is one of very few in the NATION to offer four foreign languages at the middle school level



E-Sports

DPS 109 is the first local school district to offer an e-sports club/team at the middle school level





A WORD FROM MIKE

Dear Parents & Guardians,

School begins soon, and we are eager to meet and greet your students in a new school year. Our staff have been very busy during the summer, and many changes await your students including school that looks “like normal,” as well as new floors, ceilings, lighting and fresh paint in many buildings.

District teachers and administrators have also been busy learning over the summer. They’ve spent time learning about engaging instructional strategies to make learning “stickier” for your student in addition to school-wide expectations and SEL for the coming years.

Again, we are thrilled to welcome you and your children to the 2022-2023 school year.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Simeck

Superintendent, Deerfield Public Schools District 109

DPS 109 Board of Education



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**All Board Meetings
streamed LIVE
on YouTube!**



[Deerfield Public
Schools 109](#)

Our New Mission & Vision



During the 2021-2022 school year, DPS 109 underwent the "Define 109" process. This journey solicited hundreds of data points and stakeholder feedback that helped shape our new mission & vision and strategic plan. A sincere thank you to the almost 2,000 individuals who participated!



1,809
participants
across:

- Student class activities
- Staff & community focus groups
- Two ThoughtExchanges

MISSION:
District 109: Where challenging experiences foster confidence, collaborative relationships build community, and creative environments ignite curiosity.

VISION:
We will develop each student to be emotionally resilient, socially skilled, and academically prepared by forging connections within, across, and beyond our classrooms, and by embracing each student's uniqueness.



As a reward for following school rules, all students at Walden got to have a 15-minute whole-school drawing party! Paper was rolled through each hallway for classes to participate.

Learn more at
www.dps109.org/define109

School + Community = Success

Bringing The Classroom To the Community & Vice Versa

We are proud to be a strong partner with numerous village and community organizations, and believe that part of a DPS 109 student's education should be taking advantage of the local opportunities to build connections and contribute to their community.



Above: Superintendent Simeck & Board of Education member Mrs. Jakymiw at the Deerfield Farmers Market

We are seeking additional ways to connect our students with educational opportunities in our community. Interested in having students tour your place of business or coming to share your expertise at one of our schools? Visit www.dps109.org/community to fill out an interest form or scan the QR code below.



COLLABORATE WITH OUR STUDENTS!



The 3rd Annual 109 Gives Back Food & Supply Drive was a major success, as we collected hundreds of pounds of items to be donated to the West Deerfield Township Food Pantry. Thank you, 109 families!

CHALLENGE

COLLABORATE



South Park Elementary School worked with the Deerfield Park District to install a storywalk behind the school. The plan is to switch out the story every few months. Go check it out!



Ready, set, bake! New this year: the Shepard Baking Club, where students can gather and share recipes and sweet treats. The Italian Kitchen restaurant in Deerfield was gracious enough to donate some pans and other supplies. Thank you!

CREATE!



BUILDING FOR TODAY,



Auditorium Construction

Caruso Middle School's theater and fine arts instructional space is undergoing a complete renovation! The initial project began at the end of last school year, with working continuing through the summer. In August, students and staff walked into expanded band and orchestra rehearsal rooms! The centerpiece of the project is set to be unveiled this winter, a 1,200 square foot auditorium with a state of the art control room, new seating, and new backstage storing and changing areas. This expanded space will allow for improved facilities for student and community productions, while being more accessible. Look for more information about the grand opening in early 2023!

A New Space To Make Music!

As part of the project, CMS now has expanded band, orchestra and choir facilities that have been in use since August. (pic on right)



When were our current facilities built?



KIPLING
1948

WILMOT
1955



WALDEN
1957

SOUTH PARK
1959



SHEPARD
1961

CARUSO
1968



DISTRICT
CENTER
1969

Being Good Stewards of Your Tax Dollars



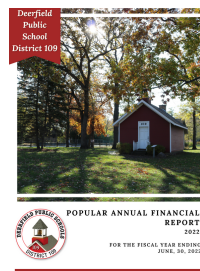
DPS 109 is pleased to have an **Aaa rating**, the highest possible rating from Moody's. It means our financial obligations are judged to be of the highest quality, carrying minimal risk. It gives the district maximum flexibility in financial planning.



The Illinois State Board of Education has given the District its highest **Financial Recognition** stating for the last seventeen years.



Our district has been awarded the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials for **14 consecutive years!**



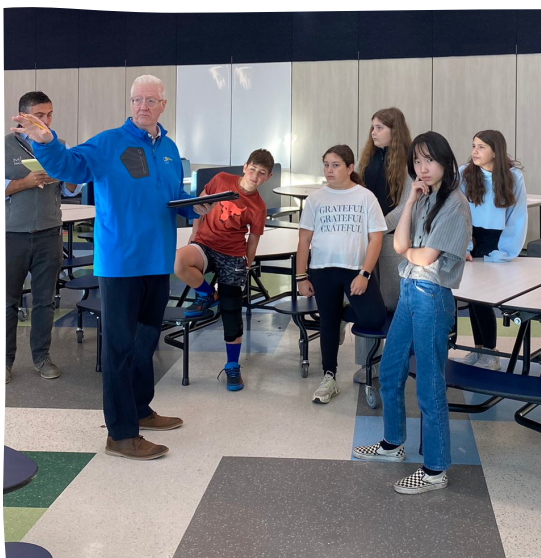
You can get more details in our **Popular Annual Financial Report**, published at www.dps109.org or found by scanning the QR code below.



PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Master Facility Planning Underway

DPS 109 is beginning the master facility planning process, which will help us determine the short and long-term needs to make our schools the best educational and working environment possible for students and staff. We are working with ARCON Associates, an educational architecture firm, to assess our current facilities and survey peer educational facilities as part of this process. Architects have been touring all facilities, speaking with students and staff about their thoughts. *(On right: tour with Caruso students)*



(Above: Walden staff tour their building with ARCON rep)

We want to remain a high-achieving district, and that means planning ahead and ensuring our students and staff have the best resources and facilities available to them.

Thinking Ahead Financially & Saving Responsibly

School in 2022 is not the same as it was in 1996, and our master facility plan will need to look forward when it comes to how to best utilize instructional spaces. It is evident that over the next decade-plus, there will need to be work across the district to maintain or renovate new learning spaces. At the very least, HVAC systems will need to be replaced.

Much like your family plans ahead for a big budget item, DPS 109 is committed to doing the same. **We know there are big expenses in our future, and the prudent thing to do is save and start planning for them now.**

When was the last major addition at each facility?



Kipling - 1996



South Park - 1999



Walden - 2000



Wilmot - 2011



District Center - 2011



Shepard - 2019



Caruso - 2022

Go to www.dps109.org/ourfuture for the demography study, architect's report and more.



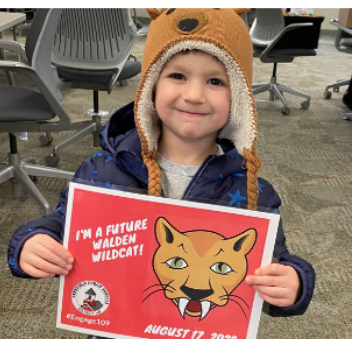
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What's Good
 IN 109

Have you heard about all the GOOD things happening in your local schools?
 Visit www.dps109.org/whatsgood or check out the district's YouTube channel or Facebook page for more!



Come Work With Us!



Full-Time & Substitute Positions Available!

www.dps109.org/jobs

Look for another issue of The 109 Way in the late spring!



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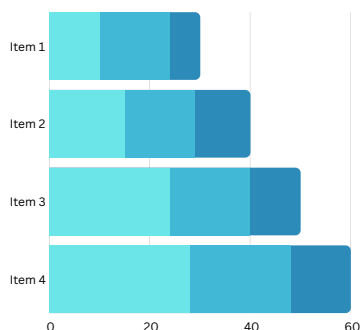
District Center - 2011



Shepard - 2019



Caruso - 2022



The Status Quo - Age & Cost of our Facilities

As you can see from the graphic on the right, the majority of our facilities have gone a decade-plus without any major additions. On the left, you'll see a graphic that estimates the increasing cost to maintain aging facilities.

We want to remain a high-achieving district, and that means planning ahead and ensuring our students and staff have the best resources and facilities available to them.

Thinking Ahead Financially & Saving Responsibly

A property tax levy is the amount of property tax dollars a school district requests in order to operate the district for the upcoming school year. It's essentially a slice of the pie of property taxes collected from home and business owners in our community. By law, DPS 109 is allowed to request up to the lesser of 5% or whatever CPI (the Consumer Price Index) is. This year, that's estimated at 7%. **Over the last x years, the Board of Education has foregone the property tax levy**, showing steadfast commitment to only levying what is needed.

Moving forward, it is evident that over the next decade-plus, there will need to be work across the district to maintain or renovate new learning spaces. School in 2022 is not the same as it was in 1996. Much like your family plans ahead for a big budget item, DPS 109 is committed to doing the same. **We know there are big expenses in our future, and the prudent thing to do is save now.** Therefore, the Board has requested the 5% levy from the state to use as we look ahead in the master facility planning process.

Go to www.dps109.org/ourfuture for the demography study, architect's report and more.