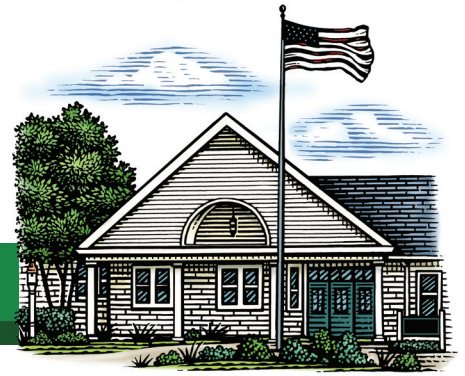


# Bannockburn Bulletin

BANNOCKBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT 106

WINTER 2018



## Bannockburn Scores in Wellness Game

While none of the students and staff at Bannockburn School can compete with NFL players on the football field, they are finding great success competing in an NFL health and wellness game.

The Fuel Up to Play 60 program is an NFL initiative that promotes healthy eating and exercise in K-12 schools across the country. Bannockburn School has a team of seven teachers and 12 students who meet every week after school to plan school events and fun activities that encourage the school community to get 60 minutes of exercise each day and make healthier eating choices. The program fits perfectly with Bannockburn School's commitment to health and wellness.

"As part of our healthy eating challenge, we continue to see our student population bringing healthier snacks and bringing in healthier options for lunch," says physical education teacher

*"...We continue to see our student population bringing healthier snacks and bringing in healthier options for lunch."*



Students participate in Fuel Up to Play 60 activities that promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

er Chad Vincent. "We've had a heavy emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables, and students are earning special tags to put on their backpacks that represent they are making good choices."

Bannockburn School has participated in the program for five years and each year has reached "Touch-down Status," the highest level. When

the school was named the Play 60 Challenge Top School in Chicagoland, two Chicago Bears players visited the school. The school also has been named one of 50 Fuel Up to Play 60 MVP Schools nationally.

"The awards and recognition are terrific, but ultimately, our school is a healthier place because of our participation in the program," Vincent says.

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## Board Lowers Levy Four Years in a Row

Each fall, the Board of Education approves a property tax levy amount that determines how many tax dollars are allocated to the school district from District 106 property owners.

Over the past four years, the Bannockburn School District 106 Board of Education has reduced the amount requested by a total of \$830,000. For

the current year levy alone, the reduction amounted to \$300,000. For several years in advance of the levy reductions, the Board had frozen the level amount, meaning there was no increase from one year to the next.

"This year, the district's tax levy was lower than in any year since 2008," says Bannockburn Superintendent Dr.

Scott Herrmann. "In addition, the five-year financial plan calls for no increases in the tax levy."

The tax rate in District 106 ranks 27th lowest among the 31 Lake County elementary school districts and District 106 is the only district in Lake County with no long term debt.

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# District 106 Strategic Plan is a Guide for Future Success

The Bannockburn District 106 strategic plan was re-established in 2016 and much progress has been made in the four priority areas as the staff and administration work toward the district mission to meet the cognitive, social and emotional needs of students living in a global society.

The district is focused on four priority areas as part of the plan:

- Instructional Program
- Learning Environment
- Technology
- Community

In the area of instructional program, there are a multitude of strategies being employed. In order to meet the new Illinois Social Science standards, an evaluation and development of the social studies curriculum in grades K-8 is occurring this year. In addition, K-8 math teachers have met with a math consultant to continue to learn ways to enhance the District's current math curriculum.

Bannockburn Principal Debbie Barnes shares that along with those two major initiatives, teachers continuously analyze student data in teams and/or with specialists through curriculum assessments, as well as national and state assessments.

"There also is a major focus on community service projects as a part of the instructional program," Barnes says. "Students participate in community service projects such as Toys for Tots, Middle School Movie Night to fundraise for a school in Puerto Rico, Operation Gratitude where Halloween



***There is a dual focus within the instructional program at Bannockburn School that includes both academics and community service.***

candy is collected for the troops, and letters to former students and other servicemen and women stationed overseas."

For the learning environment focus, an exit survey for 8th grade students has been implemented to learn about their experiences while at Bannockburn School. "That data is analyzed so that changes can be made to enhance the student experience," Barnes says.

Bannockburn annually surveys the students and staff as part of the focus on technology within the strategic plan. In addition, in order to continue to protect students while they are using the internet, the District updated its internet filtering system and a representative from the Lake County State's Attorney's Office presented to 3rd-8th grade students about strategies to be safe on the internet. Finally, profes-

sional development has been provided to staff on technology to enhance learning in this area.

The District's focus on community has resulted in completely revamping the District website and it now serves as the main source for information important to the public. Additionally, a parent session on online safety was provided by the Lake County State's Attorney's Office. The District also hosted an Open House for the community and potential new homeowners to share key information.

"The plan truly focuses our direction, and the goals drive our programming and events," Barnes says. "We keep the community informed by providing a yearly update to the Board of Education."

## Deep Learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) areas of study for students at Bannockburn School reads more like a master’s course syllabus: robotics, circuitry, mechanics/structures, software engineering, digital communications and computer graphics.

“Science, technology, engineering and math play such critical roles in today’s world,” Bannockburn Principal Debbie Barnes says. “The overall goal for the STEM focus is to put technology into the hands of the students and engage and inspire them with personalized, problem-based learning. We want the students to define goals and find problems to solve using a variety of technologies. We

want students to think critically while communicating with other students.”

Students have the opportunity to interact in the classroom by creating with programs such as Lego Robotics, a coding game developed through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, stop motion animation, programs like Photoshop, and a 3D printer program called Tinkercad.

“We want to have a personalized learning experience where the research and development are differentiated and individualized for each student in the room,” Barnes says. “We want them to be prepared for college and career by using critical thinking and problem solving, col-



Students work in collaborative teams as part of the focus on STEM.

laboration and communication, project and time management, creativity, adaptability, self direction, and self assessment. We also provide opportunities for students to present to a live and global audience.”

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## Board Lowers Levy Four Years in a Row

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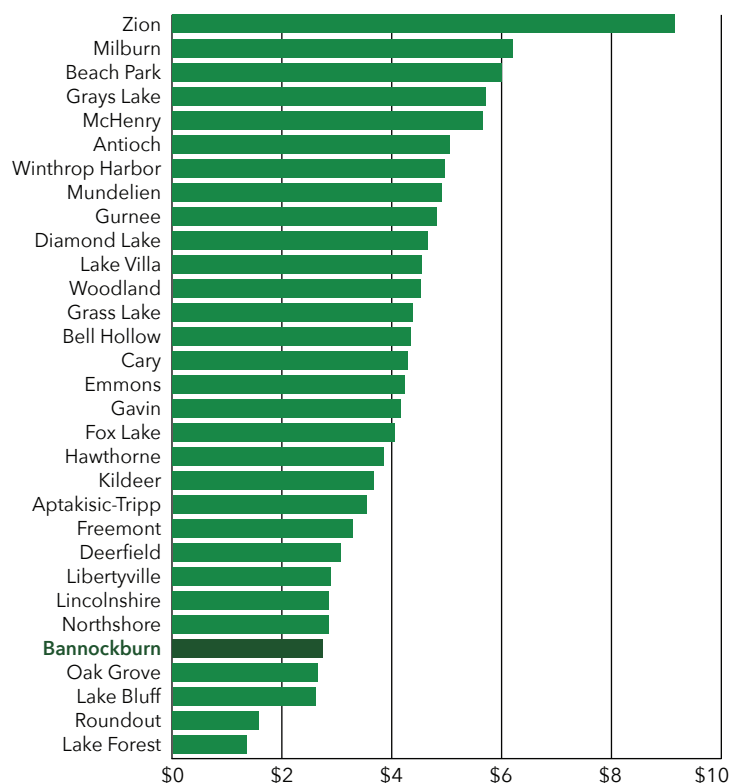
In addition to those indicators, there are several other indicators of District 106’s strong financial standing.

Each year, the district participates in an independent audit, and in the most recently published findings, Eder, Casella and Co. provided the district with an unqualified opinion, meaning there were no material issues found as part of the audit process. The report is available on the district’s website at [www.bannockburnschool.org](http://www.bannockburnschool.org) under the district tab, then select the “annual financial reports” link.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) issued District 106 a Certificate of Financial Recognition, meaning the District earned the highest possible financial rating of 4.0. This is based upon an ISBE review of the District’s most recent financial statements. Just 375 of the 852 school districts in Illinois earned the 4.0 rating.

Being good stewards of tax dollars is a priority for the administration and Board in Bannockburn School District 106.

## Lake County Elementary District Tax Rates





**Bannockburn School District 106**  
 2165 Telegraph Road  
 Bannockburn, IL 60015

Presort Standard  
 U S Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 930  
 Carol Stream, IL

[bannockburnschool.org](http://bannockburnschool.org)

### **Bannockburn Scores in Wellness Game**

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The school has planned events like non-contact football drill activities, hosted an assembly on healthy eating and proper hydration, painted healthy foods on the blacktop, and hosted a school dance contest.

In addition to those activities, Vincent shares that the group has hosted the one-mile Bannockburn Dash, held a healthy food taste test called Snack Smarter, held a walking club during recess, and hosted a teachers vs. students basketball game.

“The beauty of this program is that it is a team effort that brings our school closer together,” Vincent says. “Teachers and students working side by side to make the school a healthier place promotes a fun atmosphere around school and impacts all students in a positive way.”

### **Deep Learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**

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One example of the impact of the STEM program at Bannockburn School was when a 6th grade student was frustrated with the 3D printer. It wasn’t printing correctly, so after trying to problem solve by using the owner’s manual and conducting his own research, he contacted customer service. Prior to calling, he recorded the error messages and was able to talk the customer service representative through all the steps he took in order to troubleshoot the issues. He spoke to the customer service representative and tried the different solutions they provided. In the end, he was able to identify that there was a missing part for the extruder (what extracts the filament to print) and he fixed the printer.

“We strongly believe that the collaboration and problem solving that our students practice in STEM are critical skills that they will use on a daily basis in their future careers,” Barnes says.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Tuesday, March 20**

Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, April 17**

Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### **Administration**

**Dr. Scott Herrmann**, Superintendent  
 847-945-5900 ext. 2722  
[sherrmann@bannockburnschool.org](mailto:sherrmann@bannockburnschool.org)

**Debbie Barnes**, Principal  
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[dbarnes@bannockburnschool.org](mailto:dbarnes@bannockburnschool.org)

**Peg O’Rourke**, Director of Student Services  
 847-945-5900 ext. 2729  
[porourke@bannockburnschool.org](mailto:porourke@bannockburnschool.org)

Visit the Bannockburn School District 106 website at [bannockburnschool.org](http://bannockburnschool.org) to keep up with the latest updates and access the most recent information about the school district.