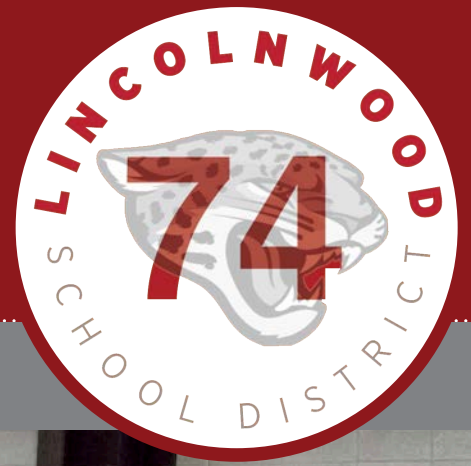


# THE JAGUAR



JULY 2018 EDITION



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## Strategic Plan Actions and Master Facilities Plan Development

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Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

Welcome to *The Jaguar*! This new name comes with a new District logo that represents a continuation of our 1:3:1 initiative of one district, three schools, one mission. The 2018-19 school year marks the 75th anniversary of District 74 and we have many events scheduled to celebrate. Our kick-off event will be on Friday, August 31 when we welcome one of our most distinguished alumni, Judge Merrick Garland (LH '66) of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Please watch for further details and join us on August 31 for what will be a very special evening. This year we will also begin planning the new five-year strategic plan. We hope we will be able to count on your continued support and input during this important time as we chart the next five years in this district. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not mention that we will soon be approaching the conclusion of our three-year Lincoln Hall Building Plan renovations. We look forward to hosting a second open house to coincide with the opening of the renovated auditorium in December.

The five goals and accompanied objectives designed as the roadmap for our current strategic plan have been progressing nicely throughout the last four years. The District has continued to work towards improved academic performance, goal area one. Through curriculum implementation, we continue to teach communication, collaboration, leadership, curiosity, and perseverance. We utilize curriculum to build these skills in our students. Staff development and professional development, goal area five, has partnered with curriculum redesign. Please read more information about curriculum in Dr. Russo's letter on page two. Promoting the health and well-being of students, goal area two, has been an ongoing goal and we continue to provide more opportunities for children, including the new fitness center and the addition of several extracurricular activities and partnerships with the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Department. Reaching out to the community, goal area three, has been an action item that continues to build community relationships. We hope to see many of you at the 75th anniversary kick-off event on August 31 and other upcoming events. Parent Education Nights will once again be featured throughout the school year and are open to the community.



The development of safe and efficient facilities, goal area four, will move forward following the newly created master facilities plan. Consistently keeping Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, Lincoln Hall, and the general campus updated and functional using proactive maintenance structures will continue to guide the District. Throughout the next few months, the community can access Phase III updates and progress photos on the Lincoln Hall Building Plan page at [www.sd74.org/domain/41](http://www.sd74.org/domain/41). The official date for the second open house (December 2018) will be posted on the District website in November. We hope you can join us.

Have a safe and happy summer and we look forward to reconnecting on the first day of school, August 21.

Together as one learning community,  
Dr. Kimberly A. Nasshan  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Core Program Adoptions and STEM Implementation in Elementary Grade Levels

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Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

I trust that every family is enjoying a break from the normal routine and has adjusted to the rhythms of summer. Longer, warmer days mean opportunities to create lasting family memories pursuing activities that we might not otherwise have time for. Thank you to the entire community for the welcome I received during my first year in Lincolnwood School District 74. The community's unwavering support of the school district was apparent in every curricular and extracurricular event I attended throughout the school year. In each of these experiences, the talents and capabilities of the District's students were readily on display. Whether explaining an APP they created, performing a musical piece, reciting and analyzing poetry, or describing methods to solve the math problem of the day; students were engaged in the learning and giving their best effort.

New learning spaces have allowed teachers to more flexibly group students and implement curricular projects that cross multiple learning areas. Additionally, many teachers worked on curriculum review committees at some point during this past year. Their efforts reflected dedication to continuous improvement of the District's instructional practices and directly resulted in several of the changes that you will read about in later parts of this edition. There are several curricular initiatives that will be in various stages of implementation when classes resume in August. First, our K-5 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch will be expanded. Dedicated teaching specialists at Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall will move the program beyond an introduction (as was the case in this first year of implementation) to completing multiple units of study within the program.

A team of teachers from across the District is working to develop a more articulated scope and sequence of instruction around the topic of digital citizenship. Digital citizenship refers to the skills and experiences students require to use the Internet responsibly, effectively and safely. This group has evaluated the District's current practices, determined areas of adjustment, and identified necessary resources for future implementation of lessons.

In 2018-19, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade teachers will continue developing priority Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts. Within this project, teachers are developing a deeper understanding for what each standard asks students to do and how skills are differentiated between grade levels. The end goal is a defined list providing teachers with a clearer sense of students' prerequisite knowledge, points of emphasis for the current grade and where students are going in their future learning.

Finally, new core program materials will be implemented in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade math and middle school science. You can read more about the My Math and iScience programs in the article on page four of this edition, as well as information pertaining to the District's social emotional learning and health/physical education curriculum.

Thank you again for a wonderful first year in Lincolnwood School District 74. Continue to have a restful and relaxing summer and I look forward to the return of students on August 21.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David L. Russo,  
*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction*

# SD74 Mathematics & Science Shifts as New Core Programs are Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year

As preparation continues for the start of another school year, students in grades pre-kindergarten-5 will return to Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall with a new mathematics core program and students in grades 6-8 will return to Lincoln Hall with a new science core program. From September 2017 to April 2018, two committees comprised of 24 district faculty met to analyze the many different options for new math and science core program adoptions. After several trials and hands-on experiences with various programs, the committees recommended to the Board of Education the My Math and iScience series. Both programs are published by McGraw-Hill Education.

iScience was adopted for Lincoln Hall's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classrooms. The program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and follows the order of middle school science teaching. Through iScience, sixth grade students will study earth science, seventh grade students will study life science, and eighth grade students will study physical science. The iScience program includes numerous electronic resources that range from a collection of science videos and images to tools that help students complete lab experiments. Additional features of the iScience adoption include an electronic textbook available to students inside and outside of the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to gain access to classroom and textbook material through the use of their student iPads.

My Math is a partner program with Lincoln Hall's math program, Glencoe Math. In this program, students will experience a seamless math sequence that is similar in structure, organization, and vocabulary as they advance grade levels. The curriculum is tailored to accommodate all students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade through a wide variety of instructional materials. Faculty across all three schools will work with similar teaching methods and resources to provide a seamless transition for students. 5th grade teacher Michael Wittenborn, who served on the Math Committee, reflected on the adoption stating, "I'm excited to start using the My Math program as it allows students to explore a wide variety of math strategies rather than focusing on a prescribed path to a solution. My Math also emphasizes the language of math, providing students the vocabulary and confidence to present and defend their math strategies. And importantly, My Math is closely aligned with the Common Core State Standards from which we measure student understanding."

My Math will provide students with several learning advantages, including the key items listed in the infographic (right):

## SUPPORT LEARNING

Availability of differentiated materials to support learning on a spectrum of math ability



## INTERACTIVE

Hands-on, interactive exercises created to engage students throughout the lesson

## TURN & TALK

Room for exploration and opportunities for students to "turn and talk" about math



## PROBLEM SOLVING

Application problems to engage students in real-world problem solving



## VISUAL MATERIALS

Visual materials to assist all students, but particularly EL students, with acquisition of math concepts



## ONLINE RESOURCES

Incorporation of online resources that students can access at home for additional assistance or re-teaching resources



## IPAD COMPATIBLE

Student workbook, teacher materials, and online resources are iPad compatible with all assignments and assessments available online or as PDF



# School Matrices Shape Student Behavior, Social and Emotional Learning



Lincoln Hall P.A.T.H. assembly

At Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall, three Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) school matrices have been developed to serve as the foundation of each school's social and emotional learning (SEL). Todd Hall teaches "Students Together Encouraging Positivity" (S.T.E.P.), Rutledge Hall teaches "Take Responsibility and Choose Kindness" (T.R.A.C.K.), and Lincoln Hall teaches "Positive Actions that Help" (P.A.T.H.). The Lincoln Hall P.A.T.H. was implemented during the 2016-17 school year, Rutledge Hall T.R.A.C.K. in the 2017-18 school year, and Todd Hall S.T.E.P. will be rolled out at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Students continuously encourage one another to behave according to the expectations. Positive behavior is rewarded to students by receiving tickets at each of the schools: Todd Tickets, Rutledge Rewards, and Proud Paws. Each trimester, the entire school building gathers together and celebrates student achievement related to the matrix expectations. At Lincoln Hall, teachers recognize students who exemplify all of the P.A.T.H. traits every week. Students are called "Lincoln Hall Stars" and are acknowledged in the main entrance's display window.

Middle school students use a Quick Response matrix barcode, also known as a QR Code, to keep track of their Proud Paws. In each classroom, teachers have the barcodes displayed, to be scanned with student iPads upon being rewarded for their positive behaviors. The incorporation of the QR code in the classroom provides students with the opportunity to learn more about technology through the school's social and emotional learning curriculum.

Boards and posters of each school matrix are displayed in the school hallways, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias as a continuous reminder to students. At the start of each school year, teaching stations are organized to review the school's social and behavioral expectations. Stations provide opportunities for student leadership, as students are encouraged to help lead each station. For example, one station will review recess behaviors, the other classroom behaviors, and another station will cover expected behavior in school hallways.



Todd Hall students following S.T.E.P.

Peers and friends encourage and remind one another how to continuously follow the PBIS standards set in their school. Common language is used across all schools for ease in transitioning from Todd Hall to Rutledge Hall and Rutledge Hall to Lincoln Hall: "Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible."



Rutledge Hall students on T.R.A.C.K.

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# Core Classes and After-School Clubs Encourage Cardiovascular Strength & Health

Physical education, health, and fitness curricula has significantly evolved throughout the years at Lincolnwood School District 74. Lincoln Hall Athletic Director Mark Raciti, who is entering his 19th year at the middle school, stated; “Many more units have been added to the physical education curriculum and a solid foundation for health and fitness is now available to students. Before, students were taught Health for 15 days out of the entire school year. Now, students at Lincoln Hall have Health class once a week throughout the year. Health is lifelong. What we teach our students in the classroom can be immediately applied to their current lives. We focus on mental, physical, and social health, ensuring that our students are well-rounded in all three areas. If one of these components is lacking, it affects the other two in a negative way.”

During a full five day school week, students perform activities in the gymnasium three times, exercise in the new fitness center one of the days, and have Health class on the fifth day. The new fitness center is used by Lincoln Hall students every day. “The centralized location for equipment helps students understand that when they are in the fitness center, they are there to focus on fitness only. Before, student fitness activities were in the gymnasium, where students typically played sports and several other activities. They understand fitness for what it really is now,” said Raciti. Athletics at Lincoln Hall have always maintained high participation and competitive results amongst our township neighbors. Over 50% of Lincoln Hall students are multi-sport athletes. During the 2017-18 school year, the varsity boys soccer, junior varsity girls basketball, junior varsity boys basketball, varsity and junior varsity girls soccer, and junior varsity boys volleyball teams took first place in conference. The junior varsity boys soccer and varsity boys volleyball teams took second in conference. To expand athletic opportunities, a 6th Grade Team was created in several of the township middle schools, including Lincoln Hall’s volleyball and basketball teams. This addition has allowed for nearly twenty additional athletes per sport. Furthermore, around 50-60 students represent Lincoln Hall each year at the Niles Township Track Meet. This year, Lincoln Hall placed first in all four team categories.

At Rutledge Hall and Todd Hall, physical education teachers incorporate Health lessons at the start of each gym class. “I spend about seven minutes at the start of each class covering a health lesson. We study one body system per month. Rutledge Hall students learn the foundation of the sport or activity then move on to Lincoln Hall, where they participate in the activity in its entirety” said Rutledge Hall Physical Education Teacher Brendan Ryan. For example, a 4th grade student will learn about the baseball mitt and how to bat, and by the time they are a 6th grade student at Lincoln Hall, they will be playing a full baseball game in gym class.

The Physical Education team also collaborates with Lincolnwood’s Parks & Recreation Department through the “Catch & Throw” program, where the department sends equipment for students to familiarize themselves with in gym class and students are then informed about the activities and programming that the park district offers in relation to the activity.

Aside from the schools’ core curriculum and athletics, Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall both have a Running Club, an extracurricular activity where students join to exercise and enhance their cardiovascular strength. Many of the Running Club members also train to participate in Lincolnwood’s annual Turkey Trot, a 5k event taking place in the village each November. At Rutledge Hall, nearly 25% of the school’s population participates in Running Club. Over the years, this number has significantly risen. “Running Club allows the students to be outdoors and active with their peers, while teaching about running and perseverance in a fun and rewarding way,” said Running Club Coach and Rutledge Hall Speech Pathologist Nicole Kantzavelos. Running Club member accomplishments are displayed in hallways at Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall to recognize the students and in an effort to inspire their peers to join the club.



**1st place: junior varsity girls soccer team**

# Final Renovations to Include Formal Auditorium Space for Students and Community

Lincoln Hall's East Gym renovation will expand opportunities by creating a formal auditorium space and multimedia production center for students. When used as an auditorium, the space will be available to the three district schools for various events including music concerts, the annual spring musical, variety shows, science fair presentations, curriculum nights, parent education nights, teacher institute days, and many other curricular and extracurricular events.

Prior to the renovation plans, fine arts concerts and several other districtwide events were held in gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms. Broadcasting clubs at both Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall used staff offices to prepare their content. Once renovations are completed during the 2018-19 school year, students will be able to utilize the new multimedia production center as a formal space to produce content. The space will continue to serve as an area for several activities before, during, and after the school day including student presentations and after-school clubs. The projected timeline of completion for the auditorium is November 2018.

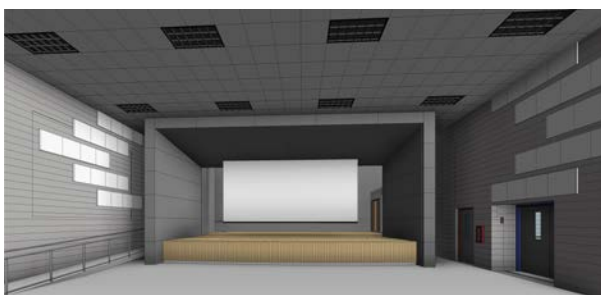
The venue is envisioned to be a facility for the Lincolnwood community to use, serving as the village's only public performance space. Renderings of the auditorium can be found below.



SD74 Alum Katrina Nickell (LH '12) is currently majoring in Broadcast Journalism at Indiana University and volunteering her time as the SD74 Communications Intern. Reflecting on the upcoming renovation, Nickell said: "In 6th grade I joined WLH (Weekly Lincoln Hall) because it was a way to get involved within Lincoln Hall and transition to middle school. What I never thought it would do is spark my interest for journalism and become my major in college. For students to have this opportunity and availability of appropriate facilities is a gateway for them to explore interests early on and continue to expand and learn about broadcasting."



The students continue to express excitement about the new auditorium and are looking forward to utilizing it in its many capacities. As time nears, the District continues to expand the list of events and curricular teaching activities that will be held in the space. The auditorium-style seating will be retractable to ensure the capability of using the space in different variations. When the seats are retracted, an open space will be available for teaching and training of various activities. Once renovations are officially completed, Lincolnwood School District 74 plans to host an open house for the community. Interior renovations included in the Lincoln Hall Building Plan will be completed at the conclusion of Phase III and all spaces will be in full-use by the students and staff.

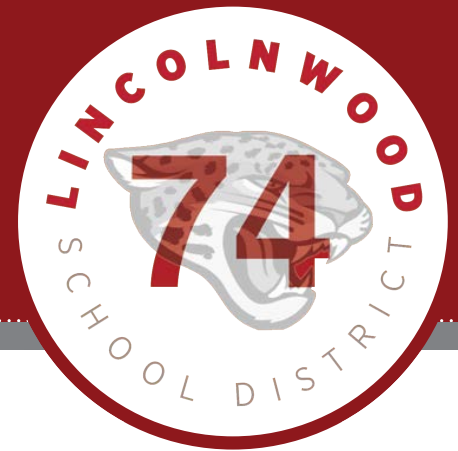


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# THE JAGUAR



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## Lincolnwood School District 74's

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

GUEST OF HONOR: SD74 ALUM & Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia MERRICK GARLAND

August 31, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Hall Middle School 6855 N. Crawford Lincolnwood, IL 60712

