

COMPASS POINTS

LINCOLNWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT 74



OCTOBER 2017 EDITION



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Letter from the New Superintendent
DR. KIMBERLY A. NASSHAN

DEAR LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74 COMMUNITY,

Sincerely hoping this mailing finds you well. Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself as the District's new Superintendent of Schools. While this may be a new role for me, this is the beginning of my sixth year in Lincolnwood School District 74. Previously I served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. I could not be more excited about being part of the Lincolnwood Community as we continue to grow and achieve together.

Personally, my husband and I have raised our family in the Township and our two boys competed with Lincoln Hall students. As they moved through Niles West, we always recognized the amazing talents and accomplishments of Lincolnwood children. The notion that my career has led me to Lincolnwood is such an honor. Now that the boys are grown men and navigating their adult lives, we can reflect on the profound influence that "community" had in shaping their futures. Being part of such a strong learning community that values providing children with a wide variety of experiences is so important. As children make their way through the grade levels, the most critical trait the District can provide is the importance of continuous learning, curiosity and problem solving.

During the past five years, the Lincolnwood Community collectively created a five year Strategic Plan that provided the District with goals and objectives to guide our work. The start of this school year marks the fourth year of this plan. The District's Team is working diligently to implement the remaining goals and look forward to establishing new targets in the future. The vision statement, children empowered for life, sets the tone for the lifelong learning we want children to embrace.

Once again, please know the Team is here to serve the Lincolnwood Community and we will strive to guide the District to continued academic growth, fiscal responsibility and increased community collaboration.

Please stay in touch with the District's happenings, sign up for the community newsletters, visit our campus, join us at school events, and take a look at the ever changing website and improvements in our school facilities.



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@lincolnwoodsd74





6TH GRADE STEM LAB



EXTERIOR: STEM LABS



RENOVATED LIBRARY



NEW MAIN ENTRANCE



ART CLASSROOM



LINCOLN HALL MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITIONS



Letter from the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, DR. DAVID L. RUSSO

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year Lincolnwood School District 74 families and community members!

I am excited to join the incoming kindergartners, the Class of 2026, as new members of the District's school family. My career began teaching middle school social studies in the Chicagoland suburbs. Most recently, I spent the previous 12 years working in building level administration at Fairview South in Skokie. That position allowed me to watch from a distance the tremendous things happening in District 74's classrooms, playing fields, and fine arts programs. The accomplishments of District 74 were a consistent measuring stick for program success in my former district and I am thrilled to now be a part of Lincolnwood's administrative team! On a personal note, I grew up in the suburb of Addison and was raised in a family of educators. My educational background includes degrees from the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and National-Louis University. I have been married to my wife, Annette, for 16 years. She is also a teacher and we have two daughters. One just entered middle school and the other started 4th grade this fall. When I am not attending a cheerleading competition or dance recital for one of my girls, I am an avid runner and reader.

In my role as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, I look forward to working with individuals at all levels of the District to ensure we continue providing the highest quality educational experience for every student. The interaction between students and teachers throughout the year is an exciting journey of exploration. The District is focused on establishing instructional experiences designed to foster growth for every child, both intellectually and developmentally. As the needs of learners and society constantly change, the District strives to create dynamic learning environments that can both respond to educational trends and ignite a lifelong passion for knowledge. Classrooms where students apply knowledge and discover meaning help to develop the skills of curiosity and creativity. The District will strive to lead in this innovation. The District's goal is to improve teaching and learning in a continual process where parents and the community are essential partners. Through the 6-year curriculum review cycle, strategies are thoughtfully analyzed for effectiveness and opportunities to improve the classroom experience using best practices. I am so happy to be in Lincolnwood School District 74 and look forward to serving the needs of the District and community alike.

Sincerely,

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

Historic Solar Eclipse Draws Over 1000 Guests on Lincolnwood School District 74 Campus

The initial projection for attending guests was *nearly tripled* on Monday, August 21st on the District campus where students, staff, parents, siblings, alumni, grandparents, and Lincolnwood residents gathered to witness this historical event.

The eclipse viewing included a presentation by Lincoln Hall science teacher Bennett Nelson, arts and crafts, and giveaways for the first 500 guests in attendance. Guests were also provided with solar eclipse glasses and snacks and refreshments as hours passed in an afternoon filled with learning, activities, and community bonding.

As the school year progresses, please make sure to stay up-to-date on the latest news, information, and events at www.sd74.org. We welcome the community to get involved in our schools, curriculum, committees, and more as we settle into a new school year.



Curriculum Drives Renovated Learning Spaces

The shift in education today harnesses the power of technology and the abundance of information at the fingertips of students. In the classroom, teachers are charged with developing learning experiences where students can explore and arrive at multiple correct answers in the solution of a problem presented. At District 74, this includes the intersection of a regular cycle of curricular review with a corresponding program of professional development to continuously increase teacher knowledge base. Also, the integration of newly designed facilities allows students to create and explore ideas collaboratively and sets the schools apart at a level with student academics and achievement always taking precedent. Classrooms are designed so students can arrange a layout where group collaboration, data analyzing, and traditional assignments can all take place in one setting. Gone are the days of isolated fact memorization, replaced by building a foundation of knowledge and giving students multiple opportunities to practice and master a universal set of skills that will benefit them both personally and professionally throughout their lives. For example, ensuring that students can access and discern quality information from multiple data sources and developing their own ideas and perspectives by using their oral and written communication skills.

The new flexible learning spaces not only provide students with additional opportunities academically, but extracurricularly as well. For example, the Lincoln Hall Fine Arts department is overjoyed by the new band, music/chorale, and orchestra rooms. These new spaces will continue to fill as the District's Fine Arts program expands at a rapid rate. In recent years, the number of students participating in band, orchestra, or chorale has increased nearly 50%. Students mastering the skills of an instrument or vocals now have designated rooms for private lessons, studios for practicing, and a Fine Arts wing in the building that caters to all of their musical needs.

“Our students are very excited about the new band and orchestra rooms. These updated spaces will allow us to continue providing a quality music education as the Lincolnwood instrumental program continues to grow,” in the words of orchestra teacher, John Jones.



Programming Expands to Meet Student Needs

Teachers work collaboratively to ensure that ideas and skills utilized are relevant and applicable in various subjects. For example, students learn about the skill of claim, evidence, and warrant in humanities (the claim is the argument, the evidence is a quote, fact, event, or detail that supports the argument, and the warrant is the reasoning/analysis that connects the evidence and claim). In social studies, current events are researched applying this skill. Science classes incorporate claim, evidence, and warrant into Science Fair projects while language arts and reading classes hold book talks discussing how the skill is presented in novels. Consistent programming in interdisciplinary units helps students learn various topics from multiple perspectives and through several learning methods.

District 74 curricular programming is designed to serve all students in order to enhance student success and learning, one example is a curricular approach known as looping. The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program has expanded to include looping in recent years. In looping, students have the same teacher for reading and math over a number of years. Classes that loop provide many students with the opportunity to grow and excel academically at their own pace, while maximizing instructional time because teachers know student tendencies, strengths, and learning styles. For example, a student in the looping cycle may excel tremendously in mathematical skills and be presented the opportunity to enroll in high school level math classes prior to their freshman year. Classroom management rules and expectations are provided in the very beginning of the cycle and when students return to their second year of the program, these rules and expectations are the same, providing students the opportunity to jump right into academics. “The students’ comfort levels with each other and their established classroom community after already having spent an abundance of time together is invaluable when it comes to collaboration and peer support,” said Rutledge Hall Gifted Education Specialist, Jill Litwin.

In addition to curricular programming, extracurricular programming at Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall has also provided students with a wide range of opportunities. Chess Club has hundreds of student participants competing and learning the game after school throughout the week. Additional programs such as Craft Club, Students Taking Active Responsibility (STAR, similar to Student Council) and Yearbook Club are programs with high student participation.

To learn more about District 74's Curriculum and Instruction, please visit www.sd74.org/domain/39.



RUTLEDGE HALL GATE CLASSROOM



8TH GRADE SCIENCE



CHESS CLUB

A Look Into Lincolnwood's Core Curriculum

A unique feature of Lincoln Hall's curriculum is the collaboration of science, math, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classes for all students. All three subjects are part of the District's core curriculum as students take these courses everyday throughout the year.

"Incorporating STEM instruction all year allows Lincoln Hall students to have a more in-depth, varied set of experiences to apply design principles. In many other schools, students only experience a nine week class," according to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. David Russo.

Introduction of STEM arrives at a time of rapid change in science education over the last decade. Today, Lincoln Hall students not only learn about science, but actually perform and design their own scientific experiments. Teachers provide the students with a foundation in the subject; key vocabulary, procedures, and examples. Students then are able to test the science that was presented and see, first-hand, the results of the experiment. In this environment, students learn from data collection, just as in the real world of scientific discovery.



STEM classrooms are a natural environment to apply the material learned in general science and math class. The engineering and design process of the topics from science, math, reading, and more are applied in the STEM labs, where student creativity flourishes. Students now have an outlet to practice theory and can identify the design issues when something goes wrong in an experiment; students now have a fuller understanding of the science or math included in the experiment and can put that knowledge to use through design and engineering tools. STEM in the core curriculum provides students with the time to engage in an authentic problem-solving process. STEM teachers noted that their class allows students to approach problems from multiple angles and test a variety of solutions to find the best answer. Language arts, science, and social science teachers commented that students are more willing to take risks when attempting to solve a complex problem, function better in group settings, and deploy more planning and forward-thinking when working through a complex project. For example, students are creating their own software apps in STEM class using iMacs in labs. At the age(s) of 12, 13, and 14 years, District 74 students are learning how to become software developers.

An integral element of STEM education is the flexibility and flow created by renovated classrooms, which allow students to sit and/or stand in class, work collaboratively in groups, and use the spaces for experiments. In science class, students are able to arrange their tables as work stations around the classroom, while leaving space at the front of the room for groups of students to gather near the board and analyze scientific data. "The students and I are very excited to utilize our new science classroom this year with students designing experiments to answer their own questions in biology and conducting science fair projects of their choosing. We even have a new space to use for growing safe strains of bacteria and burning biofuels for our life science curriculum!" said Sharon Churchwell, Lincoln Hall 7th grade science teacher.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE IN THE
NEW LEARNING COURTYARD



2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING EVENT



PRE-ALGEBRA STUDENT



2017-18 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



6TH GRADE STEM CLASS



LINCOLNWOOD MAYOR BARRY BASS AT THE
BACK-TO-SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL!



out and about



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WHERE DO YOU RECEIVE YOUR SD74 NEWS?

Community Survey

1. www.sd74.org
2. Twitter (@lincolnwoodsd74)
3. *Tuesday Newsday*
4. Lincolnwood Review

Please visit www.bit.ly/2vmEjCz for a QUICK survey to answer the question presented above. Thank you in advance!!!

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that SD74 publishes a bi-weekly newsletter, *Tuesday Newsday*, throughout the school year? Visit the District homepage at www.sd74.org to subscribe to the newsletter! Click on the "SD74 COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY" icon and enter your information. Please call the District's Communications Coordinator at 847-675-8234 for all questions.

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COMPASS POINTS

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