The JAGUAR

LINCOLNWOOD 74 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall 2024



SD74 students returned to campus for the 2024-2025 school year on August 28.

IN THIS EDITION ...

Strategic Plan highlights
Summer construction recap
Alumni spotlight on Olympian Jewell Loyd

... and more!

From the Superintendent



David L. Russo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools





This fall, 2nd grade classes toured the Administration Building with Dr. Russo.

Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Learning Community:

Our school year is off to a tremendous start as students quickly transitioned back into classroom routines and extracurricular activities. The initial weeks afford teachers a unique opportunity to establish connections with students to create a classroom community and environment conducive to learning and maximizing student academic growth.

In this edition of *The Jaguar*, you will learn more about our new Strategic Plan for 2024-2029, drafted last spring through a joint effort by SD74 stakeholders. An additional outgrowth of that collaboration was a new District mission statement:

One campus, One community
Preparing, inspiring, and empowering learners;
one moment at a time.

In this statement, we hope to convey our pride that all the District's schools reside on one campus grounds representing this wonderful village. We are also excited about creating the "moments" in and out of the classroom that will connect students to each other, their school, and their community, to make lasting memories of their elementary education.

As you will also read, our summer months included amazing transformations at two buildings on campus. Every classroom at Rutledge Hall was modernized to upgrade its functionality and aesthetic appeal, and a new learning space was developed just to the west of Lincoln Hall's main entrance. Students have been benefiting from these improvements from day one of the school year and they are sure to be enjoyed by future Jaguars for years to come! We appreciate the support of the Board of Education and the community to regularly look for ways to make improvements to our facilities.

Looking ahead, there are several events happening throughout the year to showcase our students' academic, athletic, artistic, and musical talents. Check our website *(www.sd74.org)* and social media accounts *(@lincolnwoodsd74 on Instagram and X)* regularly for more details and highlights as the year progresses.

Finally, I am proud to announce that *The Jaguar* was recognized by the National School Public Relations Association last spring! Thank you for taking the time to review all that we have happening in Lincolnwood School District 74. We look forward to a wonderful school year!

Curriculum and Instruction Update

New implementations and future plans



Dominick Lupo, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

A new school year is always an exciting time for our students. They get to see old friends, make new ones, and dive into a whole new world of learning! From a teaching and learning standpoint, I am looking forward to seeing all of the work that we have done to provide our students with the best curricular materials come to fruition.

This time last year, we implemented a new math curriculum in the middle school and have also adopted a new science program in recent months. Amplify Science was selected after an extensive review process due to the exceptional creativity of its lessons, and its focus on students taking ownership of their learning by thinking like real-world scientists. With this program, students will solve complex problems using scientific research and reasoning throughout the school year.



With the recent implementation of the Carnegie Learning ClearMath program in our elementary schools, every student in the District, Kindergarten through 8th grade, is now using the Carnegie curriculum. We are excited about the continuity of learning this offers and are eager to see our students take the next step in mathematical reasoning through conceptual math instruction. This approach focuses on teaching students to understand how and why mathematical formulas and procedures work versus teaching them to simply memorize steps in an equation.

The District is also focused on updating our literacy curriculum. Literacy instruction provides students with foundational skills that play integral roles across all other subject areas. This year, a team of teachers from across the District will sample several programs to select the one that best fits the needs of our students.

With so much happening across the District on the curricular front, I am so excited about the growth and learning experiences that are yet to come for our students!



District Happenings

These are #SD74Moments!

SD74 students and families on the first day of school.





Todd Hall principal Chris Harmon











Rutledge Hall principal Aliaa Ibrahim





Lincoln Hall principal Mark Atkinson

Kindergarten Playdate

Before the start of each school year, incoming Kindergarten families are invited to a special playdate at Todd Hall. This casual event allows our new Jaguars and their families to meet and mingle with Kindergarten teachers, Principal Chris Harmon, and, most importantly ... new friends!

This year, the Kona Ice Truck joined the fun, courtesy of PALS, and every Kindergartener received a **'Home of a Todd Hall Jaguar'** yard sign from the District! We ♥ seeing them displayed around town.



Amazing SD74 Kindergarten teachers!

District Happenings

Familiar Face Rejoins District

Former Rutledge Hall Principal Returns as New Administrator

The District is happy to welcome back a familiar face: Former Rutledge Hall principal Erin Curry! She will rejoin the administration team in her new role as Director of Student Services. Curry has also previously served as a school psychologist and assistant principal at Lincoln Hall.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to return to SD74 where I have always felt both connected and valued," Curry said. "This has always been a special place to me, and I'm grateful to be able to rejoin and contribute in a different capacity."

In this newly created position, Curry will implement instructional programs and coordinate resources for students receiving support from special services.

"I'll be working with District teams on our multilingual learning programs and academic intervention systems, as well as overseeing Section 504 plans and cultivating a district-wide culture of attendance," she said.

"SD74 has always excelled in providing strong support systems for our students. I'll have the opportunity to ensure that these programs not only continue to thrive but also receive the support, professional development, and focus needed to expand and refine them."

Having spent two years in a neighboring district, Curry said she appreciates having been able to gain new perspectives and broaden her understanding of different educational approaches. However, Lincolnwood always felt like home.

"Since the day I left SD74, I never stopped saying, "In Lincolnwood, we do this … ." I continued to use "we" as if I was still a part of the team … and now, I am again," Curry said with a smile.

"The sense of community here is very powerful, and the ability to pick up right where I left off with some of the familiar students, families, and staff members has been beyond gratifying."



Curry and SD74 alum Jewell Loyd in 2021.

Loyd is a two-time Olympic gold medalist!
Read more about her win with Team USA on page 11.

New Member Joins SD74 Board of Education

Meet Ted Kwon



Kwon and family at Todd Hall's Curriculum Night.

What encouraged you to apply for appointment to the open Board seat?
I wanted to make sure that my daughter and her friends go to a school that gives them the best chance to be whoever they want to be in life. To me, that means teaching them basic academic skills, individual responsibility, and being kind to others. Ever since my daughter entered Todd Hall two years ago, my wife and I have been very happy with our experience with the District. I wanted to play a part in ensuring that it continues. Of course, no district is perfect, but I wanted to be part of the solution rather than just complaining about how things can be better.

How long have you lived in Lincolnwood?
I have lived in Lincolnwood for around 15 years now. As a kid growing up in Southern California, I remember watching Bears football games on television and wondering how people could live in such cold weather -- and now here I am. My wife, who was born and raised in the area, says I should stop complaining. It really hasn't been that bad the past few years.

How has your Jaguar been loving school?
My daughter, Norah, is currently in second grade, and she loves her teachers, the staff, and all the interesting things she gets to do. She's very excited about the music performance her class will put on later this semester. She also loves the mac and cheese from the school lunch menu, so much so that my wife asked Todd Hall about the recipe.

What are your favorite things to do around town?
We like going to the newly renovated Flowers Park on Pratt Ave., riding our bikes on the forest preserve trails, and getting ice cream. We're also eager to try out the food from Will's Place in Skokie, which I've heard good things about.

SD74 Introduces Five-Year *Strategic Plan*

The District is proud to share its new strategic plan, which will guide the direction of our operations for the next five years, specifically across five primary areas of focus: **Teaching and Learning**; **Facilities and Finances**; **Technology**; **Communications**; and **Human Resources**.

The strategic plan was thoughtfully formed last winter through a highly collaborative process. It began with a school and community perception survey distributed to SD74 families, employees, and community members in January. Then, over the following months, a Core Stakeholder Group comprising SD74 Board members, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, community members, representatives from community organizations, and students worked together to answer three critical questions:

Why do we exist as a school district?
What do we value?
And where are we headed in the future?

The answers to these questions, combined with the survey's responses, became the outline for the new strategic plan. In June, the plan was formally approved by the Board of Education.

The District's administration team spent the summer preparing for the implementation of the strategic plan by translating its objectives into actionable initiatives that can be executed day-to-day, both in the short term and over the coming years.

With our new strategic plan in place, we look to everyone across our one campus and throughout our one community to embody the principles laid out in it for the benefit of our learners. By working together we will create the moments that matter to make us one 74.



Stay connected. Share moments that matter.

@LincolnwoodSD74 #SD74Moments

District Happenings

Enhancing Educational Experiences *through facility improvements*



"As an educator, I understand the importance of updating our school buildings to meet the changing needs of our students and various programs. The recent renovations at Rutledge Hall represent a significant enhancement, improving our environment functionally, technologically, and aesthetically. With these updates, we can provide unique spaces to support the diverse needs of our students and community."
-Kathy Han, 5th grade teacher



Just days after the 2023-2024 school year ended in June, demolition began at Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall, marking the start of two major facility improvement projects. On the horizon at the middle school was the construction of a new outdoor learning space. The plan for Rutledge Hall was even more ambitious: a large-scale overhaul of the building's classroom spaces and bathrooms.

Work progressed on schedule throughout the summer months, thanks to the diligence of various contractors and the District's building engineers and maintenance teams. Come August, the new spaces reached completion. They were revealed to teachers and staff during the District's annual Institute Days, and to students on the first day of school.

The Lincoln Hall Plaza, as it is now known, features an amphitheater-style seating area, an ADA-accessible ramp, and an artificial turf field with additional bench and picnic table seating. The reimagined space makes better use of Lincoln Hall's existing exterior footprint. It offers SD74 teachers an alternative environment for delivering instruction, and provides students with a central gathering place to hang out on campus.

"Before, the area had too many trees and was overgrown. It felt very cluttered. Now, it's way better! It looks well kept, teachers can now see where students are instead of looking for them across a huge field. The plaza is always packed with students!"
-Floreen B., 8th grader

At Rutledge Hall, classrooms received new paint, carpet, tiles, wiring, ceiling grids, millwork, and storage solutions. Each room is also outfitted with a BenQ Board, an interactive digital display, and updated furniture, such as wobble chairs and new teacher desks. Bathrooms were updated with improved plumbing, new tiles and partitions, and modern fixtures.

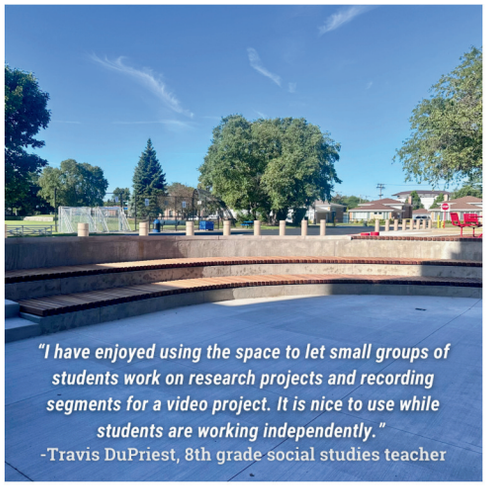
The feedback about the improvements has been overwhelmingly positive. "The Lincoln Hall Plaza has been a tremendously inviting addition to our school. The students now have a place to congregate, socialize, and collaborate in more of an open setting," said Elizabeth Ryan, Lincoln Hall Interventionist. "My favorite time to see the Plaza in use is at recess with students smiling, and moving between the tables, lawn, and pavilion setting with such ease. The space will be enjoyed throughout the entire school year!"

Rutledge Hall music teacher Hillary Schroer never, in 20 years of teaching, had a completely renovated classroom to call her own -- until this year. "The music room was beautifully done and I feel so lucky to be in such an inviting and functional space," Schroer said. "What a gift it is to work in a district where classroom spaces for all teachers are a priority."

Elsewhere on the District's grounds, several other projects were completed this summer: new trees were planted in areas surrounding the track, an ADA-accessible ramp was added to Lincoln Hall's courtyard, and new fencing was installed around Todd Hall's Pre-K playground.

These improvements are all part of the SD74 multi-year Master Facilities Plan, and signify the District's and the Board of Education's commitment to providing modern, well-maintained facilities for students, staff, and the larger community.

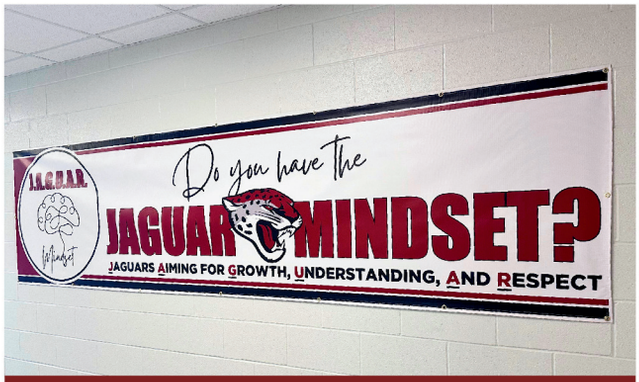
WATCH NOW: See the before and after transformations across campus.





Eye on Education

Cultivating a J.A.G.U.A.R. Mindset





If you have visited Lincoln Hall recently, you may have noticed new signage featuring a special logo.

J.A.G.U.A.R Mindset stands for **Jaguars Aiming for Growth, Understanding, and Respect**, and acts as a guide for students and staff at the middle school to continue to focus on positive culture and climate building. It serves as a companion to existing PATH expectations and builds off the core values in the District's Strategic Plan.

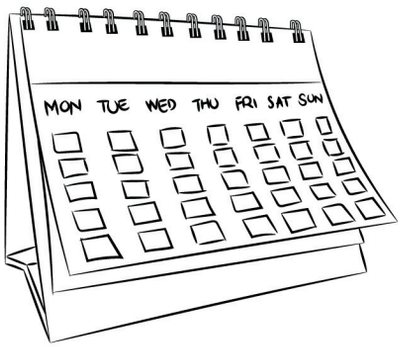
Save the Dates

Important Calendar Reminders

Dates and events are subject to change.
Please check the District calendar online for the most up-to-date information.

November

11/5: **Election Day - District Closed**
Marvin Garlich Administration Building, 6950 N. East Prairie Road, is a polling place.
11/11: **Veterans Day Celebrations**
11/11 - 11/15: **SD74 PALS Book Fair**
11/12: **Galactic Wonders: A Family Night**
11/14: **Rutledge Hall Art Installation Opening for Families**
11/19 and 11/21: **Parent-Teacher Conferences**
11/25 - 11/29: **Thanksgiving Break**



December

12/6: **Lincoln Hall Variety Show**
12/17: **Lincoln Hall Holiday Concert**
12/20: **AM-Only Student Attendance**
12/23 - 1/3: **Winter Break**

January

1/20: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - District Closed**
1/21: **Institute Day - No School for Students**
1/22: **Young Creatives Art Show at Niles West**
1/30: **Rutledge Hall Literacy Night**

Communication News You Can Use

Translate the *Tuesday Newsday*. Choose from more than 130 languages!

To access this feature, powered by Google Translate, open the e-newsletter in your browser by clicking on it when it arrives in your inbox.

Navigate to the top of the page and click 'Translate,' then choose your preferred language.

Never miss important notifications. Opt in to District text messages.



New District website coming soon. Expected to launch in early 2025!

The District is proud to share that we are in the process of redesigning the SD74 website.

The new *www.sd74.org* will feature a more modern and intuitive design, making it easier to navigate and better able to highlight our one 74 community.

Cahill Scholarship Reception welcomes back grads





LISTEN NOW:
Hear the top songs from 2020 and see throwback photos of graduates!





Nearly four years after they graduated, Lincoln Hall Class of 2020 alumni returned to campus last April for the inaugural Cahill Scholarship Reception. At this reunion-style event, the District commemorated the students' final year at Lincoln Hall, celebrated their upcoming high school graduation, and awarded the winners of the 2024 John Cahill Community Service Scholarship.

Remembering John Cahill

John Cahill was superintendent of SD74 for 15 years, from 1983 to 1998. He stood for service and giving back to the community by working together. John also wanted the best for Lincolnwood students and once said, "Let's all work together to make the District an even better place for children. When all is said and done, isn't that the only reason we're here?" The Cahill Scholarship was created to recognize students in Lincolnwood who most embody the spirit of service and community that John believed so deeply in.

2024 Scholarship Recipients

14 local high school students -- the highest number in recent years – submitted scholarship applications. Three recipients were chosen by an Application Review Committee comprising volunteers from the community; they each received a $500 scholarship.

Congratulations to:

Jesal Babu Patel, Jr.
A Loyola Academy graduate, now attending San Diego State University.

Asma Patel
A Niles West graduate, now attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Daniel Woo
A Niles West graduate, now attending Indiana University Bloomington.



Jesal Babu Patel, Jr., Superintendent Dr. David Russo, and Asma Patel at the Cahill Scholarship Reception. Daniel Woo was unable to attend.

2025 Scholarship Application Process

The 2025 John Cahill Community Service Scholarship application period will begin in January. Applicants must be graduating from high school in 2025, be a graduate of Lincoln Hall, and be continuing their education at a two- or four-year college or university, trade school, or vocational school.

High school seniors should look out for application announcements on the District website and social media platforms, and from their school counseling and/or college and career departments.



Eye on Education



Theater Throwback

Lincoln Hall musical wows audiences!

The magical world of Arendelle came to life this past May with the production of Lincoln Hall's musical, "Frozen Jr.!" Kudos to our cast, crew, and staff members for the time, energy, and talent they dedicated to the shows. This was one springtime snowstorm we would gladly welcome again!

























Shout-out to the stage crew!

Community Connections



PALS

PEOPLE ACTIVE WITH LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOLS

hosts

ICE CREAM SOCIAL 2024

A back-to-school celebration for the entire community!

THANK YOU!

The Lou Malnati's fundraiser in September raised $280!

Proceeds raised from monthly restaurant partnerships help fund events such as Ice Cream Social, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Teacher Mini-Grants.

Connect with PALS!

@sd74_pals | @SD74 PALS | sd74pals@gmail.com

Coming Soon: The SD74 PALS Book Fair

This year's theme: *Galactic Adventures!*

The in-person book fair will take place during the week of November 11 at Rutledge Hall. Students will visit the fair with their homeroom and/or reading teachers to shop for books, games, and more!

For an added dose of fun, families can also visit the book fair and view a magic show during **"Galactic Wonders: A Family Night"** on Tuesday, November 12, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

The online Book Fair is open!

SHOP NOW:

Are you a local business or organization looking to give back to the community? Learn more about opportunities to sponsor students' book fair purchases.

Email sd74pals@gmail.com.

Community Connections

Alumni Spotlight

From Paris with Gold:

SD74 alumna Jewell Loyd wins second Olympic medal



Samantha Gonzalez, daughter of Rutledge Hall secretary Arleen LaRosa and a 2006 Lincoln Hall graduate, was home watching the Opening Ceremony for the 2024 Paris Olympics when her friend, WNBA player Jewell Loyd, appeared on screen. “I saw Jewell on the Team USA boat cruising down the Seine River and I instantly knew that I needed to be there to see her compete,” Gonzalez said. “Seeing Jewell’s smile made Samantha realize we belonged in the stands cheering for her,” LaRosa added.

Loyd, a guard for the Seattle Storm, has maintained a close friendship with Gonzalez, her former classmate, and LaRosa, for nearly two decades. “We think of each other as family,” LaRosa said. “We have always supported one another.”

After a whirlwind couple of days renewing LaRosa’s expired passport, the mother-daughter pair were wheels up to Paris to watch Loyd compete in her second consecutive Olympic Games as a member of the USA Basketball Women's Team.

The impromptu visit was completely unknown to Loyd, according to LaRosa. “She didn't know we came and her reaction when she saw us in the stands was priceless.”



Loyd, Gonzalez, and LaRosa at a WNBA party in Paris, France, following Team USA’s win.

Team USA was heavily favored to win gold, as the reigning Olympic champions, and after a hard-fought tournament – including a close gold medal match against France – Loyd and her teammates were victorious. “Having Team USA win the gold medal and being at the game to see Jewell celebrate with her teammates was emotional,” LaRosa said. “The atmosphere of everyone supporting their countries was so heartfelt.”

For Loyd, the accomplishment is still sinking in. “Winning a gold medal is the highest honor an athlete can receive,” she said. “To say I have been a part of two Olympics is still hard to believe.”

Calling their relationship “truly special,” LaRosa reflected on being a part of Loyd’s Olympic experience, describing it as “emotional, breathtaking, and inspiring.”

Also inspiring is Loyd’s journey, from SD74 student to WNBA star to two-time Olympic champion. And it began with a young Loyd simply believing she could do it. “I was a dreamer; there wasn’t an idea I thought was too small or too big,” she said. “My advice, not just to kids at SD74 but to everyone, is don’t stop dreaming! Once you have an idea, write it down and look at it daily. If you can repeat your goal daily, it will start to become a lifestyle and the belief in that dream will grow and grow.”



Loyd with her teammates after receiving their gold medals.

Don’t stop dreaming!

-Jewell Loyd

2x Olympic gold medalist, WNBA star, and Lincolnwood native



A Team USA selfie at the Olympic opening ceremony.



LaRosa with Loyd and her family.

WATCH NOW:

See the moment Loyd recognized LaRosa and Gonzalez in the crowd at the Olympic medal ceremony.

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LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 074e

Moments that matter make us one 74!



Thank you for being a part of our one 74 community and helping to make the #SD74Moments that matter!

