

THE TORCH

 Sycamore Community
School District 427

245 West Exchange Street
Sycamore, IL 60178



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2023 Summer Edition

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

All Board of Education
meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting locations vary; please
check the district website for
location of the meeting.

JUN 13 & 27
JUL 11 & 25
AUG 8 & 22



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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

AUGUST 17

In this Issue



The Sycamore High School (SHS) Music
Department has won the IHSA Class A
state music competition for the first time
in school history.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Steve Wilder

Where did the school year go? Every year it seems we ask ourselves the same question. There is so much excitement in August and September, we settle in during the fall and holiday seasons, winter seems to slow down, but as soon as the grass greens up and the flowers bloom things take off. Like the seasons, there is a rhythm to the school year and we are nearing the finale.

The 2022-2023 school year has restored a sense of normalcy and routine, marking the first complete school year without

COVID mitigations and pandemic disruptions. This has instilled confidence in our school community, reflected in the halls and classrooms throughout the district. And as things have settled, we've re-established many of our practices and looked to the future.

One of the biggest topics this year was the boundary study and the modification of the elementary school boundaries. We appreciated everyone's input and patience, and transition plans have begun to help students who are changing schools embrace their surroundings for the 2023-2024 school year. While cleaning and maintenance will occur over the summer, our schools will be open. Students who are transitioning to a new school can still reach out to the building Principal with any questions.

Looking to the future also means some changes in the faces in our buildings. This spring we will wish our retirees all the best in their next chapters. We will also bid farewell to three members of our Board of Education. These changes can be difficult, but we have been so fortunate to enjoy the dedication of these individuals who will always be Spartans. As we fill those

positions, we're glad to welcome new faces to the Sycamore family.

Spring is a time for planning for the following year, and one of the topics we covered recently was some facility work that we are planning for at Sycamore High School. We've invested a lot in our buildings over the past several years, but because of its size and age, there is more to do at the High School. We'll do our best to share our conversations and plans with you as we move forward.

Finally, we will soon celebrate the successes of the class of 2023 at their graduation. They've experienced achievements that they will take with them forever, and which have left an indelible mark on Sycamore High School. I look forward to welcoming them back anytime they wish. They, too, are Spartans forever.

Our best wishes go out to all of you as we end the 2022-2023 school year and plan for the summer vacation. We couldn't do what we do without your support and involvement. Thank you for all that you do, and we hope for a restful and relaxing summer vacation. See you in the fall, and as always, Go Spartans!



EMPOWERING ALL LEARNERS TO SUCCEED IN THEIR WORLD

BETTER TOGETHER AS SPARTANS

May 18, 2023

The Spartan: it's the iconic mascot displayed proudly by Sycamore students, staff, and community members. It's the name our sports teams play under. It's the mascot that represents the graduates that leave the halls of Sycamore and enter the next chapter of their lives.

The Spartan is currently the mascot of Southeast Elementary School, Sycamore Middle School, and Sycamore High School. Other mascots within the district are the North Stars, North Grove Hawks, South Prairie Eagles, and West Wildcats.

As the district conducted its elementary boundary study this past year, a theme of unity was something that was continually discussed. It became clear to district administrators and elementary principals that there was an opportunity to bring all of our schools together. Starting next year for the 2023-2024 school year, all seven schools in our district will finally share the same mascot—the Spartan.

"In a school environment, one important centerpiece is the mascot," said Sycamore Schools Superintendent Steve Wilder. "Changing all of our elementary schools to the Spartan mascot is something that has been discussed over the last few years, and we felt that it was the right time to bring our entire district together under one name."

Over the summer, the district will be implementing new signage and building updates to reflect this exciting announcement. When elementary students return to school in the fall—no matter if they attend North, North Grove, South Prairie, West, or Southeast—they will enter the halls as Spartans.

BRINGING THE CLASSROOM OUTDOORS: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AT SYCAMORE HIGH SCHOOL

May 4, 2023

Sycamore High School offers many different science courses: your standard high school sciences like Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, as well as more challenging options like AP Physics, Advanced Chemistry, and Dual Credit Biology in partnership with Kishwaukee Community College. But, the science department at SHS offers another opportunity to students who want to get out into the surrounding community for even more hands-on learning: Environmental Science - Kishwaukee River Watershed, taught by Mr. Scott Horlock.

This class serves as a place for students interested in research, field biology, or environmental science to engage in a unique experience blending traditional class work with research and online studies. Students are able to study current issues in the environmental science and ecology disciplines through the lens of a local watershed from the nearby Kishwaukee River. Students work closely with teachers and other local experts in evaluating the Kishwaukee River Watershed. Topics such as environmental systems and biodiversity, ethics, economics, environmental policy and sustainability, and soils and agriculture form the backbone of the class, which are then applied within the community of Sycamore and DeKalb County.



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SYCAMORE MUSIC DEPARTMENT WINS STATE

April 26, 2023

The Sycamore High School (SHS) Music Department has won the IHSA Class A state music competition for the first time in school history. SHS placed first in the 2023 Illinois High School Association Music Sweepstakes competition for Class A schools. Statewide results were finalized April 26.

Results were calculated from the results of the IHSA Solo/Ensemble festival on March 4, and the IHSA Organizational Festival on April 14-15 (for bands, choirs,

and orchestras). A large number of highly rated student solos and ensembles, coupled with four "superior" scores (two vocal and two instrumental large ensemble scores) at the Organizational festival, led to Sycamore's first-place finish.

"We are extremely proud of our students and staff for finishing in first place in the state of Illinois in this very competitive competition," said Mr. Tim Carlson, Sycamore High School Principal. "This is a testament to their talents and hard work.



We are also very fortunate to have such a supportive music community in Sycamore that assists our students and empowers them to compete at such a high level."



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