At the Core

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS | NOVEMBER 2, 2026

Naperville 203 Community Unit School District

Watch the Full Board Meeting Online

OUR MISSION

The mission of Naperville Community Unit School District 203 is to empower students to develop a **learner's mindset**, demonstrate **adaptability**, **communicate** effectively, **think critically**, and become **global citizens**.



OUR VISION

Building a Passion for Lifelong Learning

GOOD NEWS FROM NAPERVILLE 203

District 203 Receives Recognition



The **U.S. News Best K-8 Rankings** we released last week and we are so proud to see some of our schools ranked at the top of the Illinois list! All of our K-8 schools ranked within the top 7% of the state, with some exceptional rankings for **Meadow Glens at #5, Ellsworth at #7, Highlands at #24** for elementary, and **Kennedy at #15** for middle schools!

In addition, we are excited to announce that **every K-12 school** in District 203 has received the highest "**exemplary**" designation on the **2026 Illinois Report Card**! This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication of our students, staff, families, and community. Thank you for everything you do to support our students as learners and as people.





Board Visit to Construction Site

Board President Charles Cush and **Vice President Kristine Gericke** took a visit to the construction site of our **new Transportation facility** to see the progress on the new garage which is nearing completion.

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KJHS Bike Program



Students at Kennedy have an exciting new exercise opportunity with the "**Jeff Moores Bicycle Initiative**" (named after the late PE teacher Jeff Moores), where they can ride bikes during gym class. KJHS P.E. teachers **Kevin Quaid** and **Eric Nelson** got the idea for the program during the pandemic while trying to give students options on what activities they could do for class or in their free time. They found that a lot of students said they didn't own a bike, didn't know how to ride, or didn't have space to ride the bikes they did own.

Through the generosity of the **Naperville Outdoor Alliance** and **Spokes Bikes**, the program started this year with donated bikes and helmets. Kennedy students are able to ride the bikes on Kennedy's field area, and will soon be taking paths through the neighborhood.

NNHS Student selected for DECA position



Naperville North senior **Lakhi Thotakura** has been selected to serve as an **Illinois DECA** State Officer as the **Vice President of Public Relations.** She is one of only five students in the state to earn a leadership position. Lakhi has been a member of North's DECA club since her freshman year.

DECA is a not-for-profit career and technical student organization that aims to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

NNHS Student Recognized



Naperville North Junior **Isabel (Izzy) Mogilinski** was recognized by the **DuPage Area Occupational Education System Board of Directors** as October's student of the month for her outstanding performance and commitment in the Welding Program at the **Technology Center of DuPage** (TCD).

She was nominated for her dedication as a student who strives to be successful every day. Izzy is driven and has been ahead on all of her class projects, she helps other students with their work, and her positivity and willingness to learn makes her a great role model for her peers.

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Dave Cleveland Fun Run

Elmwood Elementary hosted their annual **Dave Cleveland Fun Run Fundraiser** on October 23rd. Named after long-time Elmwood teacher, Dave Cleveland, who has shared his passion for fitness with students years, the Fun Run was the culmination of the weeks-long fundraising effort to support Elmwood's Home & School. Students and families **raised over $30,000** in the lead up to the event, which had races split up by grade level and a color run for 5th graders.



LJHS Pie a Principal

Lincoln Lancers had fun getting to pie their principals in the face as a celebration for hitting a milestone goal of over $20,000 raised in their Home & School Fall Fundraiser. If they hit their next goal, Assistant Principal Mr. Harper will shave his beard.



LJHS NASA Visit

7th graders at Lincoln got an out of this world opportunity when they met virtually with former NASA astronaut Joseph Tanner, who completed 4 separate space missions between 1994-2006. Students were able to ask him questions about his time as an astronaut, space travel, and the career path her took. Joseph Tanner is also the uncle of one of Lincoln's educators!





PSAC Pink Day for Breast Cancer

Staff at the District Administration Center came together to wear pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Check Out the Good News Presentation

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Illinois Accountability Report

At the November 2, 2026 meeting, leadership presented the 2026 Illinois Accountability Report, celebrating that every K–12 school in District 203 received the state's highest "Exemplary" rating, making District 203 the only district among its benchmark comparison group to achieve 100% exemplary designations. Across all Illinois unit school districts, Naperville 203 ranked in the 99th percentile for overall academic proficiency in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, backed by an assessment participation rate exceeding 99%.

Districtwide IAR proficiency reached 82% in ELA and 71% in Math—25 to 30 percentage points above state averages—while student growth percentiles in both subjects exceeded state averages. Key report highlights also demonstrated an 88% post-secondary enrollment rate, an English Learner exit rate of 22.6% compared to 8% state average, and a chronic absenteeism rate of 13% compared to 24% statewide.

District leadership credits these outcomes to targeted strategic initiatives, including educating multilingual students within their home schools, expanding the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, and embedding attendance and school culture goals directly into building-level School Improvement Plans.

See the Full Presentation Here

Summer School 2027 Updates

For Summer Learning 2027, administrators proposed maintaining a 16-day schedule across four weeks for K–7 and 27 days for high school, with high school registration launching immediately after board approval and general family registration opening in March 2027.

To offset rising expenses for fuel, supplies, and negotiated staff wages, the plan updates select fees—adjusting K–7 tuition to cover the full four-week session (concluding 2026's transitional discount), increasing semester bus fees, and aligning driver's education, science camp, and ACT prep fees with actual costs.

Read the Full Report Here

NAPERVILLE 203 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Charles Cush, President
Kristine Gericke, Vice President
Holly Blastic
Melissa Kelley Black
Joseph Kozminski
Amanda McMillen
Marc Willensky

All Board Meeting notices, agendas, presentations, minutes, video links, and more can be found on our website, under the Board of Education tab.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Business Meeting will take place Monday, November 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.