

D75 SPOTLIGHT

www.d75.org

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Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Kevin Myers, Superintendent, Districts 75 and 120

One of the many rewarding aspects of being an educator is to watch as students begin to embrace their learning and start showing amazing gains.

This fall, small groups of students from Mechanics Grove and Carl Sandburg stood in front of the District 75 School Board and presented what they have been learning. It was impressive.

At the October Board meeting, Mechanics Grove administrators and students presented an overview of the "Leader In Me" program. Four students shared examples of how they demonstrate the seven habits and how those help them succeed in school.

In November, six Carl Sandburg students gave a similar presentation, sharing examples of how they "Live the Tiger C.O.D.E." (creating community, taking ownership, engaging discovery, and exerting effective effort).

Finally, in December, Washington students showed off the foundational skill instructions they've been following in learning how to read.

The presentations were as impressive as the content. The students showed poise, intelligence and confidence. Their success reflected D75's vision that: "All learners in our community A.S.P.I.R.E. to be ready for today and prepared for tomorrow" (A.S.P.I.R.E. — Agile, Self-Assured, Proactive, Information-Seeking, Resilient and Empathetic).

It was wonderful to see such progress from our students. But there is a lot of work being done by the School Board, administration and faculty that leads to student success.



It all starts with the School Board, the seven people who set the policy and direction for the District. Their leadership is the key cornerstone for success in our schools, and it hasn't gone unnoticed. This year, the D75 Board was one of a select number of districts to be recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for effective governance.

The work of our School Board has made it possible for our faculty and staff to create quality academics such as our Dual Language program. In fact, it has become a model for other districts.

Recently, the Illinois State Board of Education invited teachers from across the state to visit District 75 classrooms to see what makes our Dual Language program so successful. Their visit was a well-deserved compliment to our staff and teachers, who innovated such powerful instructional practices for Dual Language in our district. It's nice to have our students, staff and community acknowledged in this way.

School Board News

Board News & Notes

Job Descriptions Update - Board Approved

The Board approved updated job descriptions for an accounting supervisor and middle school principal. Job descriptions are periodically reviewed to ensure accuracy and they are updated as needed.



Visa Hiring Process

In light of the teacher shortage (especially for bilingual educators), District 75 is partnering with the Teachers Council to sponsor H1B work visas for highly qualified international candidates. This allows D75 to recruit experienced international teachers who can match the demographics of D75 students and support the district's linguistic programs. The district currently has interest in hiring one qualified international teacher candidate.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

School Board recognized for effective governance

The District 75 Board of Education was recognized for effective governance by the Illinois Association of School Boards. The School Board will hold the honor for a minimum of two years. The honor means the Board meets the foundational principles of effective governance.





FY2024 budget available on the D75 website

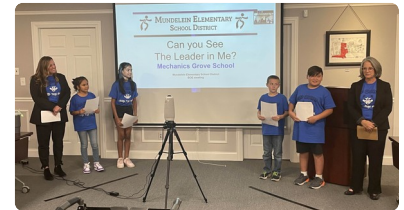
School District 75's Fiscal Year 2024 budget is posted on the D75 website along with a financial review and executive summary.

[VISIT OUR FINANCES PAGE HERE](#)

Students make presentations to School Board

Mechanics Grove Elementary School

In October, administrators and students presented an overview of the "Leader In Me" program. Four students shared examples of how they demonstrate the seven habits and how those help them succeed in school.



Carl Sandburg Middle School

In November, six students presented an overview of the student experience within their school day. Students shared examples of how they Live the Tiger C.O.D.E, which allows them to be successful in school and also shared how their experiences provide them opportunities to develop academically, socially and emotionally.



Washington Early Learning Center

In December, five Washington students and two school administrators gave a presentation titled, "How We Learn to Read." Staff shared examples of how students use decoding strategies to support their literacy fluency in both English and Spanish. Students then worked one-on-one with Board members in a role-reversal exercise. The students taught the Board members using simple reading drills.



CSMS construction to begin in spring

Construction on the addition to Carl Sandburg Middle School, featuring a stage, will begin this spring. Following Spring Break, the main office entrance to CSMS will be closed while the project gets underway. Students and parents will be able to use the MPR entrance (Door 24) on the east side of the building.

News from the D75 Schools

D75 dual language teachers serve as a model for visiting educators

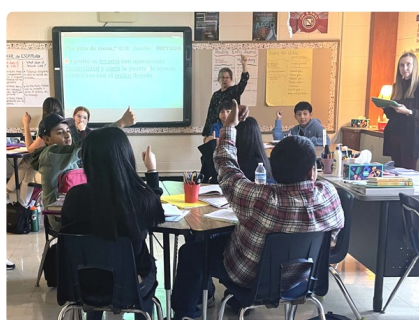
During the past few months, educators from school districts in Lake County and beyond have visited Mundelein schools to learn about best practices for teaching bilingual education. District 75 has become a model dual language district.

In October, D75 hosted teachers and administrators from McHenry and North Chicago and showed them how it teaches bilingualism and biliteracy to students from kindergarten to eighth grade.

Several weeks later, on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, more than a dozen educators from various parts of the state came to watch and learn from District 75 teachers as they taught in their classrooms.

The state-wide visit was set up by the Illinois State Board of Education. The ISBE offers a professional learning cohort called "Literacy Squared" in which bilingual educators learn best practices in instruction for language and literacy development in English and Spanish. In Mundelein, they observed D75 teachers delivering high-impact instruction for language and literacy development.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Books offer lessons in reading, writing and kindness

In a special visit to District 75, Children's author Trudy Ludwig used her book, "The Invisible Boy," to inspire elementary students to be kind, inclusive and accepting. Then she invited middle school students to continue spreading her message by creating their own picture books.

The middle school students who followed through on writing their own books read those books at the elementary schools in November.



"I was planting the seed for this particular school so students would understand how to take their literacy, be good readers and now to become good writers - writers with important messages to

share with younger kids. So they're role models," Ludwig said during her Sept. 18 visit to the schools.

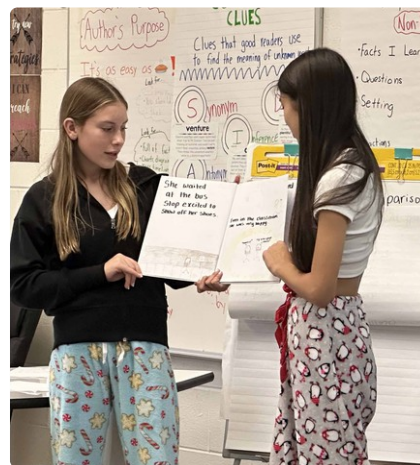
[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Middle school authors read books to younger students

When children's author Trudy Ludwig visited D75 schools in September, she used her books to inspire elementary students to be kind, inclusive and accepting. In November, Carl Sandburg students followed up on her approach by reading books they had written to younger students. It was an opportunity for the older kids not only to become writers, but to be mentors with an important message.

The middle school authors spent the morning at Washington and Mechanics Grove schools and read to elementary students. In some cases, they read to an audience that included their own siblings. At D75, the program helps students build empathy for others while building a community of readers. It's the next level of how books bring us together, said Jill Unger, D75 Director of Teaching and Learning for Preschool – 5.



Lincoln hosts Tri-District Institute Day

Lincoln held its first-ever Tri-District Institute Day in September, a program of team-building for the staff members from Mundelein School District 75, Hawthorn School District 72 and Fremont

School District 79. All three districts share a single preschool for students from three different districts.

Only one classroom is a tri-district classroom, the others are district-specific. But some classroom locations were changed this year to keep group like programs near each other and help create a more collaborative process between districts.



Spanish pen pals from MHS visit MG

A few years ago, when David Martinez Sanchez was a student at Mechanics Grove, he remembers being nervous when high school students visited as part of a Spanish Pen Pal program.

In November, the Mundelein High School sophomore was back at MG, this time to visit his fifth-grade pen pal. He was one of more than 100 MHS Spanish Heritage students who visited MG third- and fifth-graders, half in the morning and half in an afternoon session.

The program is designed to help young dual language students at MG by connecting them with high school students whose first language is also Spanish. The MHS students sent postcards to their younger counterparts in September, and the MG students responded by sending postcards of their own to the older kids. The program will be repeated in February with another postcard exchange, so the students will be able to develop an ongoing relationship.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Important Dates Jan-March 2024

- School resumes - Tuesday, Jan. 9
- No School - Monday, Jan. 15
- MHS Class of 2028 Night (for incoming freshmen and families) - Thursday, Jan. 18
- Lincoln & Washington parent/teacher conferences - Tuesday, Feb. 6
- Mechanics Grove parent/teacher conferences - Wednesday, Feb. 7
- Carl Sandburg parent/teacher conferences - Thursday, Feb. 8
- Half Day (No School at Lincoln) - Thursday, Feb. 15
- No School - Friday, Feb. 16
- No School - Monday, Feb. 19
- Half Day (No School at Lincoln) - Friday, March 15
- SPRING BREAK - Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29
- School resumes - Monday, April 1



Registration Dates

- District 75 registration opens for 2024-25 school year - Thursday, Feb. 1
- Kindergarten Roundup - Wednesday, Feb. 7 (8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- Incoming 9th grade registration Help Night - Thursday, Feb. 15, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Incoming 9th grade registration Help Night - Tuesday, Feb. 20, 5-7 p.m.
- Preschool Screenings for Lincoln Early Learning Center - Fridays, Feb. 16 and April 19

Students to perform Disney's The Descendants in February

The Carl Sandburg Choir performed a musical preview of its February musical, Descendants. The show will be performed Feb. 1-4 on the Lincoln School stage.



Attendance Matters!



Attendance Philosophy: Regular attendance is required and necessary to develop the academic and intrapersonal skills needed for success in school. Student attendance is a responsibility shared by all school personnel and parents/guardians. The expectation to attend class is communicated to each student.



Chronic Absences

- Absent from school 9 or more days.
- Missing only 1 day a month is the same as missing 9 days in a school year.

Warning Sign

- Absent from school 5-8 days.
- Look out for attendance reminder emails and phone calls from the school.

Good Attendance

- Absent from school 4 days or fewer.
- The more students are here, the more successful they become!

Valid Excuses for Absences

- Illness (including mental health).
- Observance of Religious Holiday.
- Death in the family.
- Family emergency.
- Other approved situations

Home Conversations

- How many days are 'too many' days to miss in a school year?
- Have you talked to your student(s) about the importance of being in school, on-time & engaged in learning?
- Have you planned out the days your student(s) may miss this year?

Did You Know?!

Illinois Law: For students the age of sixteen and under, attendance is required by state law, which states that a child be present for five clock hours of instruction to be given a credit for a full school day of attendance. Please note, parents and guardians should closely monitor their student(s) attendance patterns since habitual attendance violations could result in legal action.



Peter Gill

Director of Public Relations