

DISTRICT 75 UPDATE

JUNE 2023



SPOTLIGHT

A young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sitting on a green lawn. She is holding an open book and looking down at it. The background is a blurred green field with trees.

SUMMER LEARNING

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Superintendent's Message



Kevin Myers, PhD
Superintendent
Districts 75 / 120

Even as we celebrate our accomplishments of the past school year, we realize we must continue working to improve. Today's work is expected to result in tomorrow's achievements, as long as we follow our plan. That's what makes our Strategic Plan so important.

In May, the District 75 Board of Education adopted a list of action steps to match its values and goals for the next three years. The three-year plan outlines plans in four categories: Student Achievement, Equity, Partnership and Fiscal Responsibility.

Our values for student achievement include placing students' needs first, sustaining high expectations for all and focusing on the future. The goals in this category include continually improving literacy and math scores and revising our curriculum to foster high-level student achievement. Professional development and staff training will be an important part of reaching those goals as will our continued support of the Dual Language Program.

To celebrate our diversity and promote equity, we will increase the number of school-community partnerships, plan more events and create opportunities for families to network. The idea is to connect with our families and educate parents on our literacy and academic programs.

The Partnership goal is part of our shared-services model with Mundelein High School District 120. Maintaining a collaborative culture with our district partners is important to us. We'll continue to work with neighboring school districts that also feed into District 120 so we can build programs supporting the needs of all students in the community.

Lastly, we want to maintain our fiscal stability while making sure our facilities support our students' needs well into the future.

All of these goals together will help create a future filled with staff and student successes. It will take time, patience and lots of hard work, but we're prepared for it. We also look forward to celebrating those achievements that will follow.



How I ~~spent my~~ summer break

How I can learn on my summer break

It's a question that's commonly asked when school starts back in the fall: "What did you do on your summer vacation?"

But maybe the question to children should be: "What did you learn this summer?" It's an important question because if they stop learning, children could actually experience learning loss over the long break, educators say. The "summer slide" is real, according to educational research.

The best way to maintain the skills and knowledge learned over the past year is for children to be active and put their brains to work, District 75 educators said.

"When students and adults continue reading and learning throughout the summer, it makes the beginning of the next school year so much easier."

Tanya Fergus,
Mechanics Grove Principal

"By keeping their mind active in the summer, their brains stay engaged and continue to grow and develop outside of the classroom," said Sarah Cacciatore, District 75 Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning.

It's not as difficult as it might seem. Make learning fun by incorporating it into summer activities. If you're traveling, play talking games such as finding things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. If you're preparing for a big family picnic, let your children participate in preparing the meals. Cooking requires math, science and reading skills.

If the children are looking for something different to do, let them design their dream fort with blankets and other



household items. They can incorporate math by measuring out the size of the blankets and practice art skills to decorate their fort.

Older kids can keep math skills sharp by figuring out their own batting averages in baseball or figure out how many miles per hour they rode on their bike.

One of the most obvious, and important things children can do is read. Parents can help, not only by providing books, but by reading to their kids, or along with them.

continued on next page

Summer break (con't)

"It is crucial to continue reading and learning over the summer for so many reasons. This is for students and adults," said Mechanics Grove Principal Tanya Fergus. "When students and adults continue reading and learning throughout the summer, it makes the beginning of the next school year so much easier."

Reading is important, of course. But it's just the starting point. There are so many other ways children can learn, and June, July and August provide the perfect opportunity for students to learn something they are passionate about. There are fewer academic requirements, and they typically have more down time to try something new, Cacciatore said.

SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS FROM: Mark Pilut, Carl Sandburg Principal

1. Read your summer reading book. Every CSMS student received a text of their choice. If you really want to maintain your reading skills, read three books off the [CSMS Tiger Summer Reading List](#). Also, complete a [choice board activity](#).
2. Become a summer chef. Learn to cook or bake. Cooking requires math, science and reading skills. Plus, you get to eat what you learn to make. Or, you could run a bake sale and raise money for a community program to support a cause that positively impacts Mundelein - that's Living the Code!
3. Start a garden or help out at a community garden. Gardening teaches responsibility through caring for the seeds and plants. It helps us understand and interact with our local environment as we watch the weather and learn about soil content. Gardening is a physical activity and gets us outside.
4. Finally, if you plant fruits or vegetables, you can eat what you grow. Plant what you like and enjoy seeing (and perhaps tasting) the fruits of your labor!



SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS FROM: Sarah Cacciatore, Assistant Superintendent

1. Cook a meal as a family and see if you can modify the proportions of ingredients so that it still tastes great but creates enough for a larger group or less number of servings.
2. Make phone calls to family members and practice having conversations using complete sentences and offering follow-up questions. Ask your relatives about their day or their plans and goals to accomplish this summer.
3. Take a walk and gather different types of leaves to compare. Or collect different objects and see how many different ways to organize the collection of items.



"Summer allows them time and flexibility to really focus on learning new skills, improve on something they are excited about or explore topics they can't squeeze in during the school year," she said.

Because summer is a break from the formal school process, we just need to be more intentional about learning, said Carl Sandburg Middle School Principal Mark Pilut.

"We don't have to go to math in the third period or English during the eighth period. We can read and learn at our schedule; the trick is to make sure we do," he said. "Exploring our world through playing outside, going to the pool, library or a summer camp engages our imagination."

For the younger students who haven't yet learned to read, just talking can be important. Washington Early Learning Center Principal Stephanie Drake said it's the foundation for all reading and writing.

"They say if you can't say it, you can't read it and if you can't read it, you can't write it. So spend the summer talking," Drake said.

continued on next page

MG students create, visit Volume Zoo

Mechanics Grove fifth-graders created an animal kingdom of their own - out of cardboard. During the MG Volume Zoo project, students measured and calculated the volume of individual boxes and found the combined total of their animal. They also decorated and named their animals and presented fun facts about each. The students presented their creatures to third graders once they were completed.



Summer break (con't)

If they do that, they'll prepare themselves for the school year ahead and the questions that are sure to come, such as what they did on their summer break.

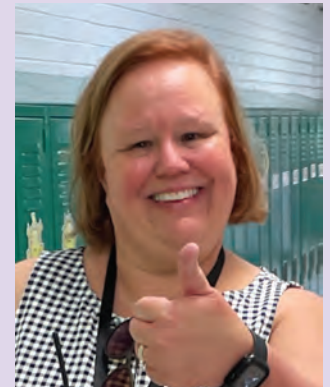
SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS FROM: Tanya Fergus, MG Principal

1. Have fun designing your dream fort. Use measurements and blankets and fun decorations to make your dream for inside or outside.
2. Use a device or camera to take amazing pictures. Find opportunities to observe objects in the background and make them look larger than life!
3. Read a book in a different genre than usual. Read it in your cool new fort!



SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS FROM: Stephanie Drake, Washington Principal

1. Make up stories by having one person start and everyone takes a turn adding on. It's usually really funny!
2. While in the car, play talking games of finding things that begin with each letter of the alphabet or hunt for the alphabet on signs.
3. Play 20 questions. Ask family members about their favorite game then play it! (Mrs. Drake and her neighborhood friends loved playing Kick the Can.)
4. Before bed every night, sequence your day into a story. Maybe draw a picture of your favorite part and keep your pictures for a wordless picture book. Talk....hard to tell where your story will go!



Sixth grade class names police dog

Thanks to a group of sixth graders at Carl Sandburg Middle School, the Mundelein Police Department's new comfort dog now has a name: Millie.

The students in Brandi Gigiano's class were the winners in a contest to name the eight-week-old puppy. They selected Millie because it means "strength."

The winning entry was chosen out of more than 70 entries from classes from each of District 75's four schools. Millie's handler, Stephanie Escobar, said the puppy began her new role as a police comfort dog on Monday. Besides visiting with the puppy, the class received a pizza party, compliments of the Mundelein Police Department.



Good nutrition doesn't end at school

A child's need for good nutrition doesn't end when the school year ends.

The Find Food IL Community Food Map is an excellent tool for individuals to find places offering free food or meals, school and Summer Meal programs, and grocery stores and farmers markets accepting SNAP/Link, WIC, and senior vouchers.

Mundelein Elementary School District 75 is partnering with the University of Illinois Extension to help families identify what is available in their community more easily. See [our website](#) for information.



ACCESS Exam

The CSMS Multilingual team was so proud to celebrate these six students passing the ACCESS exam. Congratulations to these students (L-R): Alan Rodriguez, Brendon Park, Perla Gabriel Barrientos, Lizeth Pacheco, Heydee Jarillo and Alexander Ramirez.



Planting a tree; learning a lesson

Arbor Day isn't only about planting trees, but learning about the importance of trees to our environment. Washington students did both - they participated in an essay and poster contest to demonstrate what they learned about trees in school and they helped plant a tree, thanks to the Mundelein Public Works and Engineering Department.



The writing and art contest was done in partnership with the Village of Mundelein. Mayor Steve Lentz told second graders the importance of planting trees and the impact on the environment and Mundelein arborist Adam Schmidt answered questions about trees.

Students Mackenzie Calloway, Jayden Gonzalez-Meza,

Teagan Ossey, Ariana Rodriguez and Kayla Gomez Alvarez won the Poems and Writings contest. Students Jossie Nava, Clea Graves, Aricela Rodriguez, Noah Lee, Ricky Haywood and Leo Katznelson were winners of the tree drawing contest.



CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL



Izic Miller
800M & 1600M



Izic Miller
High Jump



Erick Cordova
800M & 1600M



**Brandon, Aidan, Henry, Erick,
& Jayden**
4X400

STATEBOUND 2023

Congratulations to our six athletes from Saturday's Sectional who advanced to State competition this year. Izic Miller competed in the high jump and the 1,600M and 800M; Erick Cordova competed in the 800M and the 1,600M; Brandon Newell, Aidan Sweet, Henry Molozai, Erick Cordova and Jayden Enkhbayer all competed in the 4X400 Relay.

Don't forget to register!

In order to register your student in District 75, you will need to complete the online registration information, found at www.d75.org/about-d75/registration/.

Transportation information, free and reduced lunch applications and financial assistance information is provided on the D75 registration website.

New families are asked to provide: A copy of the student's certified birth certificate and two proofs of residency

within the district. These can be either a lease, mortgage statement or current real estate tax bill and either a utility bill, homeowner's insurance policy or vehicle insurance policy. Kindergarten students need a vision exam, physical and dental exam; sixth-graders need a physical and dental exam; second graders need a dental exam.

For in-person assistance, visit us at 470 E. Lake Street. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Delozier at 847-949-2700, ext. 2014 or email pdelozier@d75.org.

LEADERSHIP DAY AT MECHANICS GROVE



Students host local leaders

We're so proud of our amazing MG students for hosting dozens of community leaders Leadership Day. Their guests visited classrooms and talked to the students about how they use leadership skills in their daily lives. We finished the event with an assembly that featured student speakers and our MG Band and Choir. Thanks to all the community leaders who participated.

Students awarded for leadership



Three Mechanics Grove third-graders received the 2023 Dr. Miller Leadership Award during this year's Leadership Day. Congratulations to Mae Heikes, fourth-grader Maybeline Polonsky and fifth-grader Olivia Max-Boyle. Their names are now on plaques at the front of the school.

Congratulations to MG students Sriram and Kimberly for being awarded the Illinois Principal Association Student Leadership Award.



WASHINGTON EARLY LEARNING CENTER



CLAP-OUT!

We're proud of our second graders and we will certainly miss them next year as they move up to third grade at Mechanics Grove. They deserved the celebration during our annual Clap-Out. Congratulations and good luck at Mechanics Grove next year.



Washington School hosts Art Night



Parents and students enjoyed both viewing student artwork and helping to create more art during Washington School's Art Night on May 4.



EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION

Congratulations, Carl Sandburg Class of 2023!



FAREWELL... AND THANKS!

MG teacher, Board President both retire

Martha Ochoa was honored during the District 75 Staff Recognition program on May 31 upon her retirement.

Ochoa, a bilingual interventionist at Mechanics Grove, once experienced what some of her students are going through. When she was just 8, she moved to the U.S. from Mexico. But she struggled in her elementary years due to language barriers. She didn't take any bilingual classes until she got to Mundelein High School where she graduated in 1983.

Eventually Martha took a job at MHS where she eventually began assisting students with language difficulties. Soon after, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Illinois State University. Later she earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from



Concordia University in Chicago.

She worked in Round Lake as a bilingual kindergarten teacher before coming to Mechanics Grove to serve as a bilingual interventionist for third, fourth and fifth-graders.



"My accomplishments at District 75 have been rewarding, being able to work with students that need my help," she said. "I've created great lifetime friendships and helped students achieve their goals as students and young persons."

**Learn more about your
District 75 Board of Education**

Visit the [D75 website](#) to find out Board News, meeting dates, notices and agendas and more.



Holly leaves Board after 14 years

The Board of Education and Superintendent Kevin Myers presented outgoing Board President Kevin Holly with a plaque at the May 23 School Board meeting and thanked him for his 14 years of service to District 75.

Holly led the Board through various changes and improvements including starting the dual language program, the start of one-to-one devices and a shared services agreement with High School District 120.

WELCOME TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 75!

D75 welcomes new principal at Lincoln

Katie O'Brien has been named the new principal for Lincoln Early Learning Center beginning July 1.

O'Brien joins Lincoln after most recently serving as a Teacher on Special Assignment at District 46 in Grayslake. In that role, she led staff development and the mentoring of new staff members. She previously served as an instructional coach and reading specialist at District 46.

O'Brien was a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at Lake Bluff School District 65 after starting her professional career as a first-grade and second-grade teacher at Woodland School District 50.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the principal of Lincoln Early Learning Center," O'Brien said. "I look forward to leading alongside the staff as they set the foundation for our youngest students to become lifelong learners. I'm excited to meet more of the staff and families in the upcoming months to build a collaborative culture together."

She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Loras College before earning master's degrees in educational leadership and literacy education from Northeastern Illinois University.

Besides serving preschool and early childhood students in

District 75, Lincoln Early Learning Center also serves students from Hawthorn School District 73 and Fremont School District 79.



Assistant principal to fill role at Washington

Sunny Morley will start this summer as a full-time assistant principal at Washington. She started her career as a second and fourth grade teacher and for the last five years she served as an assistant principal at Big Hollow School District 38.

Morley's first experience in education came as a teenager when she worked at a summer camp and made the decision to work toward a career in education.



"I'm excited to be going back to working with students in kindergarten to second grade which is where I'm meant to be," she said.

Morley earned her Bachelor's Degree and teaching certificate from Eastern Illinois University and her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Aurora University. She is currently working on her doctorate through Concordia University in River Forest.

The assistant principal is a new full-time position. In April, the School Board approved the addition of a third assistant principal for District 75, allowing for an AP at each of D75's K-8 schools. Washington and Mechanics Grove schools had previously shared an AP Louise Bertaud. For the next school year, Bertaud will work primarily at Mechanics Grove.

The move creates a more consistent role for administrators at those two schools and allows for a stronger emphasis on instructional leadership and student support services at the building level at Washington, Mechanics Grove and Carl Sandburg schools.



Spring 2022-23 in pictures

