

CommunityConnections

Keeping stakeholders informed about **Community Consolidated School District 93**

Spring 2024

Dear Community Member,



The 2023-24 school year has come to a close for our 3,350 preschool, elementary and middle school students, and our graduated 8th graders are now preparing to bring the skills they have acquired from their education with Community Consolidated School District 93 (CCSD93) to high school. As we head into summer, please take a moment to

review the important updates from CCSD93 included within this newsletter.

Guided Goal Setting Helps CCSD93 Students Outperform Growth Expectations

Goal setting helps students achieve more. For this reason, in recent school years our teachers have placed a great emphasis on working individually with students to develop, set and track academic goals. By being active participants in this process, students become more aware of opportunities for improvement and take more ownership and responsibility for their own learning. With the onset of the CCSD93's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan this year, we have continued to prioritize student goal setting in order to meet our primary strategic priority: Student Success.

One reliable and straightforward metric for measuring and tracking educational progress is iReady, which is an adaptive assessment that is given in the areas of math and reading that adjusts its questions to suit a student's needs. In the fall, each CCSD93 student takes an iReady diagnostic test, and their results are combined with nationally normed data to determine what their typical expected growth would be by the spring. This is expressed as a number. As a student subsequently engages with iReady throughout the school year, they can track their progress toward their typical expected growth, seeing in real time whether they are lagging behind, meeting or exceeding expectations.

Our educators have been working with students throughout the school year to leverage the iReady system for personal goal setting. Students are informed what their expected iReady growth number is. They then meet with teachers to

understand opportunities for academic growth and set goals and strategies for improvement, like recognizing and avoiding distractions to increase focus and re-reading questions to ensure understanding. Students then work to achieve their goals, and ultimately strive to beat their expected growth number.

The district partners ECRA, a student achievement data analyst, to measure our students' personal projected growth based on their own past educational performance. ECRA's statistical models are designed in such a way as to expect 84% of students to meet or outperform their targets for growth, and CCSD93's goal is to have greater than 84% of students meeting or exceeding their growth targets.

I am extremely pleased to share that the analysis of 2023-24 end-of-year spring test results shows that:

- 89% of our students are meeting or outperforming their personal math growth projections, 5% more than expected by statistical growth models.
- 86% of our students are meeting or outperforming their personal reading growth projections, 2% more than expected by statistical growth models.

While iReady is not the only way CCSD93 measures academic progress -- our amazing teachers use a vast number of classroom assessments and observations in addition to iReady to track growth -- it is a simple and effective method that also helps students recognize and celebrate the fruits of their learning. These results are due to the hard work and dedication of our educators, the commitment of our students, and the support of their families and our community.

Boundary Update, Honoring Staff Excellence, Student Success & More

In the following pages, please find additional important information about an update to CCSD93's boundaries for the 2024-25 school year, CCSD93 staff members honored for excellence with the Distinguished Educator Award, great examples of teaching and learning in CCSD93 and more.

Sincerely,

David H. Hill
David H. Hill, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

CCSD93 Student Goal Setting in Action!



This graphic is posted in every CCSD93 classroom and serves as a daily reminder to students about goal setting.



ccsd93.com/goalsetting



Scan or log on for a video of Elsie Johnson Elementary School students describing how goal setting helps them strive for improvement.

Five CCSD93 Staff Members Recognized for Outstanding Efforts!

Each year, CCSD93 staff members are invited to nominate peers for the Distinguished Educator Award, which requires thorough evidence of how the nominee demonstrates tremendous consideration for children and excellence in fulfillment of duties, has a positive effect on the school environment, inspires others, and goes above and beyond what is expected of their role.

In the 2023-24 school year, CCSD93 received dozens of nominations. These five individuals were determined to meet the highest levels of the award's criteria, being named CCSD93's 2023-24 Distinguished Educators.

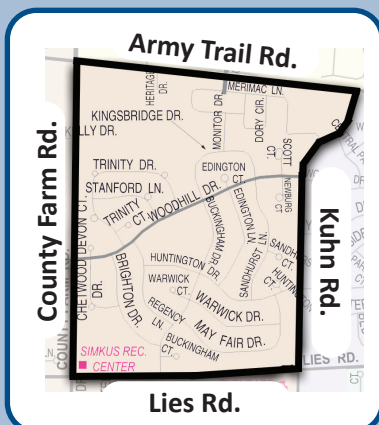
- **Early Childhood Center special education paraprofessional Mrs. Gia Carr's recognition stems from her unwavering dedication to meeting the diverse needs of CCSD93's youngest learners.** Her warm demeanor fosters a welcoming environment, where she builds genuine connections with students, staff and parents. Known for her proactive approach, Mrs. Carr ensures classroom readiness and addresses unique student needs with grace and effectiveness. She goes above and beyond by providing personalized support and encouragement, fostering a positive classroom climate and embodying a spirit of continuous growth and collaboration.
- **Stratford Middle School EL/bilingual resource teacher Mrs. Melissa De La Paz earned the award for her unparalleled commitment to fostering an exceptional learning environment.** Through her expertise, compassion and dedication, she tailors interactive strategies to diverse learning styles, ensuring all students thrive. As an advocate for English learners, she cultivates inclusivity and cultural appreciation, supporting students academically, socially and emotionally. Mrs. De La Paz's collaborative approach, mentorship and community outreach exemplify her dedication to student success and well-being.
- **Roy DeShane Principal Mrs. Amy Gray was recognized for her exceptional leadership, which shines through her genuine care for every member of the school community.** She fosters inclusivity and collaboration, ensuring everyone feels respected and appreciated. Through her professionalism and dedication, she leads by example, supporting staff development and addressing challenges with empathy and kindness. Mrs. Gray prioritizes students' well-being, creating a positive and supportive environment where everyone feels empowered to succeed. Her impact on the school culture is profound, inspiring others to excel and contribute to its success.



- **Elsie Johnson physical development teacher Mr. Todd Levy stands out as an exceptional educator, deeply committed to his students' learning and well-being.** He tailors his teaching methods to cater to diverse needs, ensuring that all students are provided the best opportunities to succeed, including those with disabilities. Beyond the classroom, he actively contributes to the school community, fostering engagement and cooperation. Mr. Levy's dedication to inclusive practices, innovative teaching and collaborative approach exemplify excellence in physical education. His impact extends beyond his classroom, serving as a model for educators everywhere.
- **Mrs. Erin Luedemann, CCSD93's middle school inclusion facilitator, has led transformative efforts in special education.** Her dedication to aligning Student Support Teams, providing professional development and advocating for inclusive practices has enhanced services for students. Mrs. Luedemann's role extends to bridging transitions, planning individualized instruction and mentoring colleagues. Her commitment to student success and continuous improvement has earned her the esteemed recognition as a Distinguished Educator.

Congratulations to Mrs. Carr, Mrs. De La Paz, Mrs. Gray, Mr. Levy and Mrs. Luedemann! Find out more about each and watch a video of them being surprised with their awards at www.ccsd93.com/Distinguished!

Boundary Update to Take Effect in 2024-25



In March, CCSD93's Board of Education approved an update to its school boundaries starting in the 2024-25 school year. As a result of the approved boundary update, students who live in homes located within the area west of Kuhn Road, north of Lies Road, east of County Farm Road and south of Army Trail Road will attend Heritage Lakes Elementary School and Jay Stream Middle School, instead of Cloverdale Elementary School and Stratford Middle School.

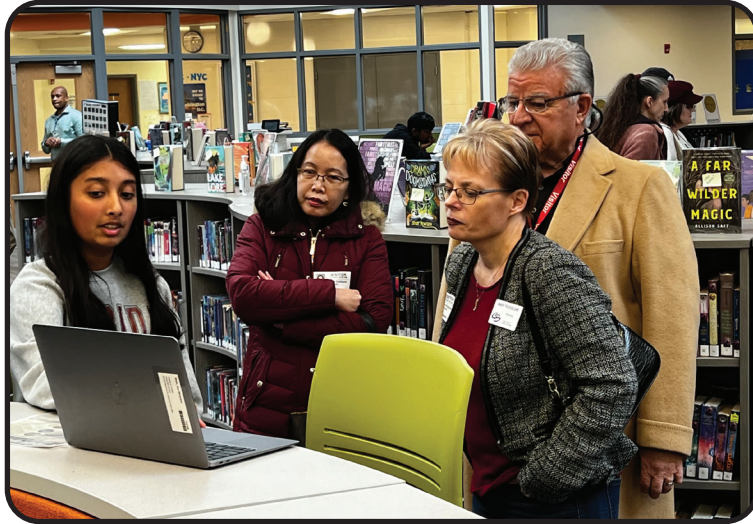
The update was recommended by a Superintendent's Boundary Committee that was charged with examining school attendance boundaries in an effort to address inequities across CCSD93's schools in regards to class sizes, unoccupied classrooms and student access to specialists. The committee's membership included parents from each CCSD93 elementary and middle school as well as school and district administrators and School Board members. For complete details about the committee's work and the resulting boundary update, visit www.ccsd93.com/bc.

Unique CCSD93 Lessons, Clubs & Programs Lead to Success

CCSD93's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan calls upon the district to inspire each student to grow academically, socially and emotionally through evidence-based practices in order to meet its first strategic priority: Student Success. This is accomplished through the the strategic objectives of maximizing the academic growth of each student to ensure mastery of essential skills and content, supporting student social and emotional well-being to enhance learning, providing all students a variety of pathways to identify and explore their passion and purpose, empowering students to take ownership of their learning and promoting inclusiveness and appreciation of diverse perspectives.

Throughout the hundreds of classrooms across CCSD93's nine buildings, there are thousands of terrific instances during the school year of lessons, programs, clubs and other unique learning experiences that meet one or more of these objectives and help contribute to Student Success. Below are some great examples from this school year. To see even more, follow CCSD93's social media accounts, which are highlighted on the last page of this newsletter. For more on CCSD93's Strategic Plan, visit www.ccsd93.com/StrategicPlan.

Jay Stream Students Dive Deep Into Important Past & Future Changes



For weeks, 8th grade students in Jay Stream Middle School's advanced humanities worked on projects that called for them to delve deeply into the most important change they'd like to see in America in the next 20 years, or the most important change of the past 20 years. They performed thorough research, interviewed experts and analyzed multiple perspectives in order to ultimately create a video documentary and corresponding infographic on their chosen issue. They then showed off their work to parents, CCSD93 staff members and local dignitaries, who listened and asked probing questions. Among the topics addressed were the mental health effects of social media on teens, the continued emergence of artificial intelligence, the rising costs of healthcare, legacy college admissions, and the wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Western Trails News & Broadcast Clubs Keep School Informed



At Western Trails Elementary School, two unique clubs call upon students to learn by doing while combining to keep students and staff up to date with important happenings impacting the school community. The intrepid reporters of the News Club work to write scripts covering stories ranging from school events to staff interviews to student opinions and more. Then the on-air talent of the Broadcast Club brings the words to life by practicing and recording their scripts either on location throughout the school or at the news desk in front of green screens. Through their collective work, the clubs produce a monthly Wildcat News video that all students and staff members watch to find out all the latest.

STEAM Camp Provides Hands-On Summer Learning

This summer, CCSD93 will offer incoming 2nd through 8th grade students the opportunity to participate in Summer STEAM Camp. During the innovative weeklong offering, attendees will engage with immersive science, technology, engineering, arts and math activities taught by CCSD93 teachers.

It's one of the many ways CCSD93 is seeking to provide students with pathways to identify and explore their passion and purpose.

Science
Technology
Engineering
Arts
Math

CCSD93 Summer STEAM Camp

**June 24-28, 2024 • 8:30-11:30 a.m.
at Jay Stream Middle School**



Contact Us

Stakeholder input is a priority of CCSD93. Please contact us with any thoughts, questions, or concerns that you may have about items within this newsletter or anything else related to CCSD93.

General Email: reply@ccsd93.com

School Board Email: board@ccsd93.com

Online: www.ccsd93.com/Contact

Phone: 630-893-9393

Write/Visit: District Office, 230 Covington Drive,
Bloomington, IL 60108

CCSD93's District Office is open
weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.!

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Find out about important programs, services & more with CCSD93's podcast, **Talk D93**. To listen, visit www.ccsd93.com/TalkD93 or search "Talk D93" where you find your podcasts.



View **Board of Education** info & meeting dates at www.ccsd93.com/Board.



Visit www.ccsd93.com/Calendar for a complete calendar of CCSD93 events.

Follow CCSD93!



CCSD93



SchoolDistrict93

SUMMER GRAB-&-GO MEAL PICKUP

Mondays & Wednesdays
June 3 - July 31
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Free for all CCSD93 students

Monday pickup includes lunches for
Monday & Tuesday

Wednesday pickup includes lunches for
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

**Available at Western Trails Elementary School
& Quail Run Court in Carol Stream**

No pickups on June 19 or July 3.
Visit www.ccsd93.com/summermeals for more.

CCSD93 IS HIRING!

We're always looking for
dedicated and talented
individuals to join our team!

Current Openings:

School Nurses - \$34.25/hr

Lunchroom Supervisors - \$17.05/hr
No experience necessary!

Paraprofessionals - \$19.00/hr
No experience necessary!

Substitute Teachers - \$150/day
No experience necessary!

Bus Drivers - \$23.50/hr + sign on bonus
*No experience necessary! Paid training.
Employed through FirstStudent.*

To apply for these
positions and more, visit
www.ccsd93.com/Jobs!

