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New System in Place to Support Teacher Instruction

Teaching is an extremely complex endeavor. From reaching all students, to implementing curriculum, to managing student behavior, to preparing students for high stakes tests, there is important work going on in District 34 classrooms each day.

As former NASA aerospace engineer and current teacher Ryan Fuller recently wrote in a blog: “When I solved engineering problems, I had to use my brain. When I solve teaching problems, I use my entire being—everything I have.”

In order to support the highly involved work of teaching, District 34 will begin implementing a new support system designed to help teachers. Ultimately, this will assist teachers as they work to help students achieve at the levels needed in order to be prepared for high school, college, and career.

Dubbed the Learning Process Support System (LPSS), the new structure is designed to support teachers in the core

component of the student learning process – instruction.

“We have worked collaboratively with teacher leaders to develop this system where teachers are provided with the support they deserve to ensure student success,” Superintendent Dr. Michael Nicholson says.

Many Resources Available to Assist Teachers

Currently, teachers meet in job-alike groups on a regular basis to discuss instructional strategies. The LPSS provides administrator support to teams in their collaborative work and provides resources to advance the pursuits of the team. Additionally, teams also will have access to supporting documents and resources. These resources will help to provide consistent communication and instructional support for all certified staff.

“We are especially proud that this new system design provides the opportunity for teachers to identify the type of support that will best assist the team and its needs,” Dr. Nicholson says. “The best professional development is based upon need and is delivered in a timely manner from those who are aware of the nuances of the system. That is exactly what we are providing through the LPSS.”

The new system will continue to be updated and revised as teachers and administrators work together to refine the process.

“We believe this will be one of the most important initiatives we have implemented as we look to impact student learning and growth,” Nicholson says.



Teacher supports in the area of instruction are now available that will benefit students.

Mike Nicholson, Superintendent, is the contact for this story. He can be reached at mnicholson@glenview34.org or 847-998-5005.

Students Achieving at High Levels

There are many ways to measure student achievement and growth. Among those are national and state tests, both of which show District 34 students are performing very well when compared with their peers.

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measure of Academic Progress is an adaptive computerized exam that helps to pinpoint the knowledge a student has in a particular curricular area. Based upon the grade level, it is given in math, reading and/or language usage starting in first grade.

On the NWEA exams in reading, math, and language usage, District 34 students met or exceeded national high performing norms on all 19 measures.

The district goes beyond the national high performing norms to set its stretch goals for the NWEA measures. Even with goals that are significantly higher than the high performing national norms, District 34 students met those elevated targets on 18 of the 19 measures.

“To consistently reach targets that are much higher than the high performing national norms is a tribute to the teachers, administrators and family support found in District 34,” Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Beth Tsoumas says.

Students Outpace State Peers

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) is a paper and pencil test given to 3rd through 8th grade students in reading and math. It is also given to 4th and 7th grade students in science. The same grade level exam is given to all students throughout the state.

Several changes were made to the ISAT this year including an increase in the scores needed to meet and exceed state standards in order to better align

with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The goal of the CCSS is to help determine the readiness of a student for college and career demands.

On the most recent ISAT assessments, 82% of District 34 students either met or exceeded state standards. Under the old cut score levels, 94% of students would have met or exceeded state standards. At the state level, 59% of students either met or exceeded state standards with the new cut scores.

Reports on both exams are available on the district website at www.glenview34.org.

Beth Tsoumas, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, is the contact for this story. She can be reached at etsoumas@glenview34.org or 847-998-5006.

Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

Parents of children who will be kindergartners this fall, along with parents of first and second grade students who will be new to the District in 2014–15, should enroll their child on February 20.

Registration will take place at Henking, Lyon and Westbrook schools for District 34’s half-day program.

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2014 to be eligible for kindergarten. Exceptions are not made to this policy.

Registration is a parent-only event. At Henking and Lyon, registration will be from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. At Westbrook, registration runs from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to contact their home school to receive the registration packet and important information in advance of the event. Please know that book and PTA fees will be collected at the time of registration.



Henking School	998-5035	4:30–7:00 PM
Lyon School	998-5045	4:30–7:00 PM
Westbrook School	998-5055	4:00–7:00 PM

Board Approves Expected 2.2% Tax Levy Increase

Following discussions at both the October and November meetings, and a public hearing on the matter, the District 34 Board of Education approved the 2013 tax levy in December.

Each year the levy is subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), otherwise known as the “tax cap.” This law restricts the growth in property tax revenue to the lesser of 5% or the rate of inflation (CPI).

Approved bond and interest levies, along with new property, are exempt from the tax cap. While the total value of new property is not currently known, all school districts by law must file the levy request prior to December 31, 2013.

Therefore, it is common practice for school district’s to approve a “balloon” levy. This means the Board will approve a levy that is larger than the expected levy, however only the levy amount allowed by law will actually be created. This practice is in place for school districts to avoid permanently losing revenue from new property by underestimating the levy.

Due to the uncertainty around the amount of new property, the Board approved the balloon levy amount of

a 3.6% increase over the 2012 tax levy extension.

The 2013 levy is estimated to be a 2.2% increase over the prior year. That would mean the local tax revenue would be \$45.7 million and the owner of a home valued at \$500,000 will likely pay an additional \$62 in property taxes.

Mary Werling, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, is the contact for this story. She can be reached at mwerling@glenview34.org or 847-998-5008.



FINANCE COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS

The Citizen’s Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) is a group of financial experts who live in District 34 that

assist the Board as it works through financial questions.

The district is currently seeking volunteers with a financial background who are interested in serving on CFAC. Anyone interested should send a resume and statement of interest to Superintendent Dr. Michael Nicholson at mnicholson@glenview34.org or via mail at 1401 Greenwood Road, Glenview, IL 60026 prior to January 22.

COMMUNITY SURVEY SHOWS HIGH SATISFACTION

A recent survey shows community member satisfaction in a number of key areas.

Survey respondents rate District 34 schools highly with 52% calling the schools excellent and 40% calling them good. When asked about the

quality of schools over the past two years, most survey respondents (59%) indicate the quality has stayed the same while 32% share the quality has improved.

Results of the survey are available on the district website at www.glenview34.org.

BUDGET GUIDE AVAILABLE



The District 34 “Budget Guide for the Community” is available to community members who want to learn more about the district’s finances and budget process.

The booklet can either be viewed at www.glenview34.org or by calling Melanie Walstrom at 847-998-5000 for a copy.

SUMMER SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS AROUND THE CORNER

District 34 will again offer both reinforcement and enrichment summer school classes this summer. Enrichment classes

are available to any student living in the District 34 attendance boundaries, including students enrolled in private or parochial schools.

In the past, enrichment courses have included rock climbing, fishing, photography, scrapbooking, and chess. A course catalog and sign up information will be on the district’s website at www.glenview34.org by February 1.

NEEDED REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS PLANNED

Since 2011, District 34 has been re-viewing its facility needs and recently presented the plans for the first phase of projects to address the most critical needs.

Those priority projects will cost \$5 million and will be paid for through a combination of life safety bonds and working cash bonds. The issuance of debt will result in the current tax rate continuing between \$0.19–\$0.21 for debt service through levy year 2017.

Therefore, the property tax bill for debt service will remain flat. The scheduled decline of \$40 for a homeowner with home with a market value of \$500,000 will not happen until after levy year 2017.

Enrollment at Highest Level Ever



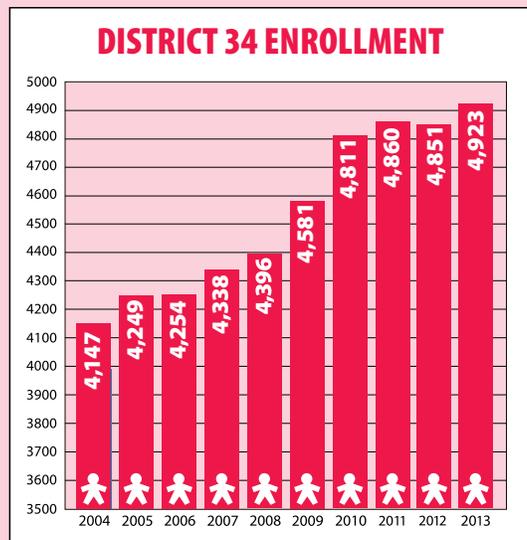
The 4,923 District 34 students this school year marks the highest number of students enrolled in the school system since such records have been kept, which dates back to 1949.

This comes after three years of fairly stable enrollment numbers between 2010 and 2012. Since 2001, there are 1,000 more students within the district, which is more than a 20% increase.

Due to the increase in students over the past several years, the district has implemented class size increases to help address space constraints.

Currently, the class size maximum is 22 at kindergarten, 23 at the 1st-2nd grade level, 27 at the 3rd-5th grade level and 29 at the middle school level.

The most recent enrollment projections indicate that after this year, enrollment will begin a slow decline to a level of 4,500 students in the 2016-17 school



year. Those projections will be updated in the spring.

Mary Werling, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, is the contact for this story. She can be reached at mwerling@glenview34.org or 847-998-5008.

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Schoolook (USPS 090370) is published five times per year for citizens residing in the School District by Community Consolidated School District 34.

Periodical postage paid at Glenview, IL Postmaster.

SCHOOLOOK

Volume 52 • Number 3
January, 2014

Our Mission

To empower children to be self-directed learners and responsible decision makers.

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Terry Sinnott, *Photos & Design*