



# 181

*Community Consolidated  
School District 181*

## **Annual Report**

**2011-2012**





CHMS • 301 Chicago Ave. • Clarendon Hills



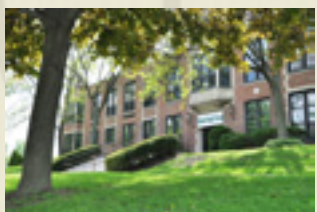
HMS • 100 S. Garfield Ave. • Hinsdale



Elm • 15 W. 201 60th St. • Burr Ridge



Madison • 611 S. Madison St. • Hinsdale



Monroe • 210 N. Madison St. • Hinsdale



Oak • 950 S. Oak St. • Hinsdale



Prospect • 100 N. Prospect Ave. • Clarendon Hills



The Lane • 500 N. Elm St. • Hinsdale



Walker • 120 S. Walker Ave. • Clarendon Hills



www.d181.org

# Contents

Board President's Message .....5

Community Engagement ..... 6

Revenues & Expenditures..... 6-7

Learning - the Key .....8-9

Blue Ribbon/Staff Awards.....10

New Philosophy Statement .....11

Ambassadors of Excellence....12-13

School Photos ..... 14

District 181 Foundation..... 15

***This page: Hinsdale Middle School students complete the last leg of their annual fundraising run/walk, Ignite the Fight, on May 11. Organized by students with faculty sponsor Leah White, and supported by sponsors, staff and parents, the event raised over \$5,000 for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.***

***On the cover: Students in Kristin Jung's first-grade class at Walker School test their pinwheels as part of their science unit on air, water and weather.***



Photo: Oak student Lilli Linn and teacher Helen Sorensen work together in the Media Resource Center. Behind them is a mural painted in 2011 by local artist Cathy Murray with funds donated by the PTO.

#### BoardDocs

District 181's electronic Board book provides public access to Board of Education meeting agendas, reports, and presentations: Log into [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org) >> locate the Board of Education tab >> select 'meetings' for a link to BoardDocs.

#### Board Meetings

Board of Education Business meetings begin at 7p.m. at Elm School. Committee of the Whole meetings rotate among all district schools. For a schedule of Board meetings, visit [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org), under Board of Education.



## Dear District 181 Residents & Staff

Summer Greetings from Community Consolidated School District 181. Welcome to the Annual Report to the Community on the 2011-12 school year in your elementary school district. This publication will bring you into our classrooms, open our financial books, and inform you of new initiatives.

It has been a busy and productive year in District 181. Our students continue to excel, and our educational leaders are committed to making our programs even better in a manner that respects your fiscal contributions as taxpayers.

On behalf of your elected Board of Education members, I want to express pride in our educational product and process. We consider each of you important components in our school district governance. As your representatives, we take seriously our duty to review your communication to the Board of Education, to listen when you speak at Board meetings, weigh all options, and make informed decisions that will benefit the whole district.

This year has seen a large volume of stakeholder involvement at Board meetings, Community Engagement sessions, PTO/A meetings, and special events. We anticipate that this will continue as the administration moves forward with plans to implement recommendations of consultants who reviewed our gifted services.

Within the pages of this report, you will see coverage of major accomplishments that serve to remind us of the excellence that is part of District 181. These include:

- All nine schools received the *Academic Excellence Award* from the Illinois State Board of Education.
- We expect to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget and are planning for a balanced budget in FY13.
- The Board presented a record number of Ambassador of Excellence Awards to students for outstanding accomplishments.
- Two teachers earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- The District solicited feedback from staff, parents and other residents at two Community Engagement sessions.
- The U.S. Department of Education named The Lane School a Blue Ribbon School.
- Two schools received state-level recognition for excellence in physical education programs.
- A new section of our website keeps the community updated on Learning and Operations Initiatives, including our gifted program review and the new Philosophy of Teaching and Learning.

As always, we welcome your feedback and thank you sincerely for your support of our community's elementary schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Nelson, District 181 Board of Education President



# Engaging the Community

**Sharing information on return on taxpayer investment, showing the use of classroom technology, and providing input on a vision for education in the district were the goals of Community Engagement meetings during the 2011-12 school year.**

**The October 2011 evening, held at Elm School,** featured District 181 teachers Matt Haeger, Theresa McGee and Jeff Sledz demonstrating the ways they incorporate technology in their teaching. From interactive white boards to iPads with applications to reinforce learning, the teachers discussed how they reach the “plugged-in generation” to maximize focus, expand depth of understanding and empower learners.



Jennifer Zock and Lainey Hatley, District 181 Parent Liaisons, try out iPads in Matt Haeger's Community Engagement session.

Participants saw 20-minute demonstration lessons, viewed curricular materials for all grade levels, examined assistive technology for students with special needs, and ended the evening by taking a survey.

**The March 2012 session at Clarendon Hills Middle School** included small-group discussion of the

proposed District 181 Philosophy of Teaching and Learning (see related article on page 11). The session was part of the district's review of its gifted program. Residents shared their views on what they want for all students and whether they believe the district's mission, vision and values statements, adopted in 2002, still ring true.

Both 90-minute meetings began with a presentation by Superintendent Renée Schuster on district finances and return on investment of residents' tax dollars.

“We listened and learned as much if not more than the participants,” said Dr. Schuster, Superintendent of District 181 schools since July 2010. “This was our second year of Community Engagement meetings, and I look forward to inviting everyone back for the 2012-13 sessions.”



Community members share their views on the draft Philosophy of Teaching and Learning at the March session. Board members, including Brendan Heneghan, listened to residents' views.

To broaden the opportunity, the district has posted a video of the fall Community Engagement session and all participants' comments on the superintendent's portion of the website, at [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org).

“We have used the input from Community Engagement by analyzing the data and looking for common messages. The feedback helped the administration and board as we shaped the Philosophy of Teaching and Learning, the transition plan and program improvement in the area of advanced learning,” Dr. Schuster said.



The first discussion at the March session was “What do we want for all our children?”

## D181 Expects to End 2011-12 with Operating Budget Surplus

Preparation of the 2011-12 school year budget presented many challenges for District 181, as the state's continued fiscal uncertainty and ongoing negotiations with the Hinsdale Clarendon Hills Teachers Association (HCHTA) made it difficult to forecast both revenues and expenditures. Ultimately, the operating budget approved by the District 181 Board of Education was balanced.

Budgeted revenues included local property tax collections based upon a 1.5% increase to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), an 80 percent proration of General State Aid, and an infusion of federal IDEA funds due to the withdrawal from the special education cooperative. Operating revenues for 2011-12 were budgeted to be \$56,244,099.

Budgeted expenditures included contractual salary increases, inflation increases for purchased services, supplies, and equipment, operating expenditures and transfers. Total expenditures in the budget were \$56,239,099.

“The receipt of the full allocation of General State Aid, coupled with a salary freeze for the teaching staff and continued fiscal accountability, contributed to the expected year-end budget surplus,” said Dr. Troy Whalen, District 181 Assistant Superintendent for Business.

The district's fiscal year ends June 30.

## Fiscal Year 2013 Outlook

Despite the expected 2011-12 budget surplus, long-range projections still indicate the possibility of deficit spending in the future. The 2012-13 budget has been prepared in tentative form and is currently balanced; however, changes in state funding and pension reform could have a significant impact on the district's budget.

“The 2012-13 Tentative budget is balanced and allows for contingency funds to cover the estimated cost for technology upgrades, textbook renewal, and staffing needs,” Dr. Whalen said.

# Revenues & Expenditures

## Financial Profile Score

The state releases a financial profile score annually to report the fiscal health of each school district. District 181's financial profile designation for FY2011 was Financial Review, the second highest of four categories assessing financial strength. The score is based on five indicators: revenue to fund balance ratio, revenue to expenditure ratio, days cash on hand, percent of short-term debt, and percent of long-term debt available. The state uses a weighted scale to determine a district's designation as Financial Recognition, Review, Watch, or Warning. During the past eight years, the district has received Financial Recognition five times and Financial Review three times. For more information on the school district financial profile system, see [www.isbe.net/sfms/P/profile.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/P/profile.htm).

## CAFR Award

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 earned the highest recognition for the school district's financial operations from the Association of School Business Officials International. The report is available at [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org), under Business Department reports. It provides a 10-year overview of financial operations.

## Bond Refunding

The Board of Education approved a resolution in November authorizing the refunding of just over \$13 million of outstanding Series 2002 and 2003 referendum-approved bonds to lock in net present value savings of over \$1.2 million for District 181 taxpayers. The goal was to take advantage of the record low interest rates. In the process of preparing the refunding, the District received a very strong credit rating of Aaa from Moody's Investors Service.

“The district's strong long-range financial projections, combined with the Board's and administration's commitment to maintaining a balanced budget, were key factors in earning the highest credit rating from Moody's,” said Dr. Whalen.

## Data Dashboard

For an overview of District 181 finances, tax rates, fund balances, student achievement data and a profile of teaching staff, visit the Data Dashboard section of the website. A link is provided on the home page, at [www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org). The dashboard made its debut in February 2012 and responds to a District goal of promoting community engagement opportunities and demonstrating transparency.

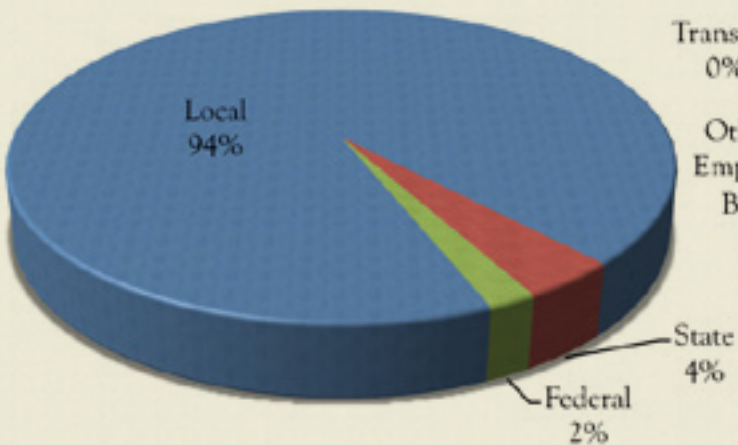
## Continued Cost Control Measures

- Reduction in transportation costs through consolidation of bus routes
- Energy savings through converting to a four-day workweek during the summer

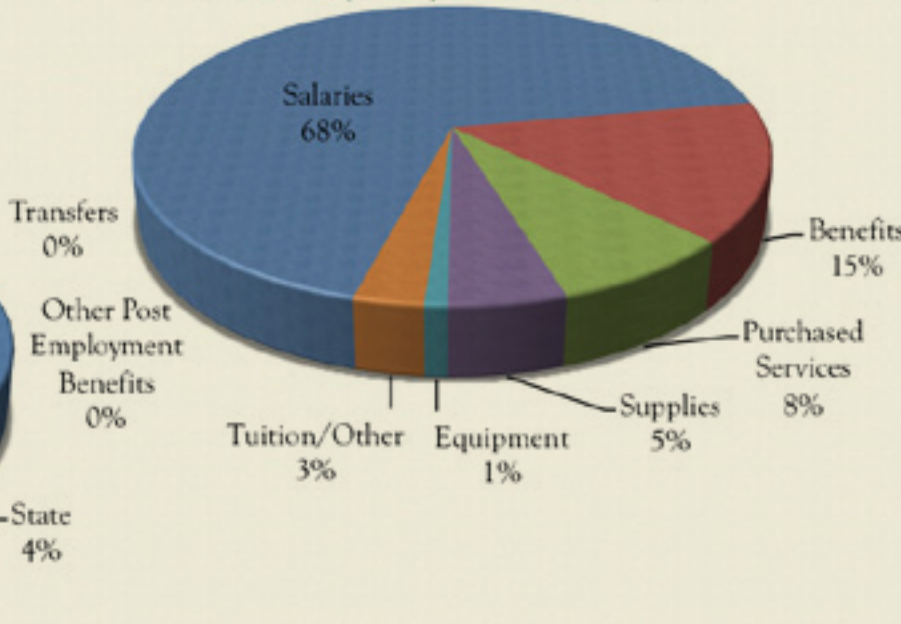
## Three Years of Reductions

2009-10  
\$1,850,000  
2010-11  
\$2,600,000  
2011-12  
\$661,000

2011-12 Budget  
Operating Fund Revenues  
\$56,244,099



2011-12 Budget  
Operating Expenditures & Transfers by Object \$56,239,099





# Learning - the Key to the Future

### @d181 Initiative

A committee of teachers, students, administrators, and a parent spent the 2011-12 school year exploring how to promote student creativity, problem solving and risk taking through the innovative use of technology. The 16-member committee reviewed publications and studies on educational technology, visited schools known for their leading use of technology, and conducted action research at three District 181 schools. With funding from the District 181 Foundation and Parent-Teacher Organizations, students in grade 5 at The Lane experienced a 1:1 pilot of MacAir laptop computers, and students at Elm School used iPad tablet computers in a 1:1 environment. Madison School fifth-graders served as the control group, accessing technology through shared laptop carts and use of the computer lab in the Media Resource Center.

"Action research is one of the ways we can make innovations in schools. The @d181 Initiative Committee did an outstanding job," Superintendent Renée Schuster said.

Students with 1:1 technology were more engaged learners who demonstrated deeper content understanding, more educational risk-taking and self-driven acquisition of knowledge, according to Dr. Janet Stutz, Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

Today's students are vastly different from those who attended District 181 a generation ago. The role of the teacher is moving from the "sage on the stage" to that of a facilitator of student learning, or a "guide on the side," Technology Director Eric Danley said. The airline style of education, turning off all electronic

devices while in flight, no longer works for today's learners, he added.

The @d181 Initiative presented recommendations to the Board of Education in May including a three-year rollout of 1:1 technology to all students in grades 3-8 beginning in October 2012. The iPad 2 drew overwhelming committee support for its durability, portability and ability to change the way curriculum is delivered.

"By choosing the iPad now, we will prepare our students and staff for new platforms in the future," Danley said. The Board will return to the discussion in late June, when a decision on the recommendation is expected.

### District 181 Schools Earn State Honor Roll Top Rank

For the fourth year, all District 181 schools have been named Illinois Honor Roll Schools. The 2011 Honor Roll Schools list recognizes 703 schools in 312 Illinois school districts for making progress toward or maintaining academic excellence.

District 181 schools received the Academic Excellence Award, the highest designation. In this category, 90 percent or more of elementary students met or exceed state testing standards in reading or mathematics for at least three consecutive years.

"The true measure of a school's success is student achievement. Having all nine of our schools earn the Award of Excellence is a reflection of the excellent teaching and learning that is occurring every day in District 181," said Superintendent Renée Schuster.

### 2011-12 Curriculum Highlights

- Sponsored Community Book Read *The Price of Privilege*
- Conducted homework survey
- Offered SELAS week activities including a community event
- Completed benchmarks, developed common assessment frameworks, and wrote curriculum aligned to the common core.
- Piloted and adopted writing materials.
- Completed benchmarks for math aligned to the common core
- Developed a five-year staff development plan

### Pupil Services Highlights

During the 2011-12 school year, District 181 provided services to students with disabilities independent of a special education cooperative. The district previously was a member of a cooperative that primarily provided related services, such as occupational therapy, physical therapy and psychological services. During the 2010-11 school year, the district participated in a process to withdraw from the cooperative through creation of a Comprehensive Plan of Services that was presented to the Illinois Advisory Board for Special Education in June 2011. The advisory board unanimously approved the plan, which resulted in hiring additional district staff to provide instruction and services. New staff included interventionists who are primarily school psychologists, a Special Education Director, and occupational and physical therapists.

"Through the hiring of these specialists, the district has been able to supervise its own staff, resulting in better alignment with district initiatives," said Pam Kazee, Assistant Superintendent

### State Top 10

1	Kenilworth 38
2	Butler 53
3	Bartelso 57
4	Avoca 37
5	Northbrook/Glenview 30
6	<b>CCSD181</b>
7	Western Springs 101
8	Lincolnshire 103
9	Kildeer Countryside 96
10	New Hope 6

### DuPage County Top 10

1	Butler 53
2	<b>CCSD181</b>
3	Gower 62
4	Benjamin 25
5	Elmhurst 205
6	Itasca 10
7	Bloomington 13
8	Center Cass 66
9	Naperville 203
10	Indian Prairie 204

### Metro Area Top 10

1	Kenilworth 38
2	Butler 53
3	Avoca 37
4	Northbrook/Glenview 30
5	<b>CCSD181</b>
6	Western Springs 101
7	Lincolnshire 103
8	Kildeer Countryside 96
9	Deerfield 109
10	Wilmette 39

Although elementary school students take many tests each year, the greatest amount of press, ranking agency, and homebuyers' attention is given to the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Administered each spring to students in grades 3-8, the ISAT measures reading, math, science and social studies knowledge. SchoolSearch, a research and consulting firm, released its 2012 rankings in May. Rankings are compiled using the overall average percentage of students in grades 3-8 who earned "Meets" or "Exceeds" levels on the ISAT administered in March 2011. The District 181 score of 97.6 is based on reading and math tests. The state average is 82.28.

for Pupil Services. The interventionists guided staff in the analysis of student progress data so that immediate support could be provided to students who could benefit through additional interventions. This program is called Response to Intervention, or RtI. Interventionists also assisted in the review of special education student progress that helped in the development of Individual Education Plans, or IEPs, and instruction of students with disabilities.

"We are proud that the Illinois State Board of Education complimented District 181 by stating that our Comprehensive Plan set the standard for cooperative withdrawal plans," Ms. Kazee said.

### Continuum of Services

In order to deliver a Comprehensive Plan, a continuum of services was developed. This continuum includes general education services as well

as specialized classes for students who have unique learning needs. In relation to the development of the general education curriculum, the district has emphasized differentiation of instruction universally. Co-teaching by special education and general education teachers, as well as the provision of other types of supports, has been provided to assist any student with diverse learning needs. Assistive technology has been extended to support students who may be challenged by reading or writing.

For students with more unique needs, specialized programs for all grade levels have been developed over a three-year period. An Early Childhood Child Development Center has been instituted. The program's teachers and related services staff have developed a strategic plan with parental input that includes the further development of curriculum.

### Awards for Excellence

District 181 received the Bright Red Apple Award from SchoolSearch in March 2012. Only 79 of 868 school districts in Illinois earned the 2012 award, which is based on five "family-favored categories" according to the educational research and consulting firm. These include: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary. Data source: 2011 Illinois Report Card.

District 181 also earned the Bright A+ Award in September 2011, based on 2010 Illinois Report Card data. Only 59 school districts in the state, those in the top 5 percent, were selected.

For the second year, Elm School earned a top spot on the SchoolSearch "Best of the Best Award" because 100 percent of its students in Grade 4 met or exceeded state testing standards on 2011 tests.

Photo: On a sunny October day, the first-graders at Prospect gathered in the Outdoor Learning Center, dedicated to better understanding of the water cycle.



# The Lane School Earns a Blue Ribbon

A star-studded banner and bright blue bows decorated The Lane Elementary School September 15 to announce to staff, students and the community that the Hinsdale school was named a 2011 Blue Ribbon School. Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, unveiled the national roster of 304 schools earlier that day. The list included 19 public and private schools in Illinois.

The Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement. The Lane School was selected by the Illinois State Board of Education to apply for recognition, based on federal criteria.

Principal Doug Eccarius travelled to Washington, D.C. for a seminar and ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education in November. Speech/Language Pathologist Maureen Laschober was chosen by her colleagues to represent the teaching staff in Washington.

"The application process for the Blue Ribbon Schools involved a committee of teachers and administrators who reviewed data, reflected on our practice, and shared our story of

achievement," said Principal Eccarius. "We are very proud that our school has earned this distinction and are very grateful for the strong support of our parent community and the outstanding performance of our students."



"The Lane's recognition as a Blue Ribbon School is a great achievement for our students, teachers, parents, and community," Superintendent Renée Schuster said. "Under Mr. Eccarius' leadership The Lane has exemplified District 181's vision of being a place where all children experience success and exhibit excellence."

## P.E. Programs Gain Excellence Award

Physical education programs at The Lane School and Oak School earned the Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the Illinois Association of Health Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The award recognizes the best physical education and health programs in the state.

The designation followed a review of the physical education programs, a visit to the schools, interviews with staff, students and parents, and consideration by a state-level panel. Curriculum at the two schools was measured against state and national standards and those of Illinois State Board of Education.

At The Lane, physical education teachers Ruth Jewell and Dan Ozga completed the application. Oak's Blue Ribbon Team included physical education teachers Marianne Biedrzycki, Jeff Mack, Gus Lauermann and student teacher Doug Henegar.

The application included responses on assessment, curriculum, instruction, professional development, school leadership, vision and mission. Each school also submitted five years of testing data and showed how it shares its strengths and successes with other schools.

District 181 now has four Blue Ribbon Schools. In 2009, Madison Elementary School, Clarendon Hills Middle School and Hinsdale Middle School earned the award.

# District 181 Staff Awards

Two more teachers in District 181 have achieved national board certification, considered to be the highest credential in the teaching profession. They are among 461 teachers in Illinois who earned certification in December 2011. The newly-certified staff and their areas of certification are: **Gayle Allen**, Monroe School, exceptional needs, early childhood through young adulthood; and **Sara Havel**, Elm School, generalist, middle childhood.

**Sue Kamuda**, former Director of Buildings and Grounds, was recognized October 22 with a Those Who Excel Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Mrs. Kamuda, who retired in June 2011

following a 25-year career with District 181, earned the Award of Excellence in the Administrator Category.

Elementary Band Teacher **Nancy Golden** was named 2012 Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award and recognized in June. The Quinlan and Fabish Music Company sponsors the award.

Four District 181 communications projects earned statewide awards from the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association in the 2011 Communications Contest. Awards honored high quality school publications published or posted between May 2010 and May 2011. "District 181 - Learning Together,"

a podcast featuring Superintendent Renée Schuster received the Award of Excellence. The podcast award was shared by its contributors: **Dr. Renée Schuster**, Director of Communications **Rita DuChateau**, Technology Director **Eric Danley** and freelance videographer **Justin Dexter**. The district's 2011 Summer School brochure, designed by Communications Department Assistant **Audrey Galvin**, earned an Award of Excellence. In addition, **Dr. Schuster** netted an Award of Merit for her "Staff E-News" and **Rita DuChateau** earned an Award of Merit for the Annual Report to the Community.



# District Adopts New Philosophy Statement

Following an evaluation of the District 181 program for gifted education, the Board of Education, administration and several staff committees began to study and plan better ways to deliver instruction to all students. The program evaluation, conducted by Tonya R. Moon, Ph.D., Catherine M. Brighton, Ph.D. and Christine Trinter, Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, contained suggestions for program improvement.

"Over the past 20 years, the district has conducted external reviews of its gifted service delivery and responded with changes to program design. As research advances our understanding of the learning process, we want to ensure that our programs are providing current and effective instruction," District 181 Superintendent Renée Schuster said.

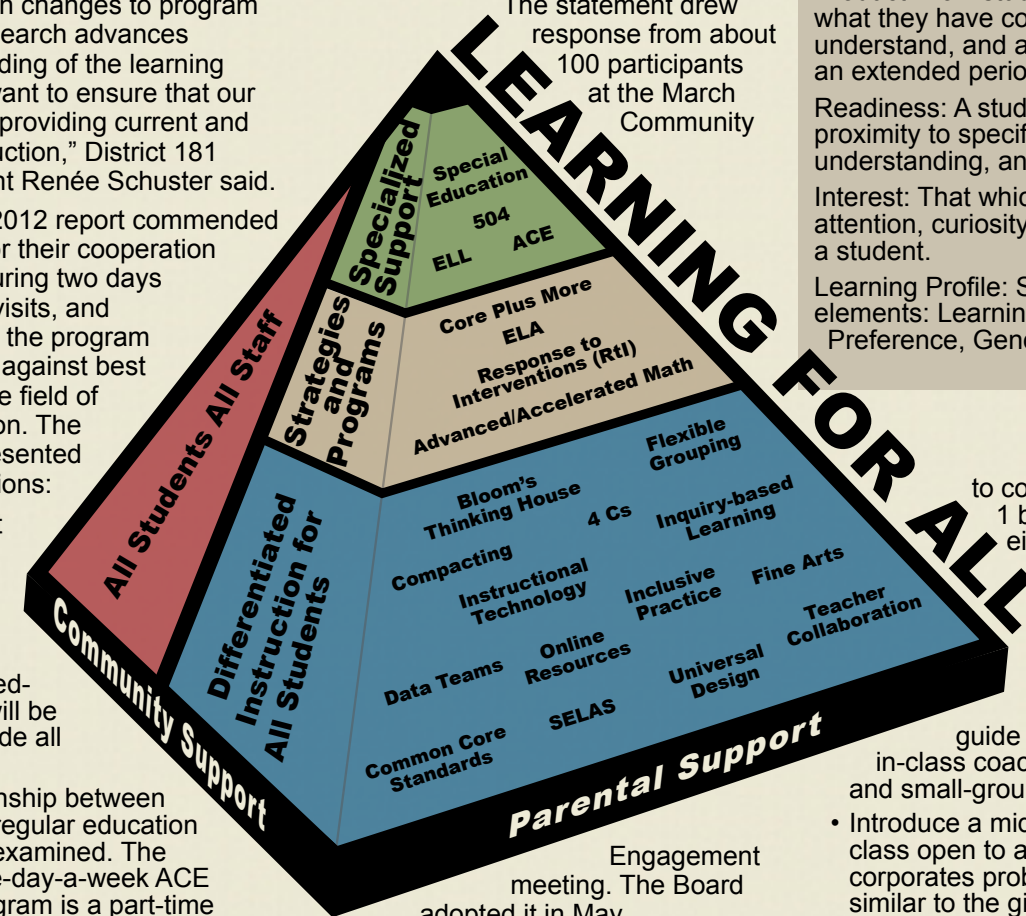
The January 2012 report commended District staff for their cooperation prior to and during two days of classroom visits, and explained that the program was analyzed against best practices in the field of gifted education. The evaluators presented recommendations:

- The District should develop a philosophy statement and definition for giftedness that will be used to guide all decisions.
- The relationship between gifted and regular education should be examined. The current one-day-a-week ACE pullout program is a part-time solution to a full-time need. All students could benefit from ACE-type instruction.
- The ACE program builds on and overlaps the SELAS program. Recent research on affective needs of all students should be considered.
- The District should incorporate rigor and challenge in the general education program.
- The District should implement a balanced literacy program.
- The District should establish a task force to examine the feasibility of acceleration in math.

"Many of the findings and recommendations align with where we were headed with our programs. Others made us stop and take a close look at what we offer in the area of advanced learning," Dr. Schuster said.

Following the report, a team, led by Dr. Schuster and assisted by consultant Jessica Hockett, Ph.D., conducted a review of research on the latest approaches to gifted education and then crafted a draft Philosophy of Teaching and Learning statement. The Board of Education reviewed it and authorized a public display period.

The statement drew response from about 100 participants at the March Community



## What's Differentiation?

At the core of the classroom practice of differentiation is the modification of three curriculum-related elements: content, process, product. These are based on three categories of student need and variance: readiness, interest, and learning profile.

Content: The knowledge, understanding, and skills we want students to learn.

Process: How students come to understand or make sense of the content.

Product: How students demonstrate what they have come to know, understand, and are able to do after an extended period of learning.

Readiness: A student's current proximity to specified knowledge, understanding, and skills.

Interest: That which engages the attention, curiosity, and involvement of a student.

Learning Profile: Shaped by four elements: Learning Style, Intelligence Preference, Gender, and Culture.

to complete Algebra 1 before the end of eighth grade.

- Expand the scope of services provided by the gifted specialists to become differentiation specialists who guide teachers, provide in-class coaching, co-teaching, and small-group instruction.

- Introduce a middle school elective class open to all students that incorporates problem-based learning, similar to the gifted curriculum.

"We believe we are moving forward with a more inclusive philosophy that will benefit all learners," Dr. Schuster said.

The district's website contains a new section, Learning and Operations Initiatives, accessed from the Superintendent's page. Posted there are all reports to the Board of Education, the program evaluation report, a video on the transition plan, information on differentiation of instruction, and the Philosophy of Teaching and Learning statement.

Four other teams worked on a transition plan to deliver services in the 2012-13 year. Teams included: Elementary ACE, Middle School ACE, Mathematics, and Enriched Language Arts.

The plan for 2013-14 and beyond is expected in December 2012. The 2012-13 transition plan includes the following items:

- Increase the academic rigor for all students.
- Accelerate math instruction to allow as many students as possible



# Ambassadors of Excellence

**District 181 introduced the Ambassadors of Excellence award program in 1997 to provide the Board of Education an opportunity to recognize individuals who have brought positive attention to the district through the special honors they receive in a variety of local, regional, state and national recognition programs. The 2011-12 Ambassadors were:**

**Illinois Art Education Association Exhibit** Lila Hutcherson;  
**Basketball** Daniel Ahern, Sarah Bailey, Paige Bareck, Joshua Bean, Andrew Bitautas, Peter Blust, Kristina Boshardt, Mackenzie Brandt, Anthony Brescia, Riley Burr, John Bynan, William Bynan, Eugene Callahan, Alyson Chatterjee, Matthew Cherry, Torie Chiarmonte, Marshall Dockery, Wells Douraghy, Megan Draddy, Thomas Dunphy, Christopher Eck, Everett Eck, Gianni Frasca, Terese Gibas, Taylor Glenn, Lourdes Gomez, Magdalene Halikias, John Henige, Bradley Huth, Macauley Kilbane, Luke Kinsella, Kathryn Klygis, Kyle Knight, Andrew Lawson, Maria LoPresti, Nick Lynch, Thomas Lyne, Liam Lyman, Nicole Maley, Gilley Martinelli, Nathan McGowan, John Medick, Max Mittelstadt, Maura Mullen, William Naphin, Elizabeth Nelson, Katie Nocerino, Matthew O'Doherty, Naman Patel, Jacob Pines, Michael Porter, Dylan Roesch, Nicolas Salerno, Kaja Schuler, Angela Senese, Michael Sessa, Abbi Shaker, Andrew Shepherd, Kathryn Sluman, Michael Usher, Caitlin Vera, Gavin Wagner, Reed Willman, Zachary Wood, Michael Yaeger; **Chess** Luke Adams, Aiden Bonino, Daren Chen, Dov Chen, Julian Chow, Jack Cibinski, Michael D'Aprile, Avi Goel, Patrick Graham, Braden Henry, Kevin Jin, Christine Leung, Daniel Leung, Andrew Lim, Jay Maheshwari, Grant Niestrom, Peter Pancione, Cullen Peterson, Rahul Ravisundar, Jack Ruth, Matt Ruth, Christian Schloegel, Charles Schuster, Quincy Sullivan, Ryan Sullivan, Tyler Sullivan, Cody Tavoso, Kyle Tausk, Millan Whittier, Noah Wong; **Cross Country** Grace Walther; **The Doings Newspaper Writing Contest** Mia Butterbach, Lelia Jennings, Sharika Kottapalli; **DuPage County Spelling Bee** Paul Cumberland, Nick Speziale; **Exquisite Prompt Redux Writing Contest** Emma Bauschard; **Illinois Geographic Bee** Jack Mueller, B.J. Ryan; **Illinois Junior Academy of Science Regional Science Fair** Joseph Gordon, Michael Ha, Quincy Horwedel, Mita Ramani, Noah Wang, Alison Ward; **Illinois Music Educators Association Festival Orchestra** Nathan Cruz, Jonathan Cruz, Haerin Kim, Beatrice Makdah, Erika Oku, Mita Ramani, Kate Seikel, Jake Semba; **Illinois Youth Digital Safety Contest** Patrick Callahan, Adam Cerny, Aaron Fuller, Matthew Lorenz; **Knowledge Master Open** Nick Alex, Allison Bruns, Andrew Coyner, Andrew Cummings, Emma Dannhausen-Brun, Jahanavi Gaur, Michael Johns, Elizabeth Keller, Beatrice Makdah, Robin Owens, B.J. Ryan, Nikolai Vorobiev, Eric Wan, James Zhou; **Latin School Math Contest** William Lopez; **Metra Safety Poster Contest** Matt Stockmal; **West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence** Nathaniel Cruz, Jacob Furlong, Jake Heiser, Julianne Knott, Hayward Melton, James Zhou; **National French Test** Alison Albelda,

Connor Barker, Rebecca Bower, Olivia Brooks, Katie Bulin, Samantha Camden, Clare Caruso, Michael Claussen, Andrew Coyner, Nicole Eichelman, Caitlyn Elazegui, Jacob Furlong, Jaena Hanley, Arman Haveric, Jake Heiser, Christopher Heneghan, Kristin John, Julianne Knott, Risako Koga, Nicholas Monson, Katherine Nordstrom, Sarah Pencak, Emma Rosenberg, Paco Soto, Jim Walker, Molly Walsh, Tom Wan, James Zhou; **Special Olympics** Rose Kuckertz, Henri Lashinski, Madeline Maturino, Maria Meyer; **Track and Field** Elle Bergevin, Livvy Carter, Maya Cave, Molly Caveney, Julie Culler, Megan Draddy, Blake Evertsen, Ginger Gerhold, Lucy Grundberg, Yasmain Hamood, Jake Heiser, Isabella Ivanov, Emma Loughlin, Andy Margason, Nicole Naccarato, Chloe Palo, Emma Stapleton, Katie Sluman, Madeline Sullivan, Margaret Tamm, Grace Walther, Tracy Wohlever; **Village of Hinsdale Photography Award** Zachary Wood; **Volleyball** Elizabeth Bogs, Katie Broz, Sophia Dubrovay, Amy Fiedler, Katherine Gallo, Elizabeth Genovese, Katherine Hayes, Barbara Heidkamp, Sydney Herzog, Abigail Hess, Megan Irvin, Kayla Kelly, Emily Knutson, Andrea Kopp, Gillian Lail, Lila Loughlin, Caroline Morris, Georgia Murphy, Sophia Pecilunas, Cassandra Peters, Lisa Pitts, Zoe Relias, Jillian Schlais, Margarite Schwarz, Samantha Seymour, Nora Stack, Margaret Tamm, Hannah Watts; **WordMasters Challenge** Michelle Brown, Daren Chen, Mary Klygis, Omar Nabelsi, Maximilian Paarlberg, Sara Thomas, Akshay Undevia, Perry Zhao; **IAHPERD Blue Ribbon** Marianne Biedrzycki, Ruth Jewell, Gus Lauermann, Jeffrey Mack, Dan Ozga; **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification** Gayle Allen, Sara Havel; **Those Who Excel, Award** Sue Kamuda

*Photo: In April, Clarendon Hills Middle School grade 8 students visited Washington D.C. as part of their study of United States History. At the Marine Corps War Memorial are (from left): Edward Dodson, Yuji Cusick, Jake Liu, Brian Glowniak, and Bryte Bu.*





The 2011-12 PTO/A Presidents met in June at KLM to introduce their successors and celebrate a year brimming with programs and events for students, as well as classroom and technology support, all powered by fundraising. Back row, from left: Jan Burr, Stephanie Ley, Dr. Renée Schuster, Board of Education Liaison Glenn Yeager, Stacy Kinns, Kerri Hagy; Front row, from left: Sue Shupe, Cyndi Breslow, Maureen Misicko, Anna Cumberland, Jill Loughlin, Molly Gibson, Courtney Willman, Kelly Ricker. Not pictured: Trish Donlevy, Tracey Head, Christi Cashman, Kelly Statczar, Heather Blanck.



MONROE: 1) Mrs. Riehle's class performs the folktale 'How Raven Stole the Light'; 2) Veterans Day assembly; 3) Kristin Kjellander's grade 1 students help with Living Classroom spring cleanup; 4) Principal Dawn Benaitis hosts Rajmahon Gandhi's virtual visit.



MADISON: 1) The Coast Guard visits on the parent-sponsored High Interest Day in May; 2) 2nd grader Luke Hildreth climbs the rock wall in P.E.'s "George of the Jungle" unit; 3) April's Walk for Autism included a Madison team; 4) Principal Mindy McMahon welcomes George McCaskey who came to congratulate 2nd grader Luke Adams on his success in an NFL youth competition.



ELM: 1) 4th grader Jacqueline Johnston 'purchased' a tennis match with P.E. Teacher Mary Rizzo using Bowser Bucks she earned by following the 3B's: Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible; 2) Superintendent Schuster visits Multicultural Day; 3) Grade 3 students Natalie Brandt, Brooke Cooper, and Lauren Witt meet children's author Betty Birney; 4) Elm Secretary Edie Sharkey is the Statue of Liberty for the grade 3 Immigration Day.

**The District 181 Foundation** inspires community involvement in education through programs that enrich the educational experience of our elementary and middle school students. Funding for these programs is made possible through the contributions of individuals and businesses in our community.

Following a May 14 reception to honor major donors and grant recipients, the District 181 Foundation announced 2011-12 grants and special initiatives totaling \$124,315. The grant program supports innovative and creative proposals that the Foundation hopes will someday have district wide application. Grants went to teachers, students and parents.

"The Foundation has had a very busy year, and we are excited and proud to recognize our talented staff, involved students and supportive parents with these grants. Their ideas will benefit our students in many subject areas at many grade levels. The generosity of our donors has made it all possible," Foundation President Nancy Pollak said.

### 2011-12 Teacher Grant Winners

Outdoor Learning Center: Rosemary Grant, Pam Henry. Water is harvested through a system engineered to direct, contain, and use it in this outdoor classroom at Prospect.

Technology for the Wind Turbine: Nancy Grapenthien, Ryan Cantrell. This grant incorporates software that manipulates, stores and retrieves data from the CHMS wind turbine to make it accessible to all District 181 students.

The @d181 Initiative: Matt Haeger, Karin Johnson, Justin Horne, Chris Feeney, Jo Ellen Berni. This district initiative tested various technology tools for delivering the curriculum. With the PTOs at Elm and The Lane, the Foundation supported the pilot to test the use of iPads at Elm and laptops at The Lane.

Infusing Technology in the Science Curriculum: Kelly Pelak-Ditmars. The addition of 15 MacBook Pros and related equipment to the grade 8 science classroom enabled teams of students to use them for research, reports, and information sharing. The pilot included 150 Hinsdale Middle School students.

Imagination Playground: Principal Mindy McMahon, Mary Kay Longwell, Gail Incrocci, Susie Lebensorger, Nancy Kramer, Karen Miller, Tiffany Egan; parents Suzanne Wychocki, Donna Blair, Ana Loduca, Roberta Wentling, Trayce Biancalana. Madison will purchase polyethylene blocks, noodles, balls, and mats, which students can configure to create spaces, structures, and imaginative machines. This equipment will support intellectual, spatial, creative, social, emotional, and physical development.

Rowers and Monitors for Multiple Fitness Possibilities: Michael Piper, Carol Dronzek, Lori Lowey, Diana Branca, Timothy Chandler. The use of

six rowing machines will strengthen the physical education curriculum at Clarendon Hills Middle School by adding a new activity that will appeal to all students. In addition, 40 heart rate monitors will be purchased for class activities and team sports to help students assess their fitness levels.

QR Codes That Grow Independent Readers: Mary Morgan Ryan. To encourage reading for pleasure, the Oak School Media Resource Center will label children's books with QR Codes students can use to read reviews, watch book trailers, and create their own reviews and videos. In addition, 25 iPads will be added to the MRC, to integrate literature, writing and technology.



Inquiry: Rita Anderson, Dawn Barcus, Rosemary Grant, Matt Haeger, Sara Havel, Troy Huber, Vicki Marek, Leslie McCarty, Maureen Miks, Danny Riehle. These grants funded a seminar and classroom materials for staff, who then developed inquiry-based lessons.

### 2011-12 KIDS Grants

Kids Initiating a Difference in Society (KIDS) Grants are awarded to students for their community service projects. Recipients included: **Madison:** Lucy and Sarah Battaglia; **HMS:** Allison Bruns, Jimmy Lee, Jack Mason, Samson Pollak, Kendall Reichmann; **Elm:** Hannah Ahdab, Kareem Alzein; Hudson Courtney, Jacob Schaik, **Oak:** Michael Bradley; **The Lane:** Mary Claire Arbor, Denise Fischer, Caila Foley, Anisha Sunkara, Sydney Thayer.

### 2011-12 Community Grants

The Foundation's Community Partnership Grants provide funding for parent and community programs that align with the Foundation's mission. The 2011-2012 recipients were: SELAS, the District Social Emotional Learning for Academic Success Committee and the District 181 Gifted Education Cooperative.

A volunteer board of trustees governs the Foundation. Board members during 2011-12 were: Megan Balderston, Matt Bousquette, Trish Donlevy, Suzanne Furey, Matthew Haeger, Tracey Head, Tim Leahy, Julie Liesse, Jerry Mejdrich, Rebecca Miller, Jeanne Osgood, Nancy Pollak, Helena Puche, Mary Morgan Ryan, Emilio Salvi, Kara Thompson, Fernanda Valentino, Colleen Verbiscer, Lynne Wallace and Kyle Zake. Executive Director is Meg Cooper; PTO/A Liaison is Anna Cumberland; District 181 Liaisons are Rita DuChateau and Dr. Janet Stutz.



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