



Elementary School District 159 – A Year in Review

Community Connection

Congratulations, Class of 2019!

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On May 24th Colin Powell Middle School held the 8th grade graduation. Hunter Kitterlin was class valedictorian. The co-salutatorians were Fered Yousuf, Tyler Favors, and Kenya Wilson. Several scholarships were awarded during the event including three presented by Board Vice President Carolyn Palmer, on behalf of her non-profit organization, Carolyn's Kids. Graduating students will matriculate to Rich Township High School District 227.



Elementary School District 159 teachers, staff and administrators congratulate our graduates. We wish them continued success in their learning experiences. Graduation is an exciting time. It's both an ending and a beginning. It's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. Congratulations class of 2019!

A Message from Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mable Alfred



Greetings Community,

It is hard to imagine that the 2018-2019 school year has come to a close and we are only three weeks away from the start of a new school year! The graduating 8th graders are off to their next chapter in life and pondering what to expect in high school. The fifth graders are anxiously awaiting the excitement of Middle School and kindergarteners are afraid of the unknown first day of school.

As we usher in the next school year, we continue our focus on ensuring our schools meet the needs of our students as we launch our new District Strategic Plan: 2019-2022

We conducted a series of community conversations and used this information to develop the plan that will guide our District over the next three years.

I am very pleased to welcome you to the start of Elementary School District 159's 150th anniversary year. I feel very fortunate to be serving as Superintendent of Schools at this particularly significant time in the District's history. We will embark upon a year-long journey to celebrate our 150th year anniversary. Our theme for this great milestone is 150 Years: *Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future*.

We will spend this year celebrating our legacy and understanding how that history informs our future. Please, mark your calendars for ESD 159's 150th year anniversary events. Thank you for your continued support as we build upon this tremendous heritage for an even greater future.

Dr. Mable Alfred

A Message from Dr. William S. McClinton, President of the Board Education



Dear Community Members,

As we close another school year, I would like to thank our teachers and staff for their diligence and commitment to our children. I would also like to thank our parents and community members for their volunteerism and contributions to our school district. We are a community of stakeholders who believe that each and every child in our school district is special and that they all deserve the best.

To ensure that we are best prepared to provide our student's with what they need to be successful, we are in the process of developing our three-year Strategic Plan. Our District's Strategic Plan is being created with input from nearly 350 members of the community through interviews, focus groups, and an online survey. Once completed, the Strategic Plan will be implemented throughout the school district with goals and objectives that will move us forward as a school district. This is an exciting time for us because it allows us to determine the vision for our future.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank everyone that participated in the Strategic Planning process. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the community and wish everyone a good and safe summer.

Dr. William McClinton

Strategic Planning Initiative

Elementary School District 159 is taking a proactive step in maintaining its status as a leader in education by launching a strategic planning process to determine the future direction for the District's five schools. The strategic planning process is designed to engage all district stakeholders - including parents, teachers, administrators, staff, students, and community residents - in developing a shared future vision for the District. Involvement of stakeholders from every corner of the community will result in a long-term framework for decision-making that builds upon the common values held by the community. Completion of the process is set for early fall of the 2019-2020 school year.

On May 20th and May 22nd, Elementary School District 159 solicited input from across the community about the future of the District. School board members, parents, employees, students, and community members were given an opportunity to participate in interviews as a part of a focus group. In addition to working with various focus groups, the District conducted an online survey that offered residents an opportunity to answer questions about their perceptions of and their vision for the future of the community's schools.

The strategic plan will consist of using a three-phase process that includes conducting research, developing the plan, and identifying implementation steps. The first phase focuses on documenting the current state and desired future position of our school district. The second phase is the creation of a framework for broad direction and priorities for the future outlined in a formal strategic plan document. The final phase is the identification of specific steps that will be taken to implement the plan and execute the identified objectives in the strategic plan.

All of the data collected through interviews, focus groups, and the survey, will be analyzed to determine the goals and objectives for the District. The information will be presented to the Board of Education and released to the public in a Strategic Plan Report when the process is completed.

Colin Powell 6th Grade Band Successful Year!

Colin Powell's Sixth Grade Cadet Band performing at the Music is the Park Band Competition in Gurnee, Illinois. They received a superior rating which is the highest ranking possible and achieved top ranking all school year! Congratulations to our band director, Ms. Perry and the 6th grade band!



District Technology Programs

21st Century Technology Initiative

One of the visions of our school district is to create technology integrated classrooms throughout the district. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Kimberly Johnson as our Assistant Director of Instructional Technology.

As the former principal of Colin Powell Middle School, Ms. Johnson is very knowledgeable about technology based learning applications.

In her new role, Ms. Johnson will manage the District's effort to elevate the capacity of all schools to effectively utilize technology in support of their educational goals. Based in the administrative office, Ms. Johnson will inform and shepherd the development of policies, guidelines, standards, and supports related to the use of technology in schools. In addition, she will coordinate professional learning opportunities, workshops, presentations, coaching, and support, so schools can successfully integrate technology into curriculum and program management. Ms. Johnson will also serve as a key point of contact with the Department of Curriculum and Instructional and Information Technology in supporting the use of instructional technology across the District.

We thank Ms. Johnson for her dedication and welcome her to her new role. Congratulations!

Elementary School Saturday Coding Class

For the second year, our school district held the grant funded Saturday Coding Class for 4th grade students.

The 10 week class is taught by technology instructors Mrs. Pam Randle and Mr. Vincent Charleston. The vision of this program is to increase student's exposure to Computer Programming by 90% .

The overall goal of the program is to teach students block coding using fun, practical reasoning and problem solving methods. Students also learned about the benefits of coding and the various career options available for coders.

At the conclusion of the program, students receive a certificate of completion, had a pizza party, and invited their parents to visit the class.



Thank You Officer Erickson! Congratulations On Your Retirement!

We say good bye and best wishes to our School Resource Officer, Mike Erickson who retired on July 19th. We wish him well and thank him for his service.

Officer Erickson's role was very significant at Colin Powell Middle School and we appreciate his commitment to our students. Congratulations on your retirement Officer Erickson!

We welcome Officer Evans as our new School Resource Officer and congratulate him on his new position.

We look forward to working with Officer Evans next school year. Congratulations!



Highlights

During the school year Sieden Prairie Elementary School students participated in school elections. Miamen Journie, Ariana Brooks, and Isys Jones represented the school in the district spelling bee and the Mighty Mustangs boys basketball team won the division championship! Congratulations!



SIEDEN PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Highlights

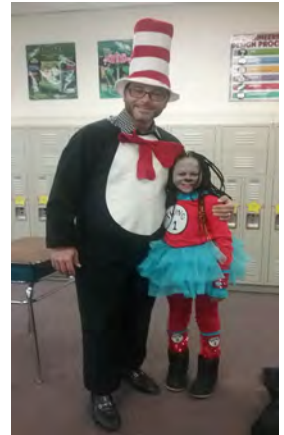
Sieden Prairie Elementary School is well-known for its community service activities. In October they hosted their Annual Cancer Walk. 3rd grader Olivia Shorter received the Medal of Knowledge for her work to support Sickle Cell research and the school partnered with Walgreens for Red Nose Day which fights against child poverty.





Bring Your Parents To School Day was a big success at Marya Yates. More than 100 parents joined their children for a day of learning and activities. It was a great day!

MARYA YATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Highlights

This year our Board Vice President Mrs. Palmer participated in the kindergarten graduation. We thank Mr. Salter for being a part of our African American History Program. Dr. Seuss Day is always fun at Marya Yates and Twin Day was a great day for students. Caleb Porter was recognized by Tales to Tackles by the Chicago Bears for being a great reader! Marya Yates paid honor to those who served in the military for Veterans Day.





Neil Armstrong is proud of their parent involvement. On Bring Your Parents To School Day, nearly 100 parents visited the classrooms and participated in various activities throughout the day. It was a fun and educational day at the same time!

NEIL ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Highlights

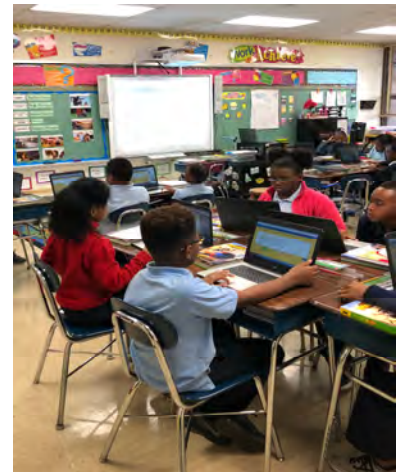
Partnering with parents is a major initiative at Neil Armstrong as seen in the pictures to the left. Principal Etherly instills in her students that they are all heroes on Super Hero Day. Mr. Regan Stockstell, Village Manager for the Village Richton Park was the Principal for the Day. Students and staff participated in Red Nose Day to help fight child poverty.





This past school-year Woodgate Elementary School partnered with Walgreens to support Red Nose Day. The purpose of Red Nose Day is to help fight against child poverty,

WOODGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Highlights

Last school year Woodgate Elementary School's Bring Your Parents To School Day was a success as parents participated in classroom activities. During Teachers and Staff Appreciation Week, Board Members Ms. Bernice Brown and Mrs. Sharee Morton visited the school. Superintendent Dr. Mable Alfred also visited the school to thank the staff.





Highlights

STEM is a major part of the curriculum and activities at Colin Powell Middle School. Graduating students Lauriel Dawson and Jannell Livingston received the Medal of Science for their outstanding performance at the Regional Science Fair in Normal Illinois earlier this year. The grant-funded energy carnival is always a success.



COLIN POWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL



Highlights

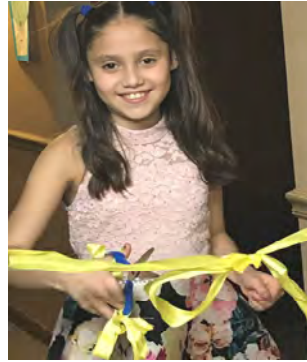
Colin Powell Middle School's sports teams were champions this year! The girls track team placed first in their division while the girls basketball team were the champions of the Mokena Tournament. The 8th grade boys basketball team were the champions of the Mokena Tournament and the Battle of the Titans. Colin Powell continues to be recognized as a school with a strong sports program.



Our Partnership With the Timber Ridge Community

Last school year we partnered with the Timber Ridge Mobile Community to open up their new Community Resource Center. The facilities management staff completely renovated a rarely used room to create a learning center for its residents. Our school district donated eight laptop computers and purchased wall art. Over 1000 books were donated by Half Price Books, Barnes & Noble, and various south suburban residents. According to property manager, Scott Christensen, the residents are very pleased!

This summer, we will partner with the Timber Ridge Community again to create the Adult Learning Center. The school district will donate Chromebooks to the center. Wall art and books will be donated by Half Price Books and area residents. To donate books to the center contact Shelia Friday at 708-720-6394.



Elementary School District 159 Hosts Reebok Tournament

In June, our school district held the Chi-town Reebok Tournament at Colin Powell Middle School. Approximately twenty-five youth teams participated in the two-day event with teams from New Orleans, St. Louis and other locations throughout the Midwest.

The champions of the event was Mean Streets coached by Mr. Terrell Morton Sr. and Mr. Eric Hayes. Championship team members Terrell Morton Jr. and Rayfield Harrell are 7th graders at Colin Powell Middle School. Congratulations!



Family & Community Engagement Program

Research shows that when families, communities and schools work together, students are more successful and the entire community benefits.

Each month our Family & Community Engagement Coordinator, Mrs. Cheryl Mitchell, has workshops geared towards connecting families and communities to the school district. FACE program highlights include “You Are Not The Boss of Me” which was facilitated by re-tired district teacher, Mrs. Harvey. The program provided parents with insight of how disruptive behavior impact the class. Pastor Cleveland facilitated a workshop that encouraged parents to be involved with their children’s learning and a community health and resource fair was held.

FACE also collaborates with the PTO and Superintendent Advisory Group throughout the year to support school level programs and initiatives.



I Brother II Another Male Mentoring Program

Our grant funded I Brother II Another program provides mentoring and tutoring to Colin Powell male students.

During the school year, Program Directors Juan Coleman and Charles Johnson work with nearly one-hundred students to assist them in character building, community service, and social responsibility efforts. Students also receive homework assistance.

I Brother II Another partners with several businesses and organizations including Bob Hawkinson’s Kia, Family Youth Initiative, and the Village of Matteson to provide a variety of programs throughout the year.

While the program currently focuses on Colin Powell students, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Coleman have a goal of implementing the program into our elementary schools.

We thank them for their commitment to our middle school boys and look forward to another successful year.



Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

Towards the end of the school year, the Superintendent and Board of Education visited each school to thank every district employee for their commitment and service to the school district. Each employee also received a gift card for lunch at Panera!. Below are just a few of the pictures taken during the week. Thanks for all that you do!



Thanks For All That You Do!



Our Underwater Robotics Program Ranks Among The Best In The Midwest



Our Underwater Robotics Program at Colin Powell Middle School is ranked among one of the best in the Midwest. Each year the team competes in the Marine Advanced Technology Education (M.A.T.E.) Midwest Regional Underwater Robotics Competition and receive accolades for their performance. Mr. Lael Dubose, Mr. Eric Mooney, and Ms. Sharon Bird are the coaches of the team. We congratulate the team and the coaches for a job well done and wish them continued success!

Elementary School District 159 Board of Education



Dr. William S. McClinton
Board President



Mrs. Carolyn Palmer
Board Vice President



Mrs. Bernice Brown
Secretary



Mrs. Regina Edgecombe



Ms. Debra Ellis



Mrs. Sharee Morton



Mrs. Carolyn Owens

Congratulations Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Edgecombe, Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Palmer!

On Tuesday, April 30th Elementary School District 159 swore in four board members. Mrs. Bernice Brown was re-elected for her second term and retained her role as Board Secretary. Mrs. Regina Edgecombe, Mrs. Sharee Palmer, and Mrs. Carolyn Palmer were elected for their first terms. Mrs. Palmer will serve as the Board Vice-President. The newly organized Board of Education elected Dr. William McClinton as Board President. Both Edgecombe and Morton have children that attend the school district.

Mrs. Edgecombe is a licensed daycare provider in Matteson and has a degree in early childhood education with a minor in social work. "Working as a team, we will restore the trust of our community. My vision is clear and that is to have all children meet academic standards. A positive change is coming." Said Mrs. Edgecombe.

Mrs. Morton has been a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Board for several years. She has a degree in early childhood education and is a partner of Shorewood Corporations. "Restoring educational excellence, increasing financial accountability and increasing transparency are among what I see as priorities" said Mrs. Morton. "I want to ensure that the best interest of our students are at the forefront" she said.

Mrs. Palmer is a former Chicago Public School teacher and administrator. She also served as principal of Illinois School in Park Forest and Bunche Elementary School in Harvey. Mrs. Palmer is the CEO of Carolyn Kids Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization that provides social-emotional needs to children. The foundation provides scholarships to elementary school kids as well. This past school year the organization awarded three scholarships to Colin Powell students. In addition, she is a society columnist for the Chicago Defender newspaper. "It is imperative that we work cohesively to ensure that all children have positive learning experiences and I am appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of the process" said Mrs. Palmer.

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Elementary School District 159 Celebrates Our 150th Anniversary
Join Us For Our Kick-Off With A Day Of Celebration!
Saturday, August 17, 2019

Celebration Time

Jesse White Tumblers

CELEBRATING 150TH
YEARS OF LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 159

DJ HotRod from Power 92.3!

Celebration Time

Community Parade!
Leaving from the Administrative Office.
Kick-off is at 8:00am
6202 Vollmer Rd.

Free Event!

Back to School Festival!
Colin Powell Middle School
10am—3pm
20600 Matteson Avenue

Bands, cheerleaders, sports teams, organizations, and community members are invited to march with us as we proceed through the Woodgate Community with a finale at Colin Powell Middle School. If you are interested in participating contact Shelia Friday at (708) 720-6394.

Food, Resource Fair, Book Bags, Games & Prizes, Game Truck, Face Painting, Entertainment, Balloon Artist, Hair Cuts/Braids, Bouncy House. For more information about the festival contact Ina Jones at 708-720-9393 or Cheryl Mitchell at 708-720-6371.

Former Elementary School District 159 students, graduates and staff are welcome to march with us in our parade!