

CommunityConnections

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

Fall 2023

Dear Community Member,



Thank you for your continuing support for Community Consolidated School District 93 (CCSD93) as we seek to maximize the academic, social and emotional potential of each student. Because of you, we are able to offer a wide range of programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our 3,250 preschool through 8th grade students,

who come to us from portions of Bloomingdale, Carol Stream and Hanover Park, across our Early Childhood Center, six elementary schools and two middle schools. Here are a few timely updates from CCSD93 for you.

D93 Schools Improve Proficiency, Rated Commendable

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently released its School Report Cards with data from the 2022-23 school year. In them, each elementary and middle school in the state receives a summative designation from ISBE, which takes into account a wide variety of measures related to school performance and growth. I'm pleased to share that all of CCSD93's elementary and middle schools received ISBE's official summative designation of Commendable, the second highest of five possible designations.

One of the key measures of the School Report Cards is proficiency. This is derived from Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) scores for English language arts and math, taken by students in grades 3-8, and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) scores for science, taken by students in grades 5 and 8. As a continuous improvement organization, I am happy to report that CCSD93 experienced proficiency gains from 2021-22 to 2022-23 as follows:

- English Language Arts: +4.3%
- Math: +2.5%
- Science: + 7.3%

While these gains are positive, there is always more room for improvement. CCSD93 administrators and educators are working through the School Report Card data to identify areas of focus to increase student achievement. I invite you to review the data yourself at www.ccsd93.com/Transparency by

finding the *School Report Card Data for CCSD93* section, which includes links for each school and the entire district.

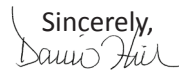
Dashboard Measures Strategic Plan Progress

In the spring, CCSD93's Board of Education approved the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, which identifies the district's values, priorities and objectives for the next five years based on feedback from students, parents, staff and community members. We have developed a variety of data points referred to as key performance indicators (KPIs) to be measured annually in order to track our progress toward achieving the plan's objectives. I invite you to review the Strategic Plan and monitor the KPIs, which are represented on a comprehensive and user-friendly Strategic Dashboard that includes year by year benchmarks, at www.ccsd93.com/StrategicDashboard.

Committee Examining School Boundaries

Throughout the past decade, CCSD93 has experienced changes in enrollment that have created notable disparities between many of our schools in terms of the number of students attending compared to maximum capacity. This has resulted in inequities in class sizes, unoccupied classrooms, and student access to specialists among our schools. In order to explore addressing these concerns, CCSD93 has convened a Superintendent's Boundary Committee to analyze data related to enrollment and school boundaries with the ultimate goal of ensuring that CCSD93 is most equitably serving the students and families of our community. The committee is composed of parents from each elementary and middle school, teachers, support staff, administrators and CCSD93 Board of Education members. While its work is not yet complete, it will most likely recommend that CCSD93's school boundaries be adjusted to some degree for the 2024-25 school year. Once the committee achieves consensus on recommendations, the community will be invited to informational sessions to learn more, ask questions and provide feedback. Find out more at www.ccsd93.com/BC.

Please review the rest of this edition of *Community Connections* for additional news and information from CCSD93, including new ways the district is supporting students, financial updates and more.

Sincerely,

David H. Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



COMMENDABLE DESIGNATIONS

ALL CCSD93 SCHOOLS



VIEW COMPLETE SCHOOL REPORT CARD DATA AT [WWW.CCSD93.COM/TRANSPARENCY](http://www.ccsd93.com/TRANSPARENCY)

New Endeavors Designed to Address Student Needs

Educational research makes clear that meeting students' physical requirements and social and emotional learning (SEL) needs is essential to academic achievement. Here are a few new ways CCSD93 is supporting students this school year.

D93 Kids Foundation Gives Warm Clothing, School Supplies & More



In May, the district launched the D93 Kids Foundation, a nonprofit organization, to help meet the needs of CCSD93's most vulnerable students. The D93 Kids Foundation's mission is simple: To support CCSD93's students to maximize their potential. In practice, it is committed to providing CCSD93 students who have the most significant needs with:

- School supplies
- Winter coats
- And resources when unexpected personal emergencies arise like housefires or immediate mental health service needs

The D93 Kids Foundation operates thanks to individual donations made to www.ccsd93.com/Donate, fundraising events, and recurring contributions from staff. It is guided by a committee of staff members from a variety of positions across CCSD93, which meets regularly to plan events, develop and monitor its budget and financial plans, and authorize and approve expenditures.

In the months since its launch, the D93 Kids Foundation has provided more than 100 children in our community with coats, hats and gloves and has partnered with CCSD93's PTAs to give thousands of dollars of school supplies to students in need. In October, it welcomed more than 200 parents, staff and community members for its first annual Trivia Night Fundraiser at American Legion Post 76 in Carol Stream and brought in more than \$4,500 from a fun night of games, raffles and camaraderie.

Northern Illinois Food Bank Partnership Helps Fight Hunger

CCSD93 has partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide healthy food for weekend meals to more than 200 families across the district each week throughout the school year. Special thanks to CCSD93's staff volunteers for devoting time to manage the program and collaborate with families at each elementary and middle school.

Wellness Rooms Provide Embedded & Innovative SEL



Students who attend schools that embed research-based SEL practices into their educational delivery systems experience higher levels of engagement, increased school functioning and improved academic performance when compared to students who do not. For these reasons, CCSD93 has continued to prioritize addressing students' social and emotional needs. It is reflected in the district's mission statement, which seeks to maximize the academic, social & emotional potential of each student; and it is a key performance indicator within the Student Success strategic priority of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

To this end, CCSD93 has introduced Wellness Rooms at its middle schools this school year. District behavior data indicates that a significant need among many students is the ability to self-regulate their emotions, and Wellness Rooms are calming spaces intentionally designed and operated to meet this very need. Entirely funded through a grant from Midwest PBIS Project EPIC, the rooms provide a space for students to visit during the school day when confronted by stressors. While there, they learn systems and skills to apply throughout their daily life that will better enable them to independently regulate their own emotions, respond to stress in healthier ways and increase their resiliency moving forward. Visits are meant to be brief, about 10 minutes at most, in order to be least intrusive to the school day. Students who need more in-depth assistance will continue to be supported through traditional meetings with school social workers or psychologists, as appropriate.

Wellness Room use is data driven. Students complete a standard questionnaire upon entry and exit, and CCSD93 uses the resulting responses to further personalize strategies for students, measure the rooms' effectiveness, and make adjustments as necessary. Protocols are in place to ensure that students use them as intended and not simply to avoid class.

Ultimately, these spaces are designed to better meet the social and emotional needs of our students. Wellness Rooms join other SEL practices that CCSD93's educators have systematically implemented to support students, including PBIS, which sets and reinforces positive behavior expectations; Expect Respect, which guides students to identify and appropriately respond to bullying behavior; classroom circles, which build community and accountability; and restorative practices, which assist students to resolve conflict and repair harm.

Learn more about Wellness Rooms in CCSD93 by watching the video at www.ccsd93.com/WellnessRooms.

CCSD93 Committed to Sound Fiscal Management



The district's newly implemented Strategic Plan requires not only success for all students, but that CCSD93 also achieves operational excellence by serving as a sound financial steward of taxpayer dollars.

CCSD93 has a history of strong fiscal management. Its fiscal year 2023 operating fund budget is balanced. It recently received its 36th consecutive Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) for financial reporting and accountability. For the 32nd time, the district has also been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report. These awards reflect CCSD93's commitment to operating in a fiscally responsible and transparent manner.

This year, CCSD93 was issued \$3.1 million in the third and final phase of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, designated by the federal government to address the impact of COVID-19 on student learning. The district's focus was to spend these funds as effectively and efficiently as possible. It utilized approximately \$600,000 on salaries and benefits for staff to address academic gaps caused by the pandemic. The remaining \$2.5 million was used to improve air quality by replacing heating, cooling and ventilation units at Carol Stream, Heritage Lakes and Roy DeShane elementary schools, which were approaching the end of their useful lives and were already scheduled to be replaced in the near future as part of CCSD93's capital improvement plan.

Community members are invited to review CCSD93's budget, financial reports and more by visiting our business and finance webpage at www.ccsd93.com/Business.

CCSD93 Birth to 5 Coalition Hosts Fall Fest & Connects Families With Young Children to Key Resources

CCSD93's Birth to 5 Community Coalition is a partnership of local agencies and businesses that offer resources designed to help children build foundational skills from birth to age five in order to improve school readiness. The coalition's partners work together to support young children in the areas of communication, cognition, social-emotional development, nutritional needs, and physical growth, and to provide coaching for parents. Research indicates that when children from birth to age five engage with these kinds of resources, positive lifelong results are achieved. The coalition's goal is to ensure that every child in our community has access to them.

In October, the coalition hosted its annual Let's Play Fall Fest outside of Heritage Lakes Elementary School. Hundreds of families joined for a free fun-filled autumn morning featuring face painting, a pumpkin patch, live music and entertainment, a trunk-or-treat, giveaways, costumed characters and playstations with materials and activities for families with young children. It was a beautiful day and a great opportunity to connect the community with these early childhood resources that are so crucial for a child's development. The event was made possible thanks to generous sponsorship from the DuPage Foundation through its Bright & Early DuPage Grant Program. The coalition looks forward to hosting it again next year.

If you or someone you know has children from birth to age five, please connect with our Birth to 5 Community Coalition at www.ccsd93.com/BirthTo5.



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.!

Stay Informed



Sign up for **Enews**, CCSD93's award-winning weekly email newsletter at www.ccsd93.com/Enews.



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

Mark Your Calendar to Register Young Ones for 2024-25!

Preschool Registration

5:30 p.m. on 1/18/24

CCSD93's Early Childhood Center

280 Old Gary Ave., Bloomington, IL 60108

For children who will be 3 or 4 years old
on or before September 1, 2024.

Visit www.ccsd93.com/Preschool for more!

Kindergarten Registration

7:00 p.m. on 2/22/24

Held online at www.ccsd93.com/Kindergarten

For children who will be 5 years old on or before
September 1, 2024.

Log onto the website for more!

CCSD93 IS HIRING!

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

Current Openings:

School Nurses - \$33.00/hr

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

Paraprofessionals - \$18.50/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!

