

SUMMER 2023

# Connect 41

THE GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## I N S I D E

D41 AT A GLANCE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
TO OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

2022-23 POINTS OF PRIDE

FROM THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

FROM THE  
BOARD PRESIDENT

DIVELEY NAMED ILLINOIS  
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

NEW PRINCIPAL  
AT CHURCHILL

NATIONAL BEST  
COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC  
EDUCATION DESIGNATION

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
CELEBRATE WARHOL

NEW VIDEO SERIES  
#WEARED41

[www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org)

# WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE CONNECT 41 NEWSLETTER!

District 41 is working hard to provide quality information not only to our families but also to our community members who do not currently have students served in our schools.

This has been an exciting year in District 41. We welcomed several administrators to our district-level leadership team (also known as “Cabinet”):

- Dr. David Bruno, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
- Dr. Kris Webster, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Accountability
- Mr. Juan Suarez, Director of Language Programs
- Mrs. Molly Victor, Director of Special Education/Student Services

Each of these leaders has provided fresh eyes and new ideas to our district. We look forward to what the future holds for D41.

## Points of Pride for the 2022/2023 School Year

The District 41 **Preschool for All program** achieved the **Gold Circle of Quality** awarded by ExceleRate Illinois. The D41 Preschool program is currently based at Forest Glen.

The District 41 Board of Education is one of 33 Illinois school boards to have earned the **School Governance Recognition Honors** for 2022 by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

District 41 schools are designated in the top two categories of “**exemplary**” or “**commendable**” by the State of Illinois “Illinois Report Card.” Four of our five schools are designated as exemplary.

Hadley Junior High Principal **Steve Diveley** was honored as the **Middle School Principal of the Year** for the State of Illinois.

Congressman Sean Casten’s office, as part of his Community Project Funding Grant for the 6th District, awarded District 41 with **\$250,000 to fund more mental health support** for our students.

District 41 is in the process of becoming the **first Heart Safe School District in Illinois**. To become a Project ADAM Heart Safe School district, District 41 is implementing a quality sudden cardiac arrest program of awareness, training and effective emergency response.

**Hadley Junior High** has been recognized as a **National School to Watch** by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle School Reform and an Illinois Horizon School by the Association of Illinois Middle Grade Schools.

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School Digital Literacy Specialist **Katie Johnson** was named the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce **District 41 Educator of the Year**.

# D41 At A Glance



3,520 STUDENTS



5

SCHOOL BUILDINGS



4

EXEMPLARY SCHOOLS



17 to 1

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO



245

TEACHERS



78%

STAFF WITH ADVANCED DEGREES



51

LANGUAGES SPOKEN



# D41

glen ellyn

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The new Illinois State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Sanders, sent a letter earlier this spring explaining the “proficiency rates” for Illinois school districts.

I thought it would be helpful for the community to understand how the State of Illinois determines how school districts are doing. I am extremely proud that District 41 is in the top 10 percent in the 6th highest ranking state with the toughest standards. To see the District 41 School Report Card, go to [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com).

Here is how Dr. Sanders explains the State of Illinois standards and proficiency:

“Illinois educators have a lot to be proud of. According to U.S. News & World Report, our state ranks #6 in the nation for pre-k-12 education. Six Illinois districts are among the top 20 public school districts in the nation, including claiming the top two spots. Last year, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (aka “The Nation’s Report Card”) showed that our students scored above the national average in both reading and math for Grades 4 and 8, while many other states saw declines. And we rank #11 for youth mental health.

Illinois has the most rigorous standards in the nation. Each state measures “proficiency” differently. It’s like comparing home runs across ballparks with vastly different outfields or comparing someone’s mile time on a flat track versus mountain terrain.

Being “proficient” in Illinois requires much more than reading on grade level. Our standards include a depth and breadth of higher order language arts skills, including writing, logic, critical thinking, and analysis. Out of five levels, only the top two count as “proficient” in Illinois. These high standards guide us to ensure our students are truly ready for rigorous content at the next grade level.”

Thank you for your partnership to make District 41 a great place for students to learn and grow. It takes everyone in the community to help each and every student thrive at school, home and in the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Kaczowski  
Superintendent





# Full-Day Kindergarten UPDATE

With another school year ending, I wanted to provide an update on the steps the D41 School Board has taken to further explore opportunities for providing full-day kindergarten (FDK) for all children. After the fall referendum failed, the Board met to discuss and reconfirm its commitment to the community to continue looking for a viable way to provide FDK to every student. D41 is one of only four school districts in DuPage County that offers only a half-day kindergarten program.

In February, the Board authorized its architect of record to conduct a feasibility study on using District reserve funds to build a FDK program. Our current elementary schools lack the space to accommodate a universal FDK program. Two options were approved. The first was to build a FDK Center on the Churchill Elementary campus that would provide modern instructional space for all kindergarten students. The Board successfully purchased property behind Churchill with

the purpose of expanding its early learning instruction. Option two was to build a 5th grade wing onto Hadley Junior High School. Under this scenario, all district 5th grade students would attend classes on the Hadley campus, thereby opening space in each elementary school for FDK. Additionally, the Board requested a district-wide facilities study to examine whether it was possible to pursue other capital projects with reserve funds to address additional classroom space needs.

Depending on the studies' findings and District recommendation, the Board will consider the most appropriate step forward. My Board colleagues and I recognize the community's strong and enduring support for FDK for all. We unanimously share that belief in FDK and have dedicated our efforts to fulfill the community's aspiration.

Dr. Robert Bruno  
 President  
 Board of Education

## D41 Board of Education Election

Three Board of Education seats were up for election on the April ballot.

The Board welcomes back **Jess Buttimer, Ted Estes,** and **Julie Hill.**



**(L-R) Elizabeth Bredfeldt, Julie Hill, Dr. Robert Bruno, Dr. Melissa Kaczowski, Tayyaba Syed, Jess Buttimer, Ted Estes, Dr. Chris Martelli, Maeve Bernstein, Jason Loebach**

# Hadley Principal Named Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year



Representatives from Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association were at Hadley Junior High on March 23, 2023 to announce that Hadley Principal Steve Diveley has been named the 2023 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year! All 8th grade students, the Hadley Jazz Band, student Board members, Mr. Diveley's family, and a number of other honored guests gathered for an assembly to surprise Mr. Diveley with the news. In addition, the assembly was live streamed so that all classes could watch the announcement.

Steve Diveley has served as principal at Hadley Jr. High School for the last 10 years. He previously served as principal at Heritage Grove Middle School in Plainfield for seven years and an assistant principal for five years prior. Mr. Diveley has been a member of the Illinois Principals Association since becoming a principal in 2005.

Mr. Diveley shared, "To be a successful instructional leader, my energies and actions should center around knowing my community and seeing or learning where I can lead the organization to meet the demands of my community. This includes cultivating trust with staff and stakeholders to adapt in ways that promote learning and high expectations for the community. I believe that the middle school model of common plan time for staff, smaller communities of students in teams, a focus on SEL for early adolescents, and a robust exploratory, co-curricular, and extra-curricular program is needed to develop our young people. This is not done alone, for to implement change requires the trust of the people around you. When they have a voice in the decision, trust the path and methods, and are part of the celebration, improvement in the educational program and student achievement will follow."

## Hadley Receives National Schools to Watch Redesignation



*Principal Steve Diveley with the Hadley 'Schools to Watch' team and Executive Director for the Association of Illinois Middle Schools, Mr. John Viano*

Hadley Junior High was recently honored with the National Schools to Watch Redesignation. To earn this, the Hadley School to Watch team had to show how it has effective systems through 1) Systems and Structures 2) Social Equity 3) Academic Excellence and 4) Developmental Responsiveness. As a part of the accomplishments resulting in the redesignation, it is notable that Hadley implements a model where all teachers co-teach for at least one period every day. They also implement an advisory period each morning to help students start their day checking in with a trusted adult.

At a Board meeting in April, Executive Director for the Association of Illinois Middle Schools, Mr. John Viano presented the Hadley team with a plaque in recognition of this designation.

# NEW PRINCIPAL AT CHURCHILL

District 41 is pleased to announce that the Board of Education approved the appointment of **Amanda Kanter** as the next Churchill Elementary School Principal. The appointment is effective July 1, 2023.

Mrs. Amanda Kanter currently serves as Assistant Principal at Winston Churchill Elementary School in Schaumburg School District 54. Prior to being promoted to assistant principal in her district, she taught for over six years as a classroom teacher at the elementary level and served as a tier two building PBIS coach and reading interventionist. Mrs. Kanter earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in organizational leadership both from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Mrs. Kanter is a Golden Apple Scholar who has prior experience in a Title 1 school.

"I am greatly looking forward to joining the Churchill community as school principal. It is clear District 41 is home to many compassionate and caring individuals who inspire excellence for our students," said Mrs. Kanter. "As school principal, I commit to fostering a high level of collaboration and trust so that, together, we can ensure our students reach their utmost potential."

Superintendent Dr. Melissa Kaczowski expressed how excited we are to have Mrs. Kanter join the district as the next leader of Churchill School. "We had a tremendous response to our posting and held a very rigorous interview process. Amanda impressed the various interview groups and emerged as the candidate of choice for the position," said Dr. Kaczowski. "We look forward to bringing on a new administrative team member and leader in our district. Amanda brings numerous strengths as she comes to us from a district that does exceptional work with PLCs and culture/climate."



## NATIONAL BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION DESIGNATION

District 41 has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 24th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Districts were evaluated on their funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs.

"I am so extremely proud of our music educators. The passion and commitment that they bring to their students is reflected in the magnitude of this award," said District 41 Superintendent Dr. Melissa Kaczowski. "They truly reach students in a unique



way and inspire them to excel. We are extremely fortunate to exist in a community that values and supports the arts. As a district, we have made a commitment to sustain robust programs that thrive due to partnerships throughout and beyond the community."

Thank you to all who support music in District 41!

### About The NAMM Foundation

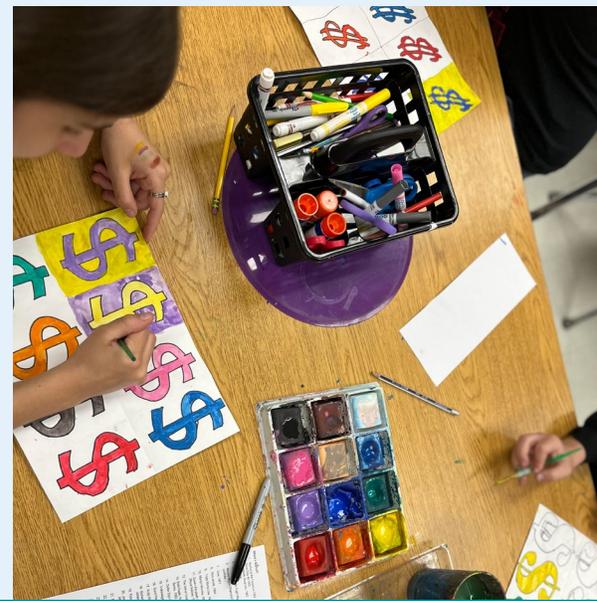
The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 15,000 member companies and individual professionals. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit [www.nammfoundation.org](http://www.nammfoundation.org).

# D41 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE WARHOL

All elementary art teachers have been incorporating Andy Warhol projects in art class as a way to connect to The Mac Warhol exhibit coming to the College of DuPage, June 3 – September 10, 2023.

“All of the elementary schools have created a Where’s Warhol scavenger hunt throughout the schools that the kids are loving. For example, at Forest Glen we have hidden 30 pictures—like the Andy Warhol Cow is on the milk bin at lunch, the Santa Claus is by the holiday books in the library etc.,” said Forest Glen Art Teacher Colleen Hindman.

In addition, the schools are planning to take the 5th graders on a field trip to The Mac to see the exhibit in August.



## #WeAreD41 VIDEO STORY SERIES

District 41 is excited to announce a new video story series #WeAreD41. The new series will feature people in District 41 and their backgrounds. The communication department will produce these stories and the district will feature them first at Board meetings and then share them out with the broader community. The first two stories have been produced and shared with the community.

The first story in the series is “Eller’s Story.” Eller Schafer is a District 41 preschool student who has inspired so many through his life story. Thank you to Rachel, Blake and Eller Schafer for allowing the District to tell Eller’s story. Get your tissues ready!

The second story in the series is “Beyond the Classroom.” This story features Hadley Junior High Teacher Katie Reed and her work outside of the classroom with students and her dedication to the organization Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center (GECRC).

**#WEARE** D41  
A District 4 every 1

[www.youtube.com/@glenellynd41](http://www.youtube.com/@glenellynd41)





793 N. Main Street  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

D41 SERVES GLEN ELLYN | GLENDALE HEIGHTS | CAROL STREAM | LOMBARD | WHEATON



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
ELEMENTARY**

380 Greenfield Ave  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(630) 790-6475



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
ELEMENTARY**

350 Bryant Ave  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(630) 790-6480



**CHURCHILL  
ELEMENTARY**

23W240 Geneva Rd  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(630) 790-6485



**FOREST GLEN  
ELEMENTARY**

561 Elm St  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(630) 790-6490



**HADLEY  
JUNIOR HIGH**

240 Hawthorne Blvd  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(630) 790-6450



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TO STAY CONNECTED**



It's everything D41—  
**In your pocket.**



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*it's all right at your fingertips!*



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