

Connect 41

THE GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GLEN ELLYN GLENDALE HEIGHTS CAROL STREAM LOMBARD WHEATON

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

When I think of our school district and all of the collaboration, dedication and hard work that it takes to support student learning, I think WOW! As we move through the school year, I continue to be impressed by the way our staff, families and the community come together to make sure each and every student has multiple opportunities every day to learn and grow.

I hope that all of the community members who live within our boundaries know that we have amazing staff members throughout our District. Research shows that the number one impact to student learning is the time spent with teachers. We are very fortunate to have outstanding educators and staff. For example, not many know that over 78 percent of our teachers have earned master's degrees or above. We hire the best and we expect the best for our students. One of the ways we are reminding ourselves within District 41 to be the best and to "wow" our community is through a campaign called "We are W.O.W." W.O.W. stands for Warm. Open. Welcoming. W.O.W. is the way Disney operates and expects their staff to interact internally and externally as an organization. We operate the same way here in District 41. We want all of our students, staff, parents, and community members to feel a positive sense of belonging every time they connect with a staff member of District 41. When parents visit our schools and

WARM.
OPEN.
WELCOMING.

district office, they should leave knowing that we are open to their thoughts and ideas. Our goal is to welcome every person who walks through our doors with a positive greeting and a smile. This includes our interactions with one another as staff.

We are encouraging staff, parents and community members to celebrate one another as they experience W.O.W. in District 41. Please share times when you have noticed anyone have a "W.O.W. moment" by emailing a brief story to wearewow@d41.org. We will share these moments on our social media pages, in our weekly District Digest e-newsletter, as well as in our other internal communications.

Thank you for helping us celebrate stories throughout our District and community! We are here to support all of our families and the five communities we serve. We want to "WOW" you!

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Gordon
Superintendent



About District 41

District 41 serves approximately 3,500 Pre-K through 8th grade students from five communities — Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Carol Stream, Lombard and Wheaton. There are four elementary schools (Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Churchill, and Forest Glen) and one junior high school (William M. Hadley Junior High) in the district.

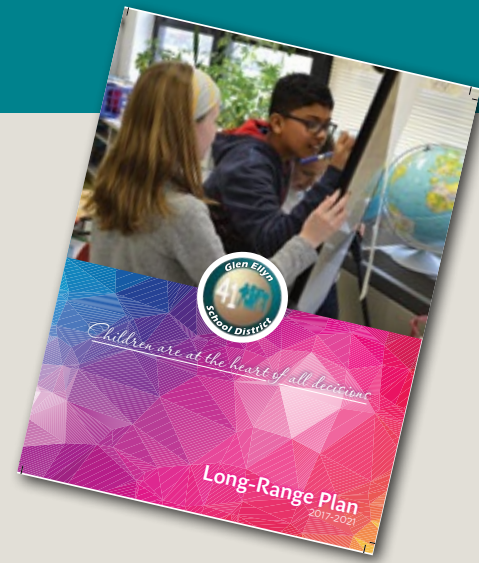
All District 41 students transition to Glenbard West High School in Glen Ellyn.

LONG-RANGE PLAN

During the 2016/17 school year, District 41 went through a collaborative process to create a new Long-Range Plan. The Long-Range Plan now guides the work of the District as resources are aligned to achieve the Strategic Priorities set by the Board of Education. The plan publicly proclaims the District's commitment to the priorities and the measures by which the District is held accountable.

Superintendent Paul Gordon, Chief Communications Officer Erika Krehbiel, and Board members President Stephanie Clark and Erica Nelson presented "Creating a New Long-Range Plan: Your District. Your Plan." at the Illinois Association of School Boards Annual Joint Conference on Saturday, November 18, 2017. "It was an honor to be chosen to present at this major conference for school boards and administrators in Chicago," said President Clark. "We are doing great work in District 41 and the new Long-Range Plan fosters greater focus and accountability."

To view the District 41 Long-Range Plan, go to www.d41.org/LRP.



REFERENDUM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

UPDATE

Thank you to our community of voters!

Planning has begun on the projects that will be completed by the funds provided by the referendum passed last spring, 2017. District 41 will continue working with architects Wight & Company and construction management firm Frederick Quinn Corporation to complete the work.

The projects include a building addition at Hadley Junior High School to eliminate the existing portable classrooms, as well as a secure entryway at Churchill Elementary School.

Construction on both of these major projects will begin in Spring 2018. In addition, a number of infrastructure projects such as roofing/heating/cooling and ADA bathrooms will be completed in all of the District 41 schools over the next two years. Completion of the Churchill School projects are expected by the start of the 2018/19 school year. Completion of the Hadley addition and the rest of the projects across the District are expected by the start of the 2019/20 school year.

CHURCHILL SECURE ENTRYWAY

Wight & Company presented options for a secure entryway at Churchill along with suggestions for moving some space around inside the building to make way for the new construction. The below design is moving forward to the next stage of development for Churchill School.



OUR INCLUSION JOURNEY

This school year, District 41 has focused professional development for staff on inclusion for all students across the District. Over the past several months, the District has engaged with national inclusion expert Dr. Julie Causton. In addition to spending time in our schools providing professional development and meeting with teachers, she also presented to roughly 70 parents, administrators and district leaders from neighboring districts to share information about inclusion.

Her message is clear and focused. The District must continue to move toward a more inclusive model as the benefits are incredibly strong. She praised the District and shared that District 41 has talented and dedicated educators who have a focus on excellent practices. She also shared her initial thoughts on how the District can begin to move toward a more inclusive environment. This focus is in direct alignment with the District 41 Long-Range Plan. Dr. Causton's work with District 41 is about becoming a more inclusive school district. This is not just about special education; this is about everything the District does to educate our students.

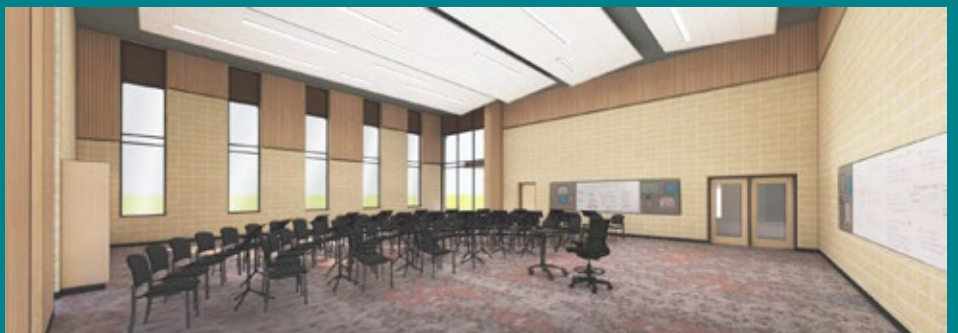


This is about how the District includes all students, how the District differentiates instruction for all students, how the District embraces students in the general education setting, and how the District overall utilizes resources to benefit all students.

The professional development around inclusion will continue to enhance learning for every student in District 41.

HADLEY ADDITION

Per the Board's direction, administration brought forward a number of design options for the addition at Hadley and some work to the music spaces inside of the existing building. Hadley Principal Steve Diveley, Hadley teachers, Frederick Quinn Corporation (FQC), and Wight & Company worked together on the concepts and also attended Board meetings to answer questions. The Board came to consensus on the direction for the designs at the September 25, 2017 Board meeting. A new bus lane will also be constructed at Hadley Junior High School, taking 17 school buses off of Glencoe Street and onto District 41 property.





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Paul Gordon, *Superintendent*

Board of Education
Stephanie Clark, President
Kurt Buchholz, Vice President
Jason Loebach, Secretary
Robert Bruno
Bruce Currie
Linda D'Ambrosio
Erica Nelson

Meetings are held at the District Central Services Office
793 N. Main, Glen Ellyn

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PAID
Permit No. 32
Carol Stream, IL
Carrier Route Presort

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Community Finance Advisory Committee

Over the past year, District 41 has developed and engaged a group of community members with backgrounds in finance called the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). They are tasked with advising the District and the Board of Education on specific topics related to finance.

Kevin Blair	Scott Park
Bryan Derdenger	Arthur Pech
Dennis Kalten	Jeremy Van Ek
Tim Keeley	Christopher Walter
Leonard Marsh	

Thank you to the members of the FAC for their time planning for the financial future of District 41.



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We want to hear from you!

Send your comments and questions to:

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