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District Digest

from Glen Ellyn School District 41

Message from Superintendent Gordon

Last week we had the privilege of having Inclusion expert Dr. Julie Causton spend three days in our district. Dr. Causton was with us Wednesday, Thursday and Friday observing some grade level classrooms in every school and offering feedback during teacher Professional Learning Community (PLC) time. She also presented to roughly 70 parents, administrators and district leaders from neighboring districts on Thursday evening. On Friday afternoon, she spent a few hours with district administrators discussing her observations and offering feedback.

Her message was clear and focused. We 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 our district can begin to move toward a more inclusive environment that will benefit all learners through the power of differentiation and rethinking some of our structures. This focus is in direct alignment with our Long-Range Plan.

It is important that we all understand that her work with District 41 is about us becoming a more inclusive school district. This is *not* just about special education; this is about everything we do to educate our students. This is about how we include all students, how we differentiate instruction for all students, how we embrace students in the general education setting, and how we utilize our resources to benefit all students.

This is where we are at today in District 41: We are on a journey that will take time to grapple with the ideas, perspectives and mindshifts Dr. Causton has and will continue to present to us. The journey will include processing, collaborating and planning as we begin to discuss the short and long-term implications this work has on our students and staff. There may be a few aspects of our work we can implement more quickly, while the majority of the work will take time to think and reflect upon with

staff and parents. The goal is to create and implement the best possible structures and opportunities for all of our students.

We have also received a number of questions regarding our **Accelerated and Enriched Curriculum Services (AEC)** program at 4th and 5th grade. A few parents who attended Dr. Causton's parent presentation on Thursday evening came away with more questions and some concerns about AEC. Dr. Causton has given our District much to think about and consider. That said, we have yet to determine how her ideas will be applied and what inclusion for all learners will look like in District 41.

AEC just underwent a [program review](#) this past February and AEC will move forward as planned. As the Superintendent of District 41, I am committed to the work of inclusion, but the plan and implementation has yet to be defined. This work will take time and collaboration to develop and implement. District 41 is committed to meeting the needs of all of our students.

Thank you for your support and partnership.
Dr. Paul Gordon
Superintendent

Hadley Students Present to Senator Durbin

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin visited Hadley Junior High to engage with students and learn more about the Hadley energy drink Problem-Based Learning Unit. Students presented their ideas and engaged in conversation with him about their ideas and solutions. It was a great day for the students!





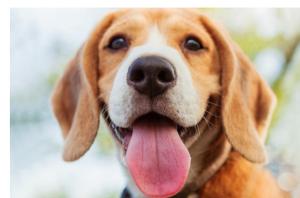
Hadley Students Help Hurricane Harvey Victims

Hadley students organized a Hurricane Harvey Relief Drive. In less than 24 hours, Hadley students and parents donated over 50 bags of clothing, toiletries, diapers, and food. The items were delivered to the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Way to go, students!



Pets/Animals on School Property

A reminder that, per District 41 policy, animals on school property are prohibited while children are present unless it is approved by the building principal. Thank you for helping keep our students and community safe.



Hadley to Participate in Marching Band Day at West

Hadley 8th Grade Band students will participate in the Annual Marching Band Day at Glenbard West High School on Friday, September 29th. Over 100 eighth grade band students will meet with members of the Glenbard West Marching Band and their directors, Mr. Jonathan Walsh and Mr. Bill Ortega. Students will rehearse a portion of their marching show with music and experience the concepts of marching band and a high school ensemble. This combined experience is intended to promote and encourage a smooth transition to our community's wonderful high school program and ensemble. Mr. DePalo and Mrs. Tribley are also always so happy to see so many of their Hadley Junior High Band alumni continue to make music an important part of their lives in high school.



courtesy Daily Herald

Hadley Teacher Creates Adaptive Trumpet Harness

Hadley Junior High School teacher Kelly Lewis redesigned and created an adaptive trumpet harness for a 7th grade Hadley band student using a 3D printer. The student requires the use of an adaptive harness to help hold the trumpet for practices and performances. Hadley's Computer Technology Teacher and Exploratory Department Chair Kelly Lewis created and printed several designs until the adaptive harness worked successfully. Jim DePalo and Samantha Tribley, Hadley's band directors, alongside Ryan Aiello, special education aide, and the student's family, are grateful and appreciative of Kelly's dedication and innovation. "Kelly Lewis is an incredible asset not only to her own students, but to all of Hadley's students and the school's programs. Thank you, Kelly!" said Mrs. Tribley.



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of all decisions."*

Glen Ellyn School District 41

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