

DISTRICT OFFICE
 701 S. Seventh Avenue
 LaGrange, IL 60525
 (708) 482-2700

Mr. Steve Bahn,
Superintendent
of Schools

**AUGUST-
 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Newsletter of
 LaGrange School District 105

The Blackboard

www.d105.net

Countryside
 Hodgkins
 LaGrange

D105

The D105 Difference

Empowering Students to Pursue Their Interests, Talents and Dreams

LaGrange School District 105 annually surveys the district community to gather perceptual data related to district goals, priorities, strategies, and commitments.

The survey items are connected to the district's strategic goals, which are –

- GOAL 1: Student Achievement**
- GOAL 2: Supportive Learning Environment**
- GOAL 3: Engaged Families and Communities**
- GOAL 4: Quality Staff**
- GOAL 5: Value-added Resources**

Highlights of the survey responses from the D105 annual survey, which was administered to students, teachers, and parents in the spring of 2018, include:

- 95% of students report that they expect to attend college.
- 95% of students report that their teachers care about them.
- 97% of parents report that their child likes going to their school.
- 96% of students report that their school is a “good place for me to learn.”
- 95% of students report that they feel safe at school.
- 99% of parents report that their child feels safe at school.
- 94% of teachers feel that their school provides an atmosphere where every student can achieve.
- 98% of parents report that they are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought by the school.

- 92% of teachers report that the goals and priorities of the district are clear to them.
- 93% of teachers report that D105 facilities are kept safe.
- 96% of parents report that their child’s classroom and school have the equipment, materials, and supplies needed to support learning.



SUMMER BOOK CLUB

D105 held its first Summer Book Club for K-8 families at Ideal School on the evening of June 27, as part of the Summer CONNECT Learning Program (see page 3). Research indicates that families who read together create valuable learning experiences for their children.

Prior to the event, families received a copy of the book, *What Was the Great Chicago Fire?* by Janet B. Pascal. Parents read it with their children. Over 140 participants attended the event to discuss the book and enjoy book-related activities. Families visited a variety of stations, with self-paced, hands-on activities.

Event highlights included a modern fire truck and ambulance provided by the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. Activity stations showcased local history, early railroad routes, before-and-after photos of the Chicago Fire, the 1893 Columbian Exposition, and more.

Joanna Marek, library media specialist, commented, “More than 20 staff members supported the Summer Book Club and many more helped plan it. Families had a great time and asked what book we would be reading next!”

Guirie Middle School
 1001 S. Spring Avenue
 LaGrange, IL 60525
 (708) 482-2720
 Ed Hood, Principal

Hodgkins Elementary School
 6516 S. Kane Avenue
 Hodgkins, IL 60525
 (708) 482-2740
 Emily Crement, Principal

Ideal Elementary School
 9901 W. 58th Street
 Countryside, IL 60525
 (708) 482-2750
 Eilidh Hall, Principal

Seventh Avenue Elementary School
 701 S. Seventh Avenue
 LaGrange, IL 60525
 (708) 482-2730
 Erin Hall, Principal

Spring Avenue Elementary School
 1001 S. Spring Avenue
 LaGrange, IL 60525
 (708) 482-2710
 Brian Lawson, Principal

Superintendent Schlichting Retires



Dr. Glenn Schlichting retired on June 30. His very capable leadership guided the district for 16 years, as assistant superintendent

for four years, then as superintendent for 12. received the Blue Ribbon recognition that year.

The district also saw gains in the placement of students from D105 into Lyons Township High School Accelerated Honors classes. Over the course of six fiscal years (2013-2018), the placement rates rose from 39 to 66% in math, 45 to 60% in English/language arts, and from 26 to 45% in science.

Dr. Schlichting also received recognition from the state for his “extraordinary efforts” as one of 21 Illinois superintendents who were named as the “2018 Regional Superintendents of Distinction.” These superintendents were selected by their peers based on leadership, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. The Horace Mann Companies, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Principals’ Association sponsored the recognition and hosted a luncheon in Springfield to honor these superintendents.

Honored and respected by students, teachers, administrators, staff and parents, Dr. Schlichting leaves a legacy of kindness, caring, community, and best practices in education for all D105 students.

He was instrumental in moving education in the district forward, always striving to assure that students had every possible opportunity to meet their potential.

In 2014, under his watch, two of the district schools, Spring Avenue and Seventh Avenue, were recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools. This award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools at which students either achieved very high learning standards or made notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award celebrates the hard work of students, educators, families and communities that create safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. Only 11 other public schools in Illinois

With Admiration and Respect...

Dr. Schlichting established the direction to support the whole child and ensure that our schools are healthy, safe, engaging, supportive, and challenging places for students. He was such a visible leader, always in our schools and classrooms, getting to know students and our exceptional educators.

– Ed Hood, Gurrie Middle School Principal

It was obvious to all that Dr. Schlichting loved his weekly visits to our schools and our classrooms. He knew how to connect with children of all ages. I especially enjoyed seeing Dr. Schlichting interact with my kindergartners. One day, he spent an entire morning in the hallway between two kindergarten classrooms and listened as each of our 40 students read a book for him. Every child had one-on-one time with him. The children loved it, but Dr. Schlichting definitely had the most fun! He wasn't hurried – it was as though he had nothing else in the world to do. He laughed, talked with, and praised each child as they read for him.

– Mary Pat LaRocca, Ideal School Kindergarten Teacher

Dr. Schlichting had a positive impact on our district, working to bring our school communities together through his support of the D105 Foundation, our school PTOs (including the formation of our District PTO), and our community events and programs. I am glad that I had the opportunity to work with him in the development of some of these programs and hope that we will be able to continue his legacy supporting our wonderful students and communities. It is hard for me to say just how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to work with him. I probably would not have become so involved had it not been for his support and leadership.

– Jessica Eterno, PTO President

D105 DASH



SUNDAY, MAY 20, BROUGHT OVER 300 RUNNERS OF ALL AGES TOGETHER IN COLD, DAMP WEATHER TO RUN THE D105 DASH. CONTRIBUTING TO THE EVENT'S SUCCESS WERE CORPORATE AND PRIVATE SPONSORS, MANY GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE DASH COMMITTEE, LED BY MICHAEL AND JAMI BUTTRON OF SPRING AVENUE SCHOOL. NOT ONLY WAS A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL, BUT THE EVENT RAISED OVER \$15,000! AFTER EXPENSES, EACH D105 SCHOOL RECEIVED \$2,000 TO PURCHASE SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

A LIST OF THE RACE'S WINNERS, AND MORE NEWS FROM THE D105 DASH, CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/D105DASH/.

(PHOTO): PICTURED ARE JUST A FEW OF THE D105 DASH PARTICIPANTS.

D105 Foundation News

The D105 Foundation had a busy and successful 2017-2018 school year, and is looking forward to some great events to come!

Foundation Awards Scholarships

Each year, the D105 Educational Foundation provides five college scholarships to graduating LTHS students who attended D105 schools and who may need financial assistance in reaching their goals. The scholarships were presented at the LTHS Honors Assembly on May 25. The 2018 D105 Foundation Scholarship recipients are: Alvaro Villalobos, Daniel Torres, Danielle Nabor, Jennifer Nunez, and Katie LaVoie.

Kane County Cougars

This year's Kane County Cougars Day took place on Sunday, April 29, from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. All community members and their families were invited to attend this special event.

Back-to-School Family Fun

The Foundation sponsored its annual D105 Back-to-School Family Night on September 14. School and community members flocked to Gurrie Middle School to welcome the new school year. They watched the family movie *Coco* on a big screen, and enjoyed balloon animals, a magician, a raffle, and delicious food by Q-BBQ.

Grand Jam!

A gala event for adults, the Second Annual "Grand Jam" will take place on Saturday, October 13, from 7:00 to 11:00 pm. Please visit the Foundation's website at d105foundation.org to purchase tickets and to buy raffle tickets.



THE D105 FOUNDATION'S 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, WITH D105 FOUNDATION PRESIDENT SUSAN DIXON. TOP PHOTO, STUDENTS, L TO R, ARE: DANIELLE NABOR, JENNIFER NUNEZ, DANIEL TORRES AND ALVARRO VILLALOBOS. PHOTO AT RIGHT: STUDENT KATIE LAVOIE.



Summer CONNECTS With LEARNING

For the seventh summer, D105 offered the Summer CONNECT Learning program. National studies, and the district's own research, show that students lose from one to three months of learning over the summer. The CONNECT program aims to help parents and students close this learning gap.

From June through August, the CONNECT program offered many opportunities for learning. These included summer learning goals for each grade level, which families could access through the district website. Students could also access skills practice in English/language arts and math through an online account targeted to each student's individual MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment results.

Teachers and staff compiled a "Summer Learning for All" web page with ideas for summer learning. An online calendar of math and reading activities offered daily learning activities.

For the seventh summer, D105 offered the Summer CONNECT Learning program. National

All five district libraries were open with a summer schedule.

Each elementary school held a Math and Literacy Family Game Night with a wide range of games for all age ranges that children and parents enjoyed.

Family Summer Book Club was a special event where all participants read and discussed the same book. (See related article, *Summer Book Club*, on page one.)

Sixth- through eighth-grade students interested in math and science could take an IMSA (Illinois Math and Science Academy) Fusion Session on cryptology. A variety of learning sessions were also available for Gurrie Middle School students.

"Through goal setting, math/literacy GAME nights, online learning opportunities and suggested learning activities for parents and children, D105 remains committed to maintaining student learning over the summer," said Kathryn Heeke, director of curriculum and instruction.

The Blackboard

D105 ACHIEVERS



Class of 2018: Mission Accomplished!

“We are very proud of the success of our eighth grade graduating class,” stated Gurrie Middle School Principal Ed Hood. “The class earned top national rankings on math and reading achievement tests, participated in more than 2,600 hours of community service during their two years at Gurrie Middle School, and treated each other and their teachers respectfully, as reflected by the results of their satisfaction surveys and their extremely low number of disciplinary referrals. The percentage of our graduating students scheduled into advanced and honors courses at Lyons Township High School is among the highest since we began tracking this data in 2003. Sixty percent of this class is scheduled into Honors/Accelerated English courses, 66% are taking Honors/Accelerated Math courses, and 45% will tackle Honors/Accelerated Science classes.”

Capstone Celebration Honors Grads, Teachers

D105 held its third annual Capstone event, sponsored by the Countryside Rotary Club, on Monday, May 7, at Capri Banquets in Countryside.

Thirty-six participating D105 graduates shared their reflections on what they have accomplished and their plans for future success. The students also recognized 26 D105 staff members who had most influenced them. Participating students’ families, recognized staff members, D105 administrators, Board of Education members, Rotary Club members, and

business and political leaders attended the celebration, which reflected the graduating class’s outstanding achievements. After having lunch with their teachers, students read their essays to the audience.

Gurrie Middle School Principal Ed Hood remarked, “It was a great event. It is so special to hear the ways in which our educators make an impact on our students, as told in our students’ own words. I am extremely proud of all our students and staff. The success our students enjoy is a result of our parents, community, and staff coming together to support and continually challenge these young people.”

School Citizen of the Year Awards

Each year, West 40, the Illinois educational service center for the West Cook County region, hosts the “School Citizen of the Year” (SCOTY) Awards. Every school in the area is asked to select one student who is an exceptional role model for other students. SCOTY winners are recognized in a ceremony in the spring. This year’s D105 SCOTY Award recipients were: Alex Leon, eighth grade, Gurrie Middle School; Thomas Culver, sixth grade, Ideal School; Kaitlyn Filkins, sixth grade, Hodgkins School; Katarina Neskovic, sixth grade, Seventh Avenue School; and Isabel Wirtz, sixth grade, Spring Avenue School.

Writing Festival

The annual spring writing festival is a D105 tradition. Students write original pieces, then teachers select two finalists from each class. Their work is scored by the Literacy Committee. The authors

who earn the highest scores read their work at the Writing Festival event.

The committee selected these students to read their work: *Gurrie Middle School* – Jeanne Mardegan and Angie Townsend, grade seven; Angelica Borrego, Lillian Rivera, and Susan Yeager, grade 8. *Spring Avenue School* – Aria Dinkins, grade one; Will Potter, grade two; Avey Ricks, grade four; Kate Carolan, grade five; and Emily Spelson, grade six. *Seventh Avenue School* – Alex Weiss, grade one; Mila Panos, grade two; Claire Rufa, grade four; Victor Rodriguez, grade five; and Nikolette Weiss, grade six. *Ideal School* – Andrew Jacobo, grade one; Hanna Bato and Benjamin Nietes, grade three; Lana Jovic, grade four; and Celestine Perusich, grade six. *Hodgkins School* – Ricardo Murillo, kindergarten; Cristhian Murillo Abrego, grade one; Logan Dougherty, grade two; Ethan Mozen, grade three; and Melanie Almeida, grade six.

Academic Talent Search

Selected D105 students participate in the annual Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), sponsored by Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development. NUMATS is a program that offers above-grade-level testing for academically talented students. The SAT and ACT assessments, designed for students in grades 11 and 12, are administered to students in grades 6 through 9.

In May, an awards ceremony recognized students from 15 area schools who received high test scores.

The D105 students were: *Seventh Avenue School* – Dean O’Bryan. *Gurrie Middle School* – Beauden Brown, Ella Bylsma, Zoe Chabria, Connor Crowe, Alyse Follenweider, Andrew Follenweider, Sofia Garcia, Charlotte Lange, Marko Ljuboja, Ava Mungo, Lee O’Bryan, Ava Paganis, Sophie Peto, Lindsey Rickman, Meah LaRocco, Peter Sanchez, and Sophie Zielinski.

Musicians Excel

Orchestra members and eighth-grade students Ella Bylsma and Lana Zivko placed in the Illinois Music Educators Association Junior Orchestra Festival. The symphony orchestra earned a Division 1, Superior rating in the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) District contest, and another Division 1, Superior rating at the High Note Festival. The choir earned a Division 2, Excellent rating at the IGSMA District Contest, and a Division 1, Superior rating at the High Note Festival.

The fourth- through eighth-grade concert band earned a Superior rating at the High Note Festival, and the Gurrie Jazz Ensemble achieved a 1, the highest rating, at the IGSMA competition. The annual Band-aid Concert raised more than \$1,600 provided for the non-profit Karam Foundation that offers humanitarian relief for victims of the Syrian crisis. The event featured the talents of D105’s top music groups, as well as a captivating performance by lead singer/songwriter Bassel Almadani of the soul-funk group *Bassel & the Supernaturals*, who appeared on the charity’s behalf.

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A Message from Superintendent Steve Bahn

MAP Results

Each year, District 105 students in kindergarten through eighth-grade take the nationally norm-referenced Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test. Students are assessed in the areas of reading and math in the winter and spring of each academic year (kindergarteners are assessed in the fall as well). The results place District 105 above the ninetieth percentile nationally for student growth and above the eighty-fifth percentile nationally for student achievement. The results of the 2017-2018 school year include:

Progress

This spring, 69% of our students met their MATH progress targets far exceeding not only the district's two-year rolling progress average (57%), but also surpassed both the district target (63%) and the progress made by our benchmark district (55%).

In READING, 65% of our students met their progress targets exceeding the district's two-year rolling average (60%), and also surpassed both the district target (63%) and the progress made by our benchmark district (53%).

Achievement

68% of our students performed at or above the fiftieth percentile in MATH, exceeding the district's two-year rolling average (62%), and surpassing the progress made by our benchmark district (53%).

In READING, 70% of our students performed at or above the fiftieth percentile, exceeding the district's two-year rolling average (67%), and surpassing the progress made by our benchmark district (54%).

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- Kristine Lonsway, *Vice President*
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- Elyse Hoffenberg
- Larry Prystalski
- Marika Radi
- Eileen Tucker

The public is invited to attend Board meetings — generally held at the Gurrie Library Learning Center on the fourth Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Introducing NEW PRINCIPALS

Students at Ideal and Hodgkins schools met their new principals when they returned to school. Introducing **Miss Eilidh Hall**, Ideal School, and **Dr. Emily Crement**, Hodgkins School:



Eilidh Hall worked in D105 as the district math specialist/advanced academics coordinator, and as assistant principal/advanced academics coordinator. Previously, she taught in Schaumburg District

54. Principal Hall earned a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University, a Master's, Reading Specialist, from Benedictine University, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Illinois. She lives in West Chicago with her dog, Sam, loves to travel and explore new places, and enjoys weekends with family and friends.

Dr. Emily Crement previously served as the principal of Lemay Middle School in West Chicago District 33 and was an instructional specialist in Berwyn North District 98. Dr. Crement achieved a Bachelor's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, an MA in Reading Education, an MA in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, and an Ed.D. (Doctorate) in Educational Leadership from National Louis University. She lives with her husband and teenage son in Willowbrook and enjoys spending time with family.



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**AUGUST –
SEPTEMBER 2018**

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D105 ACHIEVERS

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Art On Display

At the April 28 WSCAE Art Expo, 29 works of art created by 43 K-8 D105 students were displayed at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park. They were part of an exhibition of 600 pieces created by students in 13 local school districts.

Athletes Excel

Congratulations to these D105 Conference champions: the seventh grade boys' basketball, eighth grade boys' basketball, seventh grade boys' volleyball and eighth grade boys' volleyball teams. The seventh grade boys' volleyball team also won their tournament!

Robots!

The Gurrie STEM Club competed in the MATE Underwater Robotics Midwest Regional on Saturday, April 28, at Northeastern University in Chicago. The Gurrie students earned the "Ambassador Award" for having the most school spirit and for their overall great attitude during the competition. In addition to this prestigious honor, the Gurrie team placed third overall in the Scout division, which was comprised of 12 middle and high school teams from the Midwest! This year's winning team included: eighth graders – Ana Babnigg, Erika

Betancourt, Beau Brown, Grant Dixon, Lauren Elliott, Dryden Hall, Kiera Hernandez, Cole Kostrzewa, and Katie Morris; and seventh graders – Malia Fink, Evan Konkey, Margaret Pacholski, Ethan Rosencranz, and Oliva Sawickis. Teachers Dana Halper and Molly Kowynia sponsored the team.

District 105 Information Available on SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

From elementary schools to colleges, social media is empowering students, parents and teachers to share information in exciting ways and is building a new sense of community. District 105 is joining the social media scene to share "OUR STORY!" All parents are being asked to follow district information on one or more of the following social media sites. Community members are also invited to visit! Here's how to log in:

Facebook — La Grange District 105
Twitter — LaGrange105 or @dist105
Instagram — lagrange105