



the author

The purpose of District 21 schools is to provide a learning environment for all students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.



SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kate Hyland

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bill Harrison, *President*

Pamela Becker Dean, *Vice President*

Staci Allan, *Secretary*

Jeff Battinus

Arlen S. Gould

Debbi McAtee

Phil Pritzker

Community members,

Spring is always an exciting time in School District 21. We look forward to many celebrations in the coming weeks, each marking the accomplishments of our students, their growth over the past year, and the connections between our schools and the community.

There are too many stories and partnerships to feature in just one issue of *The Author*. Over the past few months, we were fortunate to have a local dentist donate his time and that of his staff to provide more than 300 free dental cleanings to students across our district. A local department store donated 500 books to students at Whitman Elementary School. Employees from a local business visited Kilmer Elementary School to encourage students to make healthy eating choices. Many service organizations regularly support our students and families through charitable donations of food, new clothing, and school supplies.

We are very grateful for our generous community partners and appreciate the role they play in our students' learning and growth. These stories, along with more announcements, can be found at www.ccsd21.org/news.

CCSD21 hosts Google, CDW, area educators

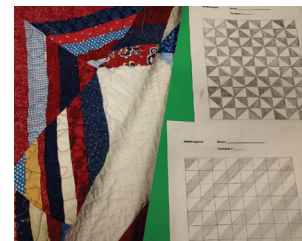
More than 50 educators from throughout the Chicagoland area gathered at Community Consolidated School District 21 this winter to learn and share with Google and CDW the best practices to prepare students for their futures.

The Leadership Summit's theme, "Envision Tomorrow, Educate Today," encouraged dialogue around the idea of developing creative learning environments. The Summit promoted innovation in solving complex problems, so students can take ownership of their learning and are armed with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to be successful in their futures.



Cooper students honor veterans

Seventh grader Maya Comrov presented a handmade quilt to Army Col. David Silbaugh with assistance from teacher Karen Snell. Cooper Middle School students donated their time and talents to design and create quilts to give to veterans in our community.



www.facebook.com/ccsd21

www.twitter.com/ccsd21



To learn more about the new websites and view tutorial videos, visit

www.ccsd21.org/newwebsite

School District 21 recently launched new District and school websites at www.ccsd21.org. The new system offers a fresh design and easy-to-use navigation, so users can quickly find the information they need.

The homepages for the District and each school display a bold, engaging photo to give users a glimpse into the classroom. Scrolling down the homepage, users can read the latest news and events from the school and District. The interactive calendar allows users to view events throughout the district, making it particularly easy

for families with children in multiple buildings to see all events in one place.

A key feature of the District site is the curriculum portal. Users can easily navigate between grade levels and subject areas to understand the concepts taught in School District 21 or to dive down and see specific essential understandings and guiding questions.

The website's responsive design makes the user's experience seamless on screens ranging in size from a desktop monitor down to a smartphone.

An update on District finances

The State of Illinois and School District 21 have experienced financial challenges over the past few years. Specifically in our District, we have seen stagnating or declining property values. While revenue has declined, expenses continued to increase.

The administration, along with the Board of Education, have implemented cost-saving measures while maintaining our mission to prepare students for their futures and support them in their academic, social, and emotional growth.

School District 21 reduced costs by \$2.5 million for the 2015-2016 school year, and is reducing costs by an additional \$3 million for the 2016-2017 school year.

These reductions protect programs and services for our students, while preserving the district's financial well-being.

Learn more about budgeting and financing school district operations by visiting our ongoing Finance 101 video series at www.ccsd21.org/finance101.



CCSD21 Board member elected state association president

CCSD21 School Board member Phil Pritzker was unanimously elected president of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), a statewide organization representing 6,000 board members and 843 school districts across the state.

CCSD21 alumni return, give back to schools

While it may be common for a school district to employ a number of alumni as staff members, it is rare to find a group as large as the one within School District 21.

We are proud to have more than 75 alumni, some who were enrolled as far back as 1963, playing a critical role in our schools. Our staff inspires the students of today to embody the curiosity, passion, and character, which were instilled within them when they were students.



More than 75 alumni of School District 21 now serve students, families, and the community as teachers and staff.

CCSD21 ALUMNI WHO ARE CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS REFLECT ON THEIR TIME AS STUDENTS:



Dianne Sprenger
LMC Assistant - Kilmer
Student - Tarkington: 1976 - 1983

“In 3rd grade, we took a field trip to the Adler Planetarium. What a great experience traveling downtown, going to the Planetarium, and then eating lunch on the hill outside by the lake shore. One of the first classes I took in college was astronomy due to the memories I had from that field trip.”



Charlie and Sam Fabrikant

“When I was a junior at Illinois State University, I saw my elementary school principal, Debby Serbin, at the grocery store. She told my twin brother, Sam, and me all of the wonderful things that the PDS (Professional Development School for prospective teachers) program through ISU has to offer. The kicker was that, through this partnership, I could student teach back in CCSD21! This was a no-brainer. I student-taught with Warren Wilson and Sam student-taught with Julie Rodgers.”

Charlie Fabrikant
Teacher - Frost
Student - Longfellow and Cooper: 1993-2002

**Sam Fabrikant, teacher at Twain, attended Longfellow and Cooper between 1993 and 2002. Warren Wilson, teacher at Kilmer, attended Whitman and Holmes between 1969 and 1978. Julie Rodgers, teacher at London, attended Irving, Riley, and Cooper between 1978 and 1987.*

“In 7th grade, we had an opportunity to travel to the Des Plaines River to conduct a variety of tests IN THE RIVER with our teacher. We collected samples and ran tests to determine the water’s biodiversity and health.”



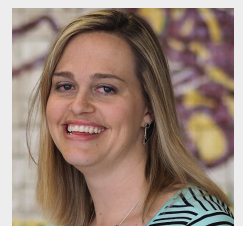
Chris Lapetino
Science & Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator
Student - Longfellow and Cooper: 1988 - 1996

“I remember going to Kilmer on my first day as a staff member where my role model and first CCSD21 teacher, Maria Fernandez, had become my teammate. I came to the United States with the mentality of becoming a factory worker, but School District 21 pushed me to become so much more. I’m the first one in my family to finish high school and to get a degree. My siblings are following my footsteps and there is nothing worth more than that. Now I’m teaching at Twain where I first came to school.”



Maria Martinez
Teacher - Twain
Student - Frost, Longfellow, Twain, Whitman and Holmes: 1990 - 1999

“I love telling people that I was the third generation to attend Whitman School. My grandma went when it was just a four classroom building, followed by my mom and aunt, and then myself and my brother.”



Melissa Jacobs
Teacher - Holmes
Student - Whitman and Holmes: 1983-1992



Community Consolidated School District 21
999 West Dundee Road
Wheeling, Illinois 60090



Save the Date

Join us Saturday, October 22,
2016, for the CCSD21

Community Wellness Fair!

The Wellness Fair will showcase activities and vendors that support all facets of wellness: physical, mental, financial, and more. Details will be released in the coming months, but mark your calendars now and stay tuned to www.ccsd21.org for the latest!