

WINTER 2025

Connect 41

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SENT TO OVER 12,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN DISTRICT 41 BOUNDARIES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL SARAH RODRIGUEZ
NAMED NEW KINDERGARTEN
CENTER PRINCIPAL

See page 3

www.d41.org

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
NEW KINDERGARTEN CENTER
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM GOLD
CIRCLE STATUS

SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL

BOARD OF EDUCATION EARNS
GOVERNANCE RECOGNITION

D41

glen elllyn



Dear District 41 Community,

As we settle into the new year, I want to take a moment to share how rewarding these first six months as your superintendent have been. Our schools and community have welcomed me with warmth, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the success of every student.

In District 41, we embrace the philosophy of *WE*: the voices of all stakeholders matter. By listening, learning, and working together, we ensure our district grows stronger and more unified. To that end, I have established two Superintendent's Advisory Councils: one for students and another for community members. These groups provide vital perspectives and guidance, ensuring our work reflects the needs and aspirations of all who call District 41 home.

Currently, we are engaged in a midpoint review and revision of the district's Strategic Plan, ensuring our goals remain equity-driven, learner-centered, and future-focused. This process reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and the success of every learner.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited about many upcoming milestones, including the grand opening of our new Kindergarten Center. This state-of-the-art facility will enhance early learning opportunities for our youngest students and further our mission of supporting the whole child.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making District 41 a thriving place for all learners. Together, we will achieve great things.

Best,

Dr. Jeff McHugh
Superintendent



New Kindergarten Center Opens Fall 2025



Next school year, District 41 will offer full-day kindergarten to all families at no additional cost in the new Kindergarten Center located on the campus of Churchill School, 240 Geneva Road in Glen Ellyn. Families that do not choose full-day kindergarten will follow the current half-day model. **Registration for kindergarten students and all returning students for the 2025/2026 school year will open on January 15, 2025.**

The Kindergarten Center building will include 12 classrooms, flexible learning spaces, separate secure play area for kindergarten students, mass grading, stormwater detention, parking lot, curbs and drives, and building footings. The entrance to the Kindergarten Center will be off Bloomingdale Road.

For more information about kindergarten in District 41, go to **d41.org/kindergarten**



Scan for
d41.org/kindergarten

Sarah Rodriguez Named Kindergarten Center Principal

Glen Ellyn School District 41 is pleased to announce that after a comprehensive search process, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Rodriguez as the first Principal of the District 41 Kindergarten Center at the December 16 Board meeting. The appointment is effective starting July 1, 2025.



Mrs. Rodriguez's career in District 41 spans over 24 years. Most recently, she has served as Principal of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School for the past six years. Prior to being promoted to Principal of Lincoln School, she served as Assistant Principal at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, problem-based learning coach, kindergarten teacher, first and fourth grade teacher, as well as an Accelerated and Enriched Curriculum (AEC) teacher, all in District 41.

"It is with great pride that we appoint Mrs. Rodriguez as the leader of our new Kindergarten Center," said Superintendent Dr. Jeff McHugh. "With 24 years of dedicated service to our district, she represents the very best of what we strive for in education. Mrs. Rodriguez has consistently demonstrated unwavering

commitment to our students, staff, and community. This distinguished appointment is a reflection of her exemplary leadership, deep understanding of early childhood education, and passion for creating a foundation where young learners thrive."

Mrs. Rodriguez earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National Louis University. She has also earned her Illinois Principal Endorsement, Teacher & Administrator Evaluator Training, and ESL Endorsement.

"On behalf of the Board of Education, we are honored to approve the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Rodriguez as the Principal of our new Kindergarten Center," said Board of Education President Dr. Robert Bruno. "Mrs. Rodriguez's deep roots in our district and proven leadership make her an excellent choice to guide this exciting new chapter for District 41. We are confident that she will create a strong foundation for our youngest learners and continue to set the standard for excellence in our district."



D41 Preschool Program Receives Gold Circle of Quality Status

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has awarded the District 41 Preschool for All (PFA) Program a Gold Circle of Quality status in ExceleRate Illinois for the third consecutive year. This is the highest honor in the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs.

Congratulations to all who help support the District 41 preschool program and all of our youngest learners!

D41 At A Glance



3,520
STUDENTS



5
SCHOOL
BUILDINGS



17 to 1
STUDENT
TO TEACHER
RATIO



245
TEACHERS



78%
STAFF WITH
ADVANCED
DEGREES



51
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

D SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Superintendent Dr. Jeff McHugh held the first Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) meeting of the year in November. The SSAC includes the three 8th grade student Board of Education members, three 7th graders, three 6th graders, and two 5th grade students from each elementary school.

The mission of the council is to provide feedback and inform the superintendent of happenings across the district from a student perspective. The council will meet three more times this school year.

Note: A Superintendent's Community Advisory Council will begin meeting January 2025. Thank you to all who applied to participate.



D41 PTA HOLIDAY SHARING DELIVERS JOY TO D41 FAMILIES



For 20 years, the PTA Holiday Sharing program has provided gifts, grocery gift cards, and books to District 41 families. This holiday season, gifts were delivered to 493 children in 194 families. Thank you to all of the District 41 PTAs, the Glen Ellyn Junior Women's Club, Operation Christmas of Wheaton, Glen Ellyn Infant Welfare Society, and many dedicated community volunteers.

An extra special thank you to program coordinators **Jennifer Huard, Karen Winter, Erin Petruck, and Annie Murphy.** The holidays are bright in District 41 because of our village of volunteers.



D41 KIDS FOUNDATION DONATION



Supports Mental Health Resources

At the Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 16, D41Kids Foundation Executive Director Dr. Lynn Bruno and members of the D41Kids Board of Directors presented a donation of \$15,000 to support mental health resources for D41 families.

These funds will allow the district to continue offering a parent coaching program that was previously funded by a federal grant.

Thank you to the D41Kids Foundation for this generous donation!



HADLEY BAND STUDENT CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NCB LIFETIME OF MUSIC CONCERT



Pictured: Band Director Samantha Tribley, James Fanella and Band Director Chris Cooper

Congratulations to 8th grade musician **James Fanella** (French Horn) for being chosen to participate in the Northshore Concert Band's (NCB) Lifetime of Music Concert!

Student musicians are nominated by their band directors, and the ensemble will be welcoming 44 students representing 34 communities in Illinois. The concert will take place on February 16 on the campus of Northwestern University.

The Northshore Concert Band's annual Lifetime of Music Initiative program provides rewarding musical experiences to young musicians, granting them access to a unique performance opportunity outside of the classroom, introducing students to outstanding wind band repertoire, and showing them what kinds of musical opportunities exist into adulthood regardless of the vocation they choose.

HADLEY BAND AND ORCHESTRA STUDENTS PERFORM IN PRESTIGIOUS FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Hadley Jr. High School 8th grader **Emily Lowrie** (flute), 8th grader **Helen Manak** (cello), 7th grader **Emilie Scarleski** (violin), and 6th grader **Isabella Kim** (viola) who performed in the prestigious ILMEA District 9 Festival on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at Streamwood High School.

This year's festival band was under the leadership and direction of President of VanderCook College of Music, Ms. Kimberly Farris. The orchestra was led by Assistant Professor of Orchestra and Director of String Music Education at VanderCook College of Music, Dr. Yvonne Davila-Cortes.

ILMEA offers the opportunity for students to audition for an honor band and orchestra festival where dedicated and talented middle school students come together for one day to rehearse and perform in a concert with a professional conductor and educator. ILMEA District 9 is made up of many school districts from our surrounding area including DuPage, Kendall, Kane, and parts of Cook and Will counties.

Hadley Directors Samantha Tribley (Band), Chris Cooper (Band) and Georgia Alemis (Orchestra) are so proud of their students for their dedication and commitment to their music education.



D41 BOARD OF EDUCATION EARNS GOVERNANCE RECOGNITION

The District 41 Board of Education has been recognized for their exceptional governance practices by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). They earned the **School Board Governance Recognition** honor for their effective governance behaviors and their commitment toward obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively lead the district.

The School Board Governance Recognition program aims to showcase how good governance creates a positive impact for students, staff,

and the entire district community.

"It is an honor to earn, for the third consecutive time, IASB's School Board Governance Recognition for exceptional governance practices," said District 41 Board of Education President Dr. Robert Bruno. "We continuously endeavor to improve our governing process because it ensures our community that the Board is functioning effectively to support their interest in having a high performing school district. This award further affirms our efforts."



*Pictured from left to right:
Ted Estes, Julie Hill, Tayyaba Syed,
Vice President Jason Loebach,
Superintendent Dr. Jeff McHugh,
President Dr. Robert Bruno,
Dr. Steve Miko, Secretary Jess Buttimer*

D41 BESTSELLING AUTHOR VISITS FOREST GLEN

Forest Glen School students were recently treated to a special visit by New York Times Bestselling Author **Aaron Reynolds**. He is the author of many highly acclaimed books for kids, including *Dude!*, *Creepy Carrots!*, *Creepy Pair of Underwear!*, and *Nerdy Birdy*.

Mr. Reynolds read his book, *Creepy Crayon*, gave the fourth and fifth graders a preview of his next top secret writing project, then spent time with 10 Forest Glen Creepy Writing Contest winners to hear about their original stories.



"During a season of gratitude, I am especially thankful for the support of the Forest Glen PTA for sponsoring and assisting with our author visits," said Forest Glen Digital Literacy Specialist and School Librarian Marcie Callicot. "Aaron Reynolds was not only engaging all of our students during the large group presentations, but his written work ultimately caught everyone's attention during the weeks leading up to the program and will continue to for many years to come!"



793 N. Main Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Carol Stream, IL
Permit No. 101

Carrier Route Presort

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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



***THERE ARE MANY WAYS
TO STAY CONNECTED***

Download the D41 app

From posts with photos about what's
happening in the schools, to daily meal menus,
to school-based daily announcements—

it's all right at your fingertips!



D41

***Sign up for D41 E-News
and District Digest!***

See Kindergarten Center updates,
student activities, Board summaries
and other D41 news!

d41.org/enewssignup



d41.org



**follow us
@glenellynd41**

