



A REPORT TO  
THE DISTRICT  
**129**  
COMMUNITY  
FALL 2008

## Promises Made, Promises Kept

Welcome back to school!

This year, thanks to your support, we are building on the tremendous progress we made last year. You put your trust in us when you approved an operating rate increase in April, 2007 and we have kept the promises we made. In this edition of the newsletter, the District 129 community will be able to review visually the advances that have been made with regards to Vision129, the district's comprehensive plan. Significant events associated with each component of Vision 129 have been listed in chronological order. As you will see, pages two and three have been dedicated to a timeline which details steps that are associated with Teaching and Learning, Safe, Secure Facilities, Financial Responsibility and Community Involvement from July, 2007 to June, 2008.

Last year's improvements represent a strong foundation for what we are building at District 129. This fall, as we continue making facilities

improvements, we are adding the next level academically, as well, to include better classroom science instruction, an additional instructional period at West High and new middle school Language Arts classes for advanced learners.

Yet our work is far from complete. This year's planning will focus on longer school days in 2009-10 to increased instructional time, as well as significant improvements in mathematics, reading and writing instruction.

Guided by Vision 129, we are continually building upon our tradition of excellence. I am asking for your continued support for our students. You can assist us by reviewing this progress report and sharing with me your thoughts and suggestions at [V129@sd129.org](mailto:V129@sd129.org). I look forward to hearing from you, and to another great year of teaching and learning!

— Superintendent Jim Rydland

## Teaching and Learning

### High School Adds Eighth Instructional Period

On August 25, West Aurora High School students begin a new school year with additional opportunities to learn and succeed.

The Board of Education has added an eighth instructional period to increase the opportunities available during the school day. As a result, most students will be able to take a greater variety of classes. This additional instructional time will assist students at all levels of academic achievement. Honors students, for example, might be able to take additional advance placement classes for college credit, while struggling students will receive additional instruction and assistance to help them succeed.

### Great Books Enrichment Program Now in Elementary Schools

Also beginning this fall are new fourth- and fifth-grade Language Arts Enrichment classes. Textbooks include "Caesar's English One," "Caesar's English Two" and "Junior Great Books Series Four" and "Junior Great Books Series Five." This new curriculum will challenge students and encourage them to use higher-level thinking skills.

### Positive Behavior Effort in Additional Schools

For the first time, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program is in every district elementary school. Two middle

schools are using PBIS as well, and the remaining district schools are exploring how to utilize the program in their buildings.

This is an effective, research-based program that actually recognizes students for exemplary behavior. Student actions that benefit others become habitual. As a result, teachers actually are spending more time on instruction, and instructional time is a key determinant in student learning.



# Safe, Secure School Buildings

## Jefferson Fifth School to Get Portable Classrooms



To relieve overcrowding, Jefferson Middle School students will attend classes in six temporary classrooms housed in trailers on the front lawn of the school.

The school district also has portable classroom trailers at four overcrowded elementary schools – Fearn, Hill, McCleery and Nicholson.

## Students Return to Safer, Cleaner, Renovated Schools

Several of the district's 20 buildings received some much needed repairs and renovations this summer. These included:

- Replacing a leaky portion of the Lincoln Elementary School roof,
- Renovating eight West High School washrooms,
- Painting and asbestos removal at several locations, and
- Repaving the Schneider Elementary School playground area.



Jefferson Sealcoating



West High New Bathroom Sinks



Schneider Playground Before



Schneider Pavement Work

# Financial Responsibility

## School District Enters Fiber Optic World

This fall, AT&T will finish connecting the School District's 20 buildings with fiber-optic cables. Fiber will open up innumerable instructional technology possibilities for students and teachers. Future improvements with this technology include the possibility of parental viewing of attendance, test scores and grades. The school district successfully applied for federal funding to pay for the installation.

## 14 New Buses Transporting Students this Fall

Fourteen additional new buses will be transporting District 129 students this fall. The buses were purchased this summer as an



ongoing component of the district's 50-bus fleet refresh cycle. The new buses improve fuel mileage by as much as a third and have significantly cleaner emissions. With district buses travelling 560,000 miles per year, better mileage adds up to a considerable savings. Since spring of 2007, the district has replaced approximately half of its buses, some of which were more than 15 years old.

# Active Community Involvement

## Presidential Election Near - Are You Registered to Vote?

Voting is how citizens in a democracy express their will and control over government. The next election on November 4 is particularly important because Americans will select the next President. However, to participate in this exercise of power, you must be registered to vote. If you are not registered, there are only about six weeks until the October 7 voter registration deadline.

Get registered to vote so you can have your say on who should be:

- United States President
- United States Senator
- Congressional Representative
- General Assembly Representative
- State Senator
- State's Attorney
- Circuit Court Judges
- County Auditor
- Circuit Court Clerk
- County Board Chairman
- Coroner
- Recorder
- County Board Member

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# VISION 129 TIMELINE

## Promises Made, Promises Kept



### POWERFUL TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS

JULY 07	SEPTEMBER 07	OCTOBER 07	DECEMBER 07	JANUARY 08	FEBRUARY 08	APRIL 08	JUNE 08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve new West High Science textbooks for biology, honors chemistry, honors biology, geology/meteorology, chemistry in the community, anatomy and physiology and chemistry</li> <li>Install new West High science equipment, including LCD projectors for the Biology program and a classroom polling system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen gifted education including clustering K-8 students, increasing middle school math enrichment sections and training teachers to better prepare middle school students for high school Advanced Placement classes</li> <li>Evaluate preschool programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two teachers earn National Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards</li> <li>Approve Advanced Placement English textbooks for West High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start middle school engineering clubs in partnership with Northern Illinois University</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start enrichment classes for 22 high-achieving elementary students in partnership with Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve new science textbooks and support materials for kindergarten through fifth-grade</li> <li>Present new Gifted Continuum of services to include enrichment pull-out for grades 4-5 and the development of a gifted academy for grades 3-8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start at Hope Wall a new Special Olympics program for younger children with intellectual disabilities</li> <li>Add five additional West High college-level AP courses — Language and Composition, Music Theory, Studio Art, Physics B and Art History (to begin in 2009-2010)</li> <li>Approve new middle school science textbooks and related materials</li> <li>Approve West High 8-period-day for 2008-09</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise middle school standards for passing and promotion and adopt credit-recovery process</li> <li>Approved an updated seventh-grade Social Studies textbook — Holt: "World Geography 2009"</li> <li>Approved the new high school sophomore English Text, "Archetypes in Literature"</li> <li>Approved gifted enrichment textbooks for fourth and fifth grades: "Caesar's English One," "Caesar's English Two" and "Junior Great Books Series Four" and "Junior Great Books Series Five"</li> </ul>

### SAFE AND SECURE FACILITIES

JULY 07	AUGUST 07	SEPTEMBER 07	OCTOBER 07	NOVEMBER 07	DECEMBER 07	JANUARY 08	FEBRUARY 08	MARCH 08	APRIL 08	MAY 08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve bids for ceiling restoration at Nicholson Elementary School</li> <li>Approve asbestos abatement bids at Smith Elementary School</li> <li>Replace outdated intercom system at Schneider</li> <li>Begin seal coating refresh cycle for parking lots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin West High painting refresh cycle</li> <li>Principals and administrators receive FEMA training in the National Incident Command System</li> <li>Approve floor tile and mastic replacement for Smith Elementary School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make repairs to Freeman, Hill, Nicholson and Smith</li> <li>Install portable classrooms at four overcrowded schools — Fearn, McCleery, Hill and Nicholson</li> <li>Community volunteers fund, build Hope Wall track, garden, playscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorize installation of West High security cameras and electronic locking system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve contract for West High hot water tank replacement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve purchase of two 14-passenger activity buses and ten 71-passenger buses</li> <li>Approve bid for 50 digital video recording systems for school buses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve AT&amp;T as the district fiber network provider</li> <li>Approve bid for Freeman mold abatement</li> <li>Purchase lightning detectors for use on playgrounds, sporting events and field trips</li> <li>Install West High security system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install Transportation area security system</li> <li>Install emergency, district-wide radio system</li> <li>Approve Greenman security system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve Freeman ventilation and drainage bids</li> <li>Community group helps develop Greenman security</li> <li>Install video surveillance equipment in school buses</li> <li>Receive the first of 10 new school buses with 14 additional buses to arrive this summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve administration office security system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools receive Thunderbolt lightning detectors</li> <li>Approve purchase of four 71-passenger school buses</li> <li>Approve modular classrooms for Jefferson Middle School</li> <li>Approve resurfacing of the West High tennis court</li> <li>Approve gym curtain for the red field house at West High</li> <li>Approve purchase of a new chair lift for West High</li> <li>Approve renovations of restrooms at West High</li> <li>Approve pavement work At Schneider Elementary School</li> </ul>

### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

AUGUST 07	FEBRUARY 08	MARCH 08	APRIL 08	JUNE 08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use \$2 million Reading First grant to improve reading of kindergarten through third-grade students at Greenman, Hill, Lincoln, Nicholson and Schneider</li> <li>Receive \$10,000 BP Amoco grant for West High biofuel project</li> <li>Receive \$971,000 Teaching American History grant to share with four other districts</li> <li>Join state consortium for purchase of paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Save taxpayers \$2.7 million by refunding its existing debt at lower interest rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for \$6 million Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive \$8,900 Library Grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved purchase of high school and middle school band instruments</li> </ul>

### ACTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SEPTEMBER 07	OCTOBER 07	NOVEMBER 07	DECEMBER 07	JANUARY 08	FEBRUARY 08	MARCH 08	APRIL 08	MAY 08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch a more convenient, informative and useful Web site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff members, student raise \$7,900 during Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host community forum on the future of early childhood education</li> <li>Offer flu shots to public</li> <li>Induct More West High Distinguished Alumni into Hall of Honor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue ongoing voter registration effort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make school calendars exportable to Outlook</li> <li>Hold dialogue with principals on plans to improve student learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold first Fine Arts Festival</li> <li>Survey community for a federal Safer Schools grant</li> <li>Post School Improvement Plan summaries on Web site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More teachers share homework assignments via email with parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jefferson invites public to Senior Citizen Breakfast and Band Concert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin earlier, easier student registration</li> </ul>

*Active Community Involvement continued from page 2*

The school district can help you register. We have voter registration forms available at our Web site for you to download (visit: [www.sd129.org/vision129/voter-registration.asp](http://www.sd129.org/vision129/voter-registration.asp)). For more information, contact Mike Chapin at 630-301-5044 or [mchapin@sd129.org](mailto:mchapin@sd129.org).

**SCAC**

The Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (SCAC) guides the Superintendent on major issues. This group is made up of one parent from each of the district's 18 schools. Topics the SCAC will tackle this fall are:

- Student Registration
- Facilities
- Fees
- Discipline
- Middle School Promotion and Retention
- Gifted Education
- Elementary Time of Day
- Facilities
- Science Curriculum

To the right is a list of SCAC members from each school. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and ideas on any of the above topics with the SCAC member in your school attendance area. For additional information, visit: [www.sd129.org/scac](http://www.sd129.org/scac) or please contact the SCAC liaison, Chrissy Poppen, at [cpoppen@sd129.org](mailto:cpoppen@sd129.org).

<b>Fearn</b>	<b>Lydia Bartell</b>	<a href="mailto:lbbartell@comcast.net">lbbartell@comcast.net</a>
<b>Freeman</b>	<b>Dave Deisher</b>	<a href="mailto:ddeisher@sd129.org">ddeisher@sd129.org</a>
<b>Goodwin</b>	<b>Beth Drendel</b>	<a href="mailto:bdrendel@sd129.org">bdrendel@sd129.org</a>
<b>Greenman</b>	<b>Veronica Nelson</b>	<a href="mailto:truevedo@yahoo.com">truevedo@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Hall</b>	<b>Jena Palmby</b>	<a href="mailto:jenapalmby@comcast.net">jenapalmby@comcast.net</a>
<b>Hill</b>	<b>Barbie Balli</b>	<a href="mailto:bballi@sd129.org">bballi@sd129.org</a>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Jennifer Kendle</b>	<a href="mailto:jkendle@sd129.org">jkendle@sd129.org</a>
<b>McCleery</b>	<b>Angela Richardson</b>	<a href="mailto:arichardson@sd129.org">arichardson@sd129.org</a>
<b>Nicholson</b>	<b>Mark Strausberger</b>	<a href="mailto:mstrausberger@sd129.org">mstrausberger@sd129.org</a>
<b>Schneider</b>	<b>Sarah Snyder</b>	<a href="mailto:sjsnyder@sd129.org">sjsnyder@sd129.org</a>
<b>Smith</b>	<b>Mark Girolamo</b>	<a href="mailto:mgirolamo@sd129.org">mgirolamo@sd129.org</a>
<b>Todd</b>	<b>Sandra Franco</b>	<a href="mailto:sfranco@sd129.org">sfranco@sd129.org</a>
<b>Hope Wall</b>	<b>Donald Henzlik</b>	<a href="mailto:DonHenzlik@aol.com">DonHenzlik@aol.com</a>
<b>Herget</b>	<b>Ira Lathan</b>	<a href="mailto:ILATHAN@Polysystems.com">ILATHAN@Polysystems.com</a>
<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>Ann Patrick</b>	<a href="mailto:apatrick@sd129.org">apatrick@sd129.org</a>
<b>Jewel</b>	<b>Kathleen Musachia</b>	<a href="mailto:kmusachia@sd129.org">kmusachia@sd129.org</a>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>Sara Corbin</b>	<a href="mailto:scorbin@kidsroe.org">scorbin@kidsroe.org</a>
<b>West High</b>	<b>Janice Griffin Luckett</b>	<a href="mailto:jluckett@sd129.org">jluckett@sd129.org</a>

**Emergency School Closing Information**

Schools will be open unless otherwise announced. District 129 school closing information will be accessible via any of the following:

**RADIO**

School closing information will be made available for radio broadcasts early in the morning.

*Local radio stations that broadcast closing information are:*

- WBIG – 1280 AM
- COOL – 95.8 AM
- WSPY – 107.1 FM
- WEVR – 95.9 FM

*Closing information will also be broadcast on:*

- WGN – 720 AM
- WBBM – 780 AM
- WGN – Channel 9
- CBS – Channel 2
- WMAQ – 670 AM
- Fox 32 – Channel 3 (cable)
- CLTV – Channel 48 (cable)

Bus schedules may need to be altered due to weather conditions. Any changes in regular bus schedules will be reported to the local stations. In extreme circumstances, there may be no service for buses, although school may be in session.

**WEB**

Or, you can click on the district Web site: [www.sd129.org](http://www.sd129.org) as well as [www.emergencyclosings.com](http://www.emergencyclosings.com).

**E-MAIL**

Parents who have signed up to receive school news via e-mail ([http://www.sd129.org/parents/listserve\\_signup.asp](http://www.sd129.org/parents/listserve_signup.asp)) will receive notice of a district-wide closing of schools.

**TELEPHONE**

A recorded message regarding any district-wide closing will be available on the District 129 Administrative Center's main line, 630-301-5000. In addition, District 129 will send out a voice mail message to parents.

If improved weather conditions allow for after-school activities to be held when school has been closed for the day, that information will be posted on the district Web site by no later than 2 p.m. Emergency days that are used will be made up at the end of the school year.

**New Procedure for Denying Release of Student Images for District Publicity**

The image or likeness of a student in pictures, videotape, film, or other media is not confidential and may be released by the school district without consent of parents or guardians. The school district uses such images routinely in district publications and on its Web site and also distributes them to the media.

If you **do not** want your child's image released, you must tell the principal at your child's school in writing. A form to disallow release of student images is available at the schools and online at <http://www.sd129.org/registration/forms.asp>. This written notice to the principal must be received no later than September 15 of each school year or within 30 days of receiving this annual notice.

If you have questions about this process, please contact Mike Chapin, Community Relations Director, at 630-301-5044 or [mchapin@sd129.org](mailto:mchapin@sd129.org).

### **No Child Left Behind Consolidated Application**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Consolidated Application, consisting of Title I, Title II-A, Title II-D, and Title IV-A, provides federal funds for qualifying schools and programs. (The federal government will not provide new funding for Title V-A, Innovative Programs.)

Title I funds, in conjunction with District 129 dollars, are used to support staff salaries and programs for reading instruction and math support, before and after school tutorial programs, parent workshops and newsletters, and staff development training. Many District 129 schools receive Title I federal funds from the NCLB Consolidated Application. Greenman, Hill, Lincoln, McCleery, Nicholson, and Smith Elementary Schools are designated as school wide programs. Hall and Schneider Elementary Schools and Todd Early Childhood Center are designated as targeted assistance programs.

Title II-A federal funds allow the district to hire additional teachers to reduce and maintain class size at an acceptable level. These funds also support recruiting efforts for highly qualified teachers and professional development for District teachers. Title II-D, Enhancing Education Through Technology, provides funds to

support the Illinois School Technology Plan for District 129. These funds are utilized to increase classroom technology tools to support the integration of technology in classroom instruction.

Federal funds for Title IV-A support the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs at district schools. These funds are used to support school PBIS facilitators and a district PBIS program coordinator to ensure the implementation of PBIS in a consistent and effective manner.

