



WINTER to SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



Leaders of Their Own Learning

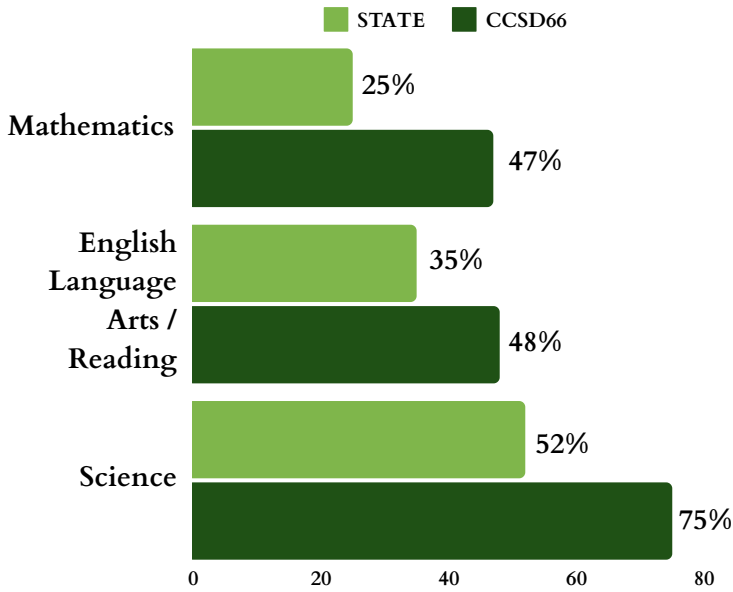
Student groups across all three schools have united to establish dynamic leadership teams, significantly influencing the future direction of their educational institutions. Working closely with their school principals, these teams engage in productive discussions, generate innovative ideas, and offer valuable perspectives on various aspects of school life.

From organizing extracurricular activities to community outreach programs, these student-driven teams work diligently to ensure that their schools not only cater to the needs of their fellow students but also cultivate an environment that nurtures progress and advancement. Through their commitment and proactive mindset, students embody leadership qualities, empowering their peers and making a lasting impact on the educational landscape of their schools.

Students have also been actively participating in Board of Education meetings, voicing their perspectives on various aspects of their education, including the publication of Inspire Magazine, advancements in achievements, and the promotion of STEM education. Through their involvement in these meetings, students demonstrate their commitment to shaping their educational experiences and contributing to the ongoing evolution of the district.



Student Achievement



Students at CCSD66 in grades 3 through 8 have showcased remarkable academic proficiency, particularly in Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science, as evidenced by their exceptional performance in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Across all these grade levels, a significant number of students have surpassed state standards, indicating a strong command of the subject matter and an impressive aptitude for critical thinking and problem-solving. This achievement underscores the school's dedication to academic excellence and its commitment to providing a nurturing and stimulating learning environment for its students.



Lakeview Spartan Celebration Breakfast

Lakeview held the Spartan Celebration Breakfast to honor 30 students and their families, marking a new tradition. The event was heartwarming, fostering a sense of community and support. It celebrated friendship, kindness, respect and support of classmates, inspiring the continuation of this tradition to recognize more students. The aim is to promote a culture of appreciation and encouragement within the Lakeview community. Future celebrations aim to continue acknowledging student successes and strengthening school community bonds.



Enrollment on the Rise

With the introduction of the new Preschool For All program, alongside new house construction, an influx of students and lowering interest rates, enrollment numbers in District 66 have risen. The student population has grown from around 1095 to 1170, all while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the surrounding area. This rise in student enrollment reflects the thriving community spirit within District 66. The Preschool For All program not only imparts crucial education to young learners but also fosters a culture of inclusivity and support. The ongoing new construction and economic resurgence are driving growth and prosperity within our district. By prioritizing lower tax rates, the district underscores its commitment to providing accessible, quality education for all residents. As our community expands and transforms, we eagerly anticipate welcoming new students and families to our district. Together, we can build a future brimming with learning, progress, and opportunities for everyone.



1170
AVERAGE NUMBER
OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED



22
AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE

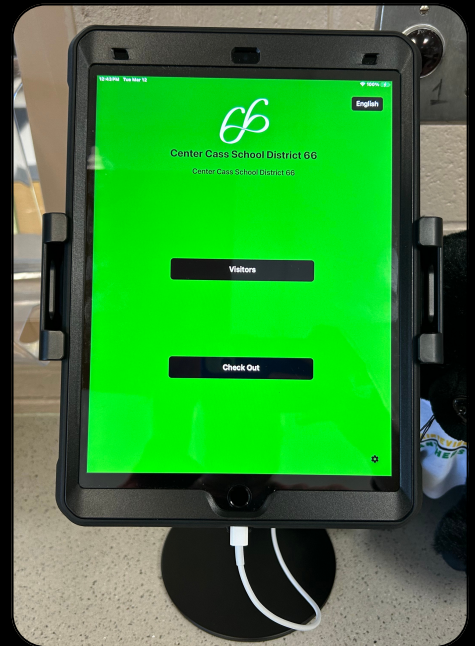


UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Summer 2024

- Finish installing all new camera systems and monitors at all buildings and bring them online
- Finish installing new door access card readers and bring them online
- Finish the bullet resistant window film project
- Finish interior and exterior lighting upgrades
- Install a new repeater, frequency, and radio system in all three buildings and busses
- Install and bring on line a new visitor management system
- Install a new badging system that connects to new door access systems
- Update our intruder detection systems in each building
- Replace both the LV and PV Fire Alarm Systems, and IDE Fire Alarm Panel
- Replace the PV Intercom System (Lakeview Intercom was completed last summer)
- Replace our Student, Human Resource, and Financial Management System with Skyward



**NEW Singlewire
Visitor Management System**



Summer 2025

- Replace HVAC at Lakeview and Control Systems at Prairieview & Lakeview

Mark YOUR Calendar

As the year comes to a close, here are a few key dates to keep in mind...

April



Center Cass Community Band Concert
at Lakeview
4pm

April



Kindergarten Performance
at Lakeview
6pm

April



Very Important Person Day with Open
House & Scholastic Book Fair
at Prairieview in the evening

May



Kindergarten Preview
at Elizabeth Ide
11am

May



Very Important Person Day with Open
House & Scholastic Book Fair
at Elizabeth Ide in the evening

May



Lakeview Spring Band Concert - 6th Grade
Concert Band & 5th Grade Cadet Band
7pm

May



Prairieview Beginning Band Concert at
Lakeview
7pm

May



Lakeview & Prairieview Spring Choir
Concert at Lakeview
7pm

May



Lakeview Spring Band Concert - Jazz
Ensemble & Symphonic Ensemble
7pm



April 26 and 27th 7:00pm

Lakeview Junior High Gymnasium
701 Plainfield Road Downers Grove

GENERAL TICKETS \$6 | STUDENTS \$3
BUY IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR

LAKEVIEW CLASS OF 2024

*Graduation
Commencement*

MONDAY, MAY 20TH
AT 7PM

DOWNERS GROVE
SOUTH
AUDITORIUM

LIVE STREAM
DETAILS TO COME

We appreciate
all that you do

Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
Wednesday, April 3rd

National Volunteer Week
Sunday, April 21st - Saturday, April 27th

National Administrative Professionals Day
Wednesday, April 24th

Teacher Appreciation Week
Monday, May 6th - Friday, May 10th

National School Nurse Day
Wednesday, May 8th

2024 Golden Apple Award Finalist, Tania Forsman

Our very own Tania Forsman, pre-K teacher at Elizabeth Ide, has been selected as one of 30 finalists for the the 2024 Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching! Golden Apple acknowledges outstanding teachers and school leaders. In turn, these individuals support the development of pre-service teachers and offer personalized mentoring to Golden Apple Scholars as they begin their teaching careers. We are beyond proud of Mrs. Forsman and the incredible caliber of teaching and care she brings to CCSD66.



Kindergarten Roundup

Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024, are eligible to begin Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. Parents/Guardians can complete the initial step in the enrollment process by [CLICKING HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Ide School by emailing Ms. Sorn at ssorn@ccsd66.org or call (630)783-5201.



WE'RE HIRING!

- Classroom Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Substitute Teachers
- ... and MORE!



www.ccsd66.org/page/employment





2024 Enrichment Fund Grant Recipients

TEAM 66 is thrilled to announce that this year they have awarded just over \$18,000 in grants! On Friday, March 15, the grant recipients were notified in their classrooms. The students were thrilled for their teachers and are eager to start benefiting from these amazing grants. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Enhancing STEM through Ozobots (\$3,343.97) - Jaime Csorba

Essential Art Equipment (\$1,300.56) - Magen Newman

Paraprofessional Book Study (\$467.20) - Dawn Wrzesinski

You Cannot Be What You Cannot See (\$399.91) - Ashley Sanchez

Prairieview Flexible Furniture (\$12,520.90) - Tara Herndon (in collaboration with Steve Mandru & Jessica Rost)

In the past year, TEAM 66 has undergone numerous changes to ensure a more sustainable future. Emphasizing progress and community backing has been central to TEAM 66's initiatives. By focusing on sustainability, inclusivity, and equity, TEAM 66 is setting the stage for a brighter future for all of District 66. Any contribution, whether through attending events, fundraiser support, or simply volunteering, every effort directly impacts students and faculty, optimizing resources for the benefit of the entire school community. Together, TEAM 66 is fostering a more vibrant and supportive environment aligned with the District's Strategic Plan. Thank you for all the support!

Together Everyone Achieves More



The Spring Flower & Plant Sale pre-order is happening now through 3/30!

Scan the QR or go to <https://thespiritstore.mycheddarup.com>



Building Strong Community Partnerships



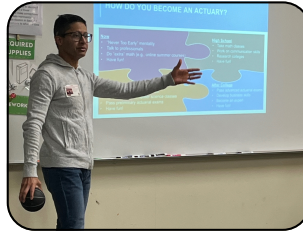
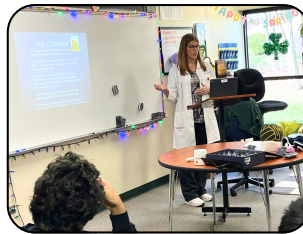
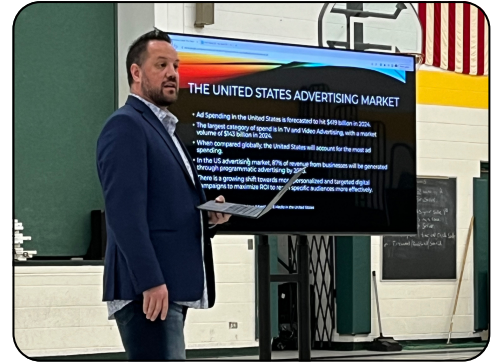
Dr. Jerry Nwonye and Pam Taylor from the Darien Rotary Club distributed around 140 student dictionaries to the 3rd Grade class at Prairieview on Tuesday, March 5th. We appreciate and value these partnerships that enhance our community connections.



SpartanFest Career Day

Lakeview recently hosted its second annual SpartanFest Career Day on March 19th. Twenty-six speakers took part, offering valuable insights into their careers, educational backgrounds, and engaging in multiple interactive sessions. Involving the community to equip students for the future is always an exciting endeavor. Special thanks to Mrs. Burrows for her dedicated efforts in coordinating this remarkable event and to all the speakers that offered their time to Lakeview students.

- Mr. Darren Spiegel and Mr. Greg Dellinger** - Aerospace Innovation
- Mrs. Alexandra Marchese Marino** - Intraoperative Neural Monitoring
- Mr. Joe Tshulos** - Electrical Engineering/Project Manager/Robotics
- Sgt. Nick Skweres** - Police Office/Evidence Technician
- Mr. Mark Stange** - Aviation Management/Ramp Control
- Mr. Anthony Swaekauski** - Track and Field Coaching
- Dr. Michael Nommensen** - Family Practice Physician
- Mrs. Lenore Vidal** - Director of Tax/Attorney
- Mr. Brian Liedtke** - Advertising/Marketing
- Ms. Yanet Garcia** - Architecture/Construction
- Ms. Anita Gajula** - College Counseling
- Ms. Elizabeth Uribe** - Attorney/Activist
- Ms. Ilka Nunez** - Human Resources/Technology
- Mr. Juma Hamdan** - Data Engineer
- Mr. Joel Pepin** - Senior Director of Finance
- Dr. Toni Cordero** - Medical Writing
- Ms. Brandi Will** - Product Manager
- Mr. Osman Ahmed** - Actuary
- Mr. Phil Kringlie** - Law Enforcement
- Mr. Tony Catsaros** - Athletic Trainer
- Ms. Gabriela Charla** - Entrepreneur
- Mr. Jim Hines** - Manufacturing Engineer
- Ms. Beth Tomas** - Magazine Publisher
- Ms. Stevie Ferrari** - Assistant Village Manager
- Ms. Wendy Wagner** - Physical Therapist
- Mr. Mitchell Bild** - Attorney Trial/Appellate



Earth Day Clean Up Opportunities

District 66 will be hosting an Earth Day Clean Up on **Saturday April 20th from 9:00am-10:00am** (bags provided)

Various Home Owners Associations, like Mallard Landing and Brookeridge, are also organizing Earth Day Clean Up events. Please consider spending some time helping your local school or Homeowners Association.

Darien Arbor Day

Friday, April 26th at 9:30am
Hinsbrook Park



During this year's Arbor Day Ceremony in Darien, 3rd grade classes will each be given butterfly larvae kits to raise and care for while butterflies are in class. These butterflies will be released during the event, where a new oak tree and Arbor Day plaque will also be unveiled. This generous initiative is sponsored by The Gift of Carl Foundation.



Famous children's author Jan Brett on her book signing tour at Ide.



It's Hedgie! One of Jan Brett's most beloved characters.



PV 5th grade travelled to Ide to collaborate with 2nd grade on a STEM challenge.



Students at the January BOE meeting to help accept this amazing award!



The Center Cass Community Band Holiday Concert.



Painting Night at Prairieview.



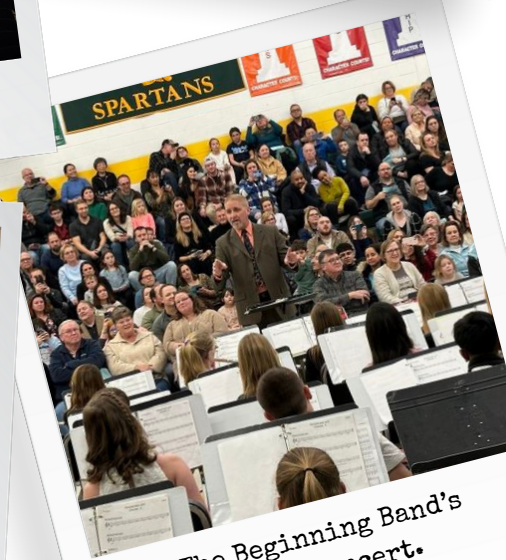
All school field trip for PV to the Tivoli to see Elf.



Mrs. Johnson being duct taped to the wall as a 2nd Grade reward.



Snowflake Ball at Ide with special guests Spiderman and Wonder Woman!



The Beginning Band's first concert.



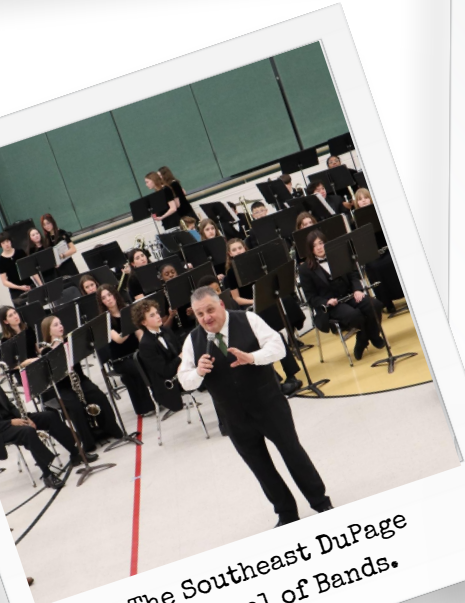
The LV Varsity Boys Basketball team won 2nd place in the Championship game.



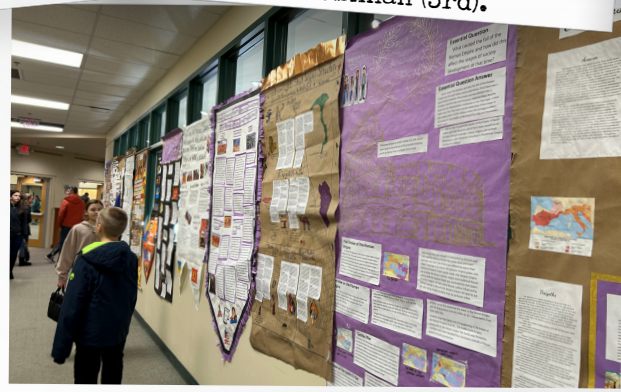
District Spelling Bee winners
Eliana Yong (8th) &
Om Krishnan (3rd).



TEAM 66 Trivia Night.



The Southeast DuPage
Festival of Bands.



Projects lining the walls of LV at
Spartan Showcase.



The Southeast DuPage
Choir Festival.



Masquerade Ball at LV.



Elizabeth Ide 2nd Grade
Winter performance.



LV Glee Choir performing at DGS.



Trinity Academy of Irish
Dance performing for LV.

Let's Mambo!!
with the
Center Cass
Community Band

A Latin inspired performance featuring:
Malaguena, West Side Story, A Night in Tunisia,
Blue Mambo, and more!!

**This concert is dedicated to
Lynn Gasmen and her family.**

*We will be accepting donations to
support Lynn's family as she recovers
from a lung transplant.*

*Please join us for some great music and
a good cause as we support our neighbor
in their time of need.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

**LAKEVIEW JR. HIGH SCHOOL
701 PLAINFIELD RD. DOWNERS GROVE
4:00PM**

Coming to DGS
April 18th - 20th...

LITTLE
SHOP OF
HORRORS



**HINSDALE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...**



**THE 25TH
ANNUAL PUTNAM
COUNTY**

**Spelling
Bee**



**"CAN YOU SPELL
I-R-R-E-S-I-S-T-I-B-L-E?"**

APRIL 18TH 7PM

APRIL 19TH 7PM

APRIL 20TH 2PM & 7PM

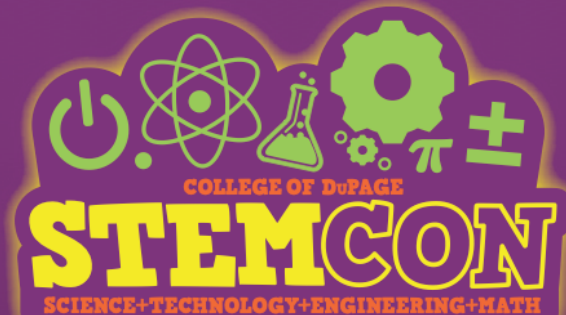
\$10 FOR STUDENTS

\$20 FOR ADULTS

Tickets

**MUSIC & LYRICS BY WILLIAM FINN
CONCEIVED BY REBECCA FELDMAN
BOOK BY RACHEL SHEFKIN**

**may be purchased
an hour before the show**



Get Your Geek On!

**Saturday, April 27, 2024
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Free**
Physical Education Center (PEC)

Special guest Emily Calandrelli
Calandrelli's keynote discussion will be
followed by a book signing.

Highlights

- Hands-On Exhibits
- Mr. Freeze Demo Show
- In-Person Workshops
- On-Demand Virtual Activities

For more information or to register for
our workshops: cod.edu/stemcon



Emily Calandrelli is an MIT engineer, author of the
Ada Lace Adventures chapter book series, and
host of Netflix's "Emily's Wonder Lab" and FOX's
Emmy-nominated "Xploration Outer Space."

College of DuPage

For ADA accommodations, please email access@cod.edu with the event title in the subject line
and your accommodation request. Please email two weeks in advance.

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Center Cass School District 66
699 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516



630-783-5000



www.ccsd66.org



Center Cass
School District 66



@ccsd66



Center Cass
School District 66

Superintendent

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.

Directors

Learning - Kim Liles, Ed.D.
Student Services - Sean Rhoads
Technology - Keith Roberts
Transportation & Maintenance -
Tom Tiede

www.ccsd66.org/staff

Principals

Elizabeth Ide - Katie Johnson
Prairieview - Jake Little
Lakeview - Mark Orszula, Ed.D.

Board of Education

President - Liane Raso
Vice President - Brian Liedtke
Treasurer - Doug Wiley
Secretary - Chris Esposito, Ph.D.
Megan DuPass
Donna Sobotka
Tiffany Watson

www.ccsd66.org/page/members



Spring Break
March 25 - 29

No School
April 1

Early Dismissal
April 17

Early Dismissal
May 1

Early Dismissal &
Last Day of School
May 24