



GIANTS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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 A decorative image showing a stack of books, a pencil holder with colorful pencils, and a red apple on a wooden surface.

Letter From Our D19 Superintendent

Dear District 19 Community,

We are excited to share the latest news and updates from District 19 as we transition into the vibrant and enriching season of fall. Our commitment to providing quality education remains steadfast, and we are eager to involve the community in our journey of nurturing young minds. Here are some key highlights.

Back-to-School Success: We kicked off the new school year with enthusiasm and positivity. Our dedicated teachers and staff worked tirelessly to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students. We are already witnessing the curiosity and excitement of students as they engage in various learning activities.

New Staff Members: Join us in welcoming several new educators and staff members to our school district family. They bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our team, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students.

Parent-Teacher Collaboration: We highly value the partnership between our educators and parents. Our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 25th & 26th will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress and set goals for their academic journey.

Enriching Extracurriculars: This fall, we're expanding our range of extracurricular activities. From clubs and arts programs to sports teams, we're dedicated to offering diverse opportunities for students to explore their interests and talents outside the classroom. If there is an activity you or your child would like to see take place here at District 19 please be sure to contact your child's principal.

Community Engagement: Education is a collaborative effort, and we encourage community involvement. Keep an eye out for invitations to school events and volunteer opportunities. Your support enhances the educational experience for our students.

Stay Connected: To stay up-to-date with district news, events, and important announcements, be sure to follow us on social media and visit our district website <https://www.ah19.org/>

Gratitude: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Alden-Hebron Community for your unwavering support. Together, we can provide an exceptional education and prepare our students for a bright future.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Here's to a wonderful fall season of learning, growth, and unity.



With Giant Pride,

Tiffany Elswick, Alden-Hebron Superintendent



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. We are committed to managing our resources responsibly.
2. The budget is designed to maximize the value of every dollar spent while ensuring the highest quality of education for our students.
3. We understand that a transparent budget process is vital to maintaining trust within our community.
4. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school district's finance department Katie Beck or Tiffany Elswick.

BUSINESS & FINANCE NEWS

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to provide you with essential information about our school district's budget for the fiscal year 2024. Our commitment to transparency and effective financial management remains unwavering. Here's an overview of our budget and how it impacts our students, staff, and community.

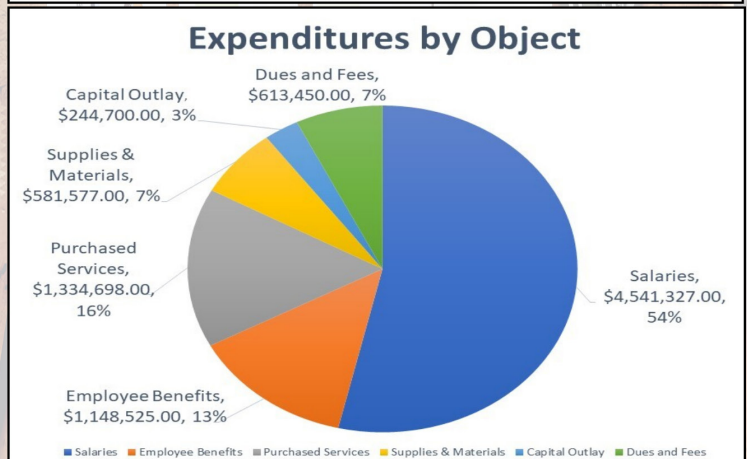
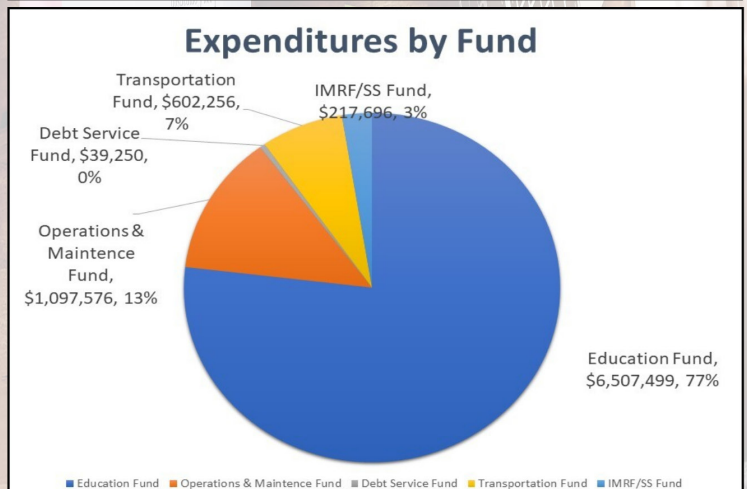
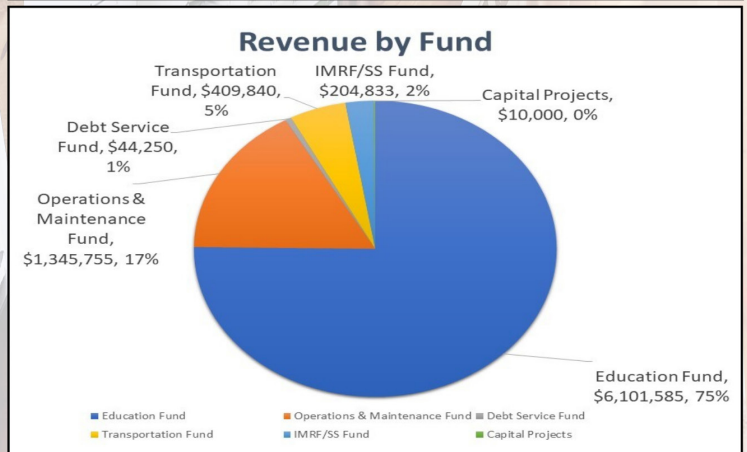
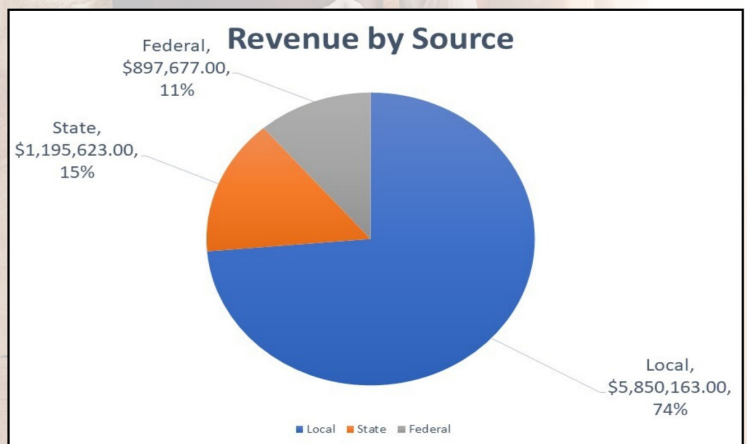
Our budget is the foundation of our ability to provide quality education and a safe learning environment for all students. The budget process is a comprehensive and collaborative effort involving school board members, administrators, educators, staff, parents, and community stakeholders. The primary focus of our budget is to ensure the success and well-being of every student. We allocate resources to enhance educational programs, support services, extracurricular activities, and initiatives that promote student growth, achievement, and overall development.

Key Budget Categories

- **Instructional Programs:** A significant portion of our budget goes toward maintaining and improving our instructional programs. This includes funding for curriculum development, textbooks, educational technology, classroom supplies, and professional development for our dedicated educators.
- **Personnel:** We prioritize attracting and retaining exceptional educators and staff. A substantial portion of our budget is dedicated to staff salaries, benefits, and ongoing professional development opportunities.
- **Facilities and Maintenance:** Our commitment to providing a safe and conducive learning environment requires funds for building maintenance, repairs, facility upgrades, and ensuring compliance with safety standards.
- **Technology Integration:** In today's digital age, technology is an integral part of education. We allocate resources for technology upgrades, infrastructure maintenance, and digital resources that enhance the learning experience.
- **Student Support Services:** We allocate funds to provide comprehensive support for students' social, emotional, and academic well-being. This includes counseling services, special education programs, and resources for students with diverse needs.
- **Transportation:** The safety of our students during their journey to and from school is our top priority. A portion of our budget is dedicated to maintaining a fleet of well-maintained buses and vehicles, fuel, and driver costs. This fund covers ongoing training, certifications, and compliance with state regulations to guarantee the highest level of safety for our students.

We are committed to managing our resources responsibly.

The budget is designed to maximize the value of every dollar spent while ensuring the highest quality of education for our students. We understand that a transparent budget process is vital to maintaining trust within our community.



If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school district's finance department Katie Beck, or Tiffany Elswick.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

"SMALL SCHOOL,



GIANT DREAMS!"

ESLOCUM@AH19.ORG



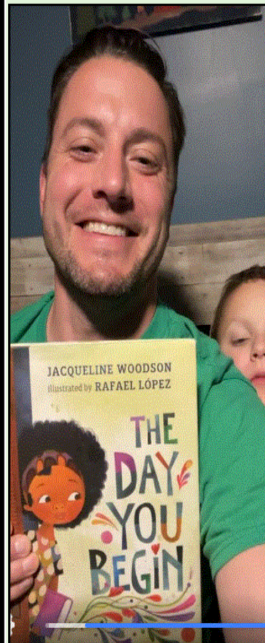
Curriculum

This year we are focusing on "Leveling Up" our curriculum and standards. What does that mean? Well, we are focusing on higher order thinking and critical thinking skills in the classroom. Instead of simply asking multiple choice type questions, we are looking to level up by asking students to apply the knowledge they are learning to different situations and contexts. At the lower grades we are focusing on the "Science of Reading" curriculum, which carries more focus on the importance of decoding and phonics. Research has been overwhelmingly in support of this initiative. The upper grades are leveling up and organizing their writing curriculum to help our students to express their thoughts in an organized and creative manner. We like to think of every student as having their own individual plan of education. We differentiate everything so that our students are accessing materials at the exact level that is right for them. It's time to "Level Up" at Alden-Hebron!



Mr. Eric Slocum
Elementary School Principal

Email: eslocum@ah19.org
Phone: 815-648-2442 Ext. 1527



Reading Program

Reading is the single most important thing a parent can do with their child at home. So we decided to implement a reading program for our students. Each month, students will get a calendar with a different theme. Then, they are challenged to read each day for 20 minutes. If they meet the challenges, they will earn tokens to redeem for some cool prizes! We also have Stories with the Slocums on our Facebook page where Mr. Slocum reads and gives a shout out to each student who is watching!

Data

We are very proud to say that our data has improved in every category the last two years. We have improved our reading, math and science scores at each grade level. Our 5 essentials survey which is taken by our staff, students and parents showed impressive results, as we were rated as "strong" or "very strong" in every single category! Schools that score as "strong" in at least 3 of the 5 categories are said to be 10 times more likely to grow. Alden-Hebron Elementary School scored higher than that in all 5 categories!

We are very proud of our students for the growth they are showing socially and academically. We are also extremely proud of the climate and culture we have built here at the elementary school. It truly is a place where people want to work and feel valued and appreciated.



Alden-Hebron High School/Middle School



News

Dear Alden-Hebron Community,

I hope this message finds you well. The beginning of this school year has been nothing short of exciting and promising. Our dedicated staff and enthusiastic students are working collaboratively to ensure that this year is not just a success, but a memorable experience from start to finish. We're especially excited about the fresh faces among our staff who are already making a positive impact both inside and outside the classroom. The energy levels are soaring, and we've set high standards for our students.

In my role, I have the privilege of engaging in daily conversations with students, parents, and teachers, covering a wide range of educational topics. Our primary focus is to increase opportunities for student involvement, both within and beyond the classroom, and to cultivate a more positive school culture. I'm thrilled to report that our efforts are leading to some fantastic discussions and the emergence of exciting initiatives.

We firmly believe that student voices are pivotal in shaping their educational journey. To this end, our students have started actively participating and sharing their ideas through various channels, including the Student Council, class meetings, student ambassadors, or simply by conversing with our dedicated staff. Students are also encouraged to express their thoughts through email and surveys. During the first week of school, we asked all our students to email the Principal with one idea to enhance their educational experience this year. After receiving over one hundred and eighty emails, we listened attentively to their voices. This was followed by a Google survey where all students could help prioritize the top four ideas.

I am excited to announce that starting in early October, we will be launching a variety of clubs to cater to the interests and passions of our students. Some of these clubs will meet during lunch hours, while others will convene after school. As we approach the launch date, we will share more details about the specific meeting times, locations, and the dedicated sponsors for each club. Please note that the start dates for some clubs may be subject to factors such as the availability of equipment, sponsors, and the number of interested students.



For our Middle School students, we will have clubs dedicated to ART, Robotics, Chess, and 3D printing. High School students will have the opportunity to join clubs focused on ART, Robotics, 3D printing, and a Book club. We are fortunate to have the resources to staff these clubs adequately and provide the necessary equipment to ensure our students have the best possible experience. If any members of our community are interested in supporting a specific club, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school. Support can manifest in various forms, and we are eager to explore opportunities that align with our vision.

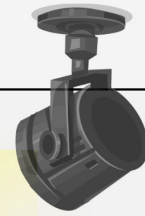
Thank you for your continued support.



Sincerely,
Aaron T. Butler, Principal

Alden-Hebron Middle & High School
9604 Illinois St. Hebron, IL 60034
Phone: 815-648-1676
Web: <https://www.ah19.org/>

DISTRICT 19 **SPOTLIGHT**



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE.
TOGETHER.

Exciting News! Alden-Hebron School District is thrilled to announce a fantastic partnership with Green Our Planet, bringing Hydroponics to all our schools! We're the proud recipients of the HydroConnect Grant, providing us with 19 classroom/tabletop gardens, 1 commercial garden, plus all supplies and curriculum for K-12 implementation. This will take our STEM and Science programs to new heights

But that's not all – we've also secured a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This will help us build a new greenhouse, fostering relationships with local farmers and eventually growing our fresh produce.

It's not just about veggies – it's about improving Food Science education and offering healthier food options for our students!



Keep your eyes peeled for the AH Greenhouse! Starting this fall and finishing in the spring, we'll construct a 20'x36' greenhouse at the South end of the building.

Stay tuned for more updates and eco-friendly adventures!



If you would like additional information about these two grants, please contact Principal Butler.

#AHGreenhouse #STEMEducation

DISTRICT 19



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Board
of Education

D19 BOARD OF EDUCATION

UPCOMING BOE MEETING DATES & TIMES

October 4	7:00pm
October 18	7:00pm
November 15	7:00pm
December 6	7:00pm
December 20	7:00pm

***All meetings to be held in the MS/HS Auditorium.

YOUR D19 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Penny Smith, President
Ken Winkelman, Vice President
Andy Madsen, Secretary

Johnny Eskridge, Board Member
Kate Johnson, Board Member
Tiffany Elswick, Superintendent

Note: A new board member will be selected at our October board meeting.



CONNECT with District 19

Communication is an essential component to the mission of Alden-Hebron School District 19 and the School Board.

WAYS TO CONNECT:

- Newsletters
- Website
- Facebook
- Twitter
- SchoolReach
- PowerSchool App
- Google Calendar

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE.
TOGETHER.



www.alden-hebron.org



In Loving Memory of School Board Member Steve Fritsch

It is with heavy a heart that we share the news of the sudden and tragic passing of our esteemed school board member, Steve Fritsch.

His dedication to our community and unwavering commitment to our students' education have left an indelible mark on all of us.

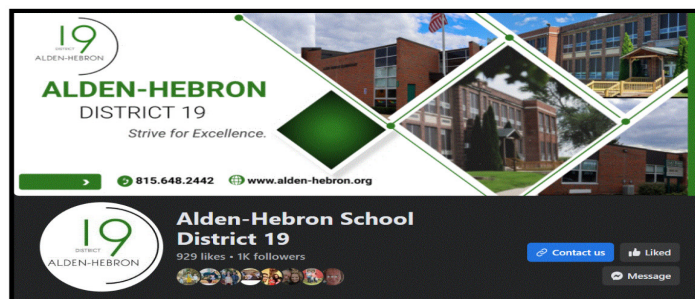
Steve worked to create a positive impact on our schools, always advocating for better resources, safer environments, and innovative learning opportunities.

During this difficult time, our thoughts are with Steve Fritsch's family and loved ones. May they find strength in the memories they shared and the positive influence he had on our community.

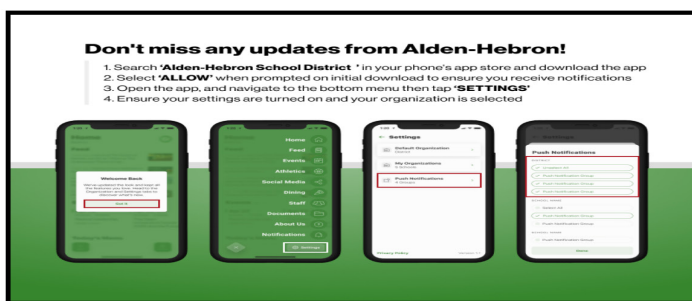
SCHOOL-TO-COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



D19 WEBSITE



D19 FACEBOOK

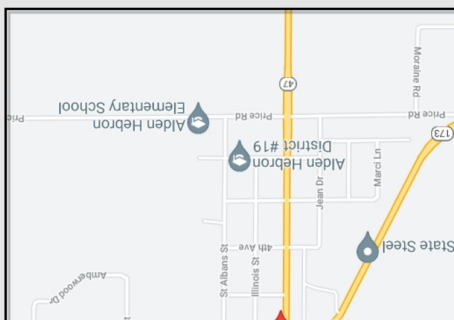


D19 APP



D19 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS

Alden-Hebron District 19
11915 Price Rd
Hebron, IL 60034
Phone: (815) 648-2442



Our Mission Statement
Alden-Hebron School District 19, in partnership with our community, will educate and inspire our students to reach their individual potential enabling them to be responsible members of society.



ALDEN-HEBRON SCHOOL DISTRICT 19
STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE. TOGETHER.

