A Message from Dr. Lynda C. Andre, Superintendent

As District 7 Superintendent of Schools, I’m pleased to introduce to you the first in a series of weekly emails that will be entitled District 7: Focus on Finance. The purpose of the Focus on Finance series is to provide residents with factual information about the District’s current financial picture and the Board of Education’s plans to restore financial stability to the school district.

Questions that will be answered over the next months include:
* What is District 7’s budget and how does the school district receive its funding?
* What is the Education Fund and what educational services does it support?
* What steps has the Board of Education taken to address these financial issues?
* What steps will the Board take in both the short and long-term to address deficits?
* Why is there a need to provide a permanent solution to the funding crisis now?

As you know, the unique features of District 7 have a significant impact on the District’s budget. Our school district covers 185 square miles, made up of Edwardsville, Glen Carbon and a large unincorporated area of Madison County that includes the villages of Hamel, Midway, Worden, and Moro. Seventy-five hundred students are enrolled in prekindergarten through twelfth grade at 13 schools located on 15 campuses across the district.

Students in prekindergarten through second grades attend Leclaire, Nelson, Goshen, Hamel, Midway, and Glen Carbon Elementary Schools. Students in grades 3-5 attend Columbus, Woodland, Cassens, and Worden Elementary Schools. Lincoln and Liberty Middle Schools serve students in 6th – 8th grades, and Edwardsville High School, EHS South, and a high school building on the Edwardsville campus of Lewis and Clark Community College serve students in 9th – 12th grades.

Students who graduate from Edwardsville High School are among the most academically talented in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Ninety-five percent (95%) of seniors go on to attend a two or four-year college after graduation. EHS students consistently earn honors in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This year four (4) seniors were designated as National Merit Finalists and 10 seniors received Commended Status.

Students in District 7 have consistently produced the highest scores on state assessments in the Madison-St. Clair County area over the last 10 years and out-performed both the State of Illinois averages and local school districts on the new PARCC assessments.
The District employs over 500 certified staff members, including teachers, administrators, nurses, psychologists, social workers, speech pathologists, guidance counselors, and physical/occupational therapists to provide educational services.

Additionally, more than 450 employees ensure that all schools are clean, safe, and nurturing environments for students and staff. These include school security officers, food service workers, classroom assistants, custodians, grounds and maintenance workers, and secretaries, among others.

I encourage you to look for these emails each Monday. All emails and videos developed over the next nine months will also be available on the District 7 website and Facebook pages and all school websites and Facebook pages beginning today.

Please look for the **Focus on Finance** icon, which will lead you to current and past communications. We hope that you will find this information helpful as we navigate through these difficult financial times.

As always, we thank you for your support of the Edwardsville School District!