A Message from Dr. Lynda C. Andre, Superintendent

Today we will take a tour of District 7’s ten elementary schools – Nelson, Goshen, Leclaire, Glen Carbon, Hamel, and Midway, which serve a combined student population of more than 1,580 kindergarten, first, and second grade students, and Columbus, Worden, Woodland, and Cassens Elementary Schools, which serve 1,636 third, fourth, and fifth grade students.

District 7’s elementary schools offer identical academic programming to their students and have comparable facilities in the areas of technology, media centers, academic and social support services, and special education. Teachers all deliver Board-approved curricula, and teachers receive identical professional development on best instructional practices within the subjects they are assigned to teach.

Let’s begin with a typical school day in District 7’s ten elementary schools.

All students receive instruction in the core subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, social science, science, and health. All curricula offered have been developed as a part of District 7’s K-12 curriculum study process, which provides continuity and consistency of instruction from elementary school through high school. Students also receive exposure to art, general music, PE, and Spanish (beginning in 3rd grade) through weekly specialist classes.

All K-2 students receive ongoing assessment to determine the progress being made on the grade level curriculum. Data sources used to inform instruction and track student academic progress in reading and math include the Illinois Snapshot of Early Literacy (ISEL), AIMSweb reading and math assessments, and regular monitoring of a child’s instructional reading level.

Students who require additional reading instruction receive instruction from reading specialists through the elementary RtI (Response to Intervention) program. For students with learning disabilities, the elementary level offers a continuum of educational services from regular education classroom support, self-contained instructional math and reading classes, and specialized programming provided through the Functional Life Skills and CASTLE programs.

The Challenge Program serves fourth and fifth grade students who have been identified as gifted based on a variety of nationally-normed assessments and the PARCC assessment. Challenge students are clustered together into regular classrooms where the teacher differentiates the curriculum to meet their academic needs. A gifted education specialist meets with challenge students one hour per week with grade level peers.

Fourth and fifth grade students are also offered band and orchestra instruction each week from the District’s band and orchestra teachers. Over 50% of students in these grades are enrolled in the instrumental music program.

During a child’s elementary years, she/he will have the opportunity to participate in Young Authors, Science Fair, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, Illinois Day, and a variety of STEM projects.
In order to deliver instructional and support services, 416 employees are assigned to the elementary level: 234 teachers and certified staff and 182 classified and exempt staff, including School Safety Officers, and bus monitors, playground and lunch monitors, and classroom assistants.

District 7’s ten elementary schools have a total of 290 classrooms, and each school has a media center with computers, and a gymnasiums Teachers in District 7 take pride in creating warm and nurturing classroom environments for their students and do so by using their own money to add those extra touches which make these classrooms outstanding places for your young children each day.

Parents play a vital role at the elementary level by volunteering in classrooms and media centers and through participation in PTO’s. Elementary Parent-Teacher Organizations provide social events for children and their families, as well as much-needed fundraising to support the purchase of technology, playground equipment, and classroom supplies for teachers.

The next Focus on Finance will feature preschool programs that serve the District’s three and four-year old children.

Thank you for your support of District 7.