

# Harvey Public Schools District 152

## Mission Statement

Striving toward excellence to develop students to fulfill their roles as responsible citizens in a global Society.

## Vision Statement

The District will provide the students with an enriched and integrated curriculum with instructional experiences to promote 21st Century skills that include inquiry, skillful decision-making, effective communication, multicultural appreciation, academic success and the joy of learning.



*Janet Rogers*

## From the Board President

The Harvey School District 152 Board of Education is committed to providing our community with adequate resources and support during the mandatory school closures. Our priority is the health, safety and well-being of all stakeholders throughout these challenging times. We ask everyone to remain patient and flexible as we implement new policies and practices in accordance with COVID-19 guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. In turn, we will continue to model resilience and responsiveness while serving the needs of our students, staff and community at large.

We are committed to nurturing each child's healthy development and academic growth. The district continues to distribute meals to students during remote learning days and is making efforts to support families with acquiring technology access. Teachers and staff are going the extra mile to continue instruction and provide students with meaningful learning experiences through all

available means. I encourage parents/guardians to monitor the district's e-learning page daily, and stay in close contact with your child's teacher and principal to remain abreast of current information.

The Board will continue to conduct school board business through regular meetings via live streaming. Those wishing to view the meetings may visit the district office during the scheduled meeting times. All public comments should be submitted to Nicole Wright at [nwright@harvey152.org](mailto:nwright@harvey152.org), at least two hours prior to the start of the meeting. The meeting minutes will be posted online within one week after each meeting for public access.

If you or your family need support or resources during this time, please do not hesitate to contact the district. We are in this together and will succeed through patience, compassion, and communication.

## Board of Education



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## District Administrative Office Staff

Mr. John Thomas  
*Superintendent*

Mr. Leonard Moody  
*Business Manager/CSBO*

Ms. Dana Ash  
*Director of Special Services*

Ms. Dana Nichols  
*Director of Teaching and Learning*

Mr. Chuck Givines  
*Interim Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Ms. Vera Liddell  
*Food Service Director*

Ms. Gabriele Delgado  
*Bilingual Director*

## District 152 Personnel

Mrs. Jillian Davis, Principal  
*Riley Pre-K*

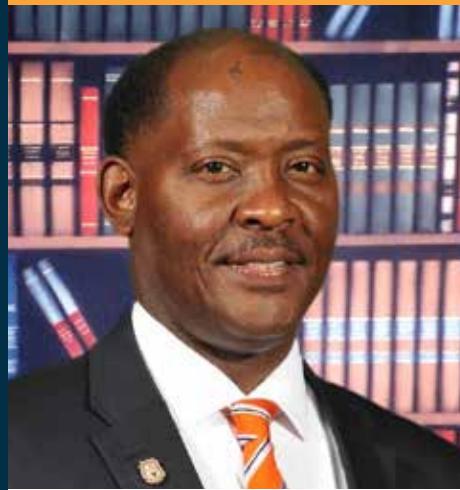
Ms. Iretha Brown, Principal  
*Maya Angelou*

Ms. Doelynn Strong, Principal  
*Holmes*

Ms. Roxie Thomas, Principal  
*Whittier*

Dr. Stacey Hunt, Principal  
*Brooks Middle School*

Mr. Durrell Anderson, Principal  
*Bryant*



## From the Superintendent of Schools

*Mr. John Thomas*

### Greetings Harvey School District 152 Community

We hope this Newsletter finds you in good spirits during this unprecedented time of uncertainty. As we began the 2019 – 2020 School Year with such high expectation and enthusiasm, we never could have imagined facing a mid-year school shut down due to a pandemic crisis around the World. The occurrence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has brought the country to a standstill; with communities and our lives on hold like we have never experienced before.

While this is a Medical crisis, it has affected the economy, our way of life and the educational process for our children. To that end, we are determined to do our part to continue

to carry out our mission of providing a sound education to our students. Therefore, we are providing a sustained level of instruction for our children within our control. We have implemented our Remote Learning program for our students to continue their education online with teachers available to provide guidance and instruction. Additionally, we are providing Breakfast and Lunch at our schools for individuals age 18 and under. Based on the Governor of Illinois' Executive Order, we anticipated a return to school after Spring Break. At this time, we are going to continue instruction via Remote Learning. We appreciate your understanding and patience with this change as officials continue to monitor

the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic spread. We want our families to be prepared for an extended term out of school. Having said that, we will continue to provide as much support for students and community as we can in terms of instructional delivery and meal services.

Finally, we ask that you monitor our website and social media for continued updates. This is a time in our History that we will learn from and prepare to emerge from as an even better society. Please continue to do your part to maintain appropriate hand washing routines, effective cleaning and sanitizing procedures and social distancing. We will get through this trying time together and stronger as a community and world.



# From the Curriculum & Instruction Department

## Math Bowl 2020

The second annual District Math Bowl was held on Thursday, March 5th for students in grades 1st - 8th.

Students competed against their grade-level peers in four rounds of math questions and puzzles, varying in difficulty. The students were engaged and excited to demonstrate their amazing knowledge and skills.

The 1st and 2nd place winners from each grade were scheduled to represent the district at the annual South Cook Regional Math Bowl at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights. Divisions C and D (grades 1st - 4th) on Thursday, May 7th, and Divisions A and B (grades 5th -8th) on Friday, May 8th. The success of this event is a result of the dedication, hard work and time, students and staff put forth preparing for the competition.



### Math Bowl Winners!

#### 1st Grade

Matthew Andrade (Holmes)- 1st place  
Gianluca Zacarias (Holmes) - 2nd place  
Paola Leyva (Holmes)- 3rd place (alternate)

#### 2nd Grade

Alfonso Nunez (Whittier) - 1st place  
Gael Ibarra (Holmes) - 2nd place  
Firdoos Vhora (Whittier)- 3rd place (alternate)

#### 3rd Grade

Theodore Thurman (Bryant) - 1st place  
Rose Joseph (Whittier) - 2nd place  
Anthony Cunningham (Bryant) - 3rd place (alternate)

#### 4th Grade

Leonel Figueroa (Holmes)-1st place  
Evelyn Hernandez (Whittier) - 2nd place  
Ishmael Retana Jr. (Bryant) - 3rd place (alternate)

#### 5th grade

Davayah Hull (Holmes) -1st place  
Ashton Jones(Angelou)- 2nd place  
David Shenault (Whittier) - 3rd place (alternate)

#### 6th grade

Allison Cruz (Brooks)  
Adonis Griffin (Brooks)

#### 7th grade

Denise Bustos (Brooks)  
David Valadez (Brooks)

#### 8th grade

Aniyah Anthony (Brooks)  
Alexis Jones (Brooks)

# From the Business Department

Earlier this year, we pursued several new grant opportunities to help us improve the educational environment for our students without creating additional burdens for our taxpayers. I'm happy to report that we have been selected as a winner of a grant that will fund up to \$50k of new kitchen equipment. This will allow us to replace old worn equipment, make our food service operation safer and more efficient, and allow for new, innovative food offerings.

Congratulations to Dr. Fowlkes, Vera Liddell, Jamie Watson, and the rest of the grant team. In addition, we are still in the running for several other grants. However, while we wait for those grants to come through we are still responding to the needs of the community by adding a much needed additional bus for the students at Bryant; we hope to add an additional bus to the Angelo route.

During the summer we will be upgrading our facilities by replacing old, worn, unreliable heating systems at Brooks and Holmes while making other needed facilities upgrades throughout the district. Funding for these projects has been planned for well in advance and will not impact our strong financial rating. As the end of the Fiscal Year 2020 approaches, the Business Office is excited about the improvements we are making to the District 152 learning environment while also being good stewards of the District's finances.

## From the MTSS Department

The MTSS Department is moving forward in making sure that interventions are in place for students. We are currently working on adopting a curriculum specifically for our students who have the greatest need for support in Reading. We are also looking at adopting a curriculum for teachers to use for student social - emotional learning. We want to make sure that teachers have the tools to reach all students at various levels.

We recently had our Three Year Strategic Plan approved by the Board and it is the first Three Year Strategic Plan by the MTSS Department and we are proud of the committee who worked on this plan. The plan includes outcomes and actions for students, staff, families, and administrators.

We are also looking forward to rolling out our new attendance plan for the 2020-2021 school year in an effort to involve all families in making sure that our students maintain on-time daily attendance.

Finally, we are working closely with the Office of Diversified Learners to develop the implementation of mindfulness to be used in the classroom in the Fall of 2020.

## From the Bilingual Education Department

Harvey Public Schools District 152 is committed to our work centered around district-wide plans to further promote best instructional practices for English Learners. As we continue to make improvements to our programs our EL teachers and staff had professional development on ACCESS testing. ACCESS is an assessment that measures students' academic English language in four language

domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

This assessment is done yearly and is used for many purposes. Scores from ACCESS Online can be used to inform instruction and monitor progress of English language learners (ELLs) in a school or district. ACCESS Online meets U.S. federal requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for monitoring and reporting

ELLs' progress toward English language proficiency.

All identified English Learner students took ACCESS within our testing window of January 15, 2020 through February 18, 2020. The test scores will be sent out to parents of EL students at the beginning of the next school year 2019-2020. Again, these scores will be used to monitor and make improvements in our EL programs and to improve our instructional practices.

## From the IT Department

The Harvey Innovative Teachers (HIT) cohort is a group of 21 teachers who are committed to one simple goal: bringing innovative, technology-driven learning experiences into their classrooms.

Over the course of 10 months, including a 4-day

summer workshop made up of project-based challenges, teachers become proficient in a variety of tech tools, with a focus on the G Suite (Google) for Education Apps.

With that said, the focus of the program is not on the technology tools themselves. Rather, it is how to creatively

integrate these tools into our curriculum.

In exchange for their time and commitment, each participating teacher received a classroom set of Chromebooks, BenQ Interactive Board, Ipevo Document Camera, classroom set of headphones, and preparation for the Google Certified Educator exam.

*We've had an amazing first year, thanks to the unwavering dedication of these teachers:*

**Danielle Acheampong  
Yashonda Boyd  
Jonathan Clark  
Chaniqua Calloway  
Treyce Criner  
Cherita Durham  
Jamila Jones**

**Cristina Hackett  
Kelly Henderson  
Jason Hill  
LaTara Hines  
Gadeer Kamil  
Elston Lacy  
LeQuita Wilson**

**Billete Osagiede  
Valencia Moore  
Monica Santillan  
Susan Schaller  
Kimberly Watkins  
Susan Welsh  
Amy Woloszyk**

***The second cohort kicks off June 1st. We hope you'll join! Applications will open soon.***

## SPED

We are excited to announce that we have had Trauma Informed Training for Brooks, Angelou & Whittier this year. This training is critical in reaching those students who have experienced various traumas in their lives that impact their academic and

emotional growth. We also had a team that attended the Trauma Informed Conference.

Finally, our district now has a Trauma Informed District Team that has been created to meet the needs of students. We have

had several field trips and we continue to make sure that we meet with Interventionists in planning for Case Studies.

We are also creating goals for our absent students to improve attendance.

We would like to highlight the following events in order to celebrate!

- Harvey School District 152 Spelling Bee - Tuesday, 1/14/2020.  
Angelou students Won 1st & 2nd Place!!!  
1st Place - Sameya Thrasher (4th Grade)  
2nd Place - Gregory Thomas (5th Grade)  
Other Angelou Contestants - Ilijah Miller (3rd Grade) & Lailani Lynch (3rd Grade)
- Primary Celebration of 100th Day of School - Thursday, 1/30/2020  
*Students in grades K-2nd dressed as the elderly for 100th Day of school*
- Family Love Dance - Friday, 2/7/2020
- Intermediate Field Trip to Governors State University to view the play “Harriet Tubman”
- Angelou Beta Club Induction - Wednesday, 2/12/20  
*Judge Sondra Denmark was our special guest speaker. She also visited Angelou again to read to our 5th grade classes.*
- Valentine’s Dance - Thursday, 2/13/2020 hosted by the Angelou Beta Club and Student Council
- Black History Month Program - Thursday, 2/27/2020
- Urban Gateways Performance “The Roots of Black Dance in America” - Friday, 2/28/20
- Read Across America / Dr. Suess Day (Grades K-2nd) - Wednesday, 3/4/2020
- Real Women Read - Friday, 3/6/2020



## Maya Angelou Elementary

At Angelou we have had several wonderful activities for our students. These have been fun and engaging!

**“Angelou’s mission to consider the needs and interests of the “whole-child” is an ongoing initiative. Our dedicated staff support students academically and socially by providing rich student-centered learning experiences in the classroom and beyond.”**

**Ms. Iretha G. Brown,  
Principal**

# Brooks Middle School

On this page are some exciting things that happened at Brooks.

**“Pathways to successful futures for students begins with opportunities, experiences, and knowledge that are grounded and explored through education.”**

**Dr. Stacey Hunt,**  
**Principal**

## Portillo's Fundraiser

Brooks had the pleasure of partnering with Portillo's Homewood, Illinois for a fundraiser. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the various activities that occur at Brooks. One of the main objectives of this particular drive was to collect funds in order to provide support to our 8th graders in need of financial assistance regarding graduation and activity fees. It was a great opportunity for faculty, staff, parents and students to fellowship and collaborate outside of the school building and partake in some delicious food!



## Polished Pebbles

Polished Pebbles, a mentoring group that seeks to add to the development of young ladies through the use of team building activities, mentoring and small group guidance ended their year with us by taking our 6th and 7th grade girls that have been enrolled in the program on a phenomenal trip to DePaul University. While there, our students had the opportunity to explore their STEM Lab, create a project that they were able to take home, shadow students and participate in a “College 101” Q and A Session.



## V.I.P. Lunch & Awards Assembly

At Brooks we not only celebrate good grades but we also acknowledge great attendance and exemplary behavior as well.

Listed below are a few of our pictures of our V.I.P. Lunch and Awards Assembly. Entertainment was provided by our fabulous Brooks dancers and they had the crowd engaged and excited from the start of their performance to the finish.



## Science Fair 2019-2020

Brooks Middle School hosted its annual Science Fair and the students did not disappoint.

They were enthusiastic, knowledgeable and eager to explain and demonstrate their expertise in their field of study.

Kudos to Mr. Driver for organizing and executing an educational, fun-filled fair!



## Poetry and Music SLAM

With the assistance of Mr. Wright and Dr. Griffin, Brooks was able to bring the talents of celebrity artists and poets to our school for our First Annual Poetry and Music Slam. Students were selected by their teachers based on their improved behavior and attendance. They were privy to an "All Access" Jam Session and Mini-Concert. All of the students that attended were excited to be afforded the opportunity to meet and greet with local celebrities.



## Shrek Jr. – The Musical

Come one.. Come All!!!! Shrek has descended upon Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School! Our students, under the direction of Ms. Buchanan, brought forth a star studded performance. There was an abundance of singing, dancing and even a hip hop rap scene by the ever so popular "Donkey". This was an event that was not to be missed!



## Coach Hines Named Coach of the Year!

This year was an amazing year for our 8th grade Brooks Girls Basketball Team. The team won both Regional and Sectional championships and finished with a 16 and 2 record. Through adversity and many ups and downs Coach Hines displayed true commitment and stellar perseverance! As a result of her outstanding efforts, she was nominated as Coach of the Year by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.



## Brooks vs. City of Harvey Annual Charity Christmas Basketball Game and Toy Drive

There were nothing but smiles and laughter as the Brooks Warriors challenged the city workers of Harvey, Illinois to a friendly game of basketball. All of the financial proceeds and toys that were collected were donated to local Harvey children in need. We at Brooks are appreciative of the support that this event garners every year! Thank you residents of Harvey, Illinois for your generous donations and a special thank you to Mr. Gronbech for organizing such a great event!



## Brooks Middle School

On this page are some exciting things that happened at Brooks.

### Black History Program

Brooks Middle School was the venue for the District's Annual Black History Program. We hosted the Parents, Students and Communities that service Angelou, Bryant, Holmes and Whittier. Our guests were entertained with poetry, skits and music. There was also food and wonderful desserts. A great time was had by all as we gathered to celebrate the rich history and culture of African Americans.



# Holmes Elementary

Holmes is always busy and excited with learning and experiences.

**“We share the belief that we need to educate the whole child, not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. We have high expectations for our students’ learning, based on the Common Core State Standards, and we expect that our students will develop socially within our PBIS program and the character modeling that they see every day from staff and their peers.”**

**Ms. Doelynn Strong,  
Principal**

## Holmes News

We are most proud of our parent interaction at our Monthly Parent Events, where they learn different skills such as navigating E-Learning & the importance of good attendance.

Families came out in large numbers to dance and celebrate with their children at our Valentines Day event.

Our students continue to learn about diversity and cultures of the world, as we recently celebrated Black History Month with daily announcements, a program on the Harlem Renaissance, and a Gallery Walk through the entire building, where displays & info was visible.

As we prepared for our state testing season, we practiced daily IAR-style questions through our morning work and an extra 8 am prep session for 3rd - 5th graders entitled “I’m Ready”.

We hope to see all of the hard work pay off in the future!



## Riley Early Childhood News

We are extremely excited to expand our collaboration with many agencies within our community to provide parents with valuable resources and workshops. Our goal is to provide our parents with experiences that will impact each student's educational success.

As we have been patiently waiting for the season of spring our students and families have participated in many engaging activities.

We are so glad to have been able to provide such meaningful experiences for our children and families.

### Parents Setting Academic Goals for the New Year



### Nelson Gill Concert



### Celebrating Read Across America with Guest Readers



## Riley Early Childhood

Riley Early Childhood is committed to identifying and addressing the needs of children and their families by providing a high-quality education and numerous parental involvement experiences each month.

*"Here at Riley School we believe in creating a nurturing learning environment, and engaging children in many ongoing learning experiences that will prepare them for Kindergarten."*

*Mrs. Jillian Davis,  
Principal*

# Whittier Elementary

The focus of the future should be on service and excellence. The importance of teaching and learning was well stated by a late President of the United States:

*“From the desk where I sit, the answer to all the world problems is found in a single word. That word is education.”*

**“At Whittier School, we take pride in providing our students with exceptional and motivational activities and incentives. ”**

**Ms. Roxie Thomas,  
Principal**

## Whittier Elementary News

As the Instructional Leader of this dynamic school, my heart is filled with pride and happiness when I see the students grow and succeed.

Many of our students and parents have shared with me that the students are eager to come to school and be involved in the various school activities.

As I conclude my career at Whittier School, I am honored to have served as the Instructional Leader for the past 20 years and watched this school move from the lowest performing to the highest performing school in the Harvey area.

Below are some of the highlights of the past several few months (l-r, top to bottom):

- C.A.P.T.U.R.E Boys and Girls program
- Boys Basketball Championship Win
- Honor Roll Breakfast
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Real Women Read
- G.O.A.L Program with Chicago Blackhawks
- Whittier Cheerleaders Perform at Half-time



## Bryant Elementary News

Our students are continually engaged in meaningful learning opportunities.

We would like to thank the many families that come out to support our events and those who continue to maintain contact with teachers.

Our students work very hard and we are proud of their efforts.

In addition, all of our staff members are committed to making sure that Bryant students grow and achieve.

We are also very excited to have been selected as a 2019-2020 Imagine Nation Beacon Award Winner for above and beyond enthusiastic and innovative use of Imagine Learning. Kudos to our staff and students who continue to work hard and excel.

## Bryant Elementary

We are excited to continue to serve our Bryant families and are looking ahead for more exciting things to come.

### Guest Judge reading to the classroom



**“A strong partnership with you (parents/guardians) will make a great difference in your child’s education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children’s success and I want you to know that we, the entire staff, will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.”**

**Mr. Durrell Anderson,  
Principal**

### Harriet Tubman Play



**Harvey Public Schools District 152**

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*Spring and Summer Break*

2020

