

HARVEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 152

WINTER | 2021-2022

The official quarterly newsletter
of School District 152



From the Board President *Janet Rogers*



Congratulations to our School Board Members for achieving and maintaining "Master Board Member" recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

**SANDRA CONTRERAS - Level 1 Master Board Member
CASEY NESBIT - New Master Board Member
JANET ROGERS - Master Status Maintained**

Greetings to the Citizens, Staff, and Students of Harvey School District 152! We are excited about the progress we've made since schools have reopened this Fall. Our top priority this year is to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff.

We set high expectations for our maintenance and administrative team to carry out this vision, and I'm proud to announce that they've met the charge. We are especially proud of the work of our instructional staff for their unwavering effort, commitment, and diligence towards meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students. Mere words cannot express how much we thank them for the work they do and the many hats they wear!

We pride ourselves on not only being a school community, but a family at Harvey 152. As we emerge from a year where social isolation has been the experience for many of our students, we recognize that every adult in our schools plays a critical role in the overall health and well-being of our students. When students believe that adults care about them as individuals, research proves that their learning is more successful. We are committed to providing opportunities for students

to feel valued and make life-long connections.

As we embark on a new year, we look forward to expanding relationships with families and the community to support the success of our schools. We encourage our parents and families to attend school-wide events, both virtually and in-person, and take an active role in supporting your child's learning. We pray that everyone within and beyond our school community remains safe and enjoy the Holidays!

Board of Education



Casey Nesbit
Vice President



Teresa Cameron
Secretary



Sandra Contreras
Member



Myra Gardner
Member



Linda Hawkins
Member



Joseph Whittington, Jr.
Member



From the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. John F. Thomas

Seasons Greetings Harvey Schools and Community! As we move to the holiday season, we would like to update you on what we believe has been a successful start to the 2021-2022 school year. Following Governor J. B. Pritzker's Executive Order to reopen schools, with great excitement and proactive caution, we planned and executed our school reopening in compliance with the Illinois State Board of Educations (ISBE) expectations.

We navigated the constant changes of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidance with your safety and well-being as the cornerstone of every decision we made. We purchased and maintained an inventory of personal protective equipment. We implemented protocols to minimize possible exposure and established a communications protocol that followed confidentiality laws for individuals affected by the COVID 19 virus.

Our statistics have been favorable as compared to a number of districts throughout the State. This process has not been an easy task. We have had tremendous input from a number of stakeholders along the way. Each of whom has put in countless hours of dedicated service.

I want to take this opportunity and recognize a special group charged with implementing and executing the plans on the front-lines. In conjunction with Principal Appreciation Month, it is my pleasure to honor and thank each of our principals for their tireless efforts in carrying out the vision and mission of the Harvey School District on a daily basis. Please take the time to extend a personal thank you to our principals. The leadership, compassion, patience, and commitment each has shown in this time of crisis is a testament to the quality of staff we have in Harvey School District 152. I am extremely proud of each of our administrators. Thank you for your continued sacrifice and support.

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH



District Administrative Office Staff

Mr. John Thomas
Superintendent

Ms. Gabriele Delgado
*Assistant Superintendent of
Bilingual Services*

Ms. Dana Nichols
*Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning*

Ms. Cassandra Watkins
Business Manager

Ms. Dana Ash
*Assistant Superintendent of
Special Services*

Mr. Alfred Daniels
*Director of
Buildings and Grounds*

Ms. Lynette Lane
Director of Food Service

District 152 School Administrators

Mrs. Jillian Davis
Principal, Riley Pre-K

Dr. Dominique Effs
Principal, Whittier

Mrs. Iretha Parker
Principal, Maya Angelou

Mr. Darnell Garner
*Ass't. Principal,
Bryant & Whittier*

Mr. Durrell Anderson
Principal, Bryant

Mrs. Carlene Matthews
Ass't. Principal, Brooks

Mr. Robert Rizzo
*Ass't. Principal,
Brooks Middle School*

Mrs. Gabriele Delgado
Principal, Holmes

Mr. Curtis Young
*Principal,
Brooks Middle School*

Mrs. Julie Mahorney
Ass't. Principal, Holmes & Angelou

RE-THINKING: Changing Ways We Teach Math

District 152 has made several adjustments to our Math Curriculum to help increase student achievement and address learning loss resulting from remote learning.

We're continuing to implement the Math Learning Progressions, which are designed to identify and target the pre-requisite skills students need to master their grade-level content. We've also implemented common pre and post-unit assessments across the district to help teacher teachers identify skills for reteaching and enrichment.

Our teachers are putting forth the time and effort to make math instruction engaging and fun! Students in all grades are learning to use "Math Mats" to make sense of real-world problems so that they can solve them efficiently. Students are also engaged with a variety of technology tools, such as Seesaw, Desmos, Kahoot, and YouTube videos to support them in deepening their understanding.



TIPS for Parents:

The website [Mathplayground.com](https://www.mathplayground.com) has great tools to enhance the idea of multiplication using models. Within this site, students can visit Thinking Blocks, which offers visual activities where students can dissect multiple representations of multiplication, division, subtraction, and addition word problems. As we continue to work with our students in increasing math achievement, we will keep you abreast of resources and information you can use to support your children at home!

TECH NEWS

Throughout the first half of the 2021 – 2022 school year, we have continued to improve our District network infrastructure.

The network revamps of Sandburg's Pre-K have been completed with new switches, access points, fiber connections, and data drops.

New BenQ boards will be installed soon, and we are much closer to having 100% of our classrooms with new digital displays.

Our department has been awarded over \$263,000 from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF I) which has served to fund 650 Chromebooks and 100 hot spots!

We are truly happy to be at the forefront of technology and as always, please keep posted via our website (www.harvey152.org) and/or app, available on iOS or Google Play Store.



Blessings in a Backpack

We would like to send a heartfelt THANK YOU to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Joliet Area/South Suburban Alumnae Chapter (JASSAC), for sponsoring Blessings in a Backpack.

In partnership with Blessings in a Backpack non-profit organization, members of JASSAC pack 450 bags filled with non-perishable foods every month for the students in District 152.

These bags are distributed to the students of Whittier School as well as other schools in the district. The warm smiles on our students' faces show how much they appreciate this opportunity.



LITERACY Corner

K-5 teachers have been hard at work implementing a new basal reading series called My View. This series was one of the highest-rated programs on Ed Reports, a well-respected education site that rates publishers and reading programs. An additional component called Successmaker was also purchased that accompanies this series. Successmaker is an intervention program that pairs with our NWEA MAP Assessment tool. Successmaker is a computerized program that can be used in school and at home. Building interventionists can also use the print version of the program to provide students with additional support and practice.

Besides a new reading series, all classrooms Pre-K through 8th grade, received new classroom library books. The new books are culturally diverse and have characters and plots that reflect the students that District 152 serves. Our students love reading and listening to the stories!



PHONICS Fun!

Teachers and students grades K-2 have been having fun singing, reading, and doing kinesthetic activities to learn the 44 phonics sounds. Jolly Phonics is an interactive smart board and workbook program that immerses students in learning to spell, decode and read in a systematic way. So if you see your child making funny movements while doing homework, they may just be putting their newly acquired skills to work!

Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS)

Multi Tier System of Support, or MTSS, had a major overhaul this summer. Ms. Nichols, Ms. Graton, and all the building interventionists worked to rewrite the manual and procedures. Mrs. Kiah Duncan, at Holmes School, was an integral part of the revisions. To ensure everyone's understanding of the changes Ms. Duncan created videos, links, and powerpoints. The new manual gives clear cut instructions on how students enter the MTSS program as well as how students will transition between tiers of support. Visit our website to access our new handbook to learn more about the support we provide our students in need of intensive academic support.



BILINGUAL Department

The Bilingual Department has been busy working on making sure our EL students and teachers are ready for a good start to a new year! One of our main goals is to create a Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. School districts that have a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Programs are required to establish a Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC). The committee should be comprised of bilingual program parents, teachers, and other interested community members. The committee meets at least four times a year and participates in the planning, operation, and evaluation of the TBE program. All parents of students in the Bilingual Program are invited to become members of the Committee. During the meeting parents learn about the roles and responsibilities of the BPAC, the EL programs offered to students, how funding will be used from the Title III Grant, as well as, how EBF funding plan will be used for this fiscal year. Please come and join our next meeting. All are welcome to attend.



Harvey Public Schools, District 152

INVITING ALL BILINGUAL PARENTS

Join the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee to discuss the different programs for students. The purpose is to participate in the planning, operation, and evaluation of bilingual programs. We will have workshops and different activities throughout the school year.

When:

Sept. 27, 2021

Nov. 19, 2021

Jan. 14, 2022

March 4, 2022

May 4, 2022

Meeting will be at 9:30 a.m.





Google meet: <https://meet.google.com/arz-byxo-btq>

For more information please communicate with Ms. Tadrá Garcia - Bilingual Interpreter at 758-333-0300 Ext. 133



District 152 Community Spotlight

Events happening in your neighborhood

WINTER HAPPENINGS

- 
COVID-19 Vaccine Available: Family Christian Health Center, in Harvey, is now offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11. Tentatively, starting at the end of November, you can make your child's appointment by logging on to, <http://www.familychc.com/> or call 708-596-5177, for details and questions.
- 
Letters To Santa Gift Giving Drive: Starting Nov. 23rd, District 152 and our special partners want to be a blessing this holiday season. Have your family do a "Letter To Santa", detailing your family/children's wishes and send them to abolton@harvey152.org. Also, if you or your family want to be a "Secret Santa" to a District 152 student during the holidays, please call Ms. Bolton at 708-333-0300, to sign up as a holiday partner.
- 
Partnership for a Healthy America Veggie Boxes: Fresh fruit and vegetables boxes are still available at your local school every Thursday from 3pm-4:30pm. The last day of this program is Thursday, December 9th.
- 
South Suburban College ESL and GED: We have an opportunity to bring ESL and GED programs to District 152 through South Suburban College. If you are interested in these programs, please email Ms. Arletha Bolton at abolton@harvey152.org.

COVID-19 TESTING

This year, all Harvey Public School District 152 students will have an opportunity to be tested bi-weekly to keep schools safe for staff, students and parents.

Regular testing, in addition to the vaccine, is the only safe and effective way to stop the spread of Covid-19 and keep students in in-person learning.

The testing procedure is quick, simple, and non-invasive, with students providing a small cotton swab of saliva that is tested at a professional lab. The results are provided in less than 24 hours. Listed below is the participation by school thus far. We encourage all parents to enroll their children in this program.

COVID Testing Student Participation

Riley	66%	Angelou	78%	Holmes	60%
Whittier	40%	Bryant	44%	Brooks	25%

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING

After an unexpected year and an unrelenting pandemic that still plagues us, it is vital that we review the social and emotional welfare of all stakeholders. We are assessing all students using the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA). The results will be used to plan instruction, identify students strengths and areas of concerns, inform progress monitoring and evaluate outcomes. The DESSA aligns to, but expands upon, the CASEL Framework by including the following eight subscales:



School News



BROOKS Middle School

As we complete the 2nd Quarter of the 2021-2022 academic school year, we look forward to what Winter has to offer. We would like to thank all stakeholders for making this difficult time easier to navigate. Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School's priority has not changed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which is to deliver an excellent education to students and keep them safe. We are ecstatic to announce that we have successfully begun Covid 19 testing for all students and staff, and are pleased to be continuing full in-person learning. We thank our educators and leaders for their tireless efforts to maximize learning during this unprecedented period of time.

We would like to thank everyone for making certain that our students are maintaining a sense of normalcy by participating in programs and events. We had our 2nd Annual "Trunk or Treat" activity which was a tremendous success.



Additionally, Our Girls' and Boys' Basketball Seasons have had a tremendous start. GBMS is proud to continue to offer Crochet Club, Stock Market Club, Drama Club, Brooks' Broadcasting Club, and many other activities where students are allowed to see their teachers and peers safely in-person.



We have also started the exciting process of aiding our staff members with "keeping up a healthy lifestyle." This month we invited the awesome team from Chiro One to offer spinal health screenings and provide staff with an opportunity to visit one of their phenomenal establishments.



We are truly preparing ourselves for a tremendous 2021-2022 school year, and look forward to all of the exciting events we have planned for our staff and students.

School News



BRYANT Elementary

It's always a great day to be at Bryant as we continue our full implementation of PBIS. We held our PBIS Kick-Off in August and followed with monthly themes to promote excellent attendance and behavior school wide.

In August and September, we focused on identifying our feelings and different ways to manage them appropriately. Appropriate ways to express our feelings include expressing ourselves respectfully by talking, breathing, counting, journaling, drawing, assisting for help, taking a break, listening to music, completing a puzzle, and visualization.

In October, students learned about self-confidence and self-control.

In November, students learned about respect and self-love. The PBIS Team has scheduled a school-wide field trip for students and staff to the Roosevelt Collection ICON Theater for the month of December.

Our PBIS Team also rewarded the top 5 classroom Teachers for the highest turnout for Parent-Teacher Conference with a gift card.

Report Card Pickup Conference Winners

Mrs. Rabe
Ms. Holman
Mrs. Mayer
Mrs. Schied
Mrs. Schaller



HOLMES Elementary

It is always an exciting time when a New Year begins and we welcome students back for amazing learning! We would also like to welcome our new interim Principal, Mrs. Gabriela Delgado. While we are saddened to see Principal Strong leave, we want to assure you that we've had a seamless transition to the very important role of Principal at Holmes School. Mrs. Delgado has several years of administrative experience and will ensure that students and staff continue uninterrupted learning during this transition.

Our PBIS learning continues with a new focus each month, and we have enjoyed our monthly celebrations for students who have met expectations. After-School Tutoring is fully operating now, offering additional support to our MTSS Tier 2 students and those preparing for meeting & exceeding standards on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). We expect great gains in students' learning.

As we continue to navigate this COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that parents regularly communicate with their child's teacher through Class Dojo, especially if their child will be absent due to sickness. During times of illness or quarantine, we want to stay connected so that students can have a successful remote learning experience and continue their learning. Now, more than ever, we should work closely together to ensure every student's success here at Holmes. As always, we thank you for being a part of Holmes' Family!



School News



Maya Angelou Elementary

We are excited about our school's theme for this school year "We Are Stronger Together!" Although this may be a unique school year, we are confident that when all stakeholders work together, we will be successful! Angelou's ongoing mission is to focus on the needs and interests of the "whole-child." We are excited about our return to in-person instruction and our dedicated staff will continue to support students academically, socially, and emotionally by providing rich student-centered learning experiences.

We welcome the following new staff members to our Angelou Family for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Julie Mahorney** - Ass't. Principal (Angelou & Holmes School)
- Latrina Jordan** - 3rd grade
- Kaitlyn Davis-Powells** - Paraprofessional (4th/5th grade)
- JoShandra Perry** - Case Manager
- Kianna Martin** - Nurse Assistant

To promote student achievement, student recognition, and a sense of normalcy, we have started several school-wide initiatives. They include PBIS, 25 Book Challenge, Angelou EAGLE Attendance Challenge, and Angelou Peace Pledge. Approximately 79 students have committed to the Angelou Peace Pledge, and our homeroom classes are working hard to win the Angelou Attendance Challenge. We are also proud to announce that Angelou School has the greatest number of students receiving COVID testing in the district! Thank you to our parents for supporting this district initiative.

In closing, thank you Angelou families! You have been very instrumental in supporting our school, staff, and students. We are honored to serve your child and look forward to continuing our partnership. Please stay connected by monitoring updates to our district website, District 152 Facebook, Angelou's Classroom Dojo, automated phone calls, email, Google Classroom, or Seesaw notifications. Our office is available to accommodate your needs and assist you throughout the school year! On behalf of the entire Angelou staff, we are delighted to educate your child and with your support.... We Are Stronger Together!



Harvest Costume Party



COVID Testing Gift Cards

Hispanic Heritage Month



Good Morning Angelou Family...
 Welcome to National Hispanic Heritage Month. Please join us in our month long celebration as we recognize this rich culture and the many contributions Hispanic people have made over the years. Each day our students will have the opportunity to learn about a person who has done amazing things. Join us as we honor the past and embrace our future.

School News



Whittier Elementary

"If it is to be, it is up to me!" Whittier students start the day affirming that they are in control of their future. Students, teachers and staff have made a successful transition to in-person learning and thus far we are off to a great start! Our students, teachers and staff remain committed to the spirit of EXCELLENCE at Whittier Elementary School!

We are striving to provide high-quality academics, high-quality student experiences, as well as high-quality community engagement and partnerships. Whittier students remain excited about reading and collectively have read over 1000 books this semester in order to reach their individual "25 Book Campaign" goal. Whittier is excited to announce the return of Blessings in a Backpack to celebrate and implement educational activities. Our After School Tutoring Program has begun offering additional support in math and reading to students in need of academic support. The Lady Wildcats girls basketball team is currently in 1st place and will play in the semifinals this week. As you can see, we are having an amazingly busy year!



I am honored to lead a school with such brilliant students, dedicated staff members, and supportive families. Be sure to follow the Whittier School Page on the Harvey School District 152 website and the Whittier School Dojo page to stay abreast of all that is happening at Whittier. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Principal Effs via phone or email at deffs@harvey.org.



Riley Pre Kindergarten

Riley is truly thankful for the students, parents, and staff who make our program a true success. Pre-K Classrooms are currently investigating all about Trees. Students are learning about the characteristics of trees in our community, who lives in trees, what food comes from trees, who takes care of trees, how trees change, and what we can do with parts of trees. As we study trees together, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also use thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

This quarter also kicked off our parental involvement events as well as our monthly PTA meetings. Parents participated in Nursery Rhyme Night and Craft Night! Students participated in fun activities during the Fall Season such as Healthy Day and our Annual Fall Festival Day! We are looking forward to additional school-wide Pre-K experiences, Parent Cafés, and Parental Involvement Evening Events that are planned for the winter! Thank you for your support as we continue to make sure that we are building a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning.





WE ARE OFFICIALLY A 1:1 DISTRICT

It's been a busy semester in the world of Instructional Technology. Harvey 152 is officially a 1:1 Chromebook district. This means that every student has their own Chromebook assigned to them to use each day. This prevents the sharing of devices and helps students to take ownership over the care of their computers.

Anyone with a young child knows the frustration of dealing with usernames and passwords. In response to this, we rolled out Clever Login Badges this Fall, which have been very popular with our primary students and teachers. Students can now hold their unique QR badge up to their Chromebook camera and they will automatically be logged into their computer without the need to type in a password. What a time saver!

District staff also received a much-needed upgrade to their classroom computers with brand new Chromebooks that help them to manage the many classroom tasks that they are now doing digitally. Lab Assistants Ms. Cook (Angelou), Ms. Jackson (Bryant), and Mr. Reed (Whittier) all deserve a huge shout out for their hard work to quickly inventory, label, and set up hundreds of computers to get them into the hands of our students and teachers as quickly as possible. THANK YOU!!!

▶▶▶ District Wide: Math Proficiency



▶▶▶ District Wide: Reading Proficiency



FALL 2021 NWEA/MAP ASSESSMENT RESULTS

In September, students in grades K-8 completed the first NWEA MAP benchmark assessment of the year. This assessment is taken three times per year and identifies specific areas of strength and opportunities for growth. This information is important because it helps teachers to know the domains in Reading & Math that their students need extra support. The charts above reflect the students overall performance across the district in both Reading and Math.

Our goal is to meet or exceed the Norm RIT score, which reflects the national average. We are on our way to achieving this goal and extremely proud of the performance of our Kindergarten students!

The next assessment window is December 8-16. It is essential that **ALL STUDENTS** do their best on these assessments.

Harvey Public Schools District 152

16001 Lincoln Avenue
Harvey, Illinois 60426
www.harvey152.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 68
HARVEY, IL 60426

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

RILEY • BRYANT • HOLMES • MAYA ANGELOU • WHITTIER • BROOKS ► HARVEY152.ORG

2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

DECEMBER 2021

- 20-31 WINTER VACATION – NO SCHOOL
- 24 HOLIDAY – OFFICES CLOSED
- 31 HOLIDAY – OFFICES CLOSED

JANUARY 2022

- 03 School Resumes
- 14 End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester – 12:30 p.m. Dismissal

JANUARY 2022 cont'd.

- 17 HOLIDAY – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY - NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED
- 26 School Improvement Day - 12:30 p.m. Dismissal

FEBRUARY 2022

- 04 INSTITUTE DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 21 HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED
- 23 School Improvement Day – 12:30 p.m. Dismissal

MARCH 2022

- 07 HOLIDAY – CASIMIR PULASKI DAY – NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED
- 18 End of 3rd Quarter – 12:30 p.m. Dismissal
- 25 Parent Teacher Conference – 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

APRIL 2022

- 15 VACATION DAY – NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED
- 18-22 SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL – OFFICES OPEN
- 25 School Resumes

MAY 2022

- 11 School Improvement Day - 12:30 p.m. Dismissal
- 27 End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester – 12:30 p.m. Dismissal
- 30 HOLIDAY – MEMORIAL DAY – NO SCHOOL – OFFICES CLOSED

JUNE 2022

- 02 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL