

In this Issue:

**Math Curriculum @ IJHS,
3rd Grade Field Trip,
Meet Our Staff,
and More...**



**IJHS SPRING
CONCERT
MAY 19 - 7:00**



**NAVAJO SPRING
MUSIC CONCERT
MAY 26 - 6:00**



**PLC DISMISSAL
1:30 - MAY 25**

PALOS HEIGHTS 128 eNEWS



Navajo students will be showing off their talents at their annual talent show on Thursday, May 26th at 1:00 at Navajo School.

National Board Cohort of Teachers



District #128 embraces the National Board Certification professional development process! We have 10 teachers who will be working towards their national board certification, while at the same time, enhancing their professional learning around our own districts' issues and concerns.

We could not be happier with the willingness of our teachers to take on this responsibility and time commitment! We know that our entire district will benefit from this process.

THIRD GRADE FIELD TRIP

BRIGID LOGHRAN, 3rd Grade Teacher, writes: "This morning (May 4) the 3rd graders went to the Big Run Wolf Ranch. We have been working through a Wolves in Fiction and Wolves in Fact reading unit. Recently the students have been researching Wolves in Fact."

"Today we had the chance to see Rare Arctic, British Colombian, and North American Timber Wolves. The enclosure also housed a black bear, tiger, cougar, and more. The students were able to meet a few of the smaller animals and even hold 6 of the brand new British Colombian wolf pups. It was a big hit with all, and I thought I would share some of the pictures taken."



THIRD GRADE FIELD TRIP (cont.)



Character



Scholarship

Service

NATIONAL JR. HONOR SOCIETY

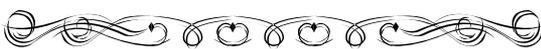
Induction Ceremony
April 27, 2016

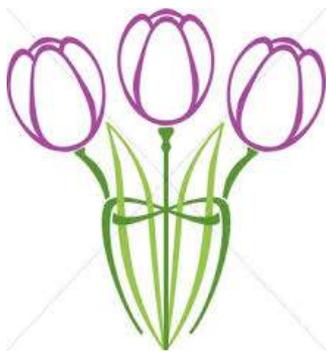
Citizenship

Leadership



National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony is a wonderful opportunity to recognize some of our students. It is also an opportunity for students to reflect on the positive characteristics that define the premise of the national junior honor society organization. Independence Junior High inducted 24 7th and 8th graders last week at their induction ceremony. Congratulations to all current and newly inducted NJHS members.





It takes a big
heart
to help shape
little
minds.

Thank You



for making a
difference

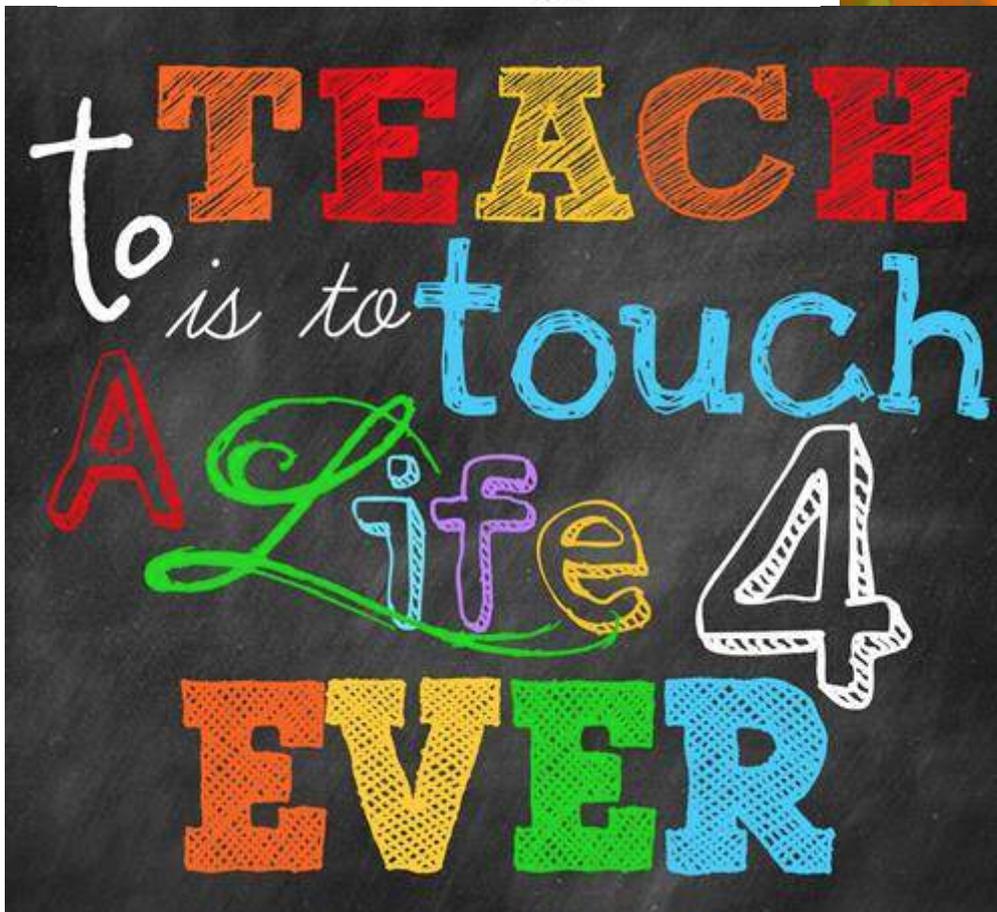
Happy Teacher
Appreciation Week

**HAPPY TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK!
THANK YOU FOR ALL
YOU DO!**

HERE'S TO THE
TEACHERS
who have
**CHANGED OUR
lives forever.**

Teacher Appreciation Week





Teacher Appreciation Luncheon



Our district's wonderful Parent-Faculty Association provided a luncheon and some competition last week for teacher appreciation week.

It was interesting to observe the friendly competition around the hit show, "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?" What was most interesting is that the competitors were able to get most of the questions right!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the luncheon such a success. It was a great way to cap off a wonderful week!

MATH CURRICULUM at INDEPENDENCE JR. HIGH

Recently, the Math team at Independence has selected a new math program to support our math curriculum. For the past several years, our Math team has been without any such program and has had to supplement all of their resources through their own investigation and discovery. This was due in part because as the Illinois math standards were changing and increasing in rigor, we did not want to rush into just any program that declared itself to be aligned to our new standards. Research and studies were showing that, at the junior high, there was no such program that was fully aligned.

Now, five years later, programs have had the opportunity to produce quality materials; and we have added an additional 40 minutes of math instruction each day. Therefore, now is the time to provide our math teachers the support and resources to best support our students' learning. Over the past year, the math team utilized a program evaluation tool in reviewing multiple programs. As we began this process, we wanted to be sure that the program we considered best prepares all students for high school. As such, this program needed to introduce all students to algebra prior to leaving eighth grade. As of last year, Illinois began reporting the percentage of eighth grade students passing algebra; which was designed to encourage school districts to offer algebra to as many students as possible. This will better prepare all students for algebra in ninth grade and create more opportunities for some of our students to leap into Honors Geometry as Freshmen.

After a thorough review of multiple programs, our teachers have selected the Big Ideas program; a program that is also being implemented in several other districts comparable to Palos Heights SD 128. Some of these districts include Hinsdale, Western Springs, Lisle, Kildeer, Mount Prospect, Evanston, and Northbrook, just to name a few. (continued)

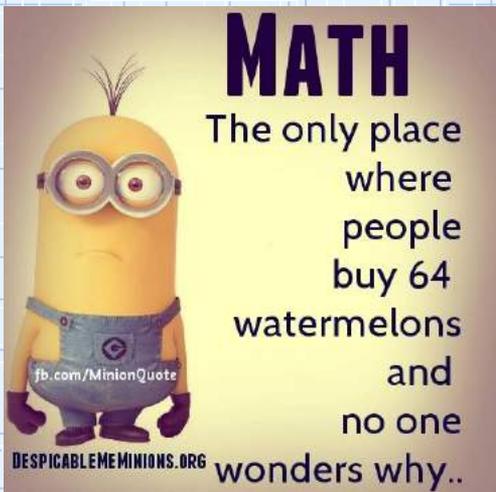
MATH CURRICULUM at INDEPENDENCE JR. HIGH (continued)

Some of the highlights of the program: - Advanced scope and sequence that condenses all 6, 7, & 8 grade standards into two years; so that by eighth grade, all students will have algebra (by doubling our minutes from previous years, we believe this is very manageable) - A digital component unlike one we have seen before that provides for detailed item analysis to support all students close gaps and enrich instruction - Performance based rubrics that support our curriculum and aligned to standards - Multiple formative assessment opportunities for accurate progress monitoring and differentiation.

As this program provides pathways for all students to be offered algebra as eighth graders, there will no longer be an “honors” class, beginning with the incoming sixth grade class. However, as we have always done, IJHS will coordinate articulation with the fifth grade teachers to ensure that students are clustered with other students of similar abilities. Our current sixth grade and seventh grade class will not be affected by this change. This program will be cycled up through seventh and eighth grade with the incoming class 6th grade class. As with any change, there may be questions and concerns. Independence will host a math informational evening at the start of next school year on Thursday, August 25 at 6:00 PM to provide more details regarding this program and how it enhances our standards based curriculum.



Jr. High - Math Series Adoption



Chosen: Big Ideas - Advanced
Pathway

6th Grade: Advanced Book 1

7th Grade: Advanced Book 2

8th Grade: Algebra 1

Why We Chose Big Ideas:

This was one of only a few publishers who offered an accelerated pathway to ultimately have every 8th grader take Algebra 1.

This series contains every 6th/7th/8th grade standard and spreads it evenly across 2 years without missing anything.

Every lesson contained at least 1 "Error Analysis" question - aligns with PARCC.

Multiple Starter activities/Real-World examples for each lesson.

There was actually room to work on the Record/Practice Journal that each student will receive every year.

There were Test Item References for each chapter (both by lesson and question #) - common mistakes made by students and how to re-teach those concepts.

There were specific Standards Assessments for each chapter.

Each chapter had its own Resource guide - Bell Ringers, etc.

The Assessment Book has multiple versions of both tests and quizzes (for formative and summative questions).

The Assessment Book also offered a Standards Assessment/Item Analysis - common mistakes that students make and ideas on how to re-teach.

There were also Alternative Assessments along with Rubrics - PARCC-like. Many Reteaching/Enrichment Strategies.

Many "What you learned before" - prior knowledge and what to do with it.

Good partnered work ideas offered.

Good critical thinking/Taking Math Deeper opportunities.

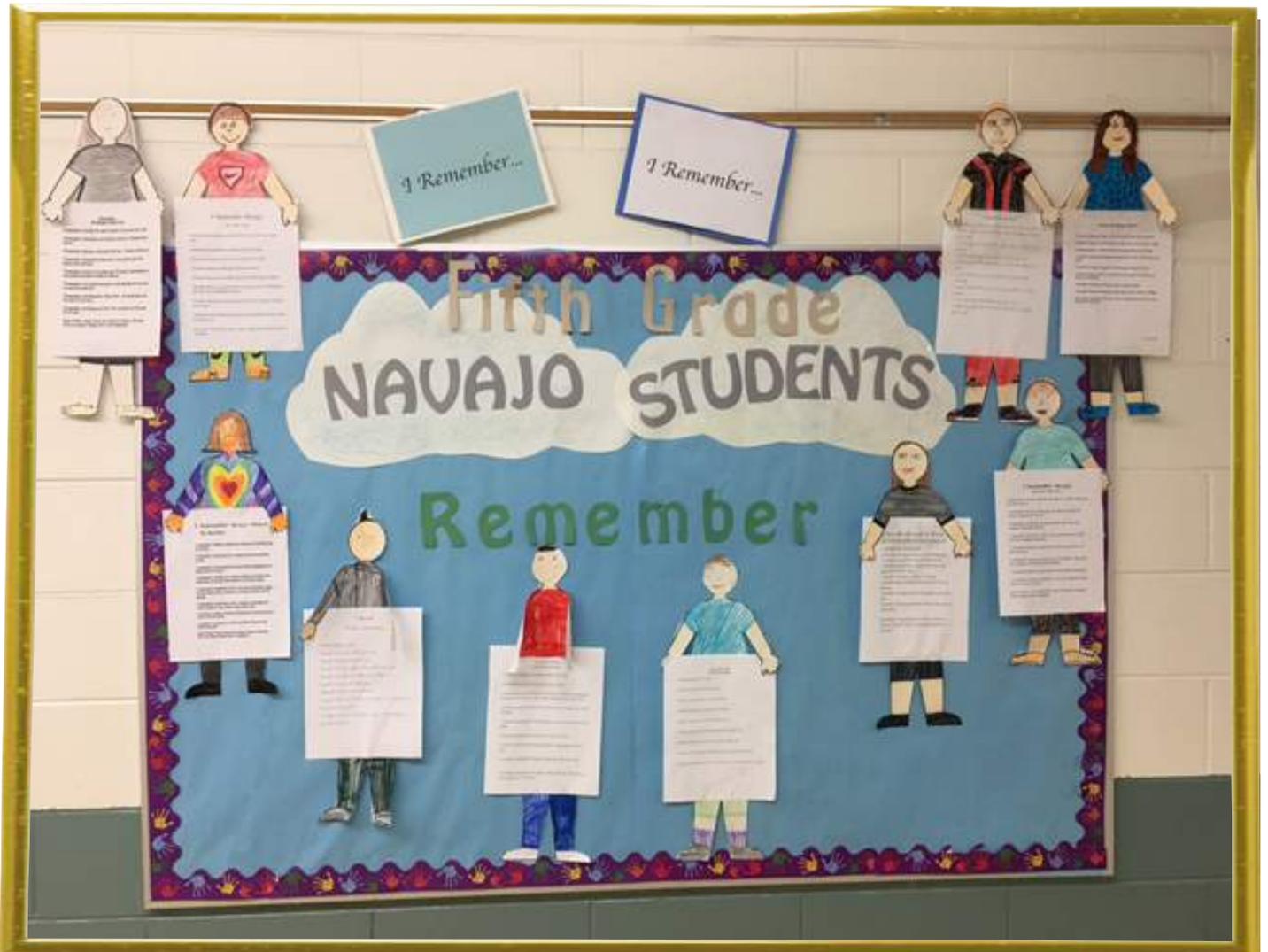
Lots of ongoing review and practice: Quizzes, Exit tickets, activities with questions, etc.

Big Ideas Online/Dynamic Teaching Resources.

Performance Tasks online (Exam View Disk).

Navajo Students Remember...

This picture shows some of the writing our 5th graders from Navajo have done around their memories of Navajo. The I Remember Navajo assignment not only got our students writing, but encouraged them to think back to what they remembered most about their time at Navajo.





TeacherEase

Web-based Software for Teachers

In order to better inform our parents and provide an online platform for our teachers to display standards based grades, our district is switching from PowerSchool to TeacherEase. At the beginning of the new school year, we will provide access information on the new parent portal. Additionally, as we migrate to the new system, we will do our best to keep you informed as to the new system's features and benefits.

Meet Our Staff...

Cathy Leslie

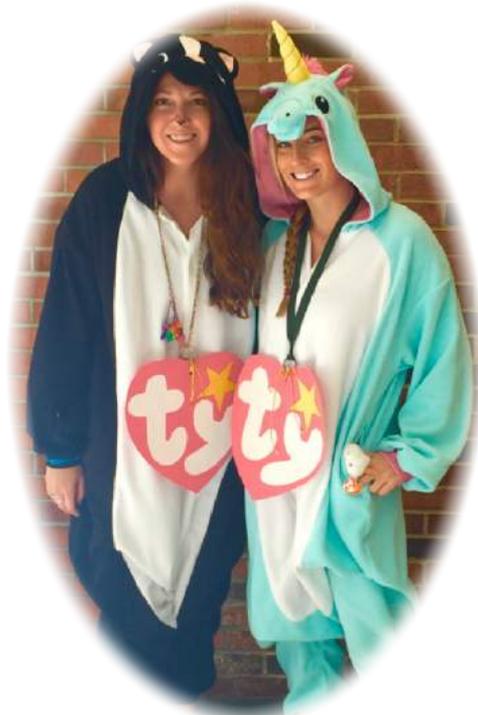
1. The position I hold is Principal of Indian Hill and Director of Special Education, and this is my 21st year.
2. I grew up in Hometown and now live in Downers Grove. But I will always be a south sider! My favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon is hiking or reading or hanging out with my husband and kids.
4. If I weren't in this line of work, I would be _____? I really can't answer that. I love being in education and working with children and families!
5. Growing up, my Dad was an important influence in my life. He is strong in faith and has always been dedicated to his family.



**Cathy Leslie,
Principal, Indian Hill &
Special Ed Director**

Shannon O'Shea

1. The position I hold is a paraprofessional, and this is my 2nd year in this district.
2. I grew up in Palos Heights, and now I live in Palos Heights.
3. My favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon is relaxing outside, by a fire, on the couch, in a hammock, or at my Grandma's house (whatever the weather permits)!
4. If I weren't in this line of work, I would run a farm in Ireland.
5. Growing up, my Grandparents were an important influence on my life.

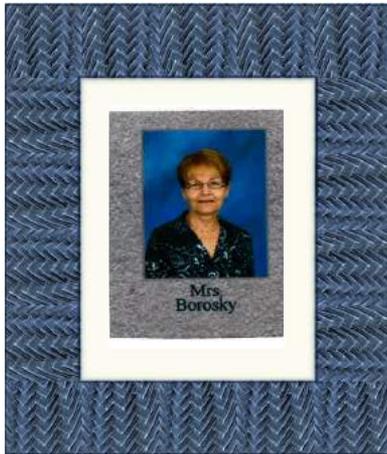


**Shannon O'Shea,
Paraprofessional,
Navajo School**

We have a Great Staff!

Meet Our Staff...

Judy Borosky



**Judy Borosky,
Paraprofessional,
Chippewa School**

1. The position I hold is paraprofessional, and this is my 18th year.
2. I grew up in Chicago and now live in Palos Heights.
3. My favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon is with my family, especially my grandsons.
4. If I weren't in this line of work, I would be a Master Gardener.
5. Growing up, my church was an important influence in my life.

Sally Gaw

1. I have been the Speech Pathologist at IH and Chip for Pre K through second grade students for 6 years. Prior to this full time position in D128, I was a part time Speech Pathologist at Chippewa and a substitute teacher in the district for 6 years.
2. I grew up in Beverly and Oak Lawn. I have lived in Palos Heights for the past 24 years. All four of my children have gone through District 128.
3. My favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon is to bike along the trails followed by a family dinner.
4. I am very fortunate I chose to be a Speech Pathologist as a freshmen at Marquette University many years ago. I would not want to be in any other field because I love working with children and supporting their communication needs.
5. Growing up, my mom and dad were a big influence in my life. I was one of seven children, and they taught me to work hard, be patient, and always try to be the best I can be.



**Sally Gaw,
Speech Pathologist,
Indian Hill & Chippewa**

We have a Great Staff!