

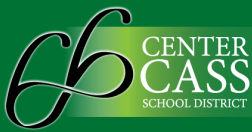
April 15, 2023

# Center Cass School District 66

## Spring Newsletter 2023

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### Center Cass School District 66

699 Plainfield Rd  
Downers Grove, IL 60516  
(630) 783-5000

### Superintendent

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.

### Directors

Learning - Kim Liles  
Student Services - Sean Rhoads  
Technology - Keith Roberts  
Transportation &  
Maintenance - Tom Tiede  
[www.ccsd66.org/staff](http://www.ccsd66.org/staff)

### Principals

Elizabeth Ide - Emily Lech  
Prairieview - Mark Pagel  
Lakeview - Mark Orszula

### Board Members

Liane Raso, President  
Lori Hoffman, Vice President  
Beth Bukey, Secretary  
Joan Cullen, Treasurer  
Chris Esposito, Ph.D.  
Donna Sobotka  
Brian Liedtke

[www.ccsd66.org/page/members](http://www.ccsd66.org/page/members)

## What Has Changed At Center Cass Since November 2022?

### Financial - The District:

- ♦ issued the last set of Tax Anticipation Warrants to bridge the gap until dollars from the referendum arrive.
- ♦ continues to become more efficient as a school district by reducing expense and maximizing existing resources.
- ♦ continues to analyze regional data on employee groups and uses the information to settle new contracts and adjust schedules.
- ♦ communicated that a portion of new dollars each year would be set aside to rebuild fund balances and remove reliance on early taxes.

### Staff - The District:

- ♦ advertised and posted most of the needed positions outlined in communications. Some of these positions will be shared positions between buildings until we are in a better financial position to provide more service.
- ♦ began interviewing and hiring needed personnel for 23-24 school year.
- ♦ invested in employee development with trainings occurring inside and outside the District.

### Students - The District:

- ♦ restored student clubs and activities in early December for all 3 schools.
- ♦ restored field trips for spring of 2023.
- ♦ ordered needed technology for learning .

### Facility and Safety - The District:

- ♦ awarded bid for the Lakeview intercom replacement for summer 2023.
- ♦ started planning for a fire alarm upgrade/replacement for all 3 schools for summer 2024.
- ♦ completed a lighting retrofit project inside all 3 schools with the help of grant funds.
- ♦ started conversations with the County and Village about SRO assistance.
- ♦ began security camera upgrades for each school.

***District 66 would like to thank the community for their contributions and support in restoring educational excellence.***

***PLEASE NOTE:*** According to the March 2023 DuPage County Computation Report, community members should be receiving their tax bill after May 1st, which should reflect a tax rate of \$2.70 as discussed at April 12th's Board of Education meeting. Please know that District 66 has no control over the community's final tax bill.

## Community Engagement Forum Update

The Community Engagement Forum that was established on August 31, 2022, is continuing its work together. The CEF is not a function of the elected school board, but will continue to have open communication with Dr. Wise and members of the school board. The CEF will continue to work toward providing our community with updates regarding the progress on improvements being made in District 66. We look forward to serving our community in this capacity and help keep our residents engaged and informed as the district moves forward in a positive direction. We encourage our community to continue to be engaged by visiting the District 66 website and by attending a school board meeting. More information from the CEF will be shared as this committee continues to meet.

## IPA Student Leadership Awards

Congratulations to our 2023 Illinois Principals' Association Student Leadership Award winners! Students were nominated by their principals based on academic accomplishments, leadership roles, and outstanding character.

### PRAIRIEVIEW



**Alex Januszewski**  
5th Grade



**Jaclyn Conyer**  
5th Grade

### LAKEVIEW



**Joseph Conyer**  
8th Grade



**Lydia Jayne**  
8th Grade

## Be a Speaker at Spartan Fest Career Day



On Wednesday, May 10th, Lakeview will be hosting Spartan Fest Career Day to showcase a variety of potential future careers to Spartans. Each speaker will choose one of three time slots to host a 35 minute interactive presentation. Students will attend one presentation of their choice during each time slot. If you are interested in being a speaker, please scan the QR code to sign up by April 28th. If you have any questions, please email Amy Burrows at [aburrows@ccsd66.org](mailto:aburrows@ccsd66.org)

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
**KINDERGARTEN  
PREVIEW**

**Friday, May 5th**

Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2023, are eligible to begin Kindergarten in the 2023-2024 school year. Parents should contact Elizabeth Ide School by emailing Ms. Whitt at [dwhitt@ccsd66.org](mailto:dwhitt@ccsd66.org) with the following information:

Child's Name  
Date of Birth  
Address & Phone Number  
Parent(s) Name

If you have any additional questions, please email or call  
(630) 783-5150

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
**Lakeview Class of 2023**  
*Graduation Commencement*

Wednesday, May 24th at 7pm  
Downers Grove South High School Auditorium

live stream details coming soon

## Retiring Members & New Members on the Board of Education

### Retiring Members



**Board Vice-President Lori Hoffman** has lived in Woodridge with her family since 1996. Ms. Hoffman serves as Associate Vice-President of Business and Product Development for a global generic pharmaceutical company and was elected to the Board of Education in 2019.



**Board Secretary Beth Bukey** has lived in Downers Grove with her family since 2011. Beth is a registered nurse and was elected to the Board of Education in 2019.



**Board Treasurer Joan Cullen** has lived in Woodridge for the past 18 years with her family and is currently a Manager of Lease Administration in the area. Joan has been on the Board of Education since 2015.

*District 66 would like to thank Lori, Joan and Beth for their commitment and service to Center Cass!*

### New Members



Tiffany Watson is currently the Assistant Vice President of financial reporting at a Fortune 100 financial services organization where she reviews financial statements and SEC filings and works closely with legal, compliance, operations and tax departments. She has her MBA and 18 years of accounting and finance experience. Tiffany has lived in the district for 28 years and is a graduate of CCSD 66. She will have three children in the district in the 2023-24 school year and looks forward to working as a member of the Board to govern in a way that unifies and supports all students, faculty and residents.



As a comptroller for one of the largest school districts in Illinois, Doug Wiley is familiar with all the facets of running a school district from a business and operations perspective. In Doug's current role, he has managed financial projections for a \$350 million budget, analyzed cash flow needs for capital projects, and collaborated with student services and various departments to manage over \$5 million in federal grants. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Indiana University and a Master's degree in Education in School Business Management from Northern Illinois University. Doug and his wife have lived in the district for the past 13 years. They have a 6th grader at Lakeview, a 2nd grader at Elizabeth Ide, and a kindergartner starting at Elizabeth Ide this coming fall.



As a former student teacher at Elizabeth Ide Elementary School, Megan DuPass is thrilled to be the newest member of the CCSD 66 Board of Education. She has worked in education for over 18 years and is currently a Reading Specialist at a nearby school district. In her current position, Megan serves on various committees including curriculum, assessment, and differentiation. She also presents best practice reading strategies to other educators and parents. Megan received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Benedictine University and holds two Master's degrees from Concordia University. Megan, her husband, and three children have lived in the District for 6 years. Two of her three children are currently attending District 66 schools.

*Congratulations and welcome! We know you will serve our community well!*

## Those Who Excel District Winners Recognized by ISBE



**Lakeview Exploratory Team** is composed of the following staff members: Erika Myers (STEM Teacher), Elizabeth Pisano (Family Science), Jennifer Rickert (Music), Joanna Bergmann (Spanish) and Magen Newman (Art). This team works diligently to give students voice and choice when it comes to their exploratory classes. They create and teach a new curriculum every nine weeks based on student interest and college and career pathways. This team models risk-taking in every aspect of the word, both for students and colleagues. The Exploratory Team are examples of true designers and facilitators of the curriculum and lessons, while their students are the creators, problem-solvers and drivers of their own learning.



**Steve Mandru** is a fourth grade teacher at Prairieview Elementary School. He has been a member of the Center Cass family for 12 years. Prior to joining the Prairieview Team, Steve was a 1st grade teacher at Elizabeth Ide School. In the classroom, Steve's quiet mannerisms and innovative thinking allow for his students to take healthy learning risks and excel. As a team member, his calm student-centered approach helps his team tackle what could be overwhelming challenges. He has shown leadership in the building and district through blended learning, summer school, St. Baldrick's fundraiser, intramurals and has stepped up whenever help is needed.



**Phil Januszewski** is a District 66 resident, parent and fellow educator. Phil has been (and continues to be) a strong supporter of District 66 working hard to help pass our referendum and get the necessary support for students and staff. As an educator himself, Phil is always focused on what is best for students. Phil is also a professional motivational speaker, who is positive and constantly seeking out the good in any situation. When the district was in a financially difficult situation this past fall, Phil provided a complimentary opening day motivational speech for staff that is still resonating with them several months later. When considering the Those Who Excel Community Nominee it was without hesitation that the faculty and staff thought of Phil.



**Joyce Wilson** is a paraprofessional at Lakeview Jr High. Joyce has served in many capacities over the past twenty (20) years during her service to the district, including coaching and supervising extra curricular activities. Joyce always has a smile on her face and has the best interest of students in the forefront. Aside from assisting students with special education needs and the teachers who support them, Joyce is always willing to do whatever is needed. Joyce has been called a "swiss army knife" by those at Lakeview and she is very much appreciated by all.



**Joy DeFors** has been an educator in District 66 for 18 years. She has served as a Middle School ELA (English Language Arts) teacher and a District Instructional Coach. She is also a current district parent and community member. Joy is innovative and always willing to lend a hand wherever needed. She has a calm and positive demeanor, which aids in the coaching of her colleagues. Joy is a passionate, student-centered educator who is always looking for ways to help the district grow. She is an incredibly well respected and much appreciated member of the Center Cass family.



**Marissa Powers** is a second grade teacher at Elizabeth Ide. Marissa has served as a paraprofessional in our Preschool program, long-term substitute teacher and extra section teacher. Marissa has a quiet and calm demeanor which creates a classroom conducive to learning.



**Dr. Andrew Wise** is the Superintendent of Schools for Center Cass School District 66. Dr. Wise started at Center Cass in the fall of 2020. He led our students and staff through the COVID-19 Pandemic; opening our schools for learning when many neighboring districts were shut-down. Thanks to his systems and growth-focused approach, he helped lead the district to create a new strategic plan, design a new teacher evaluation system, and align many of the systems in place in the district. His leadership has also assisted in the passing of the referendum in November.

## Those Who Excel Building Winners



**Prairieview Sunshine Committee** is an SEL (Social Emotional Learning Subcommittee) at Prairieview. Members include Theresa Strong, Tracy Spakausky, Tracey Cushing, Jessica Rost, and Deborah Walega. The role of this committee is to design cohesive SEL lessons for students and build comradery amongst staff. This committee provides a monthly slide show to their colleagues to highlight celebrations, they organize spirit week events, staff get-togethers, set building themes for celebration, appreciation and recognition.



**Lori Bryant** has been a paraprofessional at Prairieview Elementary since 2015. Lori has an empathetic way of working with students. She works collaboratively with staff to meet the needs of all students. In addition to her paraprofessional role, Lori also works in our BACC (Before and After Child Care) program, has worked summer school, sponsored intramurals and assists with district events. She can always be counted on when called upon. Lori goes above and beyond for students and staff alike.



**Betsy Spizzirri** is a special education teacher at Elizabeth Ide School. Betsy has taught in District 66 for 34 years, and is highly regarded by her peers. She has played an integral role in creating the building schedule, ensuring student's needs are met and lending a hand whenever needed. Betsy is child-centered and a great advocate for all students.



**Faye Lindsey** is the music teacher at both Elizabeth Ide and Prairieview Schools. Faye arrived last year and has made an immediate and positive impact since her arrival in District 66. Faye is a dedicated professional that has transitioned well during her first two years as our K-5 music teacher. She is valued by her students and colleagues. Within her first year, she has made contributions to improve the school's K-5 music program within both of our elementary schools. She is culturally aware and is dedicated to continuously learning, growing and perfecting her craft as an educator.



**Mallory Drake** is the sixth grade math teacher at Lakeview Jr High. This is her second year teaching. Mallory has quickly assimilated in the District 66 culture and built great relationships with students, parents and colleagues. She has a willingness to use data to drive her instruction. Outside of the classroom, Mallory has coached cheerleading (for Lakeview and Downers Grove South). Mallory is passionate about College and Career Readiness and has begun to demonstrate leadership capacity in the building.



**Kari Gemmell** is the seventh grade science teacher at Lakeview Jr. High, where she has been for 12 years. Kari teaches life science to all 7th graders, and she has a way of making science come alive for her students. Kari is also known for thoughtfully and consistently embedding SEL skills and development in her daily routines. Kari serves on the Building Leadership Team and is known as "super student centered". She always volunteers for committees, groups, and teams, including the District MTSS Committee. In addition to teaching, she is the 7th Grade Team Leader and serves as the District's Gifted Coordinator.



**Charlie Barys** is a day custodian at Elizabeth Ide School. He was a new mid-year hire this year and adapted quickly. He immediately became part of the Elizabeth Ide family. As custodial staff has been short handed, Charlie has taken on more than one person's job. He attends weekend events, arrives early and stays late. Charlie is a person of great character and there must be three of him as you see him everywhere!

## Upcoming Student Events

### Elizabeth Ide

- ◆ Wednesday, April 19 — Open House & Book Fair
- ◆ Friday, May 5 — Kindergarten Preview
- ◆ Tuesday, May 9—Second Grade Field Trip
- ◆ Friday, May 12 — Very Important Person Day (formerly Grandparents and Grandfriends Day)
- ◆ Wednesday, May 17 — First Grade Field Trip
- ◆ Tuesday, May 23 — Kindergarten Field Trip
- ◆ Wednesday, May 24—School Field Trip to IPPL
- ◆ Friday, May 26 — Field Day

### Prairieview

- ◆ Saturday, April 15 — PTO Glow Dance
- ◆ Wednesday, April 26 — Open House & Book Fair
- ◆ Friday, May 12 — Very Important Person Day (formerly Grandparents and Grandfriends Day)
- ◆ Friday, May 19 — 5th Grade Friendlyz
- ◆ Wednesday, May 24 — Too Good For Drugs Graduation
- ◆ Friday, May 26 — Field Day
- ◆ Tuesday, May 30 — 5th Grade Clap-Out

### Lakeview

- ◆ Friday, April 14 — PTO Spartan Shindig
- ◆ Friday, April 21 — PTO 5th Grade Movie night
- ◆ Wednesday, May 10 — Spartan Fest Career Day
- ◆ Thursday, May 18 — PTO 8th Grade BBQ
- ◆ Monday, May 22 — Graduation Celebration
- ◆ Wednesday, May 24 — Graduation Commencement

### Spring is a time for MUSIC!

The music staff in District 66, Mr. Tedeschi, Mr. Ohlsen, and Mrs. Rickert, would like to invite all of our community members to attend some of our performances that we have planned. Our Band and Choir students have been working hard in class, before school and after school to create some outstanding musical performances.

Friday, April 28 - Lakeview Musical Performance

The Addams Family - 7pm

Saturday, April 29 - Lakeview Musical Performance

The Addams Family - 7pm

Tuesday, May 9 - Lakeview and Prairieview Choirs - 7pm

Thursday, May 11 - Lakeview and Prairieview Bands - 7pm

Monday, May 15 - Prairieview Beginning Band Concert - 7pm

Tuesday, May 16 - Lakeview 7th/8th Grade Band and Jazz Band - 7pm

For more information about the Lakeview Band Program, please visit our website at [www.ccsd66band.weebly.com](http://www.ccsd66band.weebly.com)

Lakeview Drama Presents...

The Addams Family

THINK YOUR FAMILY IS WEIRD? THINK AGAIN.

APRIL 28 AND APRIL 29 7:00PM

LAKEVIEW JUNIOR HIGH GYMNASIUM  
701 PLAINFIELD ROAD DOWNERS GROVE

GENERAL TICKETS \$6 | STUDENTS \$3  
BUY IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE LAKEVIEW WEBSITE

## Community Corner



During the months of February and March, TEAM 66 Education Foundation hosted its 3rd annual SUPER RAFFLE! The goal of this fundraiser is to expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students at Center Cass School District 66. Whether it's hosting an event for our students or providing grants for our educators for valuable programs, the proceeds from our fundraising create opportunities and support learning initiatives for the entire Center Cass 66 school district. Go to [TEAM66ef.com](http://TEAM66ef.com) for more information on this evolving organization.

We were assisted in our mission by our wonderful community sponsors: **Clark Chiropractic, Teddy Bear Travel, and Club Pilates Woodridge.**



### Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

In March, Lakeview students collected 68.4 pounds of pop tabs to donate to Ronald McDonald House Charities. This organization helps keep families together at the McDonald House near Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital. Thanks in part to their support, the organization is able to keep up to 172 families together and close to the care they need. Keep collecting those pop tabs for next time!



### Thank you to the DWFD!

The Main flag pole at the Lakeview/Prairieview Campus had the main cable snap while lowering to half staff last week which then also took out the main cable winch system. Repairs and part estimates to repair the 23 year old pole were astronomical and weeks out. Brainstorming between Mr. Tiede and Mr. Alberto reminded us that we had made modifications to the former IDE flagpole years ago which suffered similar failures and the DWFD had offered to help feed the new cable through the top of the pole utilizing their ladder truck. We devised a similar repair plan and reached out to the DWFD to ask if they may be able to assist again. Monday 4/3, the DWFD came and fed the new flag cable through the flagpole assembly down to Mr. Alberto on the ground so that modifications and repairs could be completed. This help saved the district on time and money and allowed us to have our main flag up and visible for the following election day. Thank you again to Fire Chief James Karasek, Lieutenant Shawn Lamb & FF/PM Carlos Rojas and the rest of the department for helping us with these repairs.



**OPEN HOUSE!**  
**Saturday, May 20th**  
**10am—4pm**  
**9700 S. Cass Avenue**



Argonne National Laboratory, located just 25 miles west of Chicago, is one of the world's leading scientific research laboratories. And for one day only, it's open to the public. At Argonne's Open House you can spend the day thinking and acting like a scientist and discover how science can answer the biggest questions facing humanity. **Registration is required for this free event.**



**Center Cass School District 66**

699 Plainfield Rd

Downers Grove, IL 60516

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## Postal Customer



Center Cass School District 66 celebrates

# TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Monday, May 1st - Friday, May 5th

THANK YOU to our amazing Teachers as well as all Center Cass Employees for a job well done!

**Phone:**  
630-783-5000

**Fax:**  
630-910-0980

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[ccsd66.org](http://ccsd66.org)

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