



The Chalkboard

Cultivate the unique potential of each student by providing a challenging, supportive, and inclusive environment.

Summer 2019

Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Partners in Education,

As I conclude my first year as your superintendent of schools, I'd like to thank all of the wonderful students, staff, parents, community members, business owners, first responders, and local officials who make Lansing a great place to be! The support I've felt for the collective education of our children is second-to-none and we have accomplished a great deal in Lansing School District 158 this past year. Our Board of Education recently adopted a new **2019-2024 Long-Range Strategic Plan** that will prioritize district improvements in the areas of finance and facilities, human resources, public relations, student services, and technology over the next five years. A copy of this plan is enclosed. Additionally, District 158 received a **\$1.8 Million Property Tax Relief Grant** from the State of Illinois that will reduce the school district portion of your Fall 2019 property taxes. Only 28 Illinois school districts were selected for this grant. Although this may only be a one-time deal, District 158 is committed to finding ways to put resources back into the local community.

Our students continue to excel in both academics and athletics, with three placing at the State Science Fair and a Memorial Junior High School eighth grader – Ana-Liese Torian – winning the State Hurdles Championship! We also graduated 30 National Junior Honor Society members, 43 eighth graders passed the Spanish Proficiency Exam to receive high school credit, and a record 130 senior citizens attended Memorial's 7th Annual Senior Brunch. It was also my honor to recognize six retirees (picture below), five Staff Members of the Year, and two recipients of Perfect Attendance Awards at this year's Retiree Luncheon. I am truly impressed and inspired by the ongoing excellence of our students and staff. District 158's Buildings & Grounds Team also continues to impress, receiving a Perfect Facility Inspection from the South Cook Intermediate Service Center (also pictured)! At our April Board Meeting, we welcomed a new Board Member – Mrs. Denise Jones-Williams – and thanked retiring Board President Mr. Robert Bonifazi for his service. In the final words of Mr. Bonifazi, "We are **#158Strong!**"

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Nathan S. Schilling, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Board of Education 2

Coolidge Elementary School 2

Lester Crawl Primary Center 2

Oak Glen Elementary School 3

Reavis Elementary School 3

Memorial Junior High School 4

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!



Lansing Elementary School District 158

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COOLIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As we say goodbye to another great year at Coolidge, we also say goodbye to Mrs. Doorn, Mrs. Mirich and Mrs. Wiak. Mrs. Doorn has been a social worker in District 158 for 34 years. Mrs. Mirich has worked as a substitute teacher, a paraprofessional, and a first grade teacher for 21 years. As a paraprofessional, Mrs. Wiak has used her reading specialist background to help our kindergarteners. The Coolidge community is grateful for their service and wishes them the best in retirement. They will be greatly missed.

Students celebrated spring by watching butterflies form, by attending field trips and picnics, performing in concerts, and being recognized for their achievements. Third graders held a Multi-Cultural Day, and were entertained by a mariachi band. We need your help to keep their achievements rising - practice math facts and read several books this summer. Reading just 15 minutes every day can make a huge impact! Check out the reading contest at Lansing Public Library. While driving in the car or standing in line at the grocery store, quiz your child on their math facts.



The final projects are being completed on our new building. The new office, a few classrooms, and a new kitchen are scheduled to open in August. We have a great event to start off the school year! Our Coolidge Family Picnic is Friday, August 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00. Bring your lawn chair and cooler and join us for a picnic.

The Coolidge Staff is excited to see you at Open House on Monday, August 19th from 5:30 to 7:00. Teachers will discuss their classroom expectations at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30. See our finished new building, bring your school supplies, and meet your child's teacher! We are happy that you are a part of our school community!

LESTER CRAWL PRIMARY CENTER



Lester Crawl Primary Center ended the school year with many activities. We celebrated with the End of the Year Program in which ninety of our students sang for family and friends. The students enjoyed different games for the annual Jamboree Day or doing yoga on the playground.



*Did you know? **87%** of stakeholders who responded to our Strategic Plan Survey feel that District 158's schools successfully meet the needs of the community! **83%** of parents are very satisfied with their child's educational program and **82%** feel there are strong community partnerships with the District. **#158Strong***

OAK GLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



This past year our Oak Glen staff embraced the seas of education by leading with a Pirate's mentality! What being a Pirate meant this year was putting rela-

tionships and social emotional health first for all. We have heard so many comments from students and parents that they truly felt loved and cared for this year, which in turn lead to some amazing learning. Not only did our Oak Glen teachers open their arms for all students, they brought learning experiences to the classroom that will be remembered forever! Some of the lessons taught were our first graders being formally invited to Cinderella's Ball, third and fourth graders became heart surgeons and 5th graders working together to find their way out of an escape room! Not only were all of these activities fun and engaging, they also produced rigor and meaningful learning. This can be seen in our MAP data for the year. We are proud to say that when looking from our Fall MAP assessment to the Spring, 69% of Oak Glen students met or exceeded their expected score in Math, while in Reading 60% met or exceeded their expected score.

Be on the lookout next year for our expansion of Oak Glen's Student Lead Vlog (Video Blog), [Sharing Smarts with the Oak Glen Grizzlies!](#) This vlog showcases topics that our own students want to share with the world! This year we had students show us how to make sushi, what it means to be kind, and how the Zones of Regulation can help us to monitor our emotions.

Last but not least, Oak Glen was able to continue partnering with local establishments and agencies. This year we were able to have the SSJC Basketball Team come in and shoot hoops with our Hoops for Hearts fundraiser winners. We were visited by our Lansing Kiwanis to celebrate students making academic gains at the end of each quarter, as well as a delivery of dictionaries to our third graders. Bedtime Story Night had many guest readers including Lansing's Police, Fire, and very own Mayor Patty Eidam! We concluded the year by having both the Oak Glen and Coolidge Peacemaker Choirs, led by Mrs. Mary DiGrispino, visit St. Anthony's home and sing for them. After the concert, our 158 students played games and crafts with the residents.

We had a wonderful year and are sad that it's over, but it's time for you to make amazing memories as families this summer. We cannot wait to see you back for the 2019-2020 school year! We know it's going to be amazing!

W.C. REAVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Reavis students integrated technology in many ways during the 2018-2019 school year. Tools such as virtual reality headsets, programmable coding devices, one to one computing, a media broadcasting studio, and a newly installed hydroponic grow wall are just a few of the many technology components students have access to at Reavis Elementary School. The virtual reality headsets have given students the opportunity to see how this technology can be used as a tool to research and explore deeper Science and Social Science components such as mountains, oceans, space, and beyond. Students are able to take the information they read, connect it to their virtual reality experiences, and then write about it.



Additionally, if you would like to give your child a head start for next school year there is a document on our website that has Fry Word lists and basic math fact information students will

need to know for grades 1-5. Please visit our website at www.d158.net click on sites and click on W.C. Reavis Elementary School. Click on menu, click on documents, and click on parent communication. An email was also sent out on June 10th with the links to these packets in both English and Spanish. There are also paper copies in the office should you need to pick them up.

Another great opportunity for you to help your child continue to grow over the summer is to participate in the Lansing Library Summer Reading Challenge. Call the Library at **708-474-2447** or visit their website at www.lansingpl.org for any additional summer program information. We are looking forward to a great 2019-2020 school year. Open House is scheduled for August 19th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



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MEMORIAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

We are fast approaching the end of another great school year. The Mighty Mustangs of Memorial Junior High School have had a very productive and enjoyable year. Our students worked harder than ever to demonstrate Mustang intelligence, talent, and commitment. Academically our students successfully ushered in the Illinois Readiness Assessment, which is a new state assessment geared towards assessing our students for college and career proficiency. Students also showed great success in completion of this year's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment, as well as the U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests. Our 8th graders did an amazing job on the Algebra placement exam, which will allow many of them to start their freshmen year at T.F. South with credit hours in math. In the world of sports, our 8th grade girls' basketball team made it all the way to state competition. Also, we saw our Mighty Mustang, Ana-Liese Torian, stand supreme on the podium as Memorial's first ever Track and Field 100m Hurdles State Champion.

As always, our Mighty Mustangs shined this school year with amazing displays of kindness and care for their community. Our students worked to raise money and awareness to support such causes as breast cancer, leukemia, a toy drive for a local children's hospital, and a food drive to support the Lansing Food Pantry. This school year also saw students lead the way with poster campaigns during our Walk to School Day to speak up against bullying. We also had a great assembly presented by guest speakers, Vincent Gray and Brian Kizer, Sr., from *Follow Your Dream*. They spoke to our students on the topic of bullying prevention. Our students and staff were both moved and inspired by their presentation.

As we ended the school year at Memorial, many exciting events took place. Our students in the Music Department performed for the Spring Concert and the Drama Department put on a great production of *Seussical Jr.* Our 6th graders completed their final Science project for the year with the annual Egg Drop spectacular. With this project, students were tasked to use their engineering skills to develop a durable device that could protect an egg from cracking at various heights. The final stage of this project involved a little help from our Lansing Fire Department by testing the durability of students' projects from the staggering height of their ladder fire truck, stretching up to the sky. The 8th grade class had an exciting end to their time at Memorial with trips to see the Windy City Thunderbolts baseball team, as well as a trip to Great America. We also had an exciting Career Day program, with professionals from many different fields talking to our 8th graders about the importance of education in their life and setting career goals. The year ended for our 8th grade students on May 29th with an amazing commencement ceremony at the Serbian Center and our 6th grade Orientation which took place in June to welcome the 5th graders and their families from our feeder schools in preparation for their start in August 2019. We can't wait to see what the 2019-2020 school year brings. Have a great summer!



CONGRATULATIONS 2018-19 Crystal Apple Winners

(Pictured left to right)
Allison Spangler, Coolidge Staff Member of the Year
Jessica Rising, Lester Crawl Staff Member of the Year
Megan Sechowski, Oak Glen Staff Member of the Year
Gayle White, Reavis Staff Member of the Year
Nicole Arseneau, Memorial Staff Member of the Year