

Community Events

A Message from the Superintendent



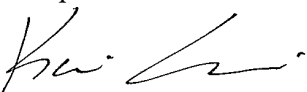
As we enter 2020 and begin the early stages of the new decade, I cannot help but marvel at just how much education has evolved over the past ten years. Information abounds for our students and teachers, which provides more opportunities to support students in thinking critically, collaborating, communicating and using their creativity to solve problems in new and innovative ways. Readily available technology has given learners and educators more tools than ever to expand these essential 21st century skills

while we support student growth and connect with families in ways that were never before possible.

Our challenge in Wilmette as educators, leaders and pioneers in a new educational landscape is not only to understand the latest technological and educational advancements, but to critically assess their relevance and determine how to best utilize them in service of our students. While the tools and spaces we use today may look different than they did decades ago, we continue to advance our practices and empower educators to provide child-centered and innovative learning experiences. We remain committed to nurturing and guiding our students through the formative years of their life while preparing them to thrive as socially responsible, compassionate and productive citizens of a global society.

To this end, I am pleased to share that Wilmette Public Schools will embark upon a strategic plan development process in 2020 designed to support student growth and achievement, aide staff development and success and coordinate ongoing facility improvements and maintenance in fiscally responsible ways. Developing a multi-year plan through which we align all aspects of our organization to the values we hold as a community will guide our pursuit of educational excellence in the 21st century. We look forward to engaging you in this work later this spring.

Your partner in education,



Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wilmette Public Schools District 39

2/5

Understanding How Identities are Impacting Students Today”

7 to 8:30 p.m. in WJHS Learning Commons
Join the ADL and District 39 leaders for a conversation about how children’s identities shape their experiences in school.

2/6

Fostering Resilient Learners

9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in Highcrest School Auditorium
This discussion, sponsored by PASS39, will include parent tips and strategies for promoting resilience in children.

3/9

Preparing for Transitions

9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in Romona School Auditorium
This event, hosted by PASS39, will include key strategies to help your child navigate change through thoughtful preparation and action planning.

3/11

Parenting in a Digital Age

7 to 8:30 p.m. in Central School Auditorium
This parent presentation will include discussions on creating boundaries with mobile devices, expectations of privacy for children and ways to deal with inappropriate content and online social conflict.

4/13

Engaging in Difficult Conversations around Conflict, Bias and Diversity

7 to 8:30 p.m. in WJHS Auditorium
Join the ADL and District 39 leaders for a discussion that includes strategies and resources for navigating difficult conversations on sensitive topics with your child.

4/20

Long-term Planning for a Child with Comprehensive Needs

7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mikaelian Educational Center
PASS39 hosts this event, which will include parent planning resources for supporting a child with comprehensive needs.

Stay Connected



Social Media: Follow us @Wilmette39 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Neighborhood Lists: Visit www.wilmette39.org/neighbor to subscribe to our local neighbor email lists in order to keep up with the D39 school news going on in your community.

Email: Email us at communications@wilmette39.org with your questions, feedback and suggestions.



Preparing Our Students for the Future

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is a state-mandated assessment administered to students in grades 3–8 that measure students’ mastery of learning standards in Math and English Language Arts and their readiness for the future. The IAR assessment was designed to test student knowledge of key concepts, critical thinking, reasoning, research, communication and problem-solving skills.

IAR describes student performance toward grade-specific standards according to five levels:

- Level 1: Did not meet expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 3: Approaching expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 5: Exceeded expectations

Measuring Student Growth through MAP

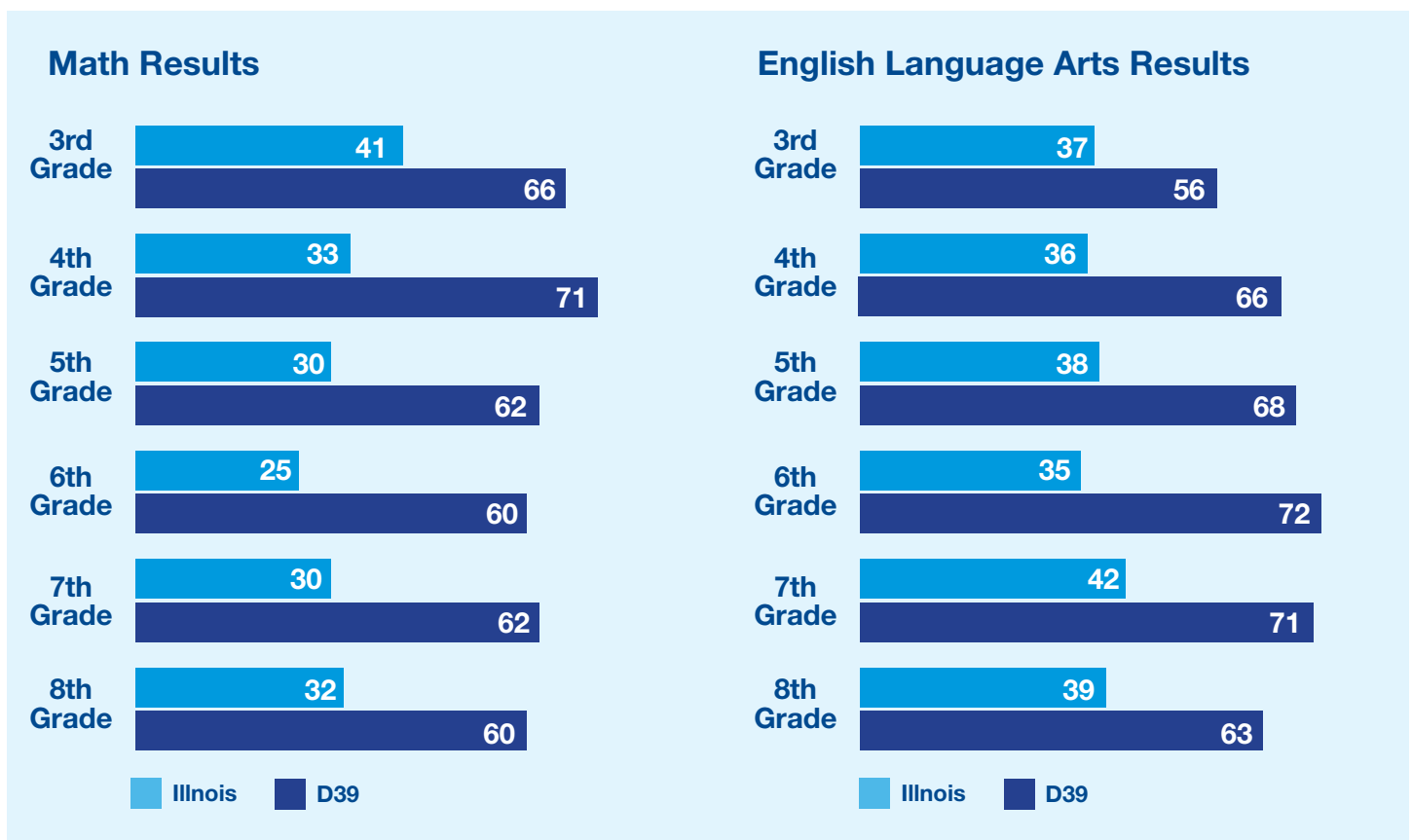


Student growth is a critical component to Wilmette Public Schools education. D39 administers the Measures of Academic Progress Test (MAP) to students in grades 2–8 as a means of measuring student growth over time, achievement and learning readiness in the areas of reading and math.

92% of D39 students displayed positive growth in Math from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019.

75% of D39 students displayed positive growth in Reading from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019.

Percentage of Students Who Met or Exceeded State Standards on the 2018–2019 IAR (Levels 4 & 5)



Wilmette Public Schools remain committed to ensuring all children within the district are prepared to thrive at the next level upon graduation. Wilmette Public Schools teachers review IAR data in order to help each student maximize their individual potential.

Learning and Growing in a Digital Age

During the 2019-2020 school year, Wilmette Public Schools increased technological access for students by adding to the number of devices available in classrooms to enhance student learning. Across all elementary schools, each classroom in grades 1-4 now has access to a cart of dedicated devices. These devices stay at school and do not go home like in grades 5th through 8th. Devices like the iPad or Chromebook contain carefully procured apps further our goal of supporting the 4C's: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

2019-2020 Highlights



Ensured all students in grades 1-8 have access to a digital learning device



Introduced *Seesaw for Schools* to further engage K-4 parents in student learning and success



Provided district-wide professional development for teachers and staff on ways to utilize new technology in a meaningful and effective way for students



Hosted community discussion forums to help parents navigate the use of technology with children



Developed a technology renewal cycle plan to ensure the fiscally responsible and efficient management of devices

Measuring Our Success



Illinois State Board of Education

All Wilmette Public Schools received top summative designation of “Commendable” or

“Exemplary” from the Illinois State Board of Education for the 2018-2019 school year. These designations are designed to capture how well a school is serving its student population and are based on a myriad of measures of school quality, academic achievement and school climate.

Financial Corner

Long-term Financial Planning

The District 39 Board of Education and Administration review the District’s five-year financial outlook annually to evaluate the District’s present and future economic status. The projections reflect the District’s commitment to fiscal responsibility while financing educational projects that support the academic, social-emotional, and physical well being of each student.

Key Financial Projection Highlights

- The District’s overall operating fund balance, when viewed as a percentage of total operating expenditures, is projected to remain above the Board of Education’s minimum goal level of 40% through fiscal year 2025.
- The District plans investment in its schools through construction and capital projects from FY19 through the end of FY25. Projections include projects at our schools for health/life safety, roofs, boilers, windows and additional large space air conditioning as well as construction projects at the elementary schools to support the new Kindergarten Enrichment & Enhancement Program (KEEP39) and other programming.

Financial information, including a detailed look at financial projections, is available at www.wilmette39.org

What Students are Saying

Students in grades 4-8 were surveyed last year on their experiences within Wilmette Public Schools. Here are some highlights from the survey*:

Wilmette Public Schools will continue to maintain and improve school district communities through ongoing school culture and community building efforts.

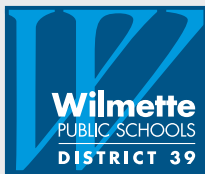
97% Feel safe in their classes.

94% Feel their teacher treats them with respect.

96% Work hard to do their best in class.

90% Feel their teacher encourages them to consider different solutions or points of view in class.

*Source: 2018-2019 5Essentials Data. Student belief statements were approximated by combining “agree” and “strongly agree” responses to survey questions.



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D39 Educational Foundation News and Save the Date!

- **LAB 39** (formerly non-competitive Science Olympiad program) began in December with 75 students in eight STEM enrichment classes such as Robolab, Mystery Architecture and Sports Physiology. Thanks to all involved, especially our volunteer class leaders and program coordinator, Michelle Vile, helping us “Make Fun of Science”!
- **Family Bingo Night** and **Attire to Inspire Fashion Show** were held this fall exceeding expectations for attendance, donations, community support, and funds raised. Many thanks to all who attended!
- Each fall we reach out via mail to the D39 community to support our efforts. We're overwhelmed by your response and **grateful for your generous donations!**
- Our **Family Movie Fundraiser** will be back this spring! Check our website for details.
- McKenzie School received an **Encore Gripp Grant** awarded to OT Specialist, Paula Lundell, for a hallway sensory path. McKenzie students now can take “brain breaks” in the hall during the day. **Spring Gripp Grant** deadline is March 6, 2020.

More information available at d39foundation.org

Celebrating Our Schools

This winter, students throughout District 39 schools found many ways to show gratitude and appreciation to those around them.



Central Elementary School

Thankful for teachers and staff: Kindergarten students and their older student buddies in second and third grades wrote kindness notes to teachers and staff which were displayed on classroom doors.

Harper Elementary School

Thankful for all we have: At Harper, the student council led two school-wide drives to give back to their community. First, a food drive for Connections for the Homeless. Second, a toy drive for the UIC Craniofacial Center.



McKenzie Elementary School

Thankful for family: McKenzie fourth graders discussed the meaning of the words “grateful” and “thankful.” They also made cards to showcase their gratitude.



Romona Elementary School

Thankful for each other: First graders at Romona wrote about all they were thankful for and enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch together!



Highcrest Middle School

Thankful for all we have: Fifth and sixth grade students at Highcrest created a hawk collage decorated with things they are thankful for in their lives.



Wilmette Junior High School

Thankful for being me: Seventh grade students at WJHS created video projects that celebrated the events and people in their lives that made them special.