



KCS D96

2016 Annual Report

Kildeer Countryside School District 96
1050 Ivy Hall Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
www.kcsd96.org (847) 459-4260

EVERY CHILD, EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.

Our mission is to ensure every child achieves his or her maximum potential

FAMILIES & FACULTY EMBRACE FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN



Enrollment has grown at Willow Grove Early Learning Center with the opening of the District's first full-day kindergarten program. Over 250 full-day students are energetic, engaged learners.

The District's full-day kindergarten program—opened in August 2016—has been years in planning. Not only were physical updates and additions to the building and grounds needed to accommodate more students for a longer day, comprehensive curriculum development was necessary, reflecting the research on age-appropriate programs and best practice.

Why develop a full-day program for kindergartners?

Superintendent Julie Schmidt, along with District administrators and teachers, noted trends in early literacy

data that only more time could address, particularly as the curriculum in elementary and middle school becomes more rigorous.

"We're charged with the responsibility to equip our students with the skills they'll need to succeed in school and in life," notes Superintendent Schmidt. *"Their learning is a progression that requires a solid foundation on which to build. Our kindergartners needed more learning minutes in their day combined with creative play to accomplish that."*

Teachers report that full-day kindergartners are thriving at Willow Grove.

The curriculum includes literacy, math, science, social studies, and Exploration Lab, but the learning does not stop there. Free and structured play and social/emotional learning activities

also are essential to a student's growth and are part of every day, as are physical education and recess.

At the ribbon-cutting in October, dignitaries joined families and

faculty to celebrate this full-day learning opportunity—a vision of current and previous Boards of Education and District educators that's enthusiastically embraced by families and faculty.



WOODLAWN MIDDLE SCHOOL EARNS SECOND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Of the 279 public schools earning distinguished 2016 National Blue Ribbon recognition, Woodlawn Middle School—previously recognized in 2009—

is among them, earning this recognition for a second time.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program highlights public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or make significant improvements in closing the achievement gap.

Woodlawn is recognized as an exemplary high-performing school—among the state's elite as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

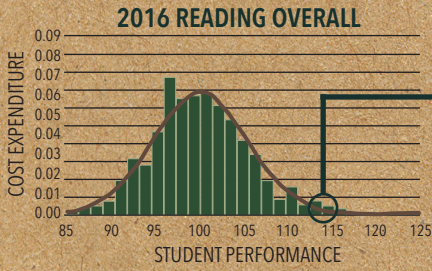
A U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon recognizes the students, teachers, families, and faculty committed to challenging students and equipping them to succeed. Characteristics recognized schools share include focused leaders with clear vision, teachers supported through mentoring and professional development, and strong home-school connections.

top value for your dollar

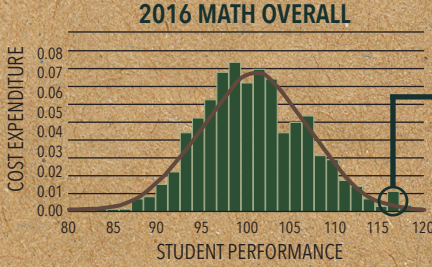
INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSES—PER-STUDENT SPENDING BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

D28 Northbrook	\$13,447
D38 Kenilworth	\$12,987
D36 Winnetka	\$11,715
D30 Northbrook/Glenview	\$10,453
D181 Hinsdale	\$10,433
D109 Deerfield	\$10,300
D35 Glencoe	\$10,184
D65 Lake Bluff	\$10,092
D102 Aptakisic/Tripp	\$9,771
D67 Lake Forest	\$9,565
D103 Lincolnshire/Prairie View	\$9,129
D39 Wilmette	\$8,886
D96 Kildeer Countryside	\$7,954
D25 Arlington Heights	\$7,734
State of Illinois	\$7,712
D70 Libertyville	\$6,172

SOURCE: ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR



DISTRICT 96 STUDENTS PERFORM AT THE 99TH PERCENTILE IN READING IN ILLINOIS



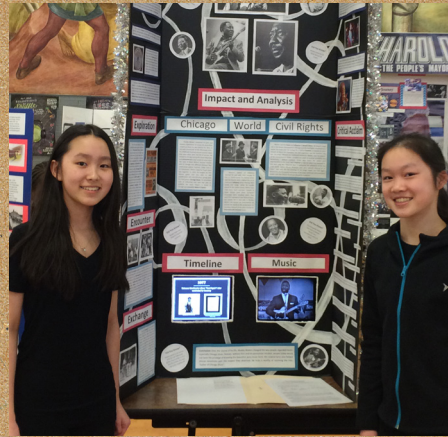
DISTRICT 96 STUDENTS PERFORM ABOVE THE 98TH PERCENTILE IN MATHEMATICS IN ILLINOIS

TABULATED BY: ADVANTAGE ANALYTICS, LLC

Kildeer Countryside School District 96 (KCSD96) residents receive top value for their tax dollars. Per-student instructional expenditures in KCSD96 are significantly lower than in many area benchmark districts. Yet, student learning outcomes continue to be excellent.

Raw index scores from the 2016 accountability data indicate that **District 96 students are performing above the 98th percentile in math and at the 99th percentile in reading** as compared to peers in Illinois.

Kildeer Countryside School District 96 consistently ranks at the top academically—moving from 9th to 7th—among the highest-performing schools against which we benchmark ourselves yearly. Cost/benefit analysis comparing expenditures to student performance confirms that District 96 leads in providing value for dollars spent.



TWIN GROVES ALUMNA **ERIN YUAN** AND **BRIDGET ZHU** ARE THE FIRST DISTRICT 96 STUDENTS TO COMPETE NATIONALLY AT HISTORY FAIR. SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER **MRS. LEONE** SPONSORED THE PARTICIPANTS, WHO COMPETED IN THE CHICAGO METRO HISTORY FAIR LOCALLY, THEN IN STATE AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

making history

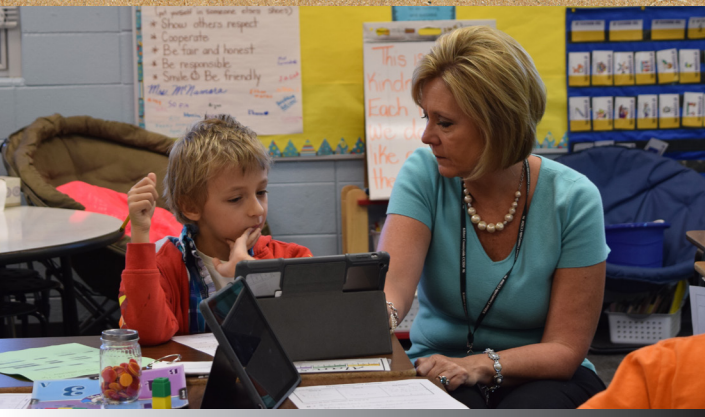
PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Data from the Parent Satisfaction Survey conducted and tabulated by an independent survey administrator* reflects continuing high levels of satisfaction with KCSD96 academic programs and services, operations, personnel, and financial management.

*JUST THE FACTS, INC., FALL 2016



KCSD96 TWIN GROVES MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH TEACHER **BEN LEVEN** HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY ILLINOIS EDUCATION OFFICIALS AS **BEST IN HIS FIELD OF EXPERTISE** FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR. HE WAS HONORED FOR HIS SKILL IN BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIS STUDENTS TO HELP THEM GROW.



JULIE SCHMIDT WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE 2016 LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AND A 2017 IASA SUPERINTENDENT OF DISTINCTION.

exemplary leadership

Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Superintendent Julie Schmidt was named the **2016 Lake County Superintendent of the Year**.

This recognition from her Lake County Superintendent peers honors Mrs. Schmidt's active leadership not only of KCSD96—a school district characterized by successful students, strong academics, and sound financial stewardship—but also her support and professional mentoring of fellow public school superintendents.

Julie Schmidt has been superintendent of KCSD96 since

2010 and her contributions are far-reaching. She helped establish and support the Exceptional Learners Collaborative—the special education cooperative serving children in Kildeer 96, Prairie View/Lincolnshire 103, and Stevenson 125. Likewise, she

has had a key role in articulating and creating the Vision 20/20 initiative—the promise of public education for students statewide, focused on highly effective educators, 21st-century learning, shared accountability, and equitable and adequate funding. In addition, she participated actively in crafting the Illinois Balanced Accountability Model that was signed into law.

In January, Mrs. Schmidt received additional recognition as a **2017 Superintendent of Distinction** by the Illinois Association of School Administrators—selected by her peers for her leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement.



DIST. 96 SUPERINTENDENT JULIE SCHMIDT PRESENTS KCSD96 COMMENDATION TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—RECIPIENTS OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS' **2016 BEST OF THE BEST INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AWARD**. PICTURED (L TO R): JACK SCHMERER, SCOTT JACOBSON, JULIE SCHMIDT, RYAN RISINGER, ADRIANE JOHNSON, AND RICK DRAZNER (PRESIDENT).

WINNING COLLABORATION WITH THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT

Kildeer Countryside School District 96 congratulates the Buffalo Grove Park District on their **2016 Best of the Best Intergovernmental Cooperation Award**, awarded by the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Our organizations have benefited for years from a collaborative relationship formalized in 2010 with an intergovernmental agreement written and signed by the KCSD96 Board of Education and the Buffalo Grove Park District Board.

Evidence of our exceptional collaboration is plentiful. For example, our organizations have worked together to improve school gyms; to install accessible bathrooms and storage, new playground equipment, and a 200-meter track with a rubberized surface; and even to accommodate additions to the Willow Grove Early Learning Center by planning and agreeing to a mutually beneficial property transfer.

The intergovernmental cooperation our organizations share is a model for excellence and a partnership we highly value. Students, staff, and the entire community benefit almost 24/7 from energy-efficient, updated facilities for learning and recreation and Park District-sponsored sports and theater performances. Indeed, KCSD96 school facilities enhance experiences for hundreds of students, active families, and adults community-wide.



ENGAGING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY
THROUGH ONGOING WORK, KCSD96 TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND PARENTS ARE HONING THEIR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE AND WORK EFFECTIVELY AND WITH SENSITIVITY ACROSS CULTURES. THROUGH LEADER-LED ACTIVITIES ENGAGING AND CONNECTING STAKEHOLDERS DISTRICTWIDE, WE'RE DEVELOPING CULTURAL COMPETENCY TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND NAVIGATE DIFFERENCES IN INDIVIDUAL'S WORLD VIEWS. **PRESENTER: DeETTA JONES**

Kildeer Countryside School District 96
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FROM MARC TEPPER, KCSD96 BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT-



KCSD96 Board of Education-

From front row, left to right:

RENEE KCLASS, VICE-PRESIDENT
MEG WOODMAN, MEMBER
JAMES STREZEWSKI, MEMBER
ELIZABETH DIETZ, MEMBER
MIKE BURNS, SECRETARY
MARC TEPPER, PRESIDENT
CYNTHIA ZARKOWSKY, MEMBER

Most people agree the quality of life in a community is reflected in the quality of its schools. The **Kildeer Countryside School District 96 (KCSD96) Board of Education** recognizes that responsibility with every vote our members make to equip our schools to be the best they can be. Our decisions address fundamental needs: committed faculty, well-maintained buildings, and safe transportation, for example.

But ending our efforts there would do our community—and our students—a disservice. **Our Board of Education, faculty, and administration share a vision to become the premiere elementary district in the nation**, where every child can achieve his or her maximum potential.

To accomplish that, we must be visionaries: We must anticipate what our students will need to know to succeed in college and careers. We must attract and retain highly qualified staff and support their continued learning through ongoing professional development. We must balance immediate needs with a long-term

view to be effective financial stewards. And we must welcome and accommodate an increasingly diverse, multilingual, and growing community of families—now our neighbors—drawn to our community for exceptional learning opportunities.

One example of our visionary work is the opening of full-day kindergarten in August at Willow Grove Early Learning Center. This full-day learning opportunity has been many years in development, requiring significant planning to create the curriculum and renovate the building. District wide, our faculty and staff celebrate with us because of their certainty that this program is essential to prepare our students for the rigorous curriculum ahead.

We are Board of Education members because of our genuine commitment to giving children in our community the best environment and support possible for learning and growing. Indeed, we are privileged to serve as elected volunteers in this very significant, rewarding work. As we celebrate the high regard for our school district—as evidenced by U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon honors, unprecedented academic growth, financial stability, Mrs. Julie Schmidt's **Lake County Superintendent of the Year** and **IASA Superintendent of Distinction-Lake County** recognitions—and the many accomplishments of our students—

we renew our commitment not only to address present needs, but to be visionaries focused on a bright future for learning for every child in every District 96 school.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

KCSD96 engages the community through opportunities for parent involvement, including the Parent Review Committee, the Parent-to-Parent Network, the Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism, 96-Special Parent Group, and our Parent/Teacher Organizations (PTOs).

Marc Tepper
President, KCSD96 Board of Education



FOLLOW #INSPIRE96 ON TWITTER FOR A "REAL-TIME" LOOK INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS. SEE THE MANY POSITIVE WAYS OUR STUDENTS ARE GROWING!

