



REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY: DISTRICT 34 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021-22 AND LOOKING AHEAD

As we conclude the 2021-2022 school year, the Antioch School District 34 Board of Education and administration would like to thank our families, faculty, staff and community for their partnership and support of our shared mission to empower all students to achieve personal excellence. Strong collaboration and communication between home and school is essential to our ability to deliver the high-quality education that our students deserve and our community values. Following are some significant highlights from this school year and a preview of what's to come in 2022-2023.

High-Quality Teaching and Learning—Achievements and Investments

Our highly-skilled educators continue to receive local, state and national recognition for their expertise, innovation and leadership—qualities that directly impact our students' growth and achievement. We are proud to share news of some recent awards that District 34 and our teachers/staff have received for teaching excellence, instructional and administrative leadership, and STEM Education.

- The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has recognized two District 34 educators with their 2022 Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations to **Courtney Rieb**, early career educator at WC Petty, who received the Award of Excellence, and **Becky Ingrum**, Hillcrest gifted education teacher, who received the Award for Meritorious Service.

In addition, three District 34 staff members were honored with ISBE's "Those Who Excel" award for meritorious service—**Joshua Coon**, innovation/instructional technology (AUGS), **Sue Jorgensen**, paraprofessional (Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center), and **Alison Mlyniec**, nurse (WC Petty). District 34 also received this award for our 2020-2021 Family Feeding program, in which our Food Service and Transportation Departments partnered to prepare and deliver student meals throughout remote learning.

- Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the nonprofit that developed a nationally recognized STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum, has recognized Antioch 34 as a Distinguished District for the fourth year in a row. The rigorous PLTW curriculum empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, and its implementation ensures that D34 students are ready for the future.

We are working hard to continue to attract excellent educators to District 34 and are developing partnerships with local universities to find talent for hard-to-fill positions. We have increased the number of pre-service teachers doing observations, completing student teaching assignments in our schools and conducting related service provider internships. We also continue to increase our pool of qualified substitute teachers, which has allowed us to provide continuity of instruction even during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Antioch School District 34

964 Spafford Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8401

Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center

817 N. Main Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8901

Hillcrest Elementary School

433 E. Depot Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8001

Oakland Elementary School

818 E. Grass Lake Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-838-8601

W.C. Petty Elementary School

850 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8101

Antioch Upper Grade School

800 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8301

District 34 will continue to explore ways to lead and innovate as part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and achievement. This includes the recent hiring of a District coordinator for innovation and instructional technology, who is working closely with our Teaching and Learning Department to support our curriculum, instructional coaches, 1:1 devices, and the many opportunities for student innovation and creation with those devices. The District has secured a federal grant, allowing a \$1.2 investment in technology benefitting students and teachers, at no additional cost to D34 taxpayers.

Supportive Learning Environment—Additional Programs and Services

The District is proud of its focus on supporting the whole child and all students, including the K-5 myView literacy curriculum adoption and implementation; a partnership with Joyful Inclusion for co-teaching training; our Teach Train Thrive professional development offering, and a variety of continuing and new partnerships focused on providing support and resources tied to student wellness.

We remain committed to setting high, yet achievable expectations for the academic, social, emotional and behavioral growth of all District 34 students. In 2022-2023, we are making additional investments to support teacher professional development to ensure that all students are gaining strong foundational reading skills. We know that students learn in different ways and at different rates, so we are also making significant updates and improvements to the systems and software our teachers use every day to monitor progress and provide the right level of support and challenges to students at every level in every academic subject.

Early Learning Facility and Community Program Enhancements—Supporting Families and Children from Birth-to-Age Five

This year, we made building improvements at the Mary Kay McNeil Early Learning Center, including a library remodel, child-friendly wall-wrapping throughout the school and a playground renovation.

In 2022-2023, we will continue to develop and expand our early learning initiatives to support children from birth to age five, including the continuation and expansion of quarterly community programs and events for families and families, such as our Early Start Park and Play event and Family Connections Group activities.

Strong Financial Stewardship—Transparent and Responsible Use of Taxpayer Resources

District 34 continues to operate with both transparency and integrity in our responsible and prudent use of taxpayer resources. We are pleased to have achieved a balanced budget for the fifth year in a row, while maintaining an appropriate fund balance and completing important capital projects on-time and on-budget, including air conditioning

units for the AUGS gym and upgraded boiler tubes at AUGS and WC Petty.

As a result of these efforts, ISBE ranks District 34 in its highest category of financial strength, and we continue to maintain an AA+ bond rating by demonstrating very strong capacity to meet our financial obligations.

Superintendent Search Update—Applications Invited Through End of May

Our search process for a new superintendent continues following last month's announcement of Dr. Bradford Hubbard's resignation effective June 30. We will continue to accept applications from skilled, compassionate and committed school leaders through 5/31/2022. We are pleased to have received a number of strong applicants and will continue to keep our families, staff and community updated on status and next steps.

Summer Programming for Students and Staff—Learn More in *Connections* Community Magazine

There is much to celebrate in our District and more to come in the school year ahead! To learn more about summer programming in District 34, we encourage families and staff to review pages 12-15 in the current issue of [Connections](#), a quarterly magazine in publication since 2015, that is a collaborative effort among several taxpayer-supported organizations to keep residents informed about news and events in Antioch, Lake Villa, and Lindenhurst.

Past editions of *Connections* can be found [here](#) and celebrate many of the wonderful things our District is doing with, for, and on behalf of our students and families.

~ ~ ~

In the meantime, we send best wishes to our District 34 students, families and staff for a safe and happy summer and look forward to a great 2022-2023 school year.

Yours in Education,

Antioch School District 34 Board of Education & Administration