



Happenings in Harvey 152

New Principal Named at Whittier Elementary



We would like to officially welcome Ms. Lisa Manuel as the new principal at Whittier Elementary School! Ms. Manuel's experience ranges from her time as an elementary school teacher, to an academic advisor and most recently as an Assistant Principal within Joliet Public School District 86. She officially began her new role and students and families held a meet and greet in November. We are excited for her experience and leadership at Whittier!

Many thanks to Mrs. Brenda Richardson for filling in as our interim principal this school year! She stepped in, stepped up and set a perfect example in this administrative role.

New District Strategic Goals

Recently, our Board of Education approved our 2023-2028 Strategic Goals! These goals were developed by stakeholder feedback including focus groups and surveys and are centered around the priorities of our community.

Our Vision: The District will provide students with an enriched and integrated curriculum with instructional experiences to promote 21st century skills that include inquiry, skillful decision making, effective communication, multicultural appreciation, academic success, and the joy of learning.

In the next five years we will:

- Ensure academic engagement and growth for all students
- Support a learning environment that is safe, inclusive, and engaging for all students
- Grow and maintain a work environment that recruits and retains high-quality staff
- Enhance communication and community relations
- Provide a safe and effective learning environment with fiscal responsibility

Our board and administration will begin working from these goals to then develop specific strategies over the next couple of years and put the plan into action.



*Scan the code
to learn more!*

MESSAGE FROM THE Board President

Harvey School Community,

Our schools continue to strive to ensure students have the support they need to learn, grow, and emerge stronger in partnership with our teachers, school leaders, families, and students.

We continue to invest in the progress and potential of our students with a holistic approach, which means to provide support for the whole person. The support also considers their physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. We embark upon addressing holistic wellness; a comprehensive approach of well-being through working with both sides of the brain (EQ & IQ). EQ refers to the emotional abilities and IQ measures the cognitive and intellectual skills, such as working memory, analytical thinking, and knowledge retention. We will continue to address these through various activities that have been put in place including the Sports STEM Labs.

Other areas that are proceeding:

- Exceptional staff are in place and the search for a new superintendent continues...a decision is in its final stages
- Our students, parents and teachers are actively working for the advancement of the district, city and community.
- Our Board members are working behind the scenes as a unit to ensure the success of our district

by gathering information through classes, policies and procedures to provide a positive impact in our district.

- A special thanks to Dr. Lela Bridges as we build upon her and her team's accomplishments which played an important role in Harvey School District 152. We thank you for always responding to the call and coming back to support us through difficult times and set our district on a strong path.
- We continue to bridge the gap of the five essential partners working together: City Hall, Library, Park District, Police Department and School District. Our focus continues to be to Renew, Refresh, and Revive the entire City of Harvey.



Myra Gardner

Harvey School District 152 Board of Education
President



HARVEY 152 BOARD OF EDUCATION

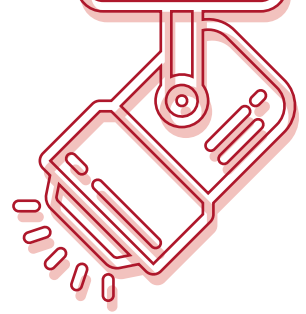
BACK ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Teresa Cameron, Secretary
Sandra Contreras, Member
Joseph Whittington Jr., Member
Myra Gardner, Board President

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Janet Rogers, Vice President
Linda Hawkins, Member
Casey Nesbit, Member

School Spotlights!



By participating in extracurricular activities and community events, our students are learning new things in unique ways and meeting new people to create strong and meaningful connections. This semester, our schools hosted several events to invite community members into the buildings and have a chance to engage with our students and staff. We are also excited and proud to share successes of a few of our extracurricular activities and look forward to our students engaging in more exciting opportunities in the upcoming spring semester!



RILEY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

This fall, Riley Pre-K students had an in-school field trip experience with Sand Ridge Nature Center from Calumet City! The students enjoyed interactive activities with live animals, learning the history of the Sand Ridge Nature Center and exploring the different types of animal skin.



BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

The basketball season for our 6th/7th and 8th grade girls teams was a year for the record books! Our 6th/7th grade team was undefeated during the regular season and made their way to the Regional Championships. We are so proud of both of our teams for the growth in skill, sportsmanship and teamwork they have displayed.



BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bryant Elementary School celebrated Grandparents' Day in November! During the program, students and their loved ones had breakfast together and shared a special keepsake to cherish. We're grateful for these role models who shared their time and wisdom with our students!



MAYA ANGELOU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Maya Angelou Lady Eagle basketball had an incredible season! They soared with the expert guidance of Coach Davis, ended the regular season undefeated and will be competing in the district championship in early December. Most importantly, the student athletes learned leadership and teamwork skills that will support them in their futures.



HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Earlier this year Holmes Elementary School hosted their annual Grandparents Day event! Grandparents were invited to the school to enjoy brunch with their grandchildren, watch a few performances, and take a brief tour of the school. In all we had over 130 grandparents that attended the celebration. Holmes truly appreciates all of the support from the families in our community!



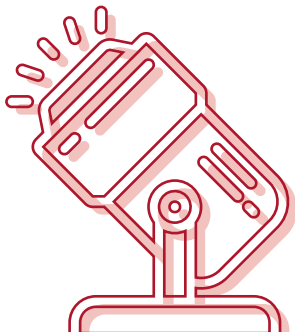
WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Whittier Elementary School would like to thank all of the students and parents who came out to celebrate our Trunk-or-Treat/Haunted House. Your participation made this event a huge success! Thank you also to each of our vendors including Board of Education Vice President Janet Rogers, Board Member Casey Nesbitt, and Alderwoman Colby Chapman.



DANCING PARTNERS

In partnership with Harvey Seniors Club, Harvey School District 152 staff member Ms. Debra Jefferson leads a line dancing class for senior citizens within our community. Get in your exercise while having fun learning the latest in line dancing. Community members are welcome to join in the fun! Classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. at Harvey City Hall and only costs \$2 per class.



Celebrate the Foundation Gala Honorees

The Harvey Educational Foundation Annual Gala has been rescheduled for **Saturday, Jan. 27**, to celebrate individuals who have supported the school district and community. Each year, nominations are requested from staff members and the selections are made by the Foundation board members.

We're proud to announce the 2023 Foundation Gala Honorees:

- Betsy Lipscomb, Certified Staff
- Rosie Greer, Support Staff
- Representative Will Davis, Community Advocate
- One Church One School-United Faith Center Ministries, Harvey, Illinois



Funds raised from the Gala will support the educational programs for the school district and community. For more information about the upcoming event, please call 708-333-0300 x102.

Fall 2023 Foundation Grant Awardees

Each year, staff members apply for mini grants from the Harvey Educational Foundation. The most recent grants have been awarded at the total amount of **\$13,893.24**. Many thanks to the Foundation for their generous support of our staff and students!

The following projects have been awarded grants after staff members completed the request process.

Angelou Elementary School

- Afterschool Origami/Skillful Creations Craft Program, Ms. Michelle Turner and Ms. Vanessa Young

Angelou and Bryant Elementary School

- Ryze Tech Tello Boost Combo - Mini Drone with 5MP Camera, RC Quadcopter with 720p HD Video, Ms. Cynthia Banks
- Magna-Tiles, Ms. Bonnie Bell-Pease
- Financial Literacy, Ms. Carlene Matthews

Whittier Elementary School

- Young Investors, Ms. Bileta Osagiede

Brooks Middle School

- Acting Up Drama Club, Ms. Keesha Buchanan
- iFly STEM Experience, Mr. Jason Hill
- Young Entrepreneurs Program, Ms. Charwana Morgan
- Intro to Culinary Arts, Ms. Charwana Morgan
- Youth Social Group, Ms. Charwana Morgan



UPDATE FROM THE Interim Superintendent



Greetings to the Harvey Schools and Community,

It is hard to believe that 2023 will end in a few weeks. The year ending does not mean that teaching and learning for our students will also end – just the opposite! We are extremely fortunate to have a committed staff consisting of administrators, teachers and support staff willing to go an extra mile or two for our students. Not only do they educate our children, but make sure that all students are safe and warm during the winter months ahead. This district truly addresses the needs of the “whole child.”

We have many reasons to celebrate in District 152. The Board of Education has approved the Strategic Plan and is well on the way to solidifying the individual who will lead the district in January 2024. This is an exciting time for the district and staff as we welcome the new superintendent.

The teacher shortage continues to be addressed through partnerships with Grand Canyon, Chicago State and National Louis Universities. These partnerships allow our existing staff to earn degrees and certification in many needed areas. We are pleased to have these important opportunities for our staff and will participate in recruitment fairs held at our colleges and universities.

After I leave the position of Interim Superintendent at the end of the month, I will proudly wear the hat of a Harvey Educational Foundation member. This 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization was founded in 1996 for the purpose of supporting the many initiatives of the school district. For the past 27 years, the Foundation has awarded grant applications to deserving staff and students, attendance initiatives, instrumental music and of course the publication of this newsletter. This is a great organization and we are currently accepting new members. For more information, please call 708-333-0300 x102.

Finally, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your Interim Superintendent for the past several months. I am grateful to the Board of Education for believing that I could make a difference. I am thankful for the administration and staff for collaborating with me. I especially thank the students for allowing me to serve them and be a part of their educational journey.

There is no better school district than Harvey School District 152!

Educationally yours,

Dr. Lela Bridges
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Important Dates



Dec. 25-Jan. 5
Winter Break

Jan. 8
Classes Resume

Jan. 15
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School

Jan. 19, Jan. 24, Feb. 14
School Improvement Day
Early Dismissal

Feb. 19
Presidents Day
No School



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Laying the foundation of Early Learning through building relationships

Riley Early Childhood Center Birth to 3 Program

A child starts their learning journey almost immediately and parents are their first and most influential teachers. Harvey School District 152 partners with, encourages and supports families with the opportunity to connect with parents, access valuable resources, and feel supported through their parenting journey.

Whether you are looking for information on prenatal care, child development, parenting tips, or a fun way to connect with others in the community, Harvey is here for you! These valuable resources are **free of charge** and we are always welcoming new families!



Scan the code to learn more and enroll today! Or call Rasheedah McCamury at 708-796-3788



Stay Connected!

📞 708-333-0300

🌐 harvey152.org



@Harvey152



@harveyschools152

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more updates!

