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Dr. Andrew S. Wise
Superintendent

From the Superintendent

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community in advancing the mission of our district. Your dedication and partnership play a pivotal role in the success of our students, staff, and programs.

Together, we have fostered an environment that prioritizes academic excellence, innovation, and the holistic development of every learner.

This year, we are making great strides in all areas of our strategic plan, which encompasses enhancing educational opportunities, fostering belonging, and ensuring the well-being of our students and staff. These achievements are a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines our district and the collective commitment to shaping a brighter future for our students. Your trust and engagement empower us to continuously improve, adapt, and innovate to meet the needs of our community. We believe in open and effective communication. If there is anything that we can do for you, please reach out to the appropriate school personnel, and we would be happy to assist you. As Superintendent, my door is always open to you. Feel free to contact me anytime at awise@ccsd66.org or 630.783.5000. Thank you for your steadfast support, which enables us to pursue excellence and nurture the potential of every student. We are excited about the progress we are making and look forward to continuing this journey together with you.

Snapshot of Center Cass District 66



1150

student
enrollment



2 elementary
schools with a
COMMENDABLE
designation

1 junior high
school with an
EXEMPLARY
designation



22

average
class size

State Avg: 21



18.3 : 1

student to
teacher ratio

State Avg: 17.1 : 1



95%

student
attendance

State Avg: 92%



\$14,942

operating
expense
per student

State Avg: \$18,905



65%

teachers with a
Master's degree
or higher

State Avg: 57%



91%

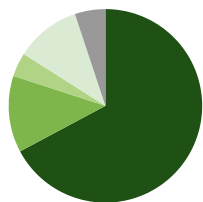
teacher
retention
rate

State Avg: 90%

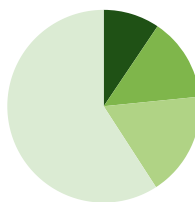
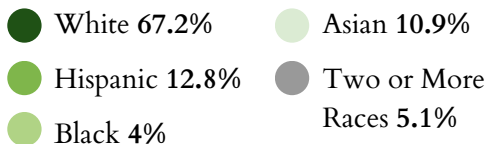


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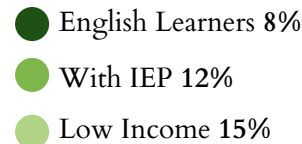
languages
spoken



STUDENT DIVERSITY



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



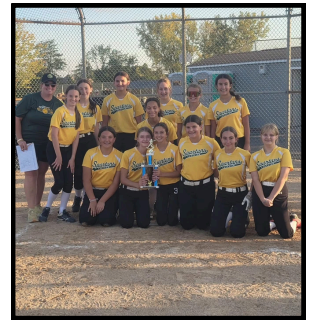
CHALLENGE, INSPIRE, EMPOWER

each learner to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally
- today and always.



Recent Points of Pride

- Lakeview Junior High School earned Best Middle School designation and Prairieview Elementary School earned Best Elementary School designation from U.S. News & World Report for two consecutive years
- In 2024, Lakeview Junior High School (6-8) received an Exemplary Designation, the highest designation on the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) School Report Card
- In 2024, District 66 earned the distinction of Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation
- Lakeview Girls Varsity Softball took 2nd Place in the regular season
- Lakeview Cross Country took 3rd place in sectionals and went to State Finals
- Elizabeth Ide and Prairieview Music Teacher, Ms. Faye Lindsey, awarded the 2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award from Century Post 503 Downers Grove



Retiring Board of Education Members



Board President Liane Raso has lived in Darien with her family for 27 years. A nurse and social worker, she serves as a Clinical Nurse Leader and Director of Performance and Risk Management at a nearby hospital. Since joining the Center Cass District 66 Board of Education in 2012, she has shown leadership to the Board and community.



Board Secretary Chris Esposito has lived in Woodridge with his family since 2012. As the head of the social studies department at Downers Grove South High School, he has brought a wealth of educational expertise. Elected to the Center Cass District 66 Board of Education in 2021, he has been a dedicated advocate for students and families.



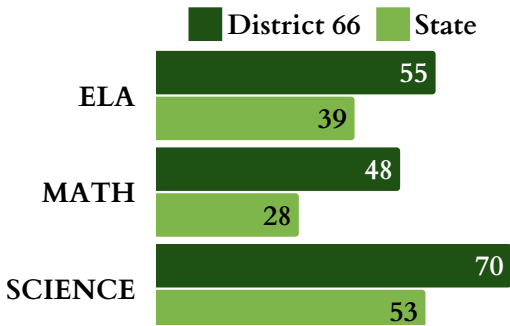
Board Member Donna Sobotka has lived in Darien with her family since 2011. An experienced educator, she has been a 1st grade teacher in a nearby school district since 2013. Elected to the Center Cass District 66 Board of Education in 2021, Donna has been committed to supporting students and supporting educational success.



Thank you to these retiring School Board members for their dedication and contributions to District 66. From addressing challenges like Covid to helping shape the strategic plan and guiding the recent referendum, your efforts have made a lasting impact. We sincerely appreciate your service and commitment to our community.

Vision for Education

There are many ways to measure achievement. Illinois is accustomed to publicizing the rigorous State assessment given to students grades 3-8 in our District. Since 2021, our students have grown from 48% to 55% meeting or exceeding standards in Reading, and 38% to 48% in Mathematics. The result was Center Cass scoring on average 15% points higher than the State in Reading, and 27% higher in Math. While it is nice to receive awards and recognitions from the State and National media regarding our performance, we will not rest until all of our students are meeting or exceeding standards.



Source: 2024 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) & 2024 Illinois Science Assessment for grades 5 & 8



The Elizabeth Ide 2nd graders exceeded their goal of having 90% or more students show growth from Fall to Winter MAP testing! This amazing accomplishment is a direct result of their hard work, dedication, and the support they receive at home and school. To celebrate this fantastic achievement, students had the chance to pie the principal in the face! It was a fun way to honor their success and celebrate their growth together.

Competency-Based Reporting Information Night

Tuesday, April 29th
6:00pm at Prairieview
More information to come

With new personnel and resources from the referendum, the District is undergoing an "instructional renewal." Students are taking greater ownership of their learning and demonstrating it in new ways. Soon, they and their parents will receive feedback on grade-level competencies, ensuring students are skilled and future-ready.

What is Traditional Grading vs. Competency-Based Reporting?



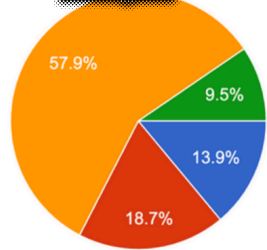
	FOCUS	GRADING SCALE	FEEDBACK	STUDENT PROGRESSION
TRADITIONAL GRADING	Overall performance across multiple assignments, often including non-academic factors like behavior or participation.	Typically uses letter grades (A-F) based on a percentage system.	May provide limited feedback on overall performance, not necessarily pinpointing specific areas of strength or weakness.	Students move through the curriculum at a set pace, regardless of individual mastery.
COMPETENCY-BASED REPORTING	Demonstrating mastery of specific learning objectives and skills.	Often uses a rubric with descriptive levels (e.g. secure, proficient). Letter grades are a summative representation if used at all.	Provides detailed feedback on specific areas of competency, highlighting areas for improvement.	Students progress to new material once competency is demonstrated, allowing for more individualized pacing than current system.

Essentials for Students

Student well-being is essential for achievement. Beyond academics, we teach vital life skills like communication, critical thinking, and empathy. We also offer before- and after-school activities to enrich students' experiences. While most students are happy and engaged, a growing number struggle. Passage of the referendum allowed us to expand support services, including social work, special education, and school nursing, which were immediately in high demand. As demographics shift, the need for these services continues to grow.



90% of Lakeview students participate in a club, activity or sport!



- Yes, here at Lakeview only
- Yes, outside of school only
- Yes, both at school and outside of school
- No, I do not participate in any clubs, activities, or sports

CCSD66 has adopted Panorama Education to collect and analyze survey data, emphasizing the importance of strong family-school relationships for student success. To strengthen these ties, Climate and Culture surveys were conducted, gathering positive feedback from families, students, and staff. This data-driven approach will help enhance partnerships, create a more inclusive environment, and implement strategies to improve student outcomes.

CENTER CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 66 LEARNER CHARACTERISTICS

RISK TAKERS

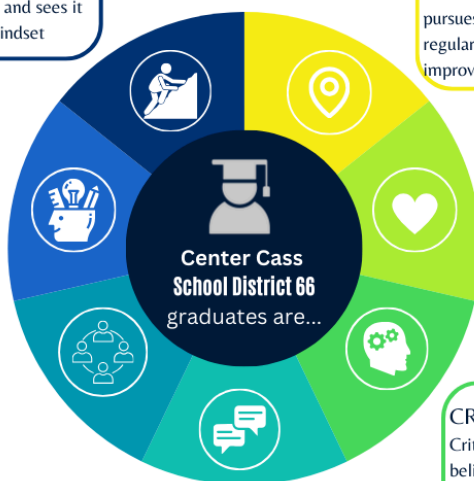
Risk takers take on a challenge and sees it through using a 'possibilities' mindset

INNOVATORS

Innovators create alternative ways of thinking. They unblock old patterns or habits of thinking leading to creativity. Innovation allows for non-linear thinking.

COLLABORATORS

The purpose of collaboration is to work together effectively and efficiently to meet a goal. Effective group members are interdependent, take on meaningful roles, and contribute meaningfully to the group.



SELF-DIRECTED

A self-directed learner sets goals and pursues them independently. They regularly self-assess and seek feedback to improve learning and performance

EMPATHETIC

An empathetic learner is one who strives to demonstrate sensitivity and empathy for others and can look at, understand, and appreciate differences between others.

CRITICAL THINKERS

Critical thinkers do not simply believe whatever they read, hear, or view. They remain skeptical, ask critical questions, and seek alternative points of view.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

An effective communicator conveys their message thoroughly and is receptive and responsive to others.

“Belonging starts with self-acceptance ... Believing that you’re enough is what gives you the courage to be authentic, vulnerable and imperfect.”

–Brene Brown

Scan here to learn more about the Strategic Plan



Learning Environment

With community support, our District's finances are improving, achieving true fund balances for the first time in years. While still working towards the State's recommendation of 3-6 months cash on hand, the Board contributes at least half a million annually to the fund balance. We are building fund balances, achieving higher results than the state, maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the county, and spending nearly \$4,000 less per pupil than the state average.

DuPage County Tax Rates per PreK-8 School District

District	District Name	2023
16	Queen Bee	\$4.83
15	Marquardt	\$4.70
25	Benjamin	\$4.52
33	West Chicago	\$4.41
93	Bloomingtondale	\$4.25
68	Woodridge	\$4.18
2	Bensenville	\$3.97
44	Lombard	\$3.88
89	Community Combined SD 89	\$3.70
45	Villa Park	\$3.58
20	Keeneyville	\$3.50
12	Roselle	\$3.48
41	Glen Ellyn	\$3.46
34	Winfield	\$3.38
13	Bloomingtondale	\$3.11
60	Maercker	\$3.09
63	Cass	\$3.09
61	Darien	\$3.07
180	Burr Ridge	\$2.84
66	Center Cass	\$2.75
181	Hinsdale	\$2.56
11	Medinah	\$2.53
10	Itasca	\$2.50
58	Downers Grove	\$2.32
4	Addison	\$2.24
7	Wood Dale	\$2.18
62	Gower	\$1.86
48	Salt Creek	\$1.44
53	Butler	\$1.28

Source: 2023 DuPage County Tax Rate Booklet

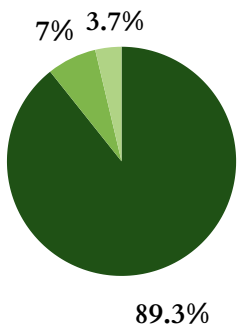
DuPage County Operating Expense Per Pupil

District #	PK-8 School District Name	2022-2023
DuPage County Average		\$18,833
Illinois Average		\$18,905
53	Butler	\$27,507
180	Burr Ridge	\$26,710
48	Salt Creek	\$23,316
34	Winfield	\$22,537
93	Bloomingtondale	\$22,474
33	West Chicago	\$21,410
25	Benjamin	\$21,367
181	Hinsdale	\$21,228
15	Marquardt	\$20,077
45	Villa Park	\$19,655
44	Lombard	\$19,436
7	Wood Dale	\$19,348
58	Downers Grove	\$18,526
68	Woodridge	\$18,493
16	Queen Bee	\$18,387
60	Maercker	\$18,164
62	Gower	\$17,676
20	Keeneyville	\$17,075
89	Community Combined SD 89	\$16,726
2	Bensenville	\$16,674
41	Glen Ellyn	\$16,581
12	Roselle	\$16,123
63	Cass	\$16,092
11	Medinah	\$15,956
4	Addison	\$15,417
61	Darien	\$15,399
66	Center Cass	\$14,942
10	Itasca	\$14,906
13	Bloomingtondale	\$13,961

Source: ISBE School Report Card 2023-2024 (data released 10/31/2024)

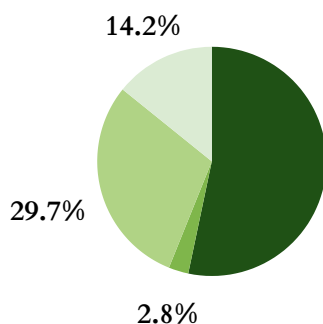
REVENUE

School districts receive funding from local (primarily property taxes), state (evidence-based and formula-based aid), and federal sources, with allocations varying based on property values and specific programs.



EXPENDITURE

School districts typically spend about two-thirds of their budget on employee compensation, one-fourth on facilities, and the rest on equipment and supplies. The budget is approved annually by the school board and follows strict reporting guidelines.



Learning Environment (Cont.)

The Illinois Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools sets minimum standards to protect the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and visitors across all Illinois public school districts. In line with this, District 66 has made significant progress in improving school facilities. A Health Life Safety report was conducted in 2022, which guided our efforts to enhance safety and learning environments. Since the passage of the referendum, we have made several key improvements, and in the coming years, we will continue working to make our schools more conducive to learning. As time and finances allow, we will also update school interiors. With schools at capacity and a projected 10% population increase over the next decade, the District anticipates using a portion of the referendum funds to build a small addition to address space concerns and accommodate future students.



New intercom systems installed at Prairieview and new camera systems with larger monitors at all schools.



New carpeting in all classrooms at Lakeview installed over the Fall Break.



Rendering of new carpet in lobby at Lakeview to be installed over Summer Break.

Revised District Renovations Schedule

2023

&

2024

Lakeview intercom replacement, schools lighting upgrade, replace Lakeview water heater, replace Prairieview gym floor, Lakeview roof coating to extend life, replace Prairieview intercom, replace Prairieview & Lakeview fire alarm system, replace Ide fire alarm panel, upgrade schools security cameras, replace Ide gym fire doors, repair-replace schools intruder alarm, add additional entry door card access readers, repair-replace schools visitor ID check-badge systems, improve exterior lighting

2025

Replace Lakeview carpeting, and HVAC equipment, replace Ide gym floor, replace system controls for all schools

2026

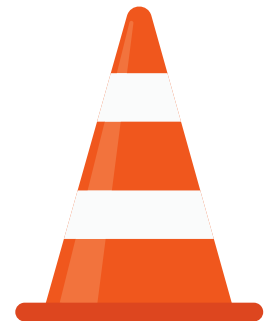
Full or partial roof replacements, siding repair, mortar repair

2027

Redesign and replace all Prairieview and Lakeview sidewalks, curbing and parking lots, repair and replace rusted light poles

2028

Address space concerns (if not sooner)





Multi-School Community Resource Officer

DuPage County appointed Corporal Scott Mrkvicka as the new Multi-School Community Resource Officer to improve school security, crisis intervention, and crime prevention in collaboration with District 66. This initiative aims to create a safe learning environment. Additionally, Corporal Tony Kermend will continue teaching the "Too Good for Drugs" program to 5th graders, following in Corporal Terry Albright's footsteps.

5 Year Contract with the CCEA Approved



On December 11, 2024, the Center Cass Board of Education unanimously approved a five-year contract with the Center Cass Education Association, effective through August 2030. Key highlights of the agreement include increased instructional hours at Prairieview and Elizabeth Ide Elementary Schools, an additional instructional day for students, an extra development day for teachers, the reduction of three half days, greater flexibility in employee schedules, enhanced development opportunities for paraprofessionals, and a more competitive compensation package to attract and retain staff.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit IllinoisVision2030.com



SCAN HERE

Illinois education leaders introduced Vision 2030 to enhance K-12 public education through safe environments, developed with input from 1,000+ stakeholders. The plan emphasizes:

- **Future-Focused Learning** to adapt schools for a changing world
- **Shared Accountability** measuring success beyond standardized tests
- **Predictable Funding** for resources and infrastructure

It promotes collaboration among districts while preserving local control to improve student outcomes statewide.

HIRING NOW!



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & PARAPROFESSIONALS

District 66 is currently seeking substitute teachers for both occasional and long-term positions, as well as paraprofessionals to support our schools. Join our dedicated team and help maintain a stable and nurturing environment for our students. Apply today and make a difference in the lives of children!

For more information go to the link below or scan the QR code:

WWW.CCSD66.ORG/PAGE/EMPLOYMENT



Lakeview will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2025! To mark this milestone, TEAM66 is launching the Lakeview Alumni Project, featuring a special mural filled with photos from the past five decades. Help us bring this project to life by spreading the word and sending pictures during yours or your student's time at Lakeview to:

alumni@team66ef.org

When submitting, please include names and the year the picture was taken. Then join us next fall for a community celebration (more information to come during summer) to honor the anniversary and unveil the mural!



Stay up to date with TEAM66 on their website:

<https://www.team66ef.org/>

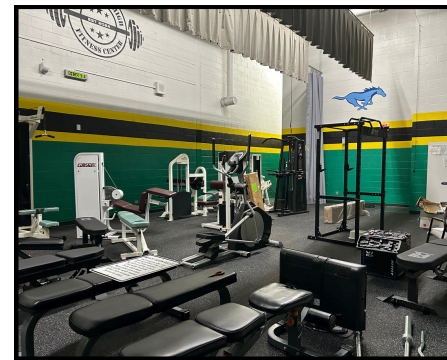
Community Connections

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members".

-Coretta Scott King



Grandparents visiting classrooms to read bring experience, storytelling, and a special connection across generations.



Lakeview Jr. High graduate Millan Ananth successfully completed his Eagle project, with generous donations from the community, transforming the school's fitness center with new paint, decals, flooring, and equipment to benefit the community.



CCSD66 honored Veterans Day with heartfelt ceremonies across all three schools, featuring student projects, a Boy Scouts color guard, performances by Ide and Prairieview choirs and the Lakeview band, and a warm welcome for veterans to connect and enjoy refreshments.



Two-time track and field Olympian and World Champion medalist, Tori Franklin, visited Prairieview in September to share her inspiring journey! NBC 5 Chicago was present to capture the moment.



Sounds of the season filled the Lakeview gym at the Center Cass Community Band Concert in December. The concerts can be seen at a later time on YouTube by searching *Center Cass Community Band Fan Channel*.



The Rotary Club of Darien makes an annual visit to Prairieview, where they generously distribute dictionaries to third graders. Thank you to all its members for their commitment and dedication to promoting student literacy!



District 66 and 61 leaders and teachers teamed up with the Rotary Club of Darien to assemble literacy bags for preschoolers, supporting early learning.

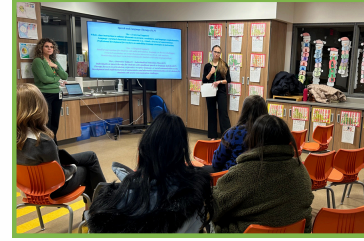


TEAM66's Annual Trivia Night was a fantastic success held at a new and larger venue. Teams got into the spirit by dressing up and danced the night away after enjoying four exciting rounds of trivia.



PARENT UNIVERSITY

On January 30th, District 66's Student Services Department and the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) hosted its second Parent University for all families, fostering inclusive learning, growth, and wellness. Parents partnered with faculty to present topics of interest, strengthening their connection with both their students and the schools. Local organizations supporting the mission participated as vendors, sharing valuable resources with families. The event provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration, learning, and community engagement.



Save the Dates, Everyone Welcome

All band and choir concerts are held at Lakeview Junior High

Center Cass Community Band Concert

Sunday, March 23rd at 4:00pm

Prairieview & Lakeview Spring Choir Concert

Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00pm

Spring Band Concert 1 -

5th Grade Cadet Band & 6th Grade Concert /Jazz LAB Bands

Thursday, May 8th at 7:00pm

Spring Band Concert 2 -

7th & 8th Grade Symphonic Winds & Jazz Ensemble

Monday, May 12th at 7:00pm

Beginning Band Concert -

4th Grade

Thursday, May 15th at 7:00pm



Lakeview Drama Presents...

Disney's
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

April 25th & 26th
at 7:00 pm

JRQ

"Storytime with 'Belle' at 6:30 pm
in the library for audience guests

GENERAL TICKETS \$8 | STUDENTS \$4
BUY IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR

★ VIP ★
DAYS

Open House & Book Fairs

.....

PRAIRIEVIEW
Panther Progress

April **24** TIME TBD

★★★★★

ELIZABETH IDE
A Night of Pride

May **1** TIME TBD

LAKEVIEW
CLASS OF 2025

Graduation
Commencement

Thursday, May 22
at 7PM

DOWNERS GROVE
SOUTH AUDITORIUM



National Social Worker Day
Wednesday, March 19th

Student Experience Coordinator Day
Monday, April 7th

Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
Wednesday, April 3rd

National Volunteer Week
Sunday, April 21st -
Saturday, April 27th

**National Administrative
Professionals Day**
Wednesday, April 23rd

School Principals's Day
Thursday, May 1st

School Lunch Hero Day
Friday, May 4th

Teacher Appreciation Week
Monday, May 6th -
Friday, May 10th

National School Nurse Day
Wednesday, May 8th

**Speech-Language
Pathologist Day**
Sunday May, 18th

Kindergarten preview



MARCH 26 • 5:30 - 6:15 pm • ELIZABETH IDE SCHOOL



Ready to learn more about Kindergarten? Come join us for a parent information night. This is a great opportunity to meet our Kindergarten teachers and administration, learn about what makes Elizabeth Ide so special, and connect with other families. You will also have the opportunity to tour the school.

**If you have a child who will turn 5 years old on or before
September 1, 2025, scan the QR code to complete the intent
to enroll in the process for Kindergarten.**

School Board Elections

The District 66 Board of Education consists of seven committed members, each elected for a four-year term. To maintain a balance of continuity and fresh insights, elections occur every two years, with either three or four positions available for voting. This year, four seats are up for election.

The Board is essential in determining the future of our educational institutions. According to Board Policy 2:10, "The Board's powers and duties encompass the authority to adopt, enforce, and oversee all policies for managing and governing the District's schools."

School Board elections will be held during the Consolidated General Election on Tuesday, April 1st. Your vote is vital in shaping the leadership and direction of our schools. Stay informed, engage actively, and ensure your voice is heard in the upcoming election!

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 1st

Meet the School Board Candidates



Steve Dlugo - I am eager to serve and support the excellent education District 66 provides that has impacted generations of my family. As the father of both a graduate and a current student, as someone married to a graduate, and having seen extended family move on from 66 to reach success in both academics and professional careers, I have a deep, personal connection to our school district. Professionally, I serve as the director of information technology within a non-profit health care system that includes a behavioral health school. My role has provided me insight into educational operations and strategy, leadership proficiency, financial stewardship expertise, and capacity to collaborate effectively. I am passionate about making a difference and highly motivated to contribute to our board's mission.



Adam Sage - I have lived in the district with my wife, Jessica (a CCSD 66 alumni), for the past 8 years. We have two amazing children, Ava (7th grade) and Austin (4th grade), who attend CCSD 66. With over 20 years of experience in the retail industry, I currently serve as the Senior Director of Merchandising for one of Fortune's 100 fastest-growing companies. My expertise spans multi-unit management, business development, onboarding, recruiting, merchandising, operations, sales management, and leadership development. I am running for the school board not only to serve my community, but also to be a voice and advocate for our students, families, and staff. My goal is to ensure the safety of all within our schools, enhance student learning through the adoption of new technology, and further engage the community while offering transparency around the use of public resources.



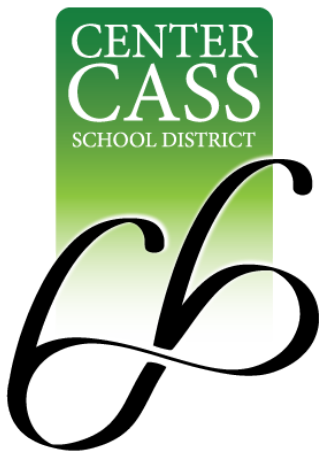
Darren Spiegel - brings 25 years of business experience with AAR CORP., where he leads AAR Electronics, specializing in electrical components used in aircraft manufacturing. Darren has been a private pilot for 30 years. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology/business from Drake University and an MBA from Northwestern University. When asked why he is running, Darren shared, "When I was in middle school, I was an average kid who felt somewhat lost in the system. I didn't realize my potential until college, and, in some respects, many years later when I earned my MBA. If I can help equip CCSD66 faculty and staff with tools that enable students to realize their potential earlier in their academic journey, this will be a success." Darren, his wife Robyn, and their 4th and 7th grade sons reside in Brookeridge in CCSD66. Darren shared, "I look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders, applying my curiosity, unique academic experience, and business acumen to serve the CCSD66 community."



Brian Liedtke - I want to thank our Center Cass community for all of your support over the past 4 years. During my time serving our community on the Center Cass Board of Education, I have helped navigate our district through COVID return to school procedures, made an effort to understand our district finances and past troubles to help ensure we wouldn't repeat past mistakes, toured our buildings to see learning happen in real-time, and monitored local political activity to keep our community aware of big developments that might impact our district. Your school board is more than just a panel of people who convene once a month. Experience matters, and if elected, I'd be the only member of our Board of Education who has a full 4-year term of experience. It's been a busy 4 years, and I want to help lead our school district for the next 4 years. I thank you for your past and continued support!



Ashley Harris - My husband and I have lived in District 66 for 8 years, and our two young sons attend Ide. My background in Early Childhood Education has equipped me with valuable skills that I plan to bring to the board to help make informed, effective decisions for our students, educators, and families. I understand the importance of creating an environment where both teachers and students can succeed, and I plan to support policies that ensure our schools are safe, inclusive, and provide quality education for all students. I believe I can bring a fresh perspective to the board. I will work hard on behalf of our community to ensure that our district continues to grow and adapt in an ever-changing world.



Center Cass School District 66
699 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

PRESORT
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LA GRANGE, IL
PERMIT NO.17



(630) 783-5000



Center Cass School District 66



www.ccsd66.org



Center Cass School District 66



@ccsd66



CCSD66 yt

Principals

Elizabeth Ide - Katie Johnson
Prairieview - Jake Little
Lakeview - Dr. Mark Orszula

Board of Education

President - Liane Raso
Vice President - Brian Liedtke
Treasurer - Doug Wiley
Secretary - Chris Esposito, Ph.D.
Board Member - Megan DuPass
Board Member - Donna Sobotka
Board Member - Tiffany Watson
www.ccsd66.org/page/members

Superintendent

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.

Directors

Learning - Dr. Kim Liles
Student Services - Sean Rhoads
Technology - Keith Roberts
Transportation
& Maintenance - Tom Tiede
www.ccsd66.org/staff



District 66 Calendar Dates

March 12 Early Dismissal

March 31 - April 4 Spring Break

April 30 Early Dismissal

May 9 Early Dismissal

May 26 Memorial Day

May 30 Early Dismissal &
Last Day of School

August 20 First Day of School

September 1 Labor Day

September 19 Early Dismissal