

*SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE TO PARENTS, MARCH 2009*

Dear Parents,

Illinois Standards Achievement Tests **begin this week, March 2-6**. Grade 3 students will test in reading, writing, and mathematics; grades 4 and 7 in reading, mathematics, and science; and grades 5, 6, and 8 in reading, mathematics, and writing. Below are simple ways for parents to help their children do their best on the ISATs:

- Make sure, if possible, that your child attends school on testing days. Make-up the tests will occur the week of March 9-13.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before, and eats a good breakfast on the mornings of testing.
- Remind your child to ask the teacher questions if test directions are not clear.
- Let your child know that you have confidence in his/her ability to do his/her best, and encourage your child not to worry about the test...just do your best.

Illinois public schools test results will be published in the School Report Cards that will be released in fall of 2009; individual student results will be sent home. Please contact your child's teacher if you want additional information or have further question about these tests.

At the February 23, 2009 Board meeting, a **revised 2009-2010 District 89 school calendar** was presented. The Board of Education supported delaying the start of school until after Labor Day, on Tuesday, September 8. This allows for twelve weeks to complete summer construction work. This revised final calendar will be approved at the March 16, 2009 Board meeting.

The Board of Education also discussed the **Enrollment Study Committee** recommendations and has provided direction to the administration in the following areas:

- Perform a census of District 89 students, ages 0-5.
- Cap class sizes after reaching the upper limit of the class size ranges and implement an administrative transfer procedure for new enrolling families to achieve class size balances.
- Do NOT transfer students from Glenbard Acres, Surrey and Roosevelt Garden Home Sites to Arbor View from Park View.
- Study the "paired schools" concept for learning.
- Examine the feasibility of growing the preschool program in other schools.

Presentations will be made at your PTC meeting during March, and a community forum is being planned for April to seek community input on this report as well as the District's financial future.

**District 89 is facing extreme challenges to its budget** due to the nation's economy, and, as a result, will reduce its budget by \$1.4M over the next two years. A 3-part approach will be used including budget reductions, use of early tax receipts and fund balance. District reductions will include the following areas: administration, certified staff, non-certified staff, purchased services, overtime, professional development, supplies, materials, instructional materials, and grant support staff. We will strive to minimize the impact on instructional programs; however, class sizes will be impacted. The Board of Education continues to discuss long term solutions to growing budget shortfalls, including the prospect of a tax rate increase

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**Superintendent**

John S. Perdue, Ed.D.

**Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations**

Susan J. Caddy

**Assistant Superintendent  
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Jamie Reilly, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**

Lori Gaspar

Gene Claudell

Mary Kataura

Terry Lachcik

Mike Nelson

Jody Selenica

Frank Zak

**Arbor View School**

J. Kevin Diehl, Principal

**Briar Glen School**

Emily Tammaru, Principal

**Park View School**

Amy Warke, Principal

**Westfield School**

Peggy Marhoefer, Principal

**Glen Crest Middle School**

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proposal in the Education Fund. A community forum to be scheduled in April will address these issues and seek community input.

Glen Crest, Arbor View, Park View, and Westfield Schools have earned 2008 **Academic Excellent Awards** from the Illinois State Board of Education. These four District 89 schools are among 388 Illinois schools being recognized. Briar Glen School received this same recognition last year. Selection criteria includes 90% of students meeting or exceeding state standards in both reading and math for at least three consecutive years and meeting Adequate Yearly Progress expectation in 2007 and 2008. Congratulations to the students, parents, and staff in District 89 schools!

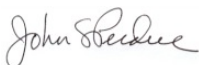
**Spring registration** has been scheduled from April 17 – May 1, 2009, and materials will be sent home with your students.

**"Getting Ready for Glen Crest"** was a summer school program designed to assist incoming 5th grade students make the transition from elementary school to middle school. Due to construction this summer, this program will be condensed into a one-day format on Monday, May 11. During the school day, all fifth graders will be transported by bus from their school to Glen Crest Middle School where they will spend the day learning the 'ins and outs' of middle school. They will get an overview of a typical school day, academic work and homework expectations, study skills, PBIS, activity program highlights and will have lunch in the cafeteria. Be looking for further information from your schools this spring.

The District is working to correct and improve links for **teacher web pages**. These are important links between your home and the school, and they provide meaningful information for parents to assist their children. The staff received training on web page development using blogging technology. Unfortunately, the server that houses the teacher web pages was damaged recently by off-site rouge software. Some teacher web page information was lost in this process. We are working to remedy incorrect links and strive for fewer clicks. Thank you for your understanding as we work to improve these links.

And as always, thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89.

Sincerely,



John S. Perdue, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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