

District 89 families:

Early in my career as an educator, one little boy with autism taught me an important lesson about growth mindset. When this boy started school, experts told his parents and educators to temper our expectations for him. But the boy simply didn't accept any limits and he took control of his learning. He became a shining light in our school. His attitude made it impossible for the staff not to adopt the same mindset about his future.

I am a strong believer in growth mindset, both personally and professionally. This research-based model, first presented by Carol Dweck in 1988, shows how a person's mindset affects his or her outcomes. There are many incredible websites that talk about growth mindset. Two I would recommend are [The Mindset Works](#) website and [this article by Carol Dweck](#).

We ask your students to embrace challenges and view setbacks as learning opportunities. I challenge our teaching staff to help students see mistakes as the first step toward learning how to solve a problem. When students embrace this attitude, they grow in knowledge, persistence, and creativity.

I am asking our families to partner with us on this message. Let's all value long-term growth over temporary setbacks. During our upcoming parent-teacher conferences, I ask that you approach feedback raised by staff as an opportunity for your student to pursue ever-higher levels of achievement. (If you have not scheduled conference, please contact your school as soon as possible.)

At the District level, we are embracing the growth mindset through the Strategic Planning, Enrollment, and Finance committees I mentioned last month. These committees will help us hear from our families, and use their ideas to build even stronger schools. It was exciting to meet with so many people who are willing to share their time for this important mission. I will continue to provide updates on these committees.

Here are some more important reminders:

### **What happens in schools on those Institute Days?**

November 8 will be a full day off for students, and an Institute Day for our teachers. Many parents probably wonder what happens on Institute and School Improvement days, and how it impacts student learning.

Both Institute Days and School Improvement days are packed with professional development for our teaching staff, ensuring they are ready to deliver the most current and well-aligned curriculum to your students. The staff learning on these days is always focused on the District's core values and strategic goals for the year. This professional development is in addition to regular staff meetings, grade level meetings, and continuing education that takes place before and after the student school day throughout the year.

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#### **Westfield School**

Stacey Hewick, Principal  
**Glen Crest Middle School**  
Kim Price, Principal  
John Batiste, Assistant Principal

We understand that these days can be disruptive to families and the District makes every effort to minimize the number throughout the year. However, we hope that you value the impact that this time for collaboration and reflection can have for increasing student achievement.

### Halloween

Halloween is just a week away and we remind all parents that students are allowed to dress up during the school day. Elementary students can wear their costumes after lunch, and middle school students can dress up all day. We ask that all costumes be non-violent and school appropriate.

### Principal Appreciation Month

We are so fortunate to have an incredible and empowering principal at each of our five CCSD 89 schools! We asked a few of our students to talk about how their principal empowers their school. Check out the video [here](#).

### Dental screenings in November

Dental screenings are mandated for all students in kindergarten, second and sixth grades. We appreciate that the DuPage County Health Department will be at all five schools to provide free screenings to any child who completes a consent form. Students will receive consent forms and more information from their schools. The screenings are scheduled for Westfield (Nov. 1), Briar Glen (Nov. 3), Park View (Nov. 7), Glen Crest (Nov. 9), and Arbor View (Nov. 10).

### Upcoming events

October 27: Evening conferences for Glen Crest Middle School  
November 2: Evening conferences for elementary schools  
November 7: Preschool screenings at Arbor View  
November 8: No school (Teacher Institute)  
November 15: First trimester ends  
November 21: Board of Education meeting  
November 22: Evening conferences for elementary schools

I hope you and your family have a wonderful week. Thank you for supporting learning for life in District 89!

Sincerely,



Dr. Emily K. Tammaru  
Superintendent

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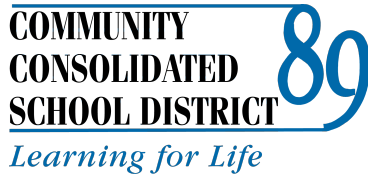
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**Administration Center**  
22W600 Butterfield Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
(630) 469-8900  
Fax: (630) 469-8936  
www.ccsd89.org

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