



Community Unit School District #205

The main goal of schools is to educate children and to expose them to high quality curriculum and activities. However, we cannot forget that we must also teach them manners and to get along with others. Clapping for each other in class and being complimentary of other student's work make schools great places for everyone!

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers



(PARCC)

Over **30 states** have prepared to take the **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** test in an effort to test student knowledge of the **Common Core Standards** in the areas of **Mathematics and English/Language Arts**. Most of these tests will be administered via digital devices, although some school districts have opted to take the tests paper-and-pencil. Over **4 million students** across the nation will take this comprehensive assessment tool. Helpful hints to preparing for the PARCC are as follows: (Teachhub)

- ❖ Students need to have a **familiarity** with taking tests on-line.
- ❖ Use **keyboards**, number pads, understand highlighting and drag-and-drop.
- ❖ **Stamina** is also very important. Students need to work on computers for long periods of time.
- ❖ Knowledge of **tech problems** and what to do needs to be discussed ahead of time.
- ❖ **Teachers** must also become familiar with taking tests on-line in order to aid the students.



Digital Curriculum

In March, **Pearson** and **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** will allow teachers in Galesburg Schools to review their **on-line curriculum** for **free**. We would like to have **two Math** and **English/Language Arts** teachers in each grade try-out one of the programs. If you are interested, please call the **Office of Curriculum & Instruction** (973-2103) for more information or send me an email (tbolden@galesburg205.org). We hope to branch out to other subjects soon.



Common Assessments

A **common assessment** is any means of **measuring student performance** that meets these **criteria** for: **Content** of the test, **Timing** of the test, **Use** of the results. Common Assessments also build a team of **efficiency** among teachers. If five teachers are teaching the same course or grade level and are responsible for ensuring all students acquire the **same knowledge** and **skills**, it makes sense those teachers would work together to determine the best methods to **assess student learning**. Teachers working in isolation replicate and duplicate effort. They work hard, but they do not work as diligently as a team. (Dufour). Also, our students in Galesburg Schools are **very mobile**. We need to provide students with **consistent teaching practices** and **expectations**.

Nationwide, each year, over **1.9 million** students will be suspended from school. Another **1.5 million** students will have multiple suspensions, and over **130,000** students will be expelled (CRDC). Providing school based supports for struggling students whose behavior repeatedly **disrupts their education as well as the education of others** is paramount. In order to provide students with supports, **Galesburg Schools** will be partnering with the **NAACP** to provide our students with a **Restorative Justice Program**. Currently, two schools, **Steele Elementary** and **Galesburg High School** are slowly implementing aspects of this doctrine. Essentially, the program involves **three tiers**: Building **classroom circles** to talk about concerns and peer-to-peer relationships, **Smaller groups** are used to bring together harmed students and their offenders with adult and peer mediation, and **Reintegration** of students following suspensions.

What is going on in Galesburg Community Unit School District #205?

"Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and patience every day, every hour, and every minute!"

Tammie J. Bolden

The Noon Rotary Club has raised over **\$70,000** for the distribution of books for the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Program since 2001. The goal of this program is to provide at least **two books** for all of Galesburg CUSD #205 students **in grades K-8**. **Volunteers** distribute these books at our five **elementary schools** and **two middle schools** in the library. It is a great program, enthusiastically received by everyone involved, by the kids, teachers, librarians, and school administrators! In many cases, these are the **first** books that some students will own. **RIF** is a nationally recognized grass roots program that hopes to make reading a fun and beneficial part of the everyday life of all children. (RIF, Inc.)

Volunteers: Juanita Scott, Louise Wolf, and Kaye Gipson



Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students and families who assisted with the All District Music Concert. It was a wonderful affair. Singing and dancing teaches the basic equation of space = energy x time (or distance = rate x time). Our bodies and voices are the most perfect instruments that were ever built. Music is not only educational, but it also brings joy and beauty into our lives. (Shepherd School of Music)

**All District Band Concert
Tuesday, February 24th!**

On February 6, 2015, several administrators, teachers, and students attended **Carl Sandburg College's Educational Network**. We were able to collaborate with other schools in Knox County. It was a wonderful learning experience. **Nick Sutton** from **Lombard** presented information on how **1:1 computing** has **increased student engagement** and **decreased student discipline problems**. **Jon Bradburn** from **Gale** presented information on **LEGO-Robotics**. We are encouraging all schools to get involved in this project. **LEGO Robotics** competitions are great for students ages **9 – 16 years old** to learn **STEM** skills.