

INSIGHT

JUNE 2024

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 NEWSLETTER

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN ON THE WAY!

Everything you need to know
about the District's new Full
Day Kindergarten program.

Pages 6-7

#BUILD25 Update

Construction concludes this summer!

Pages 8-10

IMAGE: These two Ivy kindergarteners quickly became best friends in their District 25 kindergarten classroom.



D25 BY THE NUMBERS

5,114 MAY 1, 2024
ENROLLMENT
KINDERGARTEN - 8TH

833
STAFF MEMBERS

9 SCHOOLS
IN THE DISTRICT
7 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
2 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

19.89 STUDENTS
PER CLASS
KINDERGARTEN - 5TH

\$18,022 OPERATIONAL
PER PUPIL
EXPENDITURE

5,177 MAY, 2023
ENROLLMENT
KINDERGARTEN - 8TH

63 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

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Connect With Us

🌐 WWW.SD25.ORG

🐦 [@AHSD25](https://twitter.com/AHSD25)

📘 FACEBOOK.COM/AHSD25

📷 INSTAGRAM.COM/AHSD25SOCIAL

Our students tell you what's happening in their classrooms at www.sd25.org/Stories

IMAGES: (left) We are grateful for our partnerships with our District 214 schools who come out for High Five Fridays throughout the year. This one features the Hersey Huskies football team at Patton welcoming the Panthers into school on a Friday. (right) Dryden students love to pose in front of their custom Dryden backdrop!





Welcome to the 7th edition of our annual INSIGHT magazine. We always enjoy this opportunity to connect with our entire Arlington Heights community..

Before I go any further, I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Dr. Brian Kaye, and I am thrilled to be the new Superintendent of District 25.

While my 18 years here in District 25 have allowed me the opportunity to meet and connect with many of you, I know that my new role as Superintendent will create an even greater opportunity for me to connect with Arlington Heights. I am so ready and excited to keep this already great District moving forward to best support our community.

This coming school year will be a historic one here in District 25 as it will be the first year we will offer a district-wide Full Day Kindergarten program. I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to help usher in this new program, as I have both witnessed and been lucky enough to be a part of the amazing journey to get to this point.

IMAGE ABOVE: Dr. Kaye is entering his 19th year with District 25 and his first year as Superintendent.

I would like to thank all involved for their hard work, dedication, and true community partnership that will make this fall one to remember.

I also would like our community to know that I am here, always willing to meet or talk should you have any questions, thoughts, or if you would just like to say, “Hi.” You can reach out to me via email (bkaye@sd25.org) or phone (847) 758-4870 and my open door office hours can be found on our website: www.sd25.org/OpenDoor.

My hope is that everyone is having a family-filled, relaxing, and fun summer. In the meantime, I invite you to take some time to scan the QR codes in this edition of our INSIGHT magazine and watch the many stories and informative videos to take you inside the wonderful experience that is District 25.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Kaye

Dr. Brian A. Kaye – Superintendent

STEM's Biggest Fans!

Back in 2009 at Thomas Middle School, Rebecca Spence's love for science bloomed in Jim Grant's STEM class. After being encouraged by him to join Science Olympiad, Rebecca knew she wanted to pursue a career in STEM. Now, 15 years later, Rebecca is a Senior Manager in cybersecurity, and she credits Mr. Grant for inspiring her and guiding her in that direction.

"It's pretty crazy to think about. Just, how instrumental a singular class, or a single professor or teacher, can be."

- REBECCA



IMAGE: Rebecca Spence and Mr. Grant reconnected 15 years after Rebecca graduated 8th grade with the inspiration she needed to get to where she is now.

WE CAUGHT UP WITH REBECCA AND JIM, WHO HAD KEPT IN TOUCH OVER FACEBOOK BUT HAD NOT SEEN ONE ANOTHER IN PERSON IN OVER TEN YEARS, AND IT WAS AS IF NO TIME HAD PASSED AT ALL! TO WATCH REBECCA AND JIM'S INTERVIEW, SCAN THIS QR CODE



So, Rebecca, how's it feel to be back at Thomas?

RS: You know, it was weird to walk into Thomas. I haven't been here since about 2009, so a lot has changed. The front door is not where the front door used to be!

JG: But my room is still messy!

So, why STEM? When did your love for science start?

RS: I do have to credit Mr. Grant with kind of introducing me to STEM. I had no idea that was where I wanted to go, and now, having a career in STEM, I have to credit it to Mr. Grant.

JG: That's very humbling to hear. It is, I'm serious.

"I look around his room right now, and I see the (poster that says) 'I can't' with the 't' crossed out. It's good to see these same lessons that I had when I was here continue on."

- REBECCA

What was it about Mr. Grant's class that got you interested in STEM?

RS: I think it was just a different way of looking at basic objects. He's very into space-

JG: Certified Moon Landing Geek!

RS: Haha, right! And, you know, I had never really looked at rockets and how integral parts of everything works, and to take something like a bottle, and turn it into a rocket...and break down how something works is what really started to get me interested in STEM and start to see the bigger picture when you look at ordinary objects.

Mr. Grant, what would you say is your biggest hope for your students?

JG: My whole approach to teaching students STEM is to make it approachable. If I taught this in high school, it would be very different. I couldn't leave the door open as much as I can in middle school. I'm trying to get as many choices for the students as possible. So if they can approach it and not feel threatened, yeah, they might not be an engineer, but they'll develop the skills that they can take anywhere, and that's my goal.

#d25Connections

In our new series, D25 Connections, we showcase some truly amazing and inspiring connections that our students, staff, and community have made with one another.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH MORE #d25CONNECTIONS VIDEOS.

FDK On The Way!

Here in District 25, we are always excited for the start of the school year, but this fall, that rings extra true. In August 2024, District 25 will open its doors to our first district-wide Full Day Kindergarten program.



IMAGE: This Greenbrier student is engaged in learning through hands on play.

"It has taken the hard work, vision, and dedication of the entire Arlington Heights community, to get to where we are, getting ready to welcome in our Full Day Kindergarteners," incoming Superintendent, Dr. Kaye said, "and on behalf of our students and staff, I just want to say a big 'thank you!'"

From the community input dating as far back as August 2017, where 60% of residents who took the survey were in favor of District 25 pursuing a full day program, to the passing of the #Build25 Referendum in June of 2022 granting the District permission to build 25 classrooms to house the program, to the building of the curriculum and the construction of the classrooms, this journey truly has taken a Village.

Play in FDK

Our Full Day Kindergarten program will target the whole child through robust academics combined with social emotional learning, play-based learning, and fun! "When children are at play, they're not just playing - they're learning." (Dinnerstein, 2016) Play will be an essential part of the way our kindergarteners will interact and learn together. Students will have opportunities throughout their school day for both indoor and outdoor play.



FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON OUR FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, INCLUDING FAQ'S, AND DETAILS ABOUT OUR PLAY-BASED LEARNING CURRICULUM, VISIT WWW.SD25.ORG/KINDERGARTEN, OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT OUR FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.



IMAGE: A group of Ivy kindergarteners engage in a learning activity.

District 25 is Building!

In the Spring of 2023, the District broke ground on the #Build25 expansion project which will build additions for a full day kindergarten program beginning August 2024, as well as address capital project needs throughout District 25's facilities for future generations of learners.



IMAGE: District 25 students throughout the District had many opportunities throughout the school year to observe the construction process. Here, three Patton students check out the building process for their expanded gymnasium.

Six of the District's seven elementary buildings required additions in order to host Full Day Kindergarten. Those buildings are Dryden Elementary, Greenbrier Elementary, Olive-Mary Stitt Elementary, Patton Elementary, Westgate Elementary, and Windsor Elementary.

4 CLASS ROOMS

GYMNASIUM EXPANSION

DEDICATED COMMONS SPACE



NEW STORMWATER RETENTION SYSTEM

NEW PLAYGROUND

3 CLASS ROOMS

GYMNASIUM EXPANSION



NEW HALLWAY WITH NATURAL LIGHT

NEW COURTYARD

2 CLASSROOMS



NEW FLOORING IN COMMONS AREA

NEW COURTYARD

10 CLASSROOMS

NEW GYMNASIUM



HALLWAY CONSTRUCTION TO IMPROVE EFFECIENCY

NEW FLOORING

4 CLASSROOMS



2 WORK SPACES

NEW COURTYARD

2 CLASSROOMS



NEW HALLWAYS TO PROVIDE EFFICIENCY

NEW COURTYARD

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING ANY OF THE BUILDING PROJECTS, OR TO KEEP UP WITH THE PROGRESS, VISIT WWW.SD25.ORG/BUILD25, OR SCAN THIS QR CODE.



#Build25 BY THE NUMBERS

District 25's Department of Business & Finance believes in spending taxpayer money mindfully and responsibly. Our Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance/CSBO, Stacey Mallek, is a native of Arlington Heights, attending Patton Elementary and then Thomas Middle School. She is entering her 19th year in District 25, and her mentality and message has not changed since day one.

Mrs. Mallek approached the #Build25 initiative with the same personal investment and attention to detail as she has approached her entire career in business education. The details below reflect just that. And, while the #Build25 project is not yet complete, and the financials cannot be finalized until then, it is anticipated that the project will close right around the proposed budget.

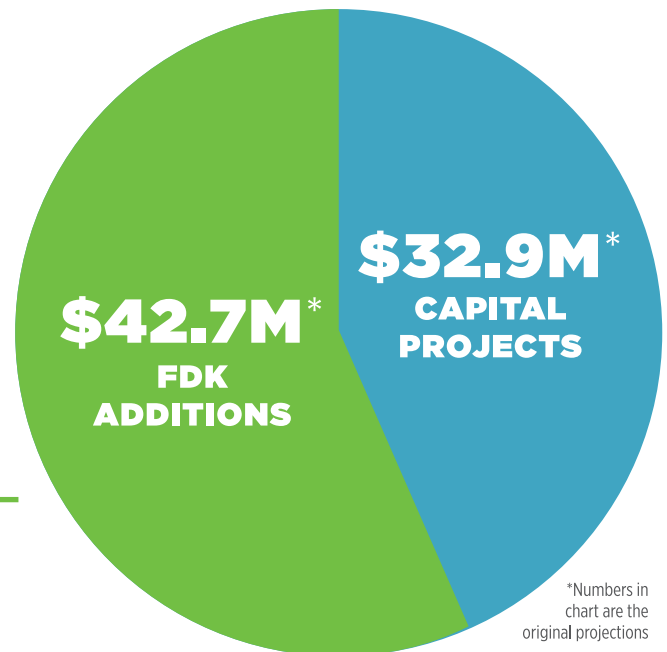
REFERENDUM BUDGET

QUICK FINANCIAL STATS:

- ✓ Approved To Sell \$75 Million In Bonds
- ✓ Sold \$60M Of Bonds Year-To-Date
- ✓ Anticipate \$15M To Be Sold In The 24-25 School Year

"The passage of the referendum shows the community's support of our strategic goal to address space for full day kindergarten and to address our aging facilities for both now and into the future."

- STACEY MALLEK, CSBO



*Numbers in chart are the original projections

"I look at the #Build25 project, and any construction project, as an investment in our community and a financial investment in our taxpayers."

- STACEY MALLEK, CSBO

IMAGE: Two Panther students look on as the addition to Patton's gym is being built.

The School Board is the guardian of the public trust and our Board members take that job to heart. Through the policies they make and guidance they give the District, our School Board is essential in establishing the standards and philosophies by which District 25 is run.

Elected by the residents of Arlington Heights to ensure that District 25 is adding value to this Village, our Board makes decisions and guides this District to be of service. District 25's Board of Education affirms the unique role of public education, whereby each community collectively pools its resources for the common good through the education of its students. Therefore, our Board seeks to uphold and improve public education for Arlington Heights.

A message from our Board President

Hello District 25 Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish to share our gratitude for the trust and support of the District 25 community. We are honored to have the privilege of serving our community and collaborating with the District 25 staff, all in support of our District 25 students. They inspire our work, focusing our attention and efforts on the District mission: to empower an inclusive, diverse community of learners to innovate and thrive as global citizens.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, we value your perspective and welcome your engagement with the Board. I invite you to come to a meeting, or reach out via any of the ways listed in the "connect with us" section on this page. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!

Greg Scapillato

THE BOARD: front row: Brian Cerniglia (Member), Dr. Anisha I. Jogee (Vice President), Greg Scapillato (President). back row: Gina Faso (Member) Kevin Michael (Secretary), Elizabeth Niernan (Member), Richard Olejniczak (Member).



Connect With Us

Live Broadcast of Meetings: The District 25 Board of Education regular meetings are broadcast live via YouTube. The link to each regular meeting is available the week of the meeting on our website (www.sd25.org/BoardAgenda) and is posted on our social media platforms (fb.com/ahsd25 & twitter.com/ahsd25).

bOARDBuzz Meeting Recap: After each meeting, District 25's Department of Communications compiles and emails a recap of the happenings at the Board of Education meeting. To view these recaps visit our website (www.sd25.org/CatchUpOnMeetings), or to sign up to receive these recaps, email our Head of Communications & Storytelling, Adam Harris (aharris@sd25.org).

Meeting Recordings: The meetings are archived on our website (www.sd25.org/CatchUpOnMeetings).

Email us: Sending an email to BoardFeedback@sd25.org will reach the entire Board and the Superintendent at once. The Board President will respond to emails and phone calls on behalf of the Board of Education.

Also, please keep an eye on our District calendar, District social media accounts, and District newsletters for in-person opportunities to connect with us throughout the school year!



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

1200 South Dunton Ave | Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Plum Grove

320 Cary Point Drive
Cary, IL 60013

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brian A. Kaye
Superintendent

Chris Fahnoe
Director of Technology

Dr. Becky FitzPatrick
*Asst. Superintendent of
Student Learning*

Adam Harris
*Head of Communications
& Storytelling*

Diane Kaffka
*Asst. Superintendent of
Student Services*

Andrea Luessow
*Director of Student
Learning*

Stacey Mallek
*Asst. Superintendent for
Business / CSBO*

Kendra Perri
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Member



WE ARE HIRING! SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

Work the days you choose! \$128/day!

CONTACT KASIA KOSINSKA

847-758-4912 or kkosinska@sd25.org



IMAGE: South graduates "spread their wings"
at this year's graduation ceremony.