

INSIGHT

JULY 2025

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 NEWSLETTER

New Spaces, Big WOWS!

Our students hit the ground running into our new spaces and expanded gyms.

It's Personal in D25

Staff numbers that may surprise you!
Page 10

Students all over the District lit up as they saw their new spaces this past fall at their schools' open houses.



D25 BY THE NUMBERS

5,046 MAY 1, 2025
ENROLLMENT
KINDERGARTEN - 8TH

9 SCHOOLS
IN THE DISTRICT
7 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
2 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

835
STAFF MEMBERS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

19.89 STUDENTS
PER CLASS
KINDERGARTEN - 5TH

\$18,606 OPERATING
EXPENDITURE
PER PUPIL

93% TEACHER RETENTION

49 LANGUAGES SPOKEN
TOP 5: ENGLISH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN, & POLISH

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Follow & Connect With Us

-  WWW.SD25.ORG
-  FACEBOOK.COM/AHSD25
-  INSTAGRAM.COM/AHSD25SOCIAL

Let our kids tell you what's happening in d25
by visiting www.sd25.org/Stories.



This South student sings
at the Nightmare on
South Street: 2024 Fall
Variety Show.



A Thomas basketball
player jogging down
the court in front of
a packed house for
the annual South vs
Thomas game.



Welcome to the 8th edition of our yearly INSIGHT magazine! This continues to be one of our favorite ways to connect with you, our Arlington Heights community.

It's hard to believe, but this year was my 20th year working in District 25 and my first full year as Superintendent. I feel incredibly proud and grateful to serve a district I've called home for two decades. It's been an honor to grow alongside this community, and I remain as committed as ever to helping District 25 thrive.

This past school year brought a historic milestone as it was our first year offering full-day kindergarten across the district. This was years in the making, and I want to once again thank our staff, families, and community members for their collaboration and support in making this vision a reality. What a joy it's been to witness the learning, laughter, and energy that full-day kindergarten has brought into our schools!

Looking ahead, we are beginning a refresh of our District 25 Strategic Plan. As part of this work, we are building our *Portrait*

of a Learner/Graduate which is a shared vision for the skills, traits, and experiences we want every District 25 student to leave our schools with. This is an exciting process that we hope will reflect the collective voice of our community and guide our work for years to come.

This magazine is just one way we connect with you, but it's a meaningful one. Inside, you'll find updates on how we're taking care of your schools, your tax dollars, and most importantly, the children of Arlington Heights. I invite you to take a few minutes to flip through, scan the QR codes, and get a glimpse into the work happening across District 25.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, or simply the chance to say hello. You can reach me at bkaye@sd25.org or (847) 758-4870. My Superintendent Office Hours are also listed on our website at www.sd25.org/OfficeHours.

Thank you for being part of the District 25 story.

Together Today 2 Transform Tomorrow,

Brian A. Kaye

Dr. Brian A. Kaye – Superintendent

IMAGE ABOVE: Dr. Kaye is entering his 21st year with District 25 and his second year as Superintendent.

Budding Veggies, Building Minds!

HOW FOODSERVICE IS CULTIVATING CURIOSITY IN THE CLASSROOM

"This initiative is about more than food. It's about ownership, curiosity, and connecting kids to where their meals come from. It builds lifelong habits and a deeper appreciation for nutrition."

- SANDY VOSS, RD, SNS

When students across Arlington Heights School District 25 line up for lunch, they're not just receiving a delicious, thoughtfully prepared meal. They're experiencing the care, creativity, and commitment of the District's Food & Nutrition Services Department. Led by Director Sandy Voss, the department has long gone above and beyond to serve meals that meet a variety of dietary needs and food allergies, while also ensuring flavor and fun are always on the menu.

Students at Olive-Mary Stitt Elementary, harvesting lettuce that 4th grade classrooms worked together to grow.



But now, their work is growing, literally, beyond the cafeteria and into classrooms across the District.

Thanks to a partnership with the ABC25 Foundation, District 25 has four hydroponic farms that have traveled to seven schools in the last two school years. These indoor growing systems are putting the power of food production directly into the hands of students, who are now cultivating vibrant vegetables such as a variety of lettuces, cucumbers, tomatoes, and more, all from their classrooms.

The impact of these classroom farms has been immediate and exciting. Teachers are incorporating the hydroponic systems into science, math, and social studies lessons, connecting curriculum to real-world applications and student-driven learning.

From preparing meals that fuel student learning to empowering students to grow their own food, the Food & Nutrition Services Department continues to be an essential part of the educational experience in District 25. What starts in the kitchen now reaches far beyond it, cultivating not just healthy habits, but inspired learners.

"We've seen our students take complete responsibility for the farm, they monitor the growth, adjust the water levels, even problem-solve when something isn't growing quite right. It's hands-on, engaging, and it's fostering teamwork and critical thinking in a really natural way."

- SHANNON JEDD, 3rd GRADE TEACHER AT PATTON ELEMENTARY



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FORK FARMS

THE RECIPE FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT & IMPACT

2,250

STUDENTS SERVED DAILY

394,000

MEALS SERVED YEARLY

**REGISTERED
DIETITIAN
& CULINARY
SPECIALIST
ON STAFF**

47%

**FNS
STAFF
LIVES
HERE**

13%

**INCREASE IN
PROGRAM
PARTICIPATION
VS 2023-2024**

**FOOD ALLERGY
& DIETARY
ACCOMMODATIONS**

86%

**OF ENROLLED STUDENTS
HAVE EATEN SCHOOL
LUNCH (2024-25)**

**NON-PROFIT
SELF-OPERATED
PROGRAM**

A student admires the roots from the lettuce harvested. Seven out of the District's nine schools now have fork farms with that number looking to grow next year.



**STUDENT
TASTE
TESTING
YEARLY
FOR MENU
PLACEMENT**



Foundations That Last All Day (and a Lifetime)!

OUR FIRST YEAR OF FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN SHOWS THAT WHEN OUR SKILLED EDUCATORS ARE GIVEN THE GIFT OF TIME, POWERFUL LEARNING CAN HAPPEN.

Moving to full day kindergarten has allowed our teachers and staff more opportunities for one on one time with our students, and more "WOW" moments like this one at Ivy.

In June 2022, our community showed incredible support for the future of education in Arlington Heights School District 25 by passing a referendum that provided the funds necessary to expand our school buildings to accommodate full-day kindergarten. Thanks to that investment, the 2024-2025 school year marked the first time we were able to offer full-day kindergarten to all families across the district, and what a success it has been.

Throughout the year, our youngest learners have thrived in the expanded format. With more time for hands-on learning, social-emotional development, play-based exploration, and deeper connections with teachers and classmates, students are building a strong foundation that will support them well beyond kindergarten.

It's important to note that while the referendum funded the cost of constructing and updating our school buildings, it does not fund the ongoing operational costs of the program. That continued investment comes from the district's careful planning and budgeting, always with students at the center of every decision.



We are deeply grateful to our community for trusting us with this important work and for seeing the value of full-day kindergarten. The support of our taxpayers has given our children more time to grow, explore, and succeed, and that's an investment with lifelong returns.

FOR A LOOK AT A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR FULL DAY KINDERGARTENERS, SCAN THIS QR CODE:



Scores to Show It

This was our first year offering full-day kindergarten, and it's already making a difference. As the visual to the right shows, our kindergarten students made strong gains in both reading and math, climbing in national percentiles compared to last year's half-day cohort.

Remember, percentile scores show how our students perform compared to peers nationwide, not their percentage on the test. The growth we're seeing is an early sign that full-day kindergarten is helping build a strong academic foundation. Thanks to our dedicated staff and supportive community, FDK is off to a great start!

MEDIAN PERCENTILE

READING

2023-2024	2024-2025
73rd	84th

MATHEMATICS

2023-2024	2024-2025
79th	82nd



This Greenbrier Gator joined in the construction fun, putting the perfect finishing touch on the new classroom spaces.

#Build25: A Community-Funded Dream, Realized.

We can't say it enough: *thank you, thank you, thank you* to the Arlington Heights community for your trust and support in passing the June 2022 referendum.

Because of you, our dual-purpose vision for #Build25 is now a reality,
and our schools are stronger because of it.



Our teachers, staff, and students brought these brand-new spaces to life this year, making full-day kindergarten a meaningful experience full of smiles, connection, and growth.

#Build25 was designed to meet two district-wide needs:

1. FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN (FDK): BUILDING FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN LEARNERS

To launch full-day kindergarten across District 25 in August 2024, we added 25 new classrooms throughout our elementary schools, welcoming more time for learning, play, and growth. As part of this expansion, we also added gym space at Dryden and Patton, and built a brand-new gym at Westgate, ensuring our youngest learners have room to move, explore, and thrive.

We're especially grateful to our community for recognizing the importance of full-day kindergarten back in 2022, support that came before it was mandated by the State of Illinois. That early investment speaks volumes about the values of Arlington Heights, and it helped us prepare thoughtfully and thoroughly for this next chapter in early learning.

Our teachers brought heart and purpose to these classrooms, and our students brought them to life with their laughter, learning, creativity, and joy.

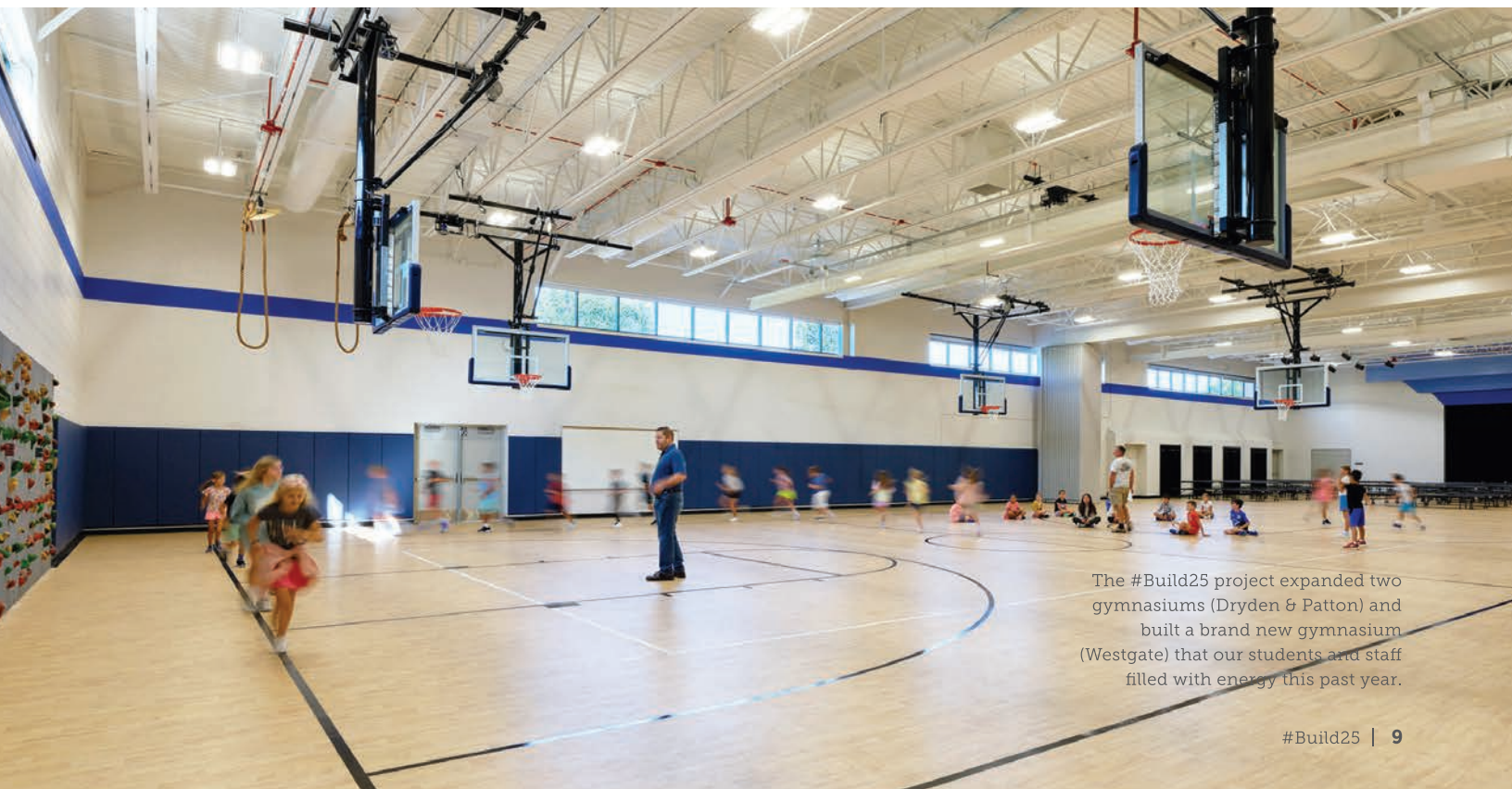
2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: INVESTING IN EVERY SCHOOL

The second focus of #Build25 was addressing critical capital needs across the district. This work included infrastructure upgrades like flooring replacements and energy-efficient lighting, ensuring all of our buildings remain safe, welcoming, and built for the future. While this work will continue through the next two summers, the progress made so far is significant, and made possible by your support.

We're proud to share that the project continues to stay within the financial plan and budget outlined when the referendum was passed. For more financial information on the project, you can view the March 2025 Construction and Finance Update shared at the Board of Education meeting.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR MORE DETAILS:**



The #Build25 project expanded two gymnasiums (Dryden & Patton) and built a brand new gymnasium (Westgate) that our students and staff filled with energy this past year.

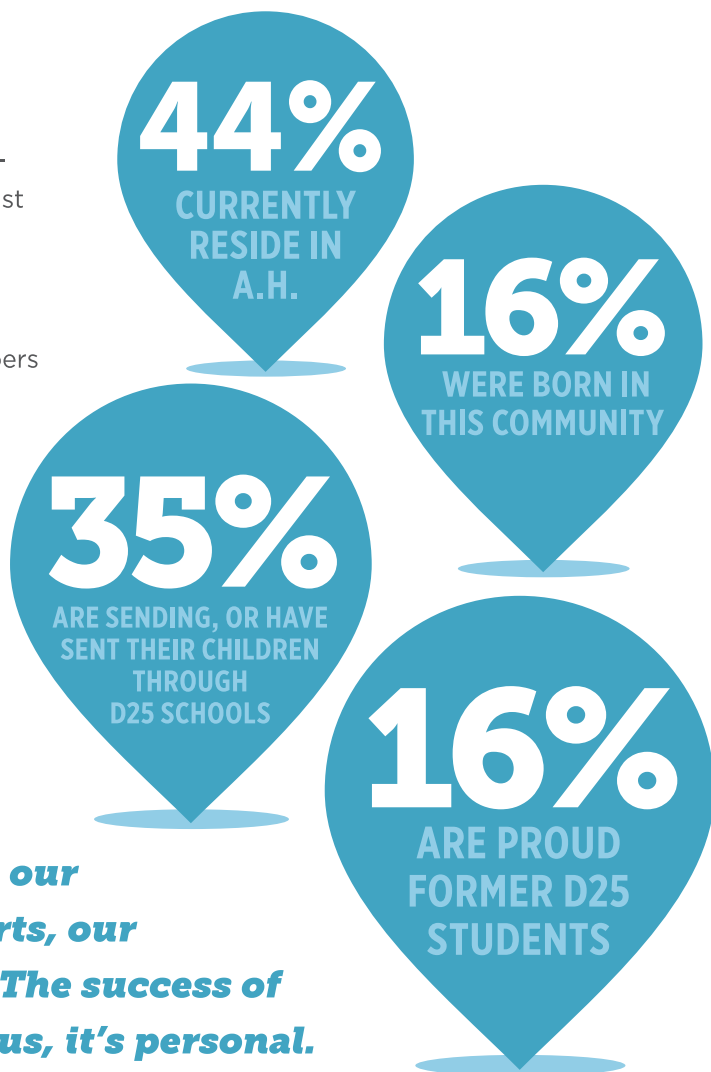
Here, It's Personal!

For the people who work in District 25 every day, in classrooms, offices, kitchens, and hallways, this is more than just where they clock in. This is home.

We asked our entire staff to share their connection to Arlington Heights and to District 25. Of the 578 staff members who responded: 44% currently live right here in Arlington Heights, 35% are sending or have sent their own children through D25 schools, 16% were born in this community, and 16% are proud former students of District 25.

These numbers tell a story. One of deep roots, daily investment, and personal pride. Because when you live, work, and raise a family in the same place, you care a little more deeply. You show up a little differently. And you give a little extra.

We love this community because it is our community. We serve it with our hearts, our hands, and yes, even our tax dollars. The success of District 25 isn't just professional for us, it's personal.



Mrs. Pullam was one of several Patton Panther teachers and staff who were hit with a pie by a student to raise money for the Patton Panther Walkathon! Run by Patton staff, this was the 18th year of the walkathon where over the years the Patton community has raised over \$170,000 for Make-A-Wish Illinois.



THE BOARD: from left to right: Deb Tranter, Member | 2025-29, Kevin Michael, Secretary | 2023-27, Melissa Buchberger, Member | 2025-29, Greg Scapillato, President | 2025-29, Dr. Anisha I. Jogee, Vice President | 2025-29, Elizabeth Niernan, Member | 2023-27, Brian Cerniglia, Member | 2023-27

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 the 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.

In the April 2025 election, District 25 welcomed two new members to our Board of Education: Mrs. Melissa Buchberger and Mrs. Deb Tranter. They fill the seats of two retiring members, Mrs. Gina Faso (2021–2025) and Mr. Rich Olejniczak (2013–2025). With dignity and gratitude, Mrs. Faso and Mr. Olejniczak handed off their roles to the newly elected members, a meaningful moment that reflected the respect, service, and continuity that define our Board. We thank them for their dedicated leadership and warmly welcome Mrs. Buchberger and Mrs. Tranter to the team.

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#Livestream).

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 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*

Stacey Mallek
*Asst. Superintendent for
Business / CSBO*

Kendra Perri
*Asst. Superintendent for
Personnel & Planning*

Ryan Schulz
*Director of Facilities
Management*

Sandy Voss
*Director of Food &
Nutrition Services*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Greg Scapillato
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Dr. Anisha I. Jogee
Vice President

Kevin Michael
Secretary

Melissa Buchberger
Member

Brian Cerniglia
Member

Elizabeth Nierman
Member

Deb Tranter
Member



WE ARE HIRING! GUEST TEACHERS

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

Work the days you choose!

STARTING PAY: \$140/day!

(left) These new kindergarteners were met by their moms after their first full day of fun in kindergarten. (right) Two students enjoy the new gym at Westgate Elementary.

