

INSIGHT

JUNE 2023

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 NEWSLETTER

YOU BELONG HERE!

What it means to belong
to our community.

Page 6

KIDS SAY IT BEST

The story of a Westgate student from
Ukraine who became a 'welcomer' to
new students from other countries.

Page 5

#BUILD25 Update

Construction begins this summer!

Pages 8-9



D25 BY THE NUMBERS

5,177 MAY, 2023
ENROLLMENT
KINDERGARTEN - 5TH

828
STAFF MEMBERS

9 SCHOOLS
IN THE DISTRICT
7 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
2 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

20.85 STUDENTS
PER CLASS
KINDERGARTEN - 5TH

\$16,205 OPERATIONAL
PER PUPIL
EXPENDITURE

5,170 MAY, 2022
ENROLLMENT
KINDERGARTEN - 5TH

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Let our kids tell you what's happening in D25 by visiting www.sd25.org/Stories

IMAGES: Thank you to District 214 for their partnership as Rolling Meadows High School and Buffalo Grove High School hosted South & Thomas graduation ceremonies respectively on June 1. Congratulations to our 8th grade graduates!





Welcome to the 6th edition of the Insight25 magazine. The purpose of this publication is to update the entire Arlington Heights School District 25 community on the everything District 25.

Currently, we are building for the future, in more ways than one. First, we are excited to break ground on six construction projects in order to build space for full day kindergarten. Please stop by throughout the summer and next school year to watch the #Build25 progress at Dryden, Greenbrier, Patton, Olive-Mary Stitt, Westgate, and Windsor Schools. In addition to adding 25 classroom spaces, we are addressing significant capital improvement needs throughout our schools with plans to build a new gymnasium at Westgate, and expand the gymnasiums at Patton and Dryden.

Second, we are actively “building” our new full-day kindergarten program. Staff from throughout the district are collaborating to create a world class full-day kindergarten program that will combine play-based learning with best practices in early literacy and math instruction. Combine this

program with our exceptionally skilled and caring teachers, and we know future kindergartners will love learning in District 25.

Finally, we are proud to be on a purposeful equity journey in District 25. We are committed to learning and implementing methods that will help all children know that they belong in our classrooms, on our playgrounds, in our hallways, and with their peers. I hope you will join us as we have courageous conversations focused on caring for kids, for each other, and for our community.

Arlington Heights is a great place to live, learn, and work. We feel fortunate to serve the Arlington Heights community. We look forward to the work we will do together to #Build25 for the future.

Together today to transform tomorrow,

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D. – Superintendent
#d25ItsPersonal

IMAGE ABOVE: Dr. Bein is entering her tenth year as Superintendent of Arlington Heights School District 25.

Westgate's Welcomer

The 2022-2023 school year was Edita Kryvosheieva's first year as a third grader at Westgate. Not unfamiliar with change, this 8 year old was born in Ukraine, and moved to the Chicagoland area when she was 5. Fluent in Russian and Ukrainian, she made it her mission this year to help new students from overseas feel an immediate sense of belonging. Sure, she helped with logistics, like translation, tours, lunchtime questions, but she also quickly became a friendly face who could truly say "I understand what this is like," with students coming here to flee from war torn areas.



WE CAUGHT UP WITH EDITA WHO GAVE US SOME PERSPECTIVE, ADVICE, AND HER THOUGHTS.

TO WATCH EDITA'S FULL INTERVIEW, SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT.



Edita, tell us what you have been doing this year to help out at Westgate.

A lot of people from Ukraine, Russia, and Pakistan came here, so I had to help them...give them a tour, I had to translate and help them with lunch and the cafeteria. They asked me to play a lot with them because they didn't have many friends this year... I didn't have many friends this year either because I'm also new to this school. It's just such a beautiful place.

So, Edita, you've helped 8 students transfer into Westgate, right from their other country...

Yea, like right from the war...to this country...and they are really scared...

"I just want to help them so this can feel like their home, their country, where their members can be...their friends."

And you were here to help them! Why did you want to do that?

First of all I love helping people, and I just think it's wonderful because some people have hard times, and [the war is a really tough time in my country] and people are scared to move, so those are just really brave people to move here. I am just really sad for them because they have to move and leave their friends and family all in one country.

Edita, do you have a message to the Arlington Heights community?

I feel really glad for the Arlington Heights community and there are more people moving here. I just really wish for the Arlington Heights community to help everyone, to keep this community safe, clean, and helpful.

And to help the people coming here, just from a different country...

Yea and they don't know anything [about Arlington Heights] so we have to help all of them. I just wish for everyone to be healthy, nice, no war, and to be safe.



#d25OutAbout

GIVING THE DISTRICT 25 STUDENTS A VOICE.

Our students are the people we once were but forgot along the way. With this Out and About video series in District 25 we want to remind us all of how we used to think, one student at a time. The Out and About video series allows our students to talk about their daily experiences in the classroom, what they have learned, and what advice they have for the people of Arlington Heights.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH MORE #D25OUTABOUT VIDEOS.

What is DEIB?

District 25 began its intentional and purposeful journey towards equity in the summer of 2020 with a resolution affirming the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education's Commitment to Eliminate Racial Injustice and a Board of Education adopted and signed Policy 1:32 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. What began as a policy has grown into action through awareness, staff development, community connection, and it is embedded in the District's Strategic Plan 21-25.

D

DIVERSITY refers to the demographics, which includes ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, and many other factors.

This journey towards equity is ongoing, as the District is learning every day.

E

EQUITY gives each person fair and equal access, opportunities, and advancements, regardless of their diverse background.

I

INCLUSION ensures everyone is treated fairly and respectfully in various interactions, despite differences.

We believe it is important to be a resource for those who are willing to learn and go on this journey with us about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

BELONGING centers around the feeling of being accepted and feeling that their voice and perspective is heard and valued.

B



In May 2022, the Board created a new position to help better focus and put into action the District's DEIB journey.

At the time, Mrs. Shab Poloz was the District's Multilingual Program Coordinator and then assumed the added role of Director of Equity to become the District's first Director of Equity and Multilingual Programming. Mrs. Poloz wasted no time educating herself on the DEIB topic so she can then bring her learnings and her full self to the District.

HER STORY

Mrs. Shab Poloz was born in Tehran, Iran. She loved school in Iran and always loved learning. Young Shab and her family left Iran due to the dangers of war that hit her country in the early 90s. Next thing she knew, she was living in a brand new country and knew very little English, just weeks out from her first day of third grade. She will never forget the undeniable feeling of overwhelm and culture shock.

"Here I am starting 3rd grade," Poloz recalls, "with no knowledge of the culture or language. But inside I know I'm an educated child. I know how to read, write, do math, but there was no way for me to show that."

HER MOTIVATION

That young Shab Poloz had no idea that the overwhelming feeling of culture shock was the driving force and motivation that carved a path for her entire professional career and place in this world.

"That's how it was for a few years until I was able to gain the language and culture and experience," Poloz recalled. "It was clear to me once I hit high school that I wanted to be an advocate for that population of students - the student that was like me who just needed time, patience, support, and understanding to gain the cultural and linguistic skills to express the knowledge within."

Soon, the population of students Poloz wanted to advocate for expanded beyond students with a language barrier. She started to see all types of students who needed time, patience, support, and understanding.

"This work is more than just helping students with a language barrier," Poloz says. "This job is social and emotional support. We are constantly asking ourselves, 'what else does this student need?'"

According to Poloz, the answer is often relationship and trust, to feel valued, and to build the confidence these students have in themselves.

"It's to build a sense of belonging," Poloz adds. "And that when they walk into school they feel they should be there and their contribution matters. Once you have that established, once you have that self belief and sense of belonging within the student, the academic learning flows."

HER MESSAGE FOR THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

"DEIB isn't scary. The goal of DEIB work isn't to take from people. It is a way to recognize that different people exist in our world and use that recognition to best support all of our learners. DEIB discussions and training and work is to give ALL learners a voice. My goal is to be a consistent voice and perspective for the students who might not always be top of mind."



- Multilingual Teacher | Skokie SD 69
- Multilingual & World Languages Coordinator | AHSD 25
- Director of Equity & Multilingual Programming | AHSD 25

#BUILD25 UPDATE

This summer, the District is excited to break 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.

Six of the District's seven elementary buildings require 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.

KINDERGARTEN EXPANSION

25 CLASS
ROOMS

DRYDEN (4), GREENBRIER (2),
OLIVE-MARY STITT (4), PATTON (3),
WESTGATE (10), WINDSOR (2)

2 GYMNASIUM
EXPANSIONS
AT DRYDEN & PATTON

1 NEW GYM
AT WESTGATE

IMAGE ABOVE: New gym built at Ivy Hill (2016).
BELOW: Flexible learning spaces have become
common in District 25 classrooms.





CAPITAL PROJECTS

**GALVANIZED
PIPING**

**PLUMBING
UPGRADES**

**HVAC
IMPROVEMENTS**

**FLOORING
UPGRADES**

**FIRE
ALARM
SYSTEMS**

**LED ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
IMPROVEMENTS**

**RESTROOM
UPGRADES**

CEILING WORK

**ROOFING
IMPROVEMENTS**

**ELECTRICAL
UPGRADES**

Along with the expansion projects, the District is planning on tackling various building improvement projects (capital projects) on every one of the District's buildings. Some of those project details are listed to the right.



TO KEEP UP WITH THE PROGRESS,
VISIT WWW.SD25.ORG/BUILD25
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE.



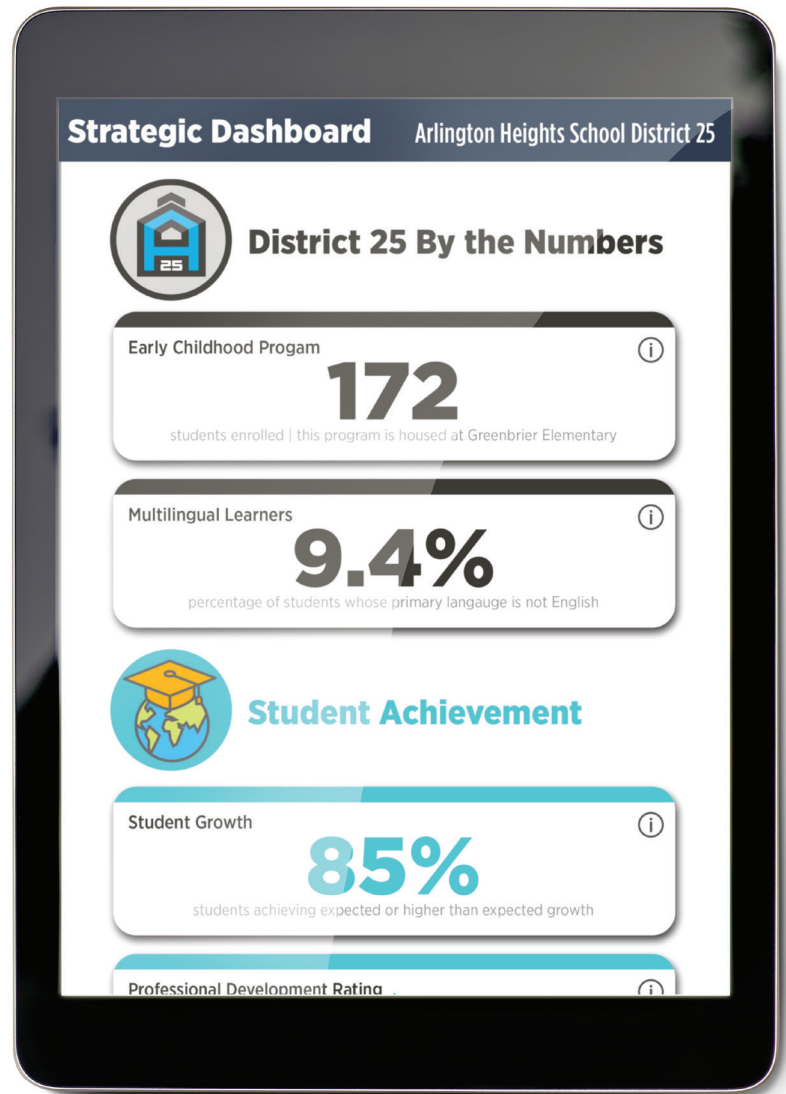
IMAGE ABOVE: Olive-Mary Stitt classroom addition (2016)
BELOW: District parking lot renovations (2023).

STRATEGIC PLANNING DASHBOARD

This past fall, the district launched the **Strategic Planning Dashboard** with the purpose of keeping our stakeholders informed and also to hold the district accountable as this plan plays out. This dashboard breaks the plan down to each broad goal using statistics, indicators, and trend data to show progress.

For a more in-depth look into our Strategic Plan and the process it took to complete it, go online and click around the dashboard. We are proud of this work and excited about the progress the District will make throughout this plan.

Scan this QR code or visit www.sd25.org/StrategicPlan to check it out! This plan is updated quarterly during the school year.



You may have noticed each page/section of this INSIGHT magazine had an icon or two on it. These icons indicate a goal from our strategic plan that was represented by the information on that page. It was important to show you, our community, how vital our strategic plan is to our day to day operation. This plan was created with our entire community's input: staff, parents, administration, board members, and former students.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GOAL:
Refine and extend instructional practices, programs and services to ensure all learners are academically ready for high school and beyond.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY GOAL:
Strengthen family and community relationships to enhance learning, teaching, and partnerships.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT GOAL:
Cultivate a healthy climate and culture that creates conditions and supports to meet the needs of all learners.



HIGH-QUALITY STAFF GOAL:
Attract, develop, and retain diverse, high-quality, innovative employees.



STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES GOAL:
Demonstrate stewardship by allocating resources effectively and equitably.

We feel strongly that our strategic plan represents who we are as a District and it helps guide us as we continue to have an impact on our students, staff, and community for years to come.

A message from our Board President

Hello District 25 Community,

I hope this message finds you enjoying the summer! On behalf of the District 25 Board of Education, I want to say what an honor it has been for us to continue to oversee the district and witness the wonderful happenings in our schools. The success of our students and staff lights us up.

I am extremely proud of the work our Board is doing to serve our students, staff, and the community. Our Board is made up of seven collaborative and dedicated volunteers. Like our students, our board also emphasizes the importance of growth and development; therefore, we work hard to learn together and lead together. Our strength lies in the fact that we each bring our diverse perspectives to make the best collective decisions to support our District now and into the future.

We appreciate the wonderful involvement of our community. We value your perspective and take it into consideration. We welcome your engagement whether it be in person at our meetings, or via email at boardfeedback@sd25.org. We pride ourselves in believing that in “D25 it’s personal,” and we are glad you are part of the journey!

This next year brings transformation to our District, change that I believe the seven of us are prepared to help lead the District through. Beginning this summer, we are breaking ground on six expansion projects at our elementary buildings to best prepare the District for Full Day Kindergarten in the Fall of 2024. Efforts are also underway to begin our search for a new Superintendent as Dr. Lori Bein is retiring in July 2024 after her years of dedicated service. The Board is committed to hiring the next best leader to continue to navigate us towards excellence.

The strategic plan outlined by the Board continues to chart a clear path forward towards our mission to empower an inclusive, diverse community of learners to innovate and thrive as global citizens. As we continue to serve our District community, we look forward to continuing to keep our students top of mind.

Humbly in Service,

Dr. Anisha I. Jogee

THE BOARD: front row: Brian Cerniglia, Dr. Anisha I. Jogee, Greg Scapillato. back row: Gina Faso, Kevin Michael, Elizabeth Nieman, Richard Olejniczak.



Connect Online

Live Broadcast of Meetings: The District 25 Board of Education meetings are broadcasted live via YouTube. The link to each 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 recordings of 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 at once. The Board President will respond to emails and phone calls on behalf of the Board of Education.



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

1200 South Dunton Ave | Arlington Heights, IL 60005

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Plum Grove

320 Cary Point Drive
Cary, IL 60013

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Lori D. Bein
Superintendent

Chris Fahnoe
Director of Technology

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

Adam Harris
*Head of Communications
& Storytelling*

Dr. Brian Kaye
*Asst. Superintendent for
Personnel & Planning*

Diane Kaffka
*Asst. Superintendent of
Student Services*

Stacey Mallek
*Asst. Superintendent for
Business / CSBO*

Ryan Schulz
*Director of Facilities
Management*

Sandy Voss
*Director of Food &
Nutrition Services*

SCHOOL BOARD

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President

Greg Scapillato
Vice President

Brian Cerniglia
Secretary

Gina Faso
Member

Kevin Michael
Member

Elizabeth Nierman
Member

Richard Olejniczak
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

This Ivy student is using her check-in time after lunch to draw as other students check-in on their own moods using a mood meter.

