



2021-22 YEAR IN REVIEW DGS students experiencing the new Learning Commons on the first day of school.

DEAR DISTRICT 99 COMMUNITY:

Better together. After a disruptive two years of remote and hybrid learning schedules, our school community was thrilled to be together on the first day of school this year. To add to the excitement, renovations were completed and ready for students after three years of major construction at North High School in Downers Grove (DGN) and South High School in Downers Grove (DGS).

A key feature of the renovations is the Learning Commons, which has quickly become the heart of each building. Students are connecting with peers in a vibrant space before, during and after school. They can easily access valuable resources including the counseling office, college and career center, student activities office, the cafeteria and an outdoor patio. In September, we were honored to open our doors to thousands of residents, former staff members and alums to tour the beautiful spaces.

Despite another school year of pandemic challenges, our staff persevered and provided our students with as close to a normal school year as possible. In this publication, you'll read highlights of what our students are accomplishing and what we are providing to help them learn and grow.

We are hopeful and eager for what lies ahead. A new five-year strategic plan will help guide our actions in continuing to provide quality academics and experiences for all students.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. **We are truly better together.**

Dr. Hank ThieleSuperintendent

Dr. Nancy KupkaPresident, District 99
Board of Education



Strategic Plan 2022-2027

With the help of the community, District 99 has created a new five-year strategic plan. To start creating the plan, students, staff, families and community members were asked: "What do District 99 students need to feel prepared for their next step and hopeful for their future?" Implementation plans are now underway.

Learn more at www.csd99.org/strategic-plan.

INSIDE Pathways to Success Achievements Finances Facilities Board of Education

Pathways to Success

District 99's curriculum is always evolving. In addition to providing students with the academics, skills and social-emotional support they need dual credit and advanced placement courses to internship opportunities, our students are exposed to a variety of college and career possibility.

Career & Technical Education

In the new "INCubator for Entrepreneurs" class, students create **business plans for building a product or service**.

Community business leaders volunteer to serve as coaches, guiding students to develop their original business concepts. Student teams conduct research, build prototypes and make final pitches to potential investors.

English & Communications

The new "Black American Literature" course provides an in-depth exploration of literature written by and about Black Americans. The core texts are Barracoon by Zora Neale Hurston and Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine. Students learn to explore their unique interests, respectfully facilitate and respond in tough conversations and foster appreciation for Black culture and art.

Fine Arts

have been invited to perform in London's New Year's Day Parade & Choral Festival on January 1, 2023. In the parade, students will perform to a street audience of 500,000+ people, with up to 600 million around the world watching on television. In the Festival Concert Series, choir students will perform in some of London's most prestigious music venues. At DGS, the new state-of-the-art auditorium seats 1,200 people, significantly increasing the versatility of scheduling and opportunities for students and the community.

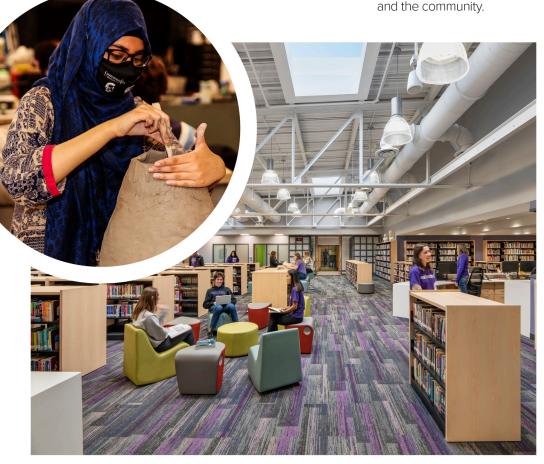
DGN faculty and students

Mathematics

Designed for seniors, the "Preparation for Quantitative Literacy" (PQL) is a collaboration between the College of DuPage (COD) and its surrounding high schools. Students in PQL strengthen their math skills, which gives them the chance to be placed directly into a credit-bearing math class at COD without needing to take a placement exam.

Physical Edu Health & Drivers Educ

Students taking the new "Sport Officiating" co can become ce to officiate Illino School Associa sports, including football, basket baseball, softbasoccer. Student the rules, signatechniques. Mastudents are not employed as research.



Above: Libraries were expanded to include more natural light, study rooms and comfortable seating for studying. Inset: New visual arts classrooms provide enhanced spaces for ceramics, jewelry and digital arts courses.

Special Services

Students with special needs in our high schools, as well as at Transition 99, which serves students ages 18-22, are provided real-life work experiences at local businesses. In their roles, students practice communication skills, exchanging money and engaging with customers and coworkers. We're grateful for our community partners that participate and competitively employ our students.

World Langu

The "Spanish for Heritage Speak course promote students' biling and biliteracy sin speaking, real writing and lister Spanish through exploration of Hhistory and culturalso fosters a secommunity, below and a feeling the cultural and linguidentities are value."



Chamber630's **Attainable Futures prog** for students. It gives students the knowl local business professionals. This year, I d now, we are also preparing them for life after high school. From illities. Here are the latest highlights from our District 99 departments:

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Science

This year, students in "Principles of Biomedical Sciences" watched an open heart surgery live on Zoom through the Museum of Science and Industry and Advocate Christ Medical Center's "Live From the Heart" Program. Students were able to ask the doctors questions, investigate heart health and learn about various medical careers. Following the event, students dissected sheep hearts to apply their learning.

Social Studies

In "Personal Economics," students learn workforce readiness skills, including resume writing and interviewing techniques. District 99 administrators and teachers volunteer to interview students, so they can experience what it's like to interact with people they may have never met. The goal is to understand how to make meaningful connections, which can lead to future opportunities.

Counseling/College & Career Center

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College and Career counselors offered a variety of **informative** sessions for those interested in college, trade school or military programs. Guests speakers were welcomed throughout the school year and brought pathway possibilities and financial considerations to life for students and families. In addition, the counseling departments continued to support students' emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Library

Our school libraries are lively places, and the new spaces have enhanced the ways in which students use our resources. Students can be found recording in front of green screens, working collaboratively on class projects, learning research and technology skills, looking for their next great read, attending events from outside organizations or just taking a break in their day.

gram, in place since 2008, provides career exploration opportunities ledge and skills they need in the workplace as well as connections to more than 100 students participated.

Achievements

Notes of Distinction

20

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

DGN

Madeline From Juliana Gomien Alexander Krejca Helen Larkin Elisenda Lee-Palou Andrew Marron Dhruv Nambisan Adam Sitabkhan Madison Smith Ian Stagaman

DGS

Leka Jovanovic Davis Brendan Gibbons Dean Golminas Alex Johnson Timothy Neumann Shiven Patel Ashley Reynolds Olivia Roti Emilia Swierzb Luca Veriotti

8

National Merit Commended Scholars

Extracurricular Achievements

6 students earned awards at the State Speech Competition; Individual Speech State Champion DGS **Gwendolynne Royle** in Prose

6 students earned awards at the State Journalism Competition; Individual State Champion DGN Kate Gross in News Writing

18 students earned awards at the State DECA Competition; Individual DECA State Champion DGS **Jenna Majshrazak** in Principles of Marketing

25 students performed in the 2021-22 Illinois Music Education Association All-State bands, orchestras, choirs, jazz bands and vocal jazz ensembles

5 National Medalists in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards; Gold Medalists DGN **Haley Phillips** and DGN **Aiden Robinson**

In addition to individual medalists and state team representation in a variety of athletics, DGN teams were Regional Champions in **Girls Basketball** and **Girls Volleyball**, DGS teams were Regional Champions in **Girls Cross Country** and **Boys Wrestling** and DGN/DGS **Girls CO-OP Gymnastics** was Regional and Sectional Champions. To learn more, visit https://bit.ly/dgnathletics and https://bit.ly/dgsathletics.



DID YOU Know For nearly 30 years, the **District 99 Education Foundation has invested more than \$300,000** in classroom projects, scholarships and programs. In response to critical needs as a result of the pandemic, the Foundation amended its mission to support more students and families. Since 2020, **300+ families** have received gift cards for food and household items. Donate at **www.d99ef.org**.

Year round, students engage with speakers in the College & Career Center.

210 Illinois State Scholars

Students are members of Honor Societies Senior students designated "Distinguished Honors" with a career GPA of 4.4 or higher

Senior students designated with "High Honors" or "Honors" with a career GPA of 4.0 or higher or 3.4 or higher



The district offers 28 athletic programs to encourage student involvement.

Staff Accomplishments

Kristyn Campos, Illinois High School Girls Gymnastics Coaches Association Coach of the Year, Illinois High School Girls Gymnastics Coach of the Year, the National Federation of State High School Associations Coach of the Year in the "Other Sports" Category

Dennis Rogala and Kristee Toth, National Board Certification

Ed Schwartz, Illinois Directors of Student Activities Principal Recognition Award and Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association Distinguished Service Award of Excellence

Brayer Teague, Illinois Music Education Association Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Hank Thiele, DuPage Region Illinois Association of School Administrators Superintendent of Distinction

Finances

District 99 continues to be fiscally responsible and secure in the long term. Seeking out and obtaining state and federal funding allowed us to continue to cover pandemic-related expenses. In addition, the federal **Elementary** and Secondary School **Emergency Relief (ESSER)** grants have supported a wide range of needs, including the hiring of interventionists, student success coordinators, tutors, summer school teachers, teacher aides, security and student supervisors—as well as additional counselors and social workers to help support the mental health of our students.

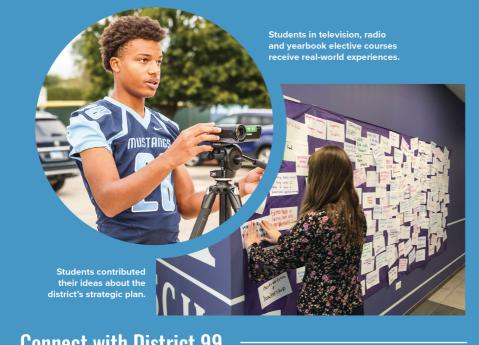


District 99 received a "Certificate of Excellence" from the Association

of School Business
Officials International for
the 22nd year in a row.
This transparency about
our financial condition
goes beyond minimum
requirements.

A recent Illinois State Board of Education review indicated District 99's total tax rate is the **20th lowest** of all 856 school districts in Illinois—making it a good value to taxpayers.





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Questions? Email: communications@ csd99.org Call: **630-795-7100**



District 99 remembers former superintendent and DGS principal **Dr. Mark McDonald** who passed away on March 30, 2022.

District 99 Board of Education

Board President Dr. Nancy Kupka, **Board Vice President** Michael Davenport, Members Joanna Vazquez Drexler, Christopher Espinoza, Sherell Fuller, Jennifer Hagstrom and Terry Pavesich.

Many thanks to our 2021-22 student board members Jade Toledano (DGN) and Scarlett O'Hara (DGS).

The Board governs District 99 and oversees the superintendent. Elected members are unpaid volunteers. The Board typically meets twice a month, on the first and third Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center. Meetings are streamed live at www.youtube.com/csd99media; find schedules at www.csd99.org/boe.

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