

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Summer 2022

Steger School District 194 Honors Graduating Class of 2022

On Thursday June 2, 2022 Steger School District 194 honored the Columbia Central 8th grade graduates in traditional fashion for the first time in 3 years. The graduation ceremony for the class of 2022 was held indoors in the Columbia Central Main Gym. The ceremony was both dignified and joyous, centering on student achievement and success.

NJHS representative Alejandro Valencia welcomed all in attendance and following the presentation of our nation's flag by the Bloom Trail JROTC Color Gaurd led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, 8th grade graduate Tori Lee-Harden sang the National Anthem with students Aryanna O'Connor-Loya and Kendra Killham presenting the National Anthem in sign language.

Dr. David Frusher began the night welcoming guests and saluting the graduates of the class of 2022. Afterward, Valedictorian Nick Killham, Salutatorian Leslie Infante, and Student Council Spokesperson Nyila Williams spoke eloquently of achievement and goal setting with Killham quoting famed motivational speaker Zig Ziglar, "Success is not a destination, it's a journey."

After wonderful performances by the Columbia Central Graduation Band and Concert Choir, Mr. Aguirre presented the names of each 8th grade award winner as well as the winners of the American Legion Scholarships presented to both Nick Killham and Leslie Infante. Students Nyila Williams and Connor Krause were recognized with the American Legion Award on the basis of scholarship, character, service, and leadership. Following Mr. Aguirre, Kiwanis



representative Mary Beth Stout presented students Noelle Pietruszka and Daniel Omeje with the Kiwanis Award.

Following the speeches, Principal Bruce Nieminski presented the attendees with a brief recitation of "The Parable of the Pebbles":

A man was out in the desert when a voice said to him, "Pick up some pebbles and put them in your pocket, and tomorrow you will be both sorry and glad."

The man obeyed. He stooped down and picked up a handful of pebbles and put them in his pocket. The next day he reached into his pocket and found diamonds and rubies and emeralds. And he was both glad and sorry. Glad that he had taken some and sorry that he hadn't taken more.

And so it is with education we will no doubt take with us many lessons but we must not live to regret that we didn't take enough.

Following Mr. Nieminski's remarks, began the presentation of the 8th grade class and the awarding of diplomas. The night ended with thunderous applause celebrating all of our graduates. Steger School District 194 salutes all of your achievements and wishes each of you well as you move on to high school next year.

Registration Information

2022-23 School Year

Page 3

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

A word from the
Superintendent
Page 4



Around the District

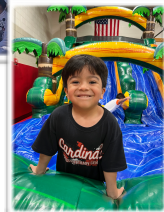
SIC/SPC Field Day

The rain in Steger did not “dampen” the fun of Field Day 2022. Students enjoyed lots of fun and games, including



relay races, carnival games, tattoos, Pictionary, Simon Says, and a

dance party! Snacks included popcorn and snow cones! A big shout out to all the parent volunteers that helped to make the day a success – we cannot do it without you. What a fun way to end the school year.



Columbia Central Musical Returns

After being hampered by Covid-19 protocols for more than a year, musical theatre is alive and well at Columbia Central. On Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th guests were invited to live performances of *The Little Mermaid Jr.* at Columbia Central. 8th grade students Sarahi Hurtado (Ariel), Nick Killham (Flounder), Daniel Williams (Sebastian), Ricky Kiefer (Prince Eric), and Wiktoria Przybysz (Ursula) wowed the audience with outstanding performances and energy. It was a welcome return to normalcy at Columbia Central and was an extremely well attended event by both parents and students alike. This year's performance saw a couple of new faces at the helm with English teacher Ms. Karoline Giza and new Music teacher Ms. Alex Overland holding the reigns.

SIC Musical

It was time to get down, get funky and shake your groove thing when Steger Intermediate Center's second and third grade students performed live and in-person on May 24th at Columbia Central. Steger Intermediate Center presented “Jukebox Time Machine: A Presentation of Hits Through the Decades” and featured all second grade classes. On Wednesday, May 25, all third grade classes stepped onto the risers to perform at 7:00pm. Both performances featured the acting and singing talents of an amazing cast of students from both grades. It will be like, totally tubular man! Attendees were invited to travel back in time and hear music by Bobby Darin, The Beatles, Jackson 5, Madonna and more.

Steger Intermediate Center Awards Assembly

The 2022 SIC Awards assembly was a beautiful event. Red Feather awards were given to students for showing outstanding character all year long. Walk Across America medals and certificates for choir and art clubs were also recognized. Congratulations to our 4th graders as they move on to Columbia Central – we are proud of all your hard work this school year! Retirees, Mrs. Stanton, and Mrs. DeBoer were also honored, along with Ms. Star, who will be moving over to the office at the Steger Primary Center. We will miss them.

Curriculum and Instruction Corner

Steger School District 194 is committed to ensuring that learning continues for all students during the summer months.

This summer, students will be participating in a Summer Reading program along with their teachers and classmates to encourage all of our students to continue learning during the summer months. Books will be provided to students entering grades 1 - 8 along with a learning packet full of activities related to the story.

SD194 students will have access to the online learning program IXL. With thousands of skills that match what is being taught in our classrooms, this is a great resource to help your child continue to learn this summer. Students will use their current Log-in information for IXL. You can visit their website at <https://www.ixl.com/signin/steger> or you can access the program by visiting our district website and finding the link under the “Parent Resources” tab found at the top of the page. If you are in need of any technical support while using the program, please send an e-mail to mclark@sd194.org with your child's name and the best way to reach you. If you have any questions, please call the administration center.



Registration Information

Beginning, July 8, 2022, the registration portal will be open to help expedite the form filling process for registration. This year, parents/guardians will complete and submit most registration documents online. Once you have submitted your updated portal information, you will immediately be notified of your residency verification status. All new students and randomly selected returning students will be required to prove residency at any of the Registration/Help days listed below.

In order to begin the online registration process, the parent/guardian will need access to the internet and must utilize the access ID # and Password included in the mailing being sent out on June 30, 2022, to all returning families.

In order to help facilitate the use of internet access, District 194 is providing the opportunity for parents/guardians to utilize the computers at Columbia Central School on various days and times. **Parents of new students (including kindergartners & Pre-School Program students) are encouraged to visit during these times to obtain access to the registration portal. A copy of the new student's birth certificate is required to receive access to the registration portal.**

Registration HELP Days (Registration \$135 those registering on registration days receive a \$50 discount)

Location: Columbia Central School

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Registration Days (Registration \$135 those registering on registration days receive a \$50 discount)

Location: Columbia Central School

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 27, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 3, 2022 * 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Last day to fill out the online registration or residency verification (if required). If you have a returning student and the online process is not completed on August 3rd a full registration will be required at Parkview School on the first day of school.

Three documents are required to verify residency at registration. Without these documents, the family will not be able to register. One (1) document from Category A and two (2) documents from Category B are required. If you are residing with a Steger resident, the homeowner is required to prove residency. Additionally, you must supply at least one document from Category B, if residing with a Steger resident. Everyone must have all required residency information to continue the registration process. If not, you will be asked to return with the necessary documentation. If registration is not completed on August 1st or August 6th, you will not receive the \$50 discount for attending registration days.

Category A – Provide One (1) Document

Current mortgage document
Current signed lease
(Lease from the Colonies must have child's name)
Current real estate tax bill
Section 8 letter
Military housing letter
Residency Attestation form(for third-party residents)

Category B – Provide Two (2) Documents

Homeowners/Rental Insurance document
Current utility bill (Gas, Electric, Water or TV)
Paycheck Stub
Vehicle Registration Card

District 194 Presents to National School Boards Association

Steger School District 194 Curriculum Director Jan Lenci, and staff members Megan Van Houtegen, Diana Peterson, Melissa Cunha, and Board of Education Member Jill Raymond recently presented at the National School Board Conference in San Diego, California on Saturday, April 2, 2022. Steger School District 194 offers a chance for independence to qualifying McKinney-Vento families, shifting homelessness to hopefulness. District 194's practice is exceeding expectations by offering parents employment and closing district staffing gaps resulting in encouraging student data. Following the presentation, Steger School District 194 had the honor of meeting Mr. John Vento son of Bruce



Vento. Congressman Bruce Vento, was known as a protector of the wilderness, the homeless and small businesses. Congressman Vento was an original author and a major force behind the 1987 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act which established federal funding for emergency shelter grants for transitional housing and supportive services. On October 30, 2000, President Clinton renamed the legislation the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act after the death of representative Bruce Vento. Attendees included Superintendent Dr. David Frusher and Board of Education Vice-President Susan Finnin Edwards. Steger School District 194 has been asked to present at the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference in Chicago in November.

STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL 60475
(708) 753-4300
Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL 60475
(708) 753-4700
Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL 60475
(708) 753-4200
Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 753-4100

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A Word From Superintendent Dr. David Frusher

Dear Steger School District 194 Community Members,

As you've seen throughout this edition of the District Reporter, we've had an amazing spring in our school district. Students, families, and staff participated in and attended several events showcasing their academic, musical, and athletic skills and talents; while also relaxing and having fun at our field day activities. The quality of our district's programs are highly regarded, and well respected, across the south suburbs and in the state of Illinois.

On Thursday, June 2, 2022 it was wonderful to celebrate 8th grade graduation with our students and families. Being in-person, with over 400 people in attendance, for their culminating event in our district was special for everyone. All of our graduates have worked very hard over their time as a PreK-8 student in our school district. The learning experiences that they received has prepared them very well for high school and beyond. We wish them the very best on all of their future endeavors.

While the school year may be over, our schools are bustling with activities and professional learning for our staff. We have band and athletic camps occurring, or will be coming up on the calendar soon. In addition, we have several staff members learning ways to best serve our students with new curriculum materials, to increase learning for all of our students. Furthermore, our buildings and grounds team is deep cleaning, painting walls, cleaning carpets, and waxing floors to ensure that our schools remain safe and beautiful for generations to come.

For the latest district information and updates, please visit our Steger School District 194 website and Facebook page.

We're excited for the first day of student attendance on Wednesday, August 24, 2022!

Yours in Education,

David Frusher, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Steger SD194 Welcomes New Principals



Steger School District 194 is happy to welcome two new principals for the coming school year. Mrs. Alma Solis will be lead the Steger Primary Center beginning in August. Mrs. Solis joins us following three years as assistant principal in West Chicago District 33. Prior to her administrative experience, Mrs. Solis taught in Alsip, Hazel Green, and Oak Lawn SD 126 for six years. Mrs. Solis has

classroom experience in Kindergarten, First, and Second grades and is bilingual in Spanish. While speaking with other colleagues in education they spoke very highly of Mrs. Solis about her abilities, especially working with students at the primary grade levels with her early childhood education degree and experiences; working collaboratively with students, families, and colleagues; having a strong work ethic; showing good character, and always following through with her responsibilities.

Additionally, SD194 wishes to welcome Dr. Steve Carnes. Dr. Carnes has over twenty years of experience in the field of education; having served as a principal, assistant principal, and teacher. Dr. Carnes is currently the Director of English Language Arts in Waukegan School District 60.

Dr. Carnes has many strengths, especially his ability to work collaboratively with others; getting teachers to understand the curriculum while maintaining a comfort level for them; guiding conversations and implementing actions for school improvement.



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