

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Spring 2023

Steger School District 194 Zeros in on Attendance

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, Steger School District 194 has focused on student attendance as a driver for academic performance. The importance of student attendance has become a laser like focus for the entire school district with Steger Primary Center, Steger Intermediate Center, and Columbia Central Middle School striving to make tremendous progress toward student achievement through targeted attendance initiatives.

With each school taking their own spin on this task, Steger District 194 has seen amazing progress toward our goals of reducing student absence.

Steger Primary Center, began their school-wide attendance initiative: My Missing Piece.

When Mrs. Solis presented this to the Little Cardinals, they talked about how they feel when they are missing a piece when building a puzzle. Most of them said they would be sad because they wouldn't be able to complete the puzzle. Our staff explained to them that every one of them is a piece of the puzzle at our school and how important it is for them to come to school so they wouldn't be our missing piece. Mrs. Solis presented this to them while wearing a puzzle-piece costume. Throughout the morning arrival, Mrs. Solis wears her costume to provide a visual and a reminder that they need to be present. Students love the puzzle costume!

Steger Intermediate Center has been counting their students in the 90% or more attendance for the day, and Columbia Central School students have been showing up and winning tickets for a chance to win huge prizes.

Each of the Steger District 194 schools are holding big ticket item raffles to incentivize student attendance. Students are able to gain chances to win items like TV's, Nintendo Switch and X-box Gaming Systems. Each of these initiatives are to increase our student's attendance in school and thereby furthering student achievement in school.



What Parents Can Do

Communicate with the School:

- **Contact your child's teacher(s)** and let them know how to reach you.
- **Practice logging in to PowerSchool** and make a plan for supporting your child's learning. Contact the school if you need help logging in.
- **Ask about the school's attendance policy.** Ask your child's teacher about your child's attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.
- **Ask for help** from school officials, if you are having trouble getting online or need help with other challenges.

Make School Attendance a Priority:

- **Monitor your child's attendance** and participation and contact the teacher to address any concerns.
- **Get and post your child's class schedule** and log in information on the refrigerator or your child's desk.
- **If your child seems bored or anxious** about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make your child feel safe and excited about learning.
- **Talk about the importance of showing up** to school every day so your student knows this is your expectation.
- **Encourage your student to maintain daily routines**, such as finishing homework, routines for bedtime, waking up, and showing up for class.
- **Avoid scheduling non-urgent extended family trips, dental, and medical appointments** when classes are in session.

Around the District

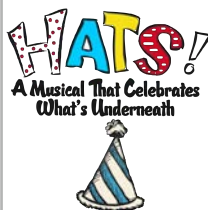


Steger Intermediate Center presented their rendition of the Walt Disney Classic 101 Dalmatians. Spots



abound in the fur-raising adventure as Pongo and Perdita race to save their puppies from Cruella De Vil. The Dalmatians rally all the dogs of London for a daring rescue of the puppies from Cruella and her

bumbling henchmen. The students of Steger Intermediate Center laughed and sang their hearts out to a sellout crowd. Steger District 194 would like to issue a huge shoutout to the staff and students of SIC on a fantastic performance.



Steger Primary Center Staff and students donned their favorite hats in this years winter production of "Hats! A Musical that Celebrates What's Underneath!" Under Mrs. Misdom's direction, students sang as hats of all shapes and sizes took over the stage. The audience was surprised when Ima Milliner appeared in her own remarkable, stupendous, contagious hat of all hats! Students discovered that it's not the hat that makes a person special, but what's underneath. It turned out to be a fantastic evening for all with Steger District 194 staff donning their favorite hats to get in on the action.



Curriculum and Instruction Corner

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. IAR assesses the Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered in English language arts and mathematics to all students in grades 3-8.

In April, SD 194 3rd-8th grade students will take the English Language Arts and Math Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). This assessment provides schools and families a point of reference for student learning and measures student mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. For more information on the IAR and to access practice tests, please scan:



ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR CHROME BOOK, FULLY CHARGED, TO SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF TESTING.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's school.



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Did You Know?

- Participation in early education programs, like preschool and Head Start, lead to better attendance in kindergarten.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- Missing 10% (just 2 days each month) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your student keep a job and graduate from college.

Columbia Central Presents:



Columbia Central's winter production of Annie Jr. was a huge hit. With equal measures of pluck and positivity,



little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. Annie is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel Miss

Hannigan. Annie eventually foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, finding a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy. Ms. Giza and Ms. Kuper put together a star studded cast from across the student body at Columbia Central. The students shined as the curtain went up on a fantastic production that blended music and dance into a fun and glorious homage to a Tony award



Columbia Central Students Attend PBIS incentive assemblies

Columbia Central students were treated to two assemblies as part of their ongoing growth in PBIS initiatives. Former Harlem Globetrotter Corey The Dribbler visited Columbia Central on August 29. Corey spoke to students about setting goals, and achieving your dreams. Corey overcame adversity throughout his career. With dreams of being a professional basketball player being only 6'1" presented a challenge early on. Corey overcame this by becoming a tremendous ball handler. Later her overcame being cut by the Harlem Globetrotters several times before making the team. Corey would go on to set 7 Guinness World Records while with the Globetrotters.



Corey spoke about overcoming these obstacles, and positioning himself for success by making positive choices in school and life. Later Corey challenged a group of students go a game of 1 on 5. Corey won 10-4 against the best Columbia had to offer.

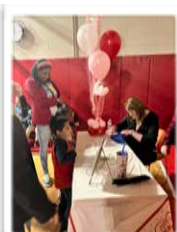


On February 10th, students from Columbia Central participated in a PBIS incentive called Life Sized Board Games. Students competed against their classmates in the large gym in games that challenged them to work together as well as using their creativity and smarts. The crowd was supportive of their teammates while teachers and staff cheered on the action.

PBIS is a framework for creating safe, positive, equitable schools, where every student can feel valued, connected to the school community and supported by caring adults. By implementing evidence-based practices within a PBIS framework, schools support their students' academic, social, emotional, and behavioral success, engage with families to create locally-meaningful and culturally-relevant outcomes, and use data to make informed decisions that improve the way things work for everyone.

SPC Focuses on Parent Engagement

Steger Primary Center would like to thank all the parents and students who came to support our Valentine's Day Dance on February 15, 2023. We were excited to see our students enjoy time with their families. SPC students got to dance in the gym, took pictures with their parents/guests in front of a beautifully decorated backdrop, and enjoyed dinner with their families.



Having a Valentine's Day Dance at Steger Primary Center has been a tradition since 2015. Our Student Council Members, Mandy Helsel, Instructional Coach and Lauren Helsel, Response to Intervention Teacher did an amazing job planning the event. A huge thank you to both. We also would like to thank all our staff members who supported this event by volunteering their time to ensure it was a successful event for our parents and students. We would also like to thank Sargent Joyce from our South Chicago Heights Police Department who made sure we were all safe at the event.



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,

We are two thirds through our 2022-2023 school year, and the school year is going very well!

As you have read in this issue of the District Reporter, we have been focusing intently on the importance of student attendance across our entire school district, where attendance is one of our top priorities. Each one of our three schools has its own attendance team, and we have a district attendance team. Our goals are to work collaboratively with families on student attendance, find out the root cause(s) of why a student is having attendance problems, and to brainstorm and partner together with families to develop solutions to student attendance problems. Our school district is also incentivizing attendance, where students have an opportunity to enter into a drawing for a chance to win a big ticket item. We would like to thank our many community members that donated money or prizes for our student attendance initiatives!

Our district's co-curricular opportunities for our students continue to be amongst the strongest in the state of Illinois. Our fine arts programs are second to none. These were on full display with the musicals 101 Dalmatians, Hats, and Annie Jr., and with our band and choir performances.

Our students, staff sponsors, sound and light crew, maintenance and custodial staff, and many volunteers deserve a huge "Thank You!" for all of the time, energy, and effort that they put in to make these performances very successful. None of these performances would

occur without our very dedicated parents and backers from the community. We thank you very much for your passion and support for these programs!

It's a very exciting time of the year, where we have many school and district wide events and celebrations. I hope you get a chance to join us and commemorate all of the amazing student accomplishments, culminating with eighth grade graduation in early June.

To learn about and view all of the wonderful things happening in our school district, please visit our SD 194 website and follow our Facebook page at: Steger School District 194.

Yours in Education,

David Frusher, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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