



BUTLER SCHOOL DISTRICT 53 newslines

Fall 2018

STATE PARCC SCORES

Butler students lead test score growth



Butler District 53 students posted the highest standardized test scores for math in DuPage County and also the highest growth scores. Hands-on learning, problem solving and community involvement are emphasized in District 53 schools.

Both Butler Junior High and Brook Forest were given designations of “Exemplary” by the Illinois State Board of Education. The designations were based on 10 performance indicators, primarily student test scores and student growth on the assessments. Butler School District 53 students posted the highest test scores in DuPage County and also the highest growth score in math. The scores were released by the Illinois State Board of Education as part of its annual School Report Card. In math, 74.7 percent of students met or exceeded standards on the PARCC and another 18 percent approached standards. In English Language Arts, 82 percent of students met or exceeded standards with 14 percent approaching standards. Butler students also achieved the highest growth rates in DuPage County in math. Students showed a growth rate of 59.7 percent in math and 65.1 percent in English Language Arts. A 50 percent growth score is considered average.

“Our teachers are doing some phenomenal things in the classroom,” said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. “Our test scores remain consistently high and our growth far exceeds that of similar schools in the state.” She praised students who come ready to learn, parents who are highly involved and committed, teachers and staff who nurture children and the school community that supports the students and schools.

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How comparable school districts stack up on state PARCC exam

Lincolnshire 103	80.5%
Butler 53	78.5%
Kenilworth 38	78%
Northbrook/Glenview	76%
Sunset Ridge	74.5%
Avoca 37	74%
Kildeer 96	74%
Hinsdale 181	73%
Bannockburn 106	73%
Western Springs 101	72%

Of 18 schools to which District 53 historically compares itself, Butler ranks No. 2 for the highest percentage of students who meet/exceed standards in Math and English Language Arts on the 2018 PARCC exam.

Source: 2018 Illinois School Report Card.

2018 SCHOOL REPORT CARD

English Language Arts

82% Butler
37% State

Students who meet or exceed standards



Mathematics

75% Butler
32% State

Students who meet or exceed standards

Proficiency Score

81.7% Butler

Students who are ready for the next level

Finances

164% Butler

Capacity to meet expenditures



Superintendent to retire, Board seeking candidates

Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom announced her retirement in September, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The Board of Education is currently seeking candidates for the position and worked with parents, staff and community members on qualities they'd like to see in a new superintendent. “This is an important community-wide process,” said Board President Christopher Edmonds. “We value the information provided from the community as it will help the Board select a candidate who can lead us into the next chapter of Butler 53’s growth” he said.

Ray and Associates will facilitate the search process and Dr. Sally Beatty, Vice President of the District 53 Board of Education and Board Member Laura Biesel are co-leading the process.

Selected candidates are expected to be interviewed by the Board in January and a new superintendent is expected to be selected by February.

Dr. Wennstrom joined Butler in 2013. She has been a kindergarten, 2nd and 5th grade teacher, principal, assistant superintendent in the northern suburbs and more recently served as Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Technology at North Shore School District 112. She said she looks forward to ensuring an effective leadership transition.

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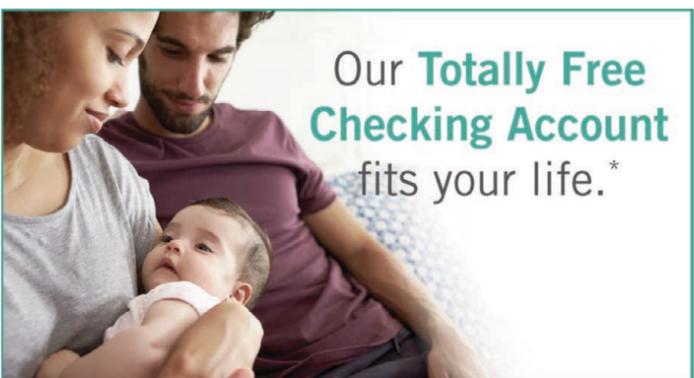
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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Welcome to new board members

Three new members join Board of Education

Butler District 53 alumni and attorney Laura Bieselin was appointed in June to fill the unexpired term of Cabin Kim who has relocated. She returned to Oak Brook several years ago to raise her family.

Bieselin and her husband are the parents of a young daughter who will be attending District 53 schools. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Juris Doctor, with a Certificate in Intellectual Property, from the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Keith Carlson, a commercial manager for plastic distributor M. Holland and a 16-year-resident of Oak Brook, was appointed in October to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Elizabeth Chun, who resigned earlier in October. Carlson and his wife are the parents of three children, two in District 53. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Northern Illinois University in Marketing and Finance.

Dr. Sanjay Rao, an eye surgeon and the Director of Refractive, Cornea and Advanced Anterior Segment Surgery at Lakeside Eye Group in Chicago, was appointed in November to fill the unexpired term of Lou Paskalides who resigned in October. He is a 32-year-resident of Oak Brook. He and his wife are parents of three children, two in District 53. Dr. Rao earned a Bachelor's Degree from Brown University in Public Policy and earned his Medical Degree from Brown University.

Board President Christopher Edmonds praised the three new board members for their experience. "Each individual brings valuable experience and expertise, as well as a passion for Oak Brook and our schools," he said. He also thanked and praised those who applied for the Board posts, saying the talent pool of those who applied was "truly unprecedented."



Laura Bieselin



Keith Carlson



Sanjay Rao

Board, teachers approve new contract

The Butler School District 53 Board of Education and the Oak Brook Education Association (OBEA) approved a new five-year contract covering the faculty members in the District.

Key terms include a graduated annual salary increase averaging 3.5 percent over the term of the agreement and enhanced health insurance benefits for all members of OBEA. The Board will continue to provide contributions for PPO, HMO and HSA premiums. The Board and teachers will split the yearly premium increase equally each new coverage period where the increase is above 10 percent of the prior year. The agreement calls for additional extra duty stipends to support clubs and activities for students. The additional dollars will go toward Exploremore Day Teacher Chair, Musical Artistic Director, Broadcast Club and Homework Opportunity.

Board President Christopher Edmonds and Vice President Dr. Sally Beatty represented the Board in the negotiations. "We are grateful to everyone who worked so hard at the table and behind the scenes to come to a collabora-

tive agreement," said Dr. Beatty. "The teams devoted a tremendous amount of time, energy and thought to achieve the successful outcome of a contract that is both competitive to attract top talent and fiscally responsible to members of the community."

Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom praised the negotiating team members for their commitment to the negotiating process and to the children of the District.

"We are extremely proud of our teachers for their commitment to this bargaining process and for their commitment to children," she said.

Ellen Wozny, President of the OBEA, commented that the negotiations were fair, collaborative and respectful. "We are pleased for our membership and enthusiastic about what this contract means for the future of our teachers, students and the District," she said.

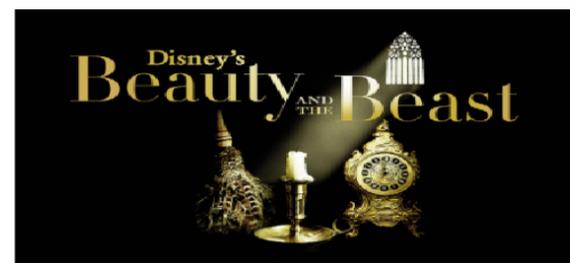
Business Manager Dr. Sandra Martin noted that the raises are sustainable and continue to provide a strong incentive for faculty while allowing the District to maintain its solid fund balances for future educational needs.

Get your tickets!

Thanks to of the generous community endowment fund created by the Paul Butler family, all Oak Brook residents are invited to a performance of Beauty and the Beast.

The Butler Endowment performance will be on Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook Terrace.

The musical is for audiences age 5 and up. Oak Brook residents may receive up to four complimentary tickets per household to the performance. Tickets can be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. - noon at the District 53 offices, 2801 York Rd., Oak Brook. They will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.



Disney's Beauty AND THE Beast

Ticket Pick Up	Dec. 12 9 a.m. - noon District 53 offices
Theatre Event	Dec. 16 2 p.m. Drury Lane

WHOLE CHILD LEARNING

Helping students to thrive in school and beyond

Providing rigorous academics isn't the sole path to student success. Children need balance and physical play. They need to feel safe in order to take appropriate risks and they need to be nurtured socially and emotionally. A developmentally appropriate approach to whole child learning helps children be successful in school and in life. District 53 has a strong commitment to whole child learning.

"We want to build a solid foundation for a whole child and wellness foundation for all learners – students and staff – so each will succeed and thrive in our ever-evolving world," said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom.

There are five tenets of the whole child learning:

- Each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle,
- Each student learns in an intellectually challenging environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults,
- Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community,
- Each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults,
- Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment in a global environment.

While high test scores and acclaimed academics consistently earn the District national and state recognition, "Butler 53's educators understand that the world our students live in is ever evolving and that flexible skill sets and healthy environments will be necessary to truly create pathways for optimal success," said Wennstrom. Here are ways that the District helps ensure students meet the five tenets:

1 Healthy physically and mentally



Students' physical, mental, social and emotional health is a top priority in ensuring thriving learners. Policies were revised to restrict non-nutritious foods as snacks and during celebrations. The District worked with its food service vendor to provide more nutritious and ethnic foods.

The guidance curriculum at all grades helps students navigate their ever-increasing complex worlds. The PE health/wellness curriculum teaches, motivates and celebrates

healthy lifestyles. The schools, often in conjunction with the PTO, offer a wide variety of after school and enrichment activities, including eight competitive athletics, in addition to intramurals, to ensure children thrive.

RESULTS:

- 4.9% drop in obesity rate in one year on DuPage County Report, 6th grade and kindergarten,
- 20% increase in participation in nutritious hot lunch program, Quest Food Provider annual report,
- 800 miles logged at Brook Forest recess, 2017-18 Mileage Club,
- 5,620 days students logged healthy meals in Nutrition Stars, 2017-18.

2 Safe, child-centered



The District's focus shifted from a school-centered mindset to a child-centered mindset. This helps children feel physically safe, safe from bullying, safe in taking appropriate risks and feel valued in school. This is reinforced by the recent adoption of formal social emotional learning programs that are integrated into the classroom. Also, partnerships with police in attending multiple student events, participating in staff meetings and collaborating on the crisis plan are strong and help the entire school community feel safe and valued.

RESULTS:

- 100% of teachers report that students show each other respect,
- 99% of students report they feel safe in school,
- 96% of parents report that their child feels safe at school,
- 95% of students report teachers treat them with respect,
- 80% of students say teachers always listen to their ideas.

Source: 2017 5Essentials data.

3 Engaged and connected



Students are given greater choice in projects and expanded opportunities for personalized learning. This results

in highly engaged students who are motivated to keep growing and learning. Students are offered a vast array of activities to connect them with the broader community and the world. The activities are based on student interest and include before and after school academic and enrichment clubs sponsored by teachers, PTO-offered after-school enrichment classes, a wide variety of electives at the junior high, and student-led service opportunities. Community involvement in the schools is rich with activities such as Career Day, International Day, Exploremore Day and others. The District fosters this strong collaboration and partnership with parents, staff and community and students respond with countless service and fundraising projects.

RESULTS:

- 98% of students say teachers expect everyone to work hard,
- 98% of teachers say they feel responsible that all students learn,
- 98% of parents report they attend parent-teacher conferences,
- 98% of students feel students participate in class discussions,
- 93% of students feel it is important to attend school every day.

Source: 2017 5Essentials data.

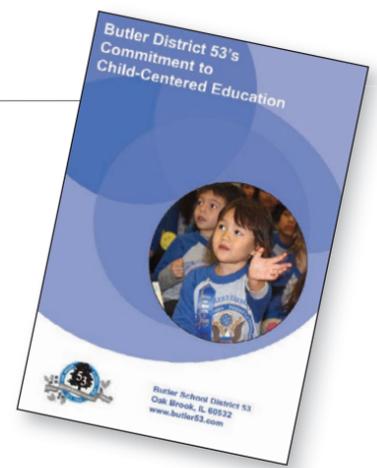
4 Personalized and supported



District 53 is focused on meeting the needs of learners anywhere, anytime, at any pace and any place. This ensures that each child can achieve his or her personal best. The District uses a variety of assessments to determine individual student achievement levels, then deploys a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). Team data meetings are held by staff and leadership three times a year to review assessment results and analyze the best way to teach/help all students, then provide support in the form of interventions or differentiated instruction. Every staff member is well qualified and trained in presenting information and content in different ways, how to stimulate interest and motivation for learning and how to help students to express what they know in a variety of ways.

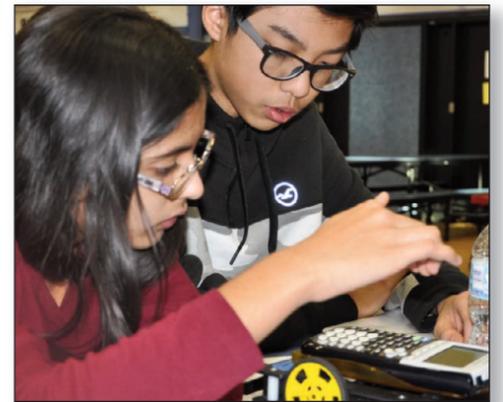
RESULTS:

- 100% of teachers say the school builds trusting relationships
- 98% of teachers report parents



- support teacher's teaching,
- 93% of teachers report parents and teachers as partners,
- 88% of teachers report they help each other to do their best,
- 88% of parents report they feel welcomed at school.

5 Challenged and globally prepared



Each graduate is challenged academically and prepared for success in high school and college and employment in a global environment. Teachers are trained in the 21st Century 4 C's to help prepare students for the real world: Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity. Recently, Brook Forest added a multi-disciplinary STEM class for elementary students where they can solve real life global problems. In addition, Butler Junior High offers a STEM class. Digital Citizenship classes are provided at every grade level and students K-8 have access to either an iPad or laptop for their use in the classroom.

RESULTS:

- 98% of students report that their teachers expect them to do their best,
- 96% of teachers report they take responsibility for school improvement,
- 94% of teachers report consistency in curriculum and instruction,
- 93% of teachers report that parents and teachers are partners,
- 89% of parents are very satisfied with their child's education.

Source: 2017 5Essentials data.



Good News

Delegation from Shanghai visit Brook Forest



Educators from China (above) study the work of 5th graders Posh Bhat and Masa Al Ahdab during their visit to Brook Forest in October.

District 53 teachers and administrators were proud to show off Brook Forest School to a delegation of principals and ministers of education from Shanghai. The delegation wanted to see high performing schools in the U.S. and learn more about D53 schools, from the partnerships and student extra curriculars to whole child learning initiatives, the arts, and how teachers prepped before school.

“They were amazed at how the classrooms were decorated, the nurturing and caring teachers, child-centered curriculum and engaging lessons,” said Principal Dr. Chad Prosen.

The visit was organized by the 21st Century Institute, an Oak Brook organization that facilitates

exchanges between the two countries.

“Brook Forest is a Blue Ribbon School and boasts strong academic performance, well rounded development and a beautiful environment,” said John Zhang, program manager for the 21st Century delegation, on why Brook Forest was chosen.

“It was a reaffirmation for me about how strong our schools and teachers are, how we build and nurture relationships with our students and how we teach students not only rigorous academics but life skills,” said Brook Forest Principal Chad Prosen.

Partnerships on playgrounds

Thanks to partnerships with the Butler PTO and the Oak Brook Park District, students of Brook Forest and Butler Junior High and the greater Oak Brook community have been enjoying new playgrounds. The new playgrounds were added this summer at both schools.

The Butler PTO generously contributed \$25,000 for the equipment. The Oak Brook Park District installed the playground at Butler Junior High, thus saving the District approximately \$13,000.

“The support we have from our community partners is tremendous,” said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. “The involvement of the PTO and Park District reinforces our values and learning opportunities. All of us working together truly make a difference in the lives of our students,” she said.

PTO President Kelly Greco said the PTO was able to meet its annual budget as well as make the large donation for the playground equipment. “The playground donation was made with the whole-child initiative in mind. We believe that outdoor play and healthy, safe outdoor activity is key to a child's development,” Greco added.

Math Team excels

Congratulations to the Butler Math Team, pictured at right, which took home two First Place honors at Montini's Math Competition. Both the 6th grade team and the 8th grade team finished first. In the Individual Round, Butler students took First Place at each grade level. Congratulations to these hard-working students and their coaches!

At left, 4th grader Lauren Bilshausen shares her work with visitors. The delegation was visiting high performing schools throughout the country.



Students, with help from Principal Dr. Chad Prosen, cut the ribbon, as part of official dedication ceremonies for the new Brook Forest playground.

Tied with compassion

The Brook Forest Student Council and Butler Junior High Student Service Board, with support from the Butler District 53 PTO created 25 tied fleece blankets that were donated to Lurie's Children's Hospital and children in need through the

Will County Advocacy Center. The two groups often conduct service projects on their own time to help those in need.



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 James Chow
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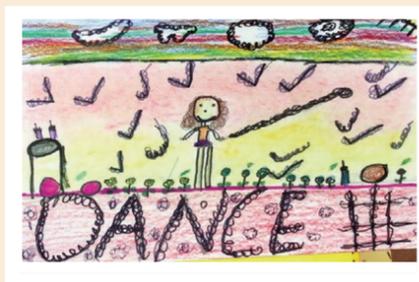
Butler School District 53
 2801 York Rd.
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Art Board

Butler District 53 students display their artwork on artsonia.com

Pictured here (from l to r) are 2nd grade choice based art, 5th grade iPhone selfie and 2nd grade choice based art.



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