

# THE BLACKBOARD

## The Newsletter of Lagrange School District 105

DISTRICT OFFICE 701 SOUTH SEVENTH AVENUE LAGRANGE, ILLINOIS 60525 708.482.2700 WWW.D105.NET

### D105 eLearning

Beginning March 18, District 105 launched an Electronic Learning (eLearning) platform to provide online learning during the COVID-19 shutdown. Administrators and teaching staff dedicated time to create virtual daily learning for students. Throughout the COVID-19 school closure, eLearning provides children with access to learning, structure and continued connections with staff. Please check the d105.net website for updates about the school schedule.

### Foundation News

The D105 Foundation walked in the Countryside St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 7, along with current and former board members, cross country runners, and other supporters. The Foundation will be awarded registration dollars from the parade which they will put towards future scholarships. The D105 Dash will now benefit and be organized by the D105 Foundation. Please watch for the September date to be announced this summer.

### Welcome New Superintendent to the District, Dr. Ganan

District 105 has recently concluded its search for a new superintendent. They have announced that Dr. Brian J. Ganan, Ed.D. will start on July 1. He comes from District 94 in North Riverside, where he has served as Superintendent since 2015.

Ganan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, a master's from DePaul University, and an Ed.D. from Roosevelt University. Dr. Ganan has prior experience as a Middle School English, Math and Spanish Teacher and taught English as a Second Language in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. He was also an Assistant Principal and Principal in Community Consolidated School District 59.

He has been recognized internationally for his research on the correlation between Spanish language oral reading fluency and success on high-stakes English reading assessments. This research was published in the International Education and Learning Review.



School Board President, Dave Herndon, shared, "We are excited to have Dr. Ganan join our district and look forward to getting him on board in the coming months. His background and experience will be a tremendous asset as we continue to work on executing our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, and to ensure we provide the best education for all of our students." In his email announcement to staff and parents, Herndon included a thank you to current superintendent Steve Bahn "for his contributions to the success of District 105 during his time as Principal at Ideal, as our Assistant Superintendent and finally our Superintendent." Bahn's last day is June 30.

<b>Gurrie Middle School</b> 1001 S. Spring Avenue Lagrange, IL 60525 708.482.2720 Ed Hood, Principal	<b>Hodgkins Elementary School</b> 6516 S. Kane Avenue Hodgkins, IL 60525 708.482.2740 Emily Crement, Principal	<b>Ideal Elementary School</b> 9901 W. 58th Street Countryside, IL 60525 708.482.2750 Eilidh Hall, Principal	<b>Seventh Avenue Elementary School</b> 701 S. Seventh Avenue Lagrange, IL 60525 708.482.2730 Erin Hall, Principal	<b>Spring Avenue Elementary School</b> 1001 S. Spring Avenue Lagrange, IL 60525 708.482.2710 Brian Lawson, Principal
--	--	--	--	--



### D105 Care Closet Serves All Families

Since 2018, the D105 Care Closet has provided over 200 resource boxes to district families. This collection resource, located at Seventh Avenue Elementary School, provides families with access to food, personal hygiene supplies and winter gear.

The D105 Care Closet originated during the fall of 2017 when Principal Erin Hall, Social Worker Charlotte Arcus and members of the Seventh Avenue PTO opened a Community Closet as a resource for all Seventh Avenue families to access in times of need. Throughout these efforts, parent reports indicated a sense of strong partnerships with the staff and satisfaction with this higher level of social-emotional support. Due to this success, the Closet was expanded in the summer of 2018 and became open to the entire district.

### Math Team Takes 1st, 2x!

The District's Elementary Math Team, totaling 80 students this year, celebrated 1st place wins for 4th/5th & 6th grade at the Math Olympiad Competition held at McClure. Ben Sherman and Harrison Kittington won 2nd place during the individual event and Samantha Lameter took 1st place.



### "Buddy Bench" Awarded to Ideal 6th Grader

Recently, sixth grade Ideal Elementary student Julian Nevarez was awarded a "Buddy Bench" for the school. A Buddy Bench is a special bench where kids can go during recess if they need a friend. Recess is supposed to be fun; however, recess can also be stressful because sometimes kids can feel overwhelmed or lonely.

This "Buddy Bench" was sent from California after Julian and his mom wrote to the "Stand with Mario" campaign. Mario was born with two rare syndromes, and he is an advocate for inclusion and bully-prevention. He raises money to have these benches built and shipped to schools throughout the country.

### Math and Science Night Featured at Spring Ave. Includes Science Fair

Spring Avenue is proud to offer "Math and Science Night" to students and families each year. This is a combined effort of the Spring Ave PTO and Spring staff. The PTO works to set up different experiment tables in the gym and asks Lyons Township High School students to volunteer and teach science concepts. This year's science table concepts included: Coding, Brain Tricks, Water Density, Color Pigments and more.



### Hodgkins Elementary Beautification Efforts to Celebrate Upcoming Anniversary

2021 marks the 100-year anniversary of Hodgkins Elementary School, when the original two-room schoolhouse was built. To celebrate, local residents have taken part in an outside beautification project on the school grounds. Paver pathways and plant beds have been added to the entrance of the school.

The design of the space came from a community volunteer with expertise in landscaping. The PTO President, Joan Millsap, then coordinated volunteers to complete the work for the first phase of the project.

This project has thus far been funded through the Hodgkins PTO. Parents are now looking to local businesses for support and donations. The funds raised will help in the creation of a patio area and a tree bench outside the lunch room. Please reach out to Principal Crement at ecrement@d105.net if you or your company would like to donate to this effort.

### District 105 Features 160 Cheerleaders During Half-Time Show

District 105 coordinated a district-wide cheerleading class that ended with a half-time show performance, this past December.

Approximately 160 students participated from across all five district schools. This was the largest participation the district has seen in these after-school cheer sessions.



### Gurrie Middle School Celebrates its 10th Year of Service Hour Goals for All Students & Staff

Starting in the 2010-2011 school year, GMS adopted a building theme of "We Make a Difference!" GMS set a goal that all students and staff would each take part in 5+ service hours every year, which would help make a difference in their community, state, nation, or globally. They have continued this tradition for a total of 10 school years with a projected grand total of 37,000 hours of service. They completed a total of 3,465 service hours during the 2018/2019 school year alone. Five students completed over 75 hours and two students completed more than 100 this last school year.

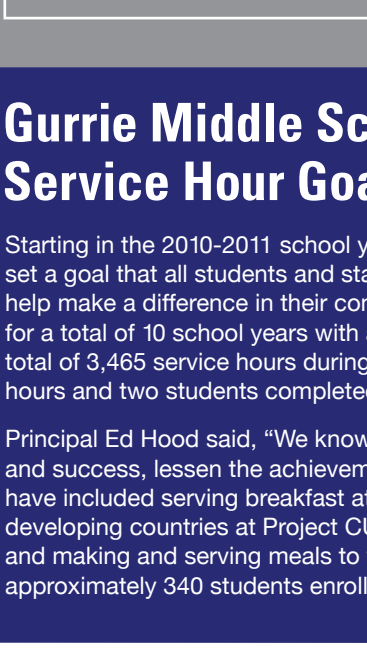
Principal Ed Hood said, "We know from research that service learning can increase academic growth and success, lessen the achievement gap, and create a more caring and tolerant culture." Projects have included serving breakfast at the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, packing medical supplies for developing countries at Project CURE, making blankets for children in need through Project LINUS, and making and serving meals to families at the local Ronald McDonald House and more. There are approximately 340 students enrolled at GMS from all over D105.

### D105 Connections Center is Hopeful to Grow and Sustain Program for Years to Come

The D105 Connections Center is open to all district families (approximately 1,350 students and their families) and is located at Ideal Elementary School in Countryside. At The Connections Center, the students and family members are invited to receive free homework tutoring, participate in guided gym activities, partake in adult education classes, and play table games and make crafts together, promoting learning, community building, and college and career readiness for students and adults.

Language classes are offered through the use of Rosetta Stone licenses that the program purchases each year. English language classes at the Center for our native Spanish-speaking parents have resulted in parents who no longer need interpreters to speak with school staff and have attained better jobs, including ones that leverage their bilingual skills. Students across our district have received exposure to career readiness skills via courses in Coding and Robotics. English-speaking parents and community members have learned Spanish at the Center and are engaged in facilitated dialogue with native Spanish-speaking parents to build community and enhance language skills.

The Connections Center is currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4 to 6PM, every week during the school year, typically September through mid-May, and offers free childcare for participating parents. Historically, the Center has been funded by generous community partners and Title III and Title IV grants. Director, Marci Ortiz, is currently looking for ways to sustain and grow the program for years to come. Please contact Marci Ortiz at mortiz@d105.net if your company looks to give grants to education programs that benefit an array of families from different income levels.



### Exciting Numbers in District 105!

#### Gurrie Boys XC Team Wins 2nd in State Meet!

Gurrie Middle School's Boy's Cross Country Team competed in Normal at the state level this past fall, and placed 2nd within their Class, 2A. The race was very close with a team score of 136 points falling just one point shy of first place. Patrick Collins led the way with an incredible 15th place overall finish in 11:06 (a Gurrie record) and earned "All-State" honors. This is the second consecutive time a Gurrie Middle School Boy's Cross Country team has qualified for the state competition and the first time a team has placed. The team consisted of the following boys: John Barrette, Brandon Betancourt, Patrick Collins, Jonathan Garcia, Yasir Briaan, Porter Gourley, Emilio Lopez, Dean O'Bryan, Carson Turner and Maks Washchuk. The GMS Cross Country coaching staff is: Kate Brand, Steve Driscoll, Joe Pontrelli and Jennifer Weaver.

#### 15 Years Of Responsive Classroom Focusing On Social & Emotional Learning

#### 225 Students Participated In The District Battle Of The Books!

#### 5 Years of IMSA (Illinois Math & Science Academy) Fusion Partnership

### Gurrie Math Team Celebrates 3rd & 5th Place!

Our 7th and 8th Grade Math Team was busy during 1st semester. They met weekly with Ms. Oleswka to prepare for four math competitions this year. The team competed at Nazareth Academy in October and placed 3rd overall. This event was open to 8th grade students only. Annie Price placed 4th and Katie Prystalski placed 5th out of individual students. The full team then competed in November at Fenwick and placed 5th overall. Seventh grader Samantha Lameter placed 35th of all students.

### District 105 Board of Education

**Dave Herndon, President**  
**Virginia Kogen, Vice President**  
**Eileen Tucker, Secretary**

**Sheila Bryck**  
**Elyse Hoffenberg**  
**Elias Lopez**  
**Kristine Lonsway**

The public is invited to attend Board meetings generally held at the Gurrie Library Learning Center on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Carol Stream, IL  
Permit No. 1360



District Office 701 S. Seventh Ave. Lagrange, IL 60525