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KIRBY SCHOOL DISTRICT 140

2011 – A Year in Review

Great communities have great schools and the school board and I are so appreciative of the staff, parents, and community members who enthusiastically supported Kirby School District 140 in 2011. Listed below are District and student achievements in the areas of academics, athletics, co-curricular activities, and community/school service.

Academics:

- ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) results revealed 89% of D140 students met or exceeded Illinois State Standards (91% in Math and 87% in reading).
- 125 middle school students were inducted into the National Honor Society with career cumulative GPA's of 3.75 or better.
- Select eighth grade math students attended high school level Algebra classes via SKYPE with Andrew High School.
- Middle schools launched a World Geography/Economics class using iPads. Beating out over 155 other teams, Prairie View students Helen Samuel, Mike Zurek, and Alyssa Zurlis and Grissom students Brad Koplik and Humza Said took 2nd and 3rd place respectively in The Stock Market Game, an online portfolio simulation competition provided by Illinois Council on Economic Education.
- D140 music students Abby Wierzal and Yanni Zentefis demonstrated technology skills learned in their classroom for lawmakers at the Tech 2011 Conference held at the Illinois State Capitol.
- New Language Arts programs were adopted in both elementary and middle schools.

Athletics:

- 3 SWIC (Southwest Interscholastic Conference) 1st place banners were awarded for Prairie View girls' basketball, Grissom boys' softball, and Prairie View girls' softball (undefeated season). SWIC honors were also received by our Grissom boys' volleyball (2nd place) and Grissom girls' softball (3rd place) teams.
- 24 SWIC All-Conference athletes were chosen from the boys' and girls' basketball, cross country, track & field, and volleyball teams.
- 10 middle school students trained and competed in the Special Olympics regional athletic competition in May. Four athletes brought home gold medals.

Co-Curricular Activities:

- In 2011, more than 1200 elementary and middle school students participated in more than 40 different co-curricular activities throughout the District.
- The Illinois Music Educators Association selected CJ Marshall (Tenor Sax), Eilish Miller (Trumpet) and Maria Szczasny (Trumpet) for the IMEA Honors Band and Jane Folliard (piano), Maria Szczasny (trumpet), and Liam Yore (drums) for the IMEA Honors Jazz Band.
- The Illinois Music Educators Association selected Katy Bauman, Cara Daclan, Jane Folliard, Victoria Farrow, Steven Herald, Kyle Herald, and Upasana Pathak for the IMEA District 1 Junior Festival Chorus.

- Prairie View Middle School's Declamation team captured 1st place in SWIC competition. Members included Leah Borak (Verse Interpretation), Abbey Carlson (Oratorical Declamation); Elizabeth McKernan and Kaileigh Pieroth (Humorous Duet), Madison Palucki (Prose Interpretation), Maria Szczyzny (Humorous Interpretation), and Joe Ward (Dramatic Interpretation).
- Grissom Middle School's Art Club brought home the Best Young Artist award in the Tinley Park Benches on the Avenue Contest and artist Rachael Gromen captured Best in Show honors at the SWIC Art Invitational.
- Grissom Mathletes took 3rd place overall in their SWIC competition with Upasana Pathak earning 1st place honors in his division.
- 9 individual medals and 4 team medals were awarded to D140 students at the South Cook Math Bowl, including 1st place honors for Eric Armendariz.

Community/School Service:

- D140 integrates meaningful community service with instruction to enrich our student's learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen community ties. In 2011, our students' service learning projects incorporated more than 20 different local and national charities including the American Diabetes Association, Autism Speaks, Crisis Center for South Suburbia, Kids Saving the Rainforest, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Orland Township, PAWS, Respond Now, Ronald McDonald House, Tinley Park Food Pantry, The Treasure Chest Foundation, Together We Cope, the USO's United Through Reading Program and the armed forces.
- Our National Honor Society members performed more than 2,500 hours of community and school service.
- 4 students received Awards of Excellence for character, leadership, and academics from the Illinois Principals Association. Winners were Eric Ballard, Kelly Bissell, Jack Condon, and Haley Zajac.
- Our 5 Tinley Park Fire Prevention Poster contest winners were Emma Friel, Anthony Galassini, Ashley Galassini, Philip Godette, and Zoe Swick.

District budget cuts and careful monitoring of expenditures, including the reduction of four central office clerical staff and the elimination of three part-time administrative positions, has helped the District remain financially solvent this year. It is our hope that the school board's November 2011 decision to pay off a \$5.4 million bond debt with money from the District's reserve fund will result in property tax relief for homeowners living within our District.

As we strategically plan for the next year and navigate our way through the financial challenges imposed by further cuts in state aid, our school board and district administrators continue to keep a close eye on the bottom line. In the upcoming year, we need to remain financially conservative and fiscally prudent, while maintaining the challenging academic programs and expansive athletic, co-curricular and service activities we currently have in place. Our community values education and expects outstanding results. We plan to deliver.