

Superintendent Report 10/6/23

Updates from around the district and the state.

1. Thursday, October 12, 2023 marks our 40th day of student attendance. The first quarter ends on Oct. 13 and Parent/Teacher conferences are the nights of Oct. 12 and 17 from 4-8 pm.
2. The Open House for the new Career and Technical Education Center was held earlier this week and was a great event. I heard from many who passed through the doors that they were impressed with the facility and excited about the future learning opportunities of our students. A few photos from the evening are included below.
3. I had the opportunity to attend the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) superintendents conference last week in Springfield. There was a good turnout with three dynamic keynote speakers and several beneficial breakout sessions.
4. The ROE Health Life Safety building walkthroughs on September 15 and 21 were very successful with only minor items identified as needing addressed and already has. Tim will provide more information as a part of his report.
5. Attached you will find a copy of the next requirement regarding the minimum base salary for teachers, an annual mandatory adjustment aligned to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Our contract is currently ahead of this threshold.
6. Attached is the annual proclamation from the Illinois Governor acknowledging our principals as a part of Principal Appreciation Week, October 15-21, 2023. Our principals are among the best in the state and we are fortunate to have them in our district.
7. Regarding certain agenda items, here is some additional, more specific information:
 - a. Special Presentation
 - i. Mr. Ryerson and select GHS staff will be making recommendations to the Board regarding a new SEL support for students.
 - ii. I will be presenting on Standards Based Reporting (Part I).
 - b. We will be having a short quarterly review on the progress of Board Goals for the year. You will see that you are making steady progress on each.









October 2023

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for taking a moment to read this important information from the Illinois Principals Association. My purpose for writing is two-fold. First, I want to express my gratitude for your leadership. Your daily efforts are critical to the success of all those you lead and serve.

Second, the IPA is committed to providing high quality services and recognition programs to your building level leaders. We are focused on our mission to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders by offering professional and personal support which helps your leaders do what is best for students.

Since 1990, the Governor of Illinois has designated the third full week of October as Principals Week – this year, October 15-21 with Principals Day on October 20. Would you please consider joining us by recognizing the hard work of all your school building leaders? Enclosed is a copy of the Governor's Proclamation (which IPA has mailed to all school principals in Illinois) as well as a press release that can be distributed to local media outlets. This year we celebrate your school leaders as they are *Leading Forward* with passion, purpose and persistence. Additional information about Principals Week/Day including a communication toolkit can be found on the IPA's website at www.ilprincipals.org/principal-appreciation/.

In addition to Principals Week/Day, please consider encouraging worthy educational leaders in your district to complete the appropriate Principal of the Year Award application. Maybe you could provide them their first reference letter? Applications are due December 31. Additional information about the IPA's Awards for Excellence program can be found at www.ilprincipals.org/awards/.

I firmly believe that the challenging business of educational leadership requires leaders to have a community of colleagues available to support one another. I encourage you to ensure that your building leaders are IPA Members, making them part of a community of their peers which includes more than 6,300 educational leaders throughout Illinois.

My best to you and your learning community this school year. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is anything the IPA or I can do for you.

For the Association,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. Leahy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Jason E. Leahy
Executive Director
Illinois Principals Association

Illinois Principals Association Encourages Principal Appreciation in October

Springfield, IL – Lifetouch and the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) encourage all communities in Illinois to celebrate Principal Appreciation Week October 15-21, 2023, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 20, 2023. This state-endorsed recognition was first approved by the Governor of Illinois in 1990 and is celebrated annually. The IPA also joins the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) to recognize October as National Principals Month.

Principal Appreciation Day provides learning communities an opportunity to publicly recognize the work, commitment and importance of principals, assistant principals, and deans throughout the state. Lifetouch and the IPA invite all teachers, students, parents, and community members to perform some act of appreciation on Friday, October 20th to acknowledge the leadership of building administrators in Illinois' public and private schools.

IPA President and Elk Grove High School Principal, Dr. Paul Kelly, shared, "The school principal has one of the most demanding, challenging, and rewarding jobs in existence--shaping and guiding one of the very cornerstones of the community. And as we celebrate Principal Appreciation Week, let me be the first to say to my colleagues, THANK YOU for leading forward each and every day."

Kelly added, "Even as we prepare for the unpredictability of every morning, afternoon, and evening, the school leaders of Illinois are proud to embrace our amazing opportunity to influence and inspire every member of our community. Our students, staff, parents, and our neighbors look to their community schools as the foundation of our future. Each and every day, there is a principal there; shaping the culture, building the systems, and celebrating the learning. There is no job like ours--incessant yet incredible, exhausting yet exhilarating. We wouldn't have it any other way."

"This year, we celebrate and encourage our state's school leaders as they Lead Forward.," said Dr. Jason Leahy, IPA Executive Director. "To do so, these courageous individuals lead their learning organizations with optimism, humility, vision, perseverance, and a deep commitment to do what is best for their students. Both research and common sense tell us how critical these servants are to positively influence young people, teachers, and communities. For this, they deserve our respect and gratitude."

Lifetouch is proud to be the official school photographer for the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Lifetouch is honored to support local members of the Illinois Principals Association in recognition of "Principal's Appreciation Day." Lifetouch is excited to have joined forces with Shutterfly to bring together two industry leaders who share a common purpose – to share life's joy through capturing and preserving memories with the click of a camera. While we continue to deliver the quality photography and service you expect from Lifetouch, we are creating a new, innovative experience that will allow you to do more with your photos than ever before. As a part of our mission to help you share your memories, Lifetouch and Shutterfly are truly better together! Learn more at: <https://schools.lifetouch.com/shutterfly/>

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 6,200 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Proclamation

WHEREAS, school principals play an integral role in the education and growth of children in elementary, middle, and secondary schools across the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, school principals are responsible for promoting education and building relationships with teachers and parents to ensure that each child receives equitable educational opportunities and services to reach their potential; and,

WHEREAS, a primary responsibility of the State of Illinois to preserve and improve resources for schools so that all students have access to quality education and a foundation for a successful future; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Principals Association, which represents over 6,200 educational leaders statewide, believes that learning is a lifelong process and that the education of our children is the highest priority; and,

WHEREAS, school leaders face many obstacles in supporting and educating our young people and it is through their perseverance, passion, and hope-filled leadership that Illinois continues to produce quality, career-ready students; and,

WHEREAS, we must continue to encourage, support, and recognize our school principals who have a positive impact on Illinois students and the educational system in the Land of Lincoln;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim the week of October 15-21, 2023, as Principals Week and Friday, October 20, 2023, as Principals Day in Illinois, to recognize principals and the Illinois Principals Association for all that they do to help our children learn and succeed.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this EIGHTH *day of* SEPTEMBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexis Bianchi
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR