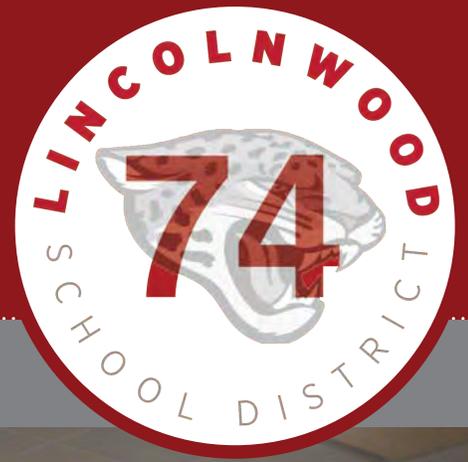


# THE JAGUAR



JANUARY 2020 EDITION



*Lincoln Hall Band Rehearsal*

## IN THIS EDITION...

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## The Next Five Years, Looking Ahead

Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020 and the winter edition of *The Jaguar*. We hope you enjoy reading and staying connected to some of the events happening in the District. As you read through *The Jaguar*, please look for opportunities to engage in activities hosted by the District. We would love to share all the wonderful experiences students are learning, creating, and exploring everyday. The District is in full stride implementing goal areas and targets outlined in the new 2019-24 strategic plan, providing experiences for children that allow for collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving to have the tools for anything life may present. In brief, raising student achievement and making learning more personalized, engaging community stakeholders, and enhancing safety preparedness are among the three main themes in the plan.

Lincolnwood School District 74 thanks all community members for the strong partnership we continue to foster. *The Jaguar* is one of many community communication vehicles to help you stay informed and connected. In addition, take a moment to register for: The District Twitter feed @lincolnwoods74 and community email updates to receive up to the minute District communications. Engaging with our community stakeholders is key to our community and District's success. We are extremely proud to represent the Lincolnwood community and partner with so many of you as the journey for continuous improvement, achievement, and growth move forward.

Wishing you and your family the very best in 2020!

Together as one learning community,  
Dr. Kimberly A. Nasshan, *Superintendent of Schools*



## Strides in Academics & Fine Arts

News from the Curriculum and Instruction Department

This year is poised to be another exciting and productive time for the District's students. Personally, I am excited to continue to facilitate the work focused on the District's strategic plan goal #1: Provide and measure student achievement opportunities in school curriculum and extracurricular activities to personalize student learning, advance rigor, and promote creativity.

One of the means that the District uses to move its instructional practice forward is reviewing curricular programs on a six-year cycle. One such project resulted in a new core instructional program for general science this year at Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall called Mystery Science, which the community learned about in a previous edition of *The Jaguar*. As the program has been implemented, students have been able to submit their scientific questions to a "Mystery Doug" box located in both schools. As students submit questions, they are sent to the program authors in the hopes that one time a Lincolnwood School District 74 student's question will be selected and Mystery Science would publish the answer to students throughout the country.

As you continue to read this edition of *The Jaguar*, two articles highlight new District programs. Our fourth and fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in a Chorus program at Rutledge Hall, which began meeting in January. This experience will be a way for students to learn a variety of singing skills and can serve as a wonderful foundation for those who might want to continue their singing in the Lincoln Hall Chorale program. Eighth grade students in the District's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) math program are expanding the boundaries for the exploration of the subject matter through a new course at Lincoln Hall implemented this year, an Honors Geometry class. The new Lincoln Hall Honors Geometry class affords qualifying students with an opportunity to delve into complex mathematical concepts. In the process, students are stretching their abilities by persevering through complicated topics that they are likely covering for the first time. Both the Rutledge Hall Chorus ensemble and Honors Geometry program represent initiatives the District is undertaking to continue expansion of ways students can enhance their intellectual curiosity and promote their extracurricular participation. The support of the community for students' efforts through activities inside and outside the classroom is tremendous.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David L. Russo, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction*

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# Chorus Program Introduced to Rutledge Hall Student Body

An official Chorus program began for Rutledge Hall students this month. Prior to the 2019-20 school year, fourth and fifth grade students had the opportunity to join the District's band and orchestra programs. However, Chorale was only featured at the middle school level at Lincoln Hall. Students in grades 4-5 expressed a strong interest in the development of a Chorus program at Rutledge Hall. "I have seen the success and amazing talent we have in the Lincoln Hall Chorale program in previous years, and I am so excited to have this opportunity available for our Rutledge Hall students," said Rutledge Hall Principal Erin Curry, who formerly served as the Lincoln Hall Assistant Principal.

The Rutledge Hall Chorus program officially began on January 10, 2020. Currently, 52 students are enrolled in the program and numbers continue to increase as word spreads and the program generates excitement. Students enrolled in the program are directed by Rutledge Hall Music Teacher, Hillary Schroer.

"I am thrilled to start a Rutledge Hall Chorus with our 4th and 5th grade students. Singing in a chorus is such a special way to come together as a school community and gives the students an additional opportunity to learn about and create music. After our first rehearsal, I was blown away with the focused energy and talent of the 52 students in our inaugural group!" said Schroer.

While building their repertoires, students will explore a variety of musical concepts and develop a number of core skills. Students will begin by learning how to read a choral score. Later in the program, students will incorporate singing in unison and with harmony parts. Performances will include a variety of a cappella melodies as well as those featuring accompaniment.

"I am excited for Rutledge Hall Chorus because I enjoy listening to music and singing. I'm happy they started Chorus in Rutledge Hall so I don't have to wait two years until Lincoln Hall!" said fourth grade student and Rutledge Hall Chorus vocalist Nikoletta Anderson.

Other academic components of music education will be embedded into the Chorus program. For example, students will examine how posture and proper breathing techniques improve vocal production. Also, students will learn about vowel shapes and musical diction to align pronunciation and clearly convey the lyrics to the audience. Finally, students will learn different ways to work together to blend an ensemble into one unified sound.

The introduction of Chorus to Rutledge Hall expands the extracurricular activities available to students in the District. With this expansion, students can now join band, orchestra, and chorus in the fourth grade. Additional opportunities are made available to students at the middle school level with the introduction of theatre, jazz band, jazz combo, chamber orchestra, and honor choir. Participation in the District's Fine Arts programming at Rutledge Hall intends to lay a foundation for students' continued success in the arts.



Rutledge Hall Chorus will have their debut performance at the Spring Chorale Awards Concert at Lincoln Hall. Please join us in supporting student vocalists and their dedication in the brand new Rutledge Hall Chorus program.

*Save the date!*

*Chorale Awards Concert April 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Orchestra Awards Concert April 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Band Awards Concert April 29, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.*

# Students Develop Relationships with Lincolnwood's Senior Citizens at Lincolnwood Place & The Carrington

Down the road from Lincolnwood School District 74's campus reside the village's retirement communities; Lincolnwood Place and The Carrington. Over a span of several years, Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall students have spent time building relationships with Lincolnwood's senior residents in different capacities and throughout multiple events.

Rutledge Hall's 5th grade classrooms visit Lincolnwood Place residents each school year. Visits include having meaningful conversations with the senior residents while playing games and partnering in art activities. The students and residents get to know one another in the time spent together. Several of the students also find that the residents themselves grew up in Lincolnwood, many attending our schools. "This experience leaves a positive lasting impression on our fifth graders and the residents love to see the kids. It is a wonderful way to give a little bit of our time and respect to seniors in our community," said 5th Grade Teacher Stacy Panoutsos.

The Carrington, Lincolnwood's newest senior living facility, opened its doors in October of 2018. Beginning the following school year, Rutledge Hall's 4th grade classrooms began visiting the senior residents. Visits to The Carrington ensured the District was reaching out to the newest senior citizens residing in Lincolnwood. Students performed pieces on their ukuleles with several programs having a theme including Valentine's Day, holiday classics, and many other genres of music. This school year, Rutledge Hall plans to invite The Carrington residents to the school as an opportunity for the residents to view a student's experience of "life in Lincolnwood."

In addition to student visits to Lincolnwood Place and The Carrington, Lincolnwood's senior residents who served in the United States Armed Forces are invited to be honored at the annual Veterans Day Assemblies held at Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall. Each year, several residents are in attendance and honored for their service by the SD74 student body. This year, the crowds came together to sing a "Happy Birthday" tune for the United States Marine Corps, honoring the Corps and the veterans in attendance who are Marines.

Assemblies include the introduction of the veterans by student representatives, patriotic tunes, and speeches by the veterans. A reception is held prior to each of the assemblies as a way to engage the students with the veterans. The veterans' spouses, families, and friends join the audience each year to participate in this community-wide honoring.



"For years we have invited residents of Lincolnwood Place who are veterans to be our guests at the annual Veterans Day Assembly. On November 11, 2019, ten Lincolnwood seniors honored us with their presence. Residents were World War II veterans and they represented the Army, Navy, and Marines. The middle school students appreciated the veterans contributions to our country and gave each person a rousing round of applause," said 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher Wendy Kotrba.

Partnership with Lincolnwood's senior citizen population is a continued effort of Lincolnwood School District 74. The partnerships build a community of learning, relationship-building, and respect among the village's youth and elderly populations. Continue on to page 6 to learn more about how these partnerships fall in line with the District's 2019-24 strategic plan, adopted on August 1, 2019.

*photos on page 5...*

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# Students Develop Relationships with Lincolnwood's Senior Citizens at Lincolnwood Place & The Carrington



## Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra 30th Anniversary Concert

*held in the Lincoln Hall Auditorium  
Sunday, March 8, 2020 Time TBA*

*"Founded in 1990, the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra became part of American Music Festivals in 2002. One of Chicago's leading professional ensembles, it was named Chamber Ensemble of the Year in 2000 by the Illinois Council of Orchestras." -americanmusicfestivals.org*

# 2019-24 Strategic Plan Adoption

## Five Year Focus: Goals & Plans

In the January 2019 edition of *The Jaguar*, Lincolnwood School District 74 provided an overview of the last five years of work that occurred at Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall in accordance with the 2014-19 strategic plan. On August 1, 2019, the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education adopted the 2019-24 strategic plan. Lincolnwood School District 74 provided parents, staff, and the Lincolnwood community opportunities to express their opinions on their vision of the District for the next five years. Surveys were sent to each Lincolnwood household to provide feedback and commentary on the District's next steps.

In addition to the household survey, each SD74 staff member received a survey inviting their voice to be heard as well. A strategic planning session was held at Lincoln Hall for staff and residents to come together and help develop the next strategic plan. In an effort to ensure an authentic session, the District hired Dr. Michelle Shumate, a strategic planning consultant and professor at Northwestern University's School of Communication, to lead the discussion and garner the thoughts of the Lincolnwood School District 74 community. The plan consists of three main areas with specific objectives attached to each. Please see below for the 2019-24 Lincolnwood School District 74 strategic plan.

**Goal 1: Provide and measure student achievement opportunities in school curriculum and extracurricular activities to personalize student learning, advance rigor, and promote creativity.**

- Enhance instruction and learning, technology, Common Core standards, and assessments for improved student engagement in the classroom through a continued 6-year cycle of curriculum review and professional development.
- Differentiate the educational experience to effectively engage, appropriately challenge, measure academic growth, and ensure mastery of Standards.
- Continue opportunities for students to become more emotionally and socially competent in school, work, and beyond so they are better able to: focus themselves, persevere through a difficult task, collaborate in a group, learn from a mistake, set goals and priorities, and develop other skills that affect academic achievement and empower children for life.
- Promote extracurricular activity participation for students in younger grade levels (Todd Hall & Rutledge Hall).

**Goal 2: Continue to engage community stakeholders.**

- Increase use of school facilities after hours (auditorium, gym, etc.).
- Continue hosting, supporting, and attending collaborative events with Lincolnwood entities; village, library, chamber, etc.
- Develop new structures for on site and online parent education opportunities throughout the school year.
- Utilize the new Language Translation Program for current and incoming families to help enhance clearer home-school communication.

**Goal 3: Enhance and maintain student and staff safety preparedness.**

- Establish a School Safety & Security Committee.
- Develop an annual schedule for student and staff safety trainings.
- Conduct ongoing evaluation of arrival and dismissal campus traffic routes.
- Keep safe and efficient facilities at the forefront of all planning.

### Vision Statement

"Children empowered for life."

### Mission Statement

"Our Mission is to build a community of learning that inspires curiosity, compassion, and actively engaged students striving for excellence."

**Download the SD74 Mobile App**

Available on both Apple & Android devices.



# Lincoln Hall Teaches High School Geometry Class In-District

Prior to the implementation of Honors Geometry at Lincoln Hall, middle school students would travel to Niles West High School to take advanced level math courses. Trips to the high school for a first period math class served as the only opportunity for a student to advance beyond Algebra I prior to their freshman year. Although this model allowed students to pursue the study of Geometry, traveling to Niles West often times served as a barrier to participation in SD74 band or orchestra programs. Additionally, arranging the remaining portion for the eighth grade schedule and having direct access to the teacher for additional assistance and guidance when necessary proved challenging. After careful observation and discussion, Honors Geometry was adopted as an advanced course at Lincoln Hall in the 2019-20 school year. The course is taught by Lincoln Hall's GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Math Teacher, Jennifer Ballema, who taught high school math for eight years prior to her career at Lincoln Hall. The class follows a regular schedule of one class period, five days each week. Most importantly, the aforementioned challenges are now avoided.

"We were thrilled to hear that so many Lincoln Hall students completed algebra before 8th grade and were ready for the next course. It is so important that students have the opportunity to take academically rigorous courses. Our D219 teachers and staff have enjoyed collaborating with Ms. Ballema on the Honors Geometry course and will support District 74's students and staff in whatever way we can!" said Christine Gonzales, Niles Township High School District 219's Executive Director for K-12 STEM & Literacy.

The adoption of Honors Geometry provides an array of benefits for students beginning in their years at Lincoln Hall. This opportunity creates the potential for students to take AP (Advanced Placement) math courses at an earlier age in school. For example, students might take AP courses in their junior and senior years of high school such as AP Statistics, AP Calculus, and more. A traditional sequence would require three years of math to meet the prerequisites of enrolling in an AP class at Niles West.

Enrollment in Lincoln Hall's Honors Geometry course requires a sequence of courses be taken in grades 6 and 7 at Lincoln Hall. In sixth grade, students on track to enroll in Honors Geometry take a Pre-Algebra math course. In seventh grade, students continue on to take Algebra I. After successful completion of Algebra I in seventh grade, students must take the Algebra Proficiency Test and score above a 95%. In addition to the Algebra Proficiency Test, students must also place above the 95 percentile in their math MAP scores during their seventh grade year. After meeting these requirements and testing levels, students take Honors Geometry in their eighth grade year.

"Adding Honors Geometry to our course offerings at Lincoln Hall has been very exciting! It has given me an opportunity to challenge my students and advance their mathematical abilities in a new way. The students have done an outstanding job rising to the challenge, I look forward to seeing their accomplishments the rest of the school year," said Honors Geometry Teacher Jeni Ballema.

In contrast from a regular geometry course, Lincoln Hall's Honors Geometry curriculum embeds Algebra I in each unit and throughout the entire course. This serves as a significant benefit to students when entering Honors Algebra/Trigonometry in their freshman year of high school. Students enter prepared to take the next course with algebraic concepts not forgotten due to embedding algebra in the Honors Geometry course all school year.

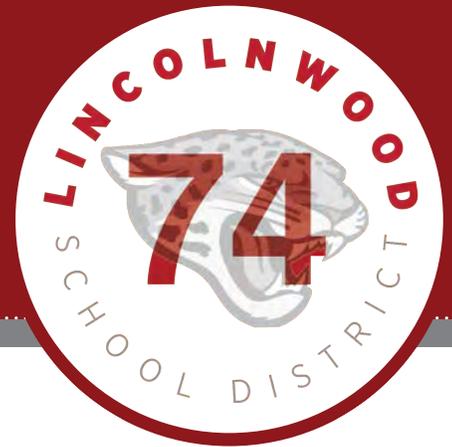
"I am very happy that my son, Jonathan Lou, is already taking advanced geometry in eighth grade. I think his experience will lay a strong math foundation that will benefit him in high school and college. Also, I know that he has wonderful teachers helping him in a great learning environment," said Joseph Lou, parent of eighth grade student Jonathan Lou.

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# THE JAGUAR



## LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74

6950 N. East Prairie Rd. Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Phone: 847-675-8234

Website: [www.sd74.org](http://www.sd74.org)

Twitter: @lincolnwoods74

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# Lincoln Hall Spring Musical



**Friday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**