



Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Memo

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Katie Reynolds
Ali Finn
CC: Dr. Scott Warren
Date: May 19, 2026
Re: Curriculum and Instruction Executive Summary

2026-2027 Student Board of Education Representative Selection Process

The 2026–2027 Student Board of Education Representative selection process included a competitive application and interview process involving both 6th and 7th grade students at Daniel Wright Junior High School. Students completed written applications and participated in formal interviews with a committee of district and school staff members. The process included representation from administration, Board of Education, and instructional staff and focused on student leadership, communication skills, involvement, and the ability to represent the student voice within the District 103 community. Interviews were held on April 24, 2026 for 6th grade candidates and May 8, 2026 for 7th grade candidates. Our students were incredibly articulate and demonstrated strong communication skills, perseverance, courage, and a genuine commitment to excellence.

We are pleased to announce the student representatives for the 2026–2027 school year:

- **7th Grade**
Anish Kalvemula
- **8th Grade**
Shruthi Vasa
Ayaan Gaffoor

2025-2026 Student Board of Education Representative Thank You

The District 103 administration in partnership with the Board of Education would like to recognize our Student Board of Education Representatives for their contributions to our district and the hard work, dedication, and commitment to our students, staff, and community. Please join us in thanking our inaugural Student Board Representatives, **Riya Dhondi** and **Jocelyn Jerome**. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors at Stevenson High School.

CAPE work update

The CAPE survey results were sent to staff on April 16th, 2026 and to parents and students on the week of April 22nd, 2026. On April 29th, 2026, 7th grade students saw a presentation on CAPE offerings for next year. Students completed a survey of requests for their CAPE courses for next year. Next steps in our process include:

- The administrative team will use student preference data to determine scheduling structures that support student choice while maintaining staffing stability.
- During summer 2026, CAPE teams will refine instructional units, update course materials, and prepare for implementation.
- Final schedules will be completed in August, with updated CAPE programming launching for the 2026–2027 school year

CAPE Offerings- 8th Grade:

Course Name 2026-2027	Course Description
8th Grade Art	Students will create hands-on, original artworks, developing skill in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media. This class will emphasize student choice, allowing students to focus on topics of interest, try new materials, and develop their artistic voice and style.
8th Grade Digital Art	Students will create digital artworks through illustration, graphic design, photo editing, animation, and other media projects. They will build on their experience with Procreate while learning new tools such as Adobe Photoshop to further develop their creative and technical skills.
8th Grade Performing Arts	Students will work through a Commedia D'ell Arte unit that focuses on mask work and design of masks. Students will also work through the feature unit - The Black Light Project - this unit has 100% student choice from the topic to design, original script, movement, staging and music/sound effects.
FCS II	Students will learn how to confidently operate a sewing machine to create their own pair of PJ Pants tailored to their body's measurements. In the kitchen, they will continue to hone those learned skills from Intro to FCS with further exploration into knife skills, stove cookery, and executing more advanced and in-depth recipes.
STEAM: Curiosity Lab	Students will choose their own projects based on their interests and curiosities! Students will complete a total of 5 projects throughout the trimester.
Music Performance Techniques	Students will develop musicianship skills through focused study of guitar technique. Additional performance opportunities will include piano, ukulele, and vocals. Students will engage in collaborative choice projects centered on songwriting, digital audio production, advanced music theory, and the cultural impact of music.

Library Visioning Visits

As part of the Daniel Wright Library Visioning process, District 103 staff conducted several school and program visits to gather ideas and observe a variety of modern library and makerspace models. Visits included Woodlawn Middle School, Lake Zurich Middle School North, Twin Groves Middle School, Vernon Hills Middle School North, and the ELA Area Public Library. Key takeaways from these visits included the importance of flexible student-centered spaces, purposeful “zones” for collaboration and quiet work, opportunities for makerspace integration, and the impact of cohesive aesthetics and branding on student

engagement. Teams also explored technology integration, classroom use within library spaces, storage solutions, and scalable approaches to innovation and hands-on learning. Insights from these visits will continue to inform the vision and planning for the future Daniel Wright library space.

LTL Grants

The 2025–2026 Spring Learning to Learn (L2L) Grant cycle included several grant requests representing innovative learning opportunities across District 103. Requests focused on expanding hands-on STEM and science experiences, increasing student engagement, and enhancing experiential learning opportunities for students across multiple grade levels.

Grant applications moving forward through the L2L process include a STEM Makerspace Cart for middle school STEM programming, a portable hydroponic growing system to support science instruction and Green Team initiatives at Half Day School, and a Print Lab initiative featuring 3D printing resources for grades 3–5. The district is partnering to share costs associated with the STEM Makerspace Cart proposal.

Marigold Mentor Celebration

The annual Marigold Mentor Celebration took place on May 7th, 2026 at Half Day Brewery. This event celebrates first-year teachers and honors their mentors. New teachers receive a copy of the poem "Find Your Marigold," while mentors are presented with a marigold pin as tokens of appreciation.

Summer School

Summer school is right around the corner! The program will run from June 8, 2026, to July 1, 2026, at Daniel Wright Junior High School for students in grades K-7. We currently have 625 students enrolled in summer school, with approximately 45 classes running each period. This year's programming offers students a wide variety of engaging academic, enrichment, and interest-based opportunities designed to support learning, creativity, collaboration, and exploration throughout the summer. Course offerings include classes focused on reading and math support, STEM and robotics, coding, art, music, fitness and recreation, creative writing, science exploration, cooking, makerspace-style learning, and hands-on project-based experiences.

Summer Workshops

Planning for summer curriculum workshops is currently underway across all content areas, with a wide variety of proposals focused on refining curriculum, updating instructional units, and preparing for the 2026–2027 school year. Workshops reflect diverse priorities, including enhancing student choice and engagement, strengthening alignment to standards, incorporating new instructional strategies, and responding to student and staff feedback. Teachers have

received confirmation of their summer assignments and schedules and are preparing to begin this work once the summer session begins.

District/Building Curriculum Meetings

In May, Ali Finn met with both building- and district-level curriculum committees to support articulation efforts, strengthen alignment across grade levels and schools, and provide important updates to each content area team. These collaborative meetings focused on reviewing current initiatives, reflecting on student learning experiences, identifying areas for continued growth, and ensuring consistency in instructional practices and curricular expectations across the district.

Planning for the 2026–2027 school year is actively underway, including the coordination of summer workshop work aligned to district curricular priorities, instructional goals, and alignment to district and state requirements.