



ILLINI CENTRAL C.U.S.D #189

208 N. West Avenue, Mason City, IL 62664

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
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Mrs. Cassy Carey, Grade School Principal
Mrs. Kyra Fancher, Middle School Principal
Mrs. Annie Baugher, High School Principal
Ms. Lori Avart, Special Education Coordinator

Superintendent's Report February 20, 2025

Science Curriculum Adoption: Teachers from all three buildings met to see various curriculum options for science instruction. They are working to narrow down their selection for the March or April board meeting.

Photography Companies: I sent out a survey to parents in the district regarding our current photography services. Based on the feedback, I created a service request and shared it with local and big-box photography companies. Based on the feedback from the community, I will consider offering two contracts, one for the traditional yearbook pictures and another for sports and extracurricular activities. We will interview them in March and hope to have a decision by the March or April meeting.

PE Curriculum: On Friday, February 24th, Mrs. Davis met with Ms. Lindsay and Mr. Hopkins to create a curriculum map for our PE classes. They made a chart of skills taught at each grade band: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 based on the sports offered in our district. The goal is to use the PE department to enhance our athletic programs.

Walkie-Talkies/Bus Radios: We finally have our new bus radios and walkie-talkies up and running. We were delayed because the company installing the repeater went out of business. Mr. Francis drove around the district's perimeter to check for clarity, and there were no issues.

We are currently working off a "band-aid" solution because installing the repeater during this time of year would cost an additional \$5000. We worked with the company to find a way to make it functional until the weather is nicer and we can find someone to fix it correctly. The new radios allow all users to hear the bus radios and also talk on two other channels. We can also take these walkie-talkies on field trips, and they will work within a 2-mile radius.

Architect Bill: If you remember, last summer, Ameren requested some changes when the power was being connected to the new building, including some moving of lines and transformers. This required extra work from the engineers. Our architect negotiated the cost down from \$20,000 to \$16,000 because they only billed us for the number of hours worked and no upcharge.



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College and Career Pathway Endorsements: We worked with LTEC to get two College and Career Pathway Endorsements approved: Nursing Assistant and Business CEO. These are course sequences that students can take through LTEC to have a seal on their transcript certifying them to be ready for College and Career after graduation. We are working with LTEC to create an Education pathway for the school year 2025-2026. We have to have 6 hours of dual credit, so we are exploring options with ICC to make this possible.

Who We Play For: Who We Play For (W/WPF) staff and volunteers performs ECG screenings for athletes. Results are interpreted by W/WPF pediatric or adult cardiologists and distributed to families. Students requiring follow-up are connected with local providers. W/WPF is scheduled for Illini Central on March 27th.

Cardiac screening can detect a variety of potentially catastrophic genetic diseases. The simplest level of testing is an ECG, which looks at the electrical signals of the heart. An ECG involves placing electrodes on the chest around the heart to record those signals. The test is easy, painless, non-invasive, and takes less than 5 minutes. It does not involve needles, blood work, radiation exposure, or sedation.

A simple heart screening can help detect problems before they become major medical issues. W/WPF recommends that all student-athletes receive an ECG to screen for potential heart-related problems.

An abnormal ECG will be flagged for follow up, which means additional testing is needed to see what is causing that abnormality – think of it as a yellow caution light. It will include documentation on what the potential problem might be. Even if a child is flagged for a follow-up, he or she can continue participating in sports and other activities. Parents will need the child to visit a Cardiologist within 3 months for follow-up. If a child is flagged as high risk, it is like a red traffic light. He or she should not participate in sports or high-energy activities in any way (practice, games, scrimmages, etc.) until he or she has seen a specialist and received clearance or treatment. If the child doesn't have one already, W/WPF will offer the contact information of Cardiologists in your area.

W/WPF works with another national non-profit called Dollar For, which "helps patients crush medical bills by making charity care known, easy, and fair. While Dollar For does not pay medical bills for patients, we are here to help you navigate hospital financial assistance programs and eliminate your hospital bills. Our services are completely free – no strings attached."



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Each ECG costs only \$20 through W/WPF (at least \$150 if done through a doctor's office). The Athletic Committee decided to provide this service for our student-athletes at no cost, meaning the district will pay for it.

Building and Grounds Update:

Gene went through the old shop and removed all of the unnecessary electrical work and cabinets to prepare for the asbestos removal. He helped prepare the work and necessary documents for the asbestos removal and HLS grant. The architect is working to get the abatement taken out of the HLS fund.

With the new addition, we had to relabel all of the exterior doors physically and in the monitoring system.

Much time was devoted to preparing for the HLS inspection on February 10th. Gene went through every room preparing for the visit and had to correct many issues. The inspection took almost all day, and we don't believe we had any significant findings, but we are awaiting the final report from the fire marshal.

With a new building, there are kinks to work out. Gene has been putting out fires as they come in with temperature controls, fire alarm sensors, filter changes, etc.

One of the light poles in the east parking lot was damaged, so AMP has delivered a replacement, which will be installed in the coming weeks.

The maintenance crew has done a great job keeping our sidewalks and parking lots clear.

ROE Compliance Visit Every few years, the ROE assesses the district's compliance with mandates and laws. This requires submitting extensive evidence provided in the online portal, followed by an in-person visit. The ROE will be in the district for the in-person component on February 28th.

Career Fairs Part of our strategic plan includes recruiting new teachers to the district. I have signed us up for three career fairs locally: Eastern Illinois University and University of Illinois on February 26th, Western Illinois University on February 28th, and Illinois State University on March 4th.