

Illini Central Grade School Administrative Report

Enrollment as of 11.14.25

Year	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Nov. 25/26	58	43	45	51	42	42	48	329
May 24/25	80	45	49	40	44	44	47	349
Sept. 24/25	67	43	49	41	46	42	44	332
23/24	73	48	41	42	41	47	40	332
22/23	80	37	38	44	42	38	50	329
21/22	62	270						332

Celebrations & Thanks

- Thank you to my amazing staff and fellow administrators for all their efforts for the last two weeks while I was out due to an emergency surgery. (I hope to be cleared to return on Monday!) When we left after the in-service on Halloween, I had no idea I wouldn't be back for a while and everyone really stepped in to make sure that the building kept running smoothly for students and staff. I am so thankful to be a part of this community and district! Having such a wonderful support system really helped me feel like I could (and needed to) take time to heal and recover.
- Just prior to dismissing students on Halloween, we had our monthly CSC assembly to congratulate Students of the Month, to learn about the upcoming character trait/skill (self-control) we're looking for in the upcoming month, and to just enjoy each other as a community. Thanks to all students and staff for participating in our House assignments and the games that followed. The official points kick-off was put on hold, however, since I haven't been back. It will start when I return. Students and staff seem excited about it though, and each House has a flag and crest that were designed by Kortnie Cooper. Congratulations to October's Inclusive Students of the Month!

<i>October's Inclusive Students of the Month</i>		
<u>Kindergarten</u> Grant Atkins Harmoni Smith Isabella Thompson Gracelyn Wilham	<u>Second Grade</u> Beau Bradshaw Harlyn Green Daniel Otterson Rowan Thomas	<u>Fourth Grade</u> Hattie Avart Josh Clark Ava Wood Benson Young
<u>First Grade</u> Charlie Cooper Aria Deters Alexis Rice Bryson Tillquist	<u>Third Grade</u> Colton Davis Addison Evans Mia Hamilton Blair VanMeter	<u>Fifth Grade</u> Cece Boyd Clayton Doyle Abigail Koch Olivia Strube

Book Blast

This year we are participating in Book Blast again, which kicked off on Monday, November 3rd and runs through this weekend. Students send invitations to friends and family to sponsor them by donating money to build their personal libraries. The program is through the Books R Fun organization, and I got connected to it through the Illinois Principals Association my first year in this district. Jillian Clark & Annette Belcher have been coordinating with prize delivery and communication between teachers and our Book Blast representative to ensure that this event was successful in my absence, and I appreciate that so much! As of this morning, our students have raised over \$13,000 (which equates to 2,514 books) for their personal libraries. In addition, 17 of our 18 homerooms have had good participation in sending out invitations, so Book Blast has donated \$100 gift cards for teachers to use to purchase books/materials for their classrooms. One teacher, Kristi Bruce, has earned \$200 for such a high participation rate. Not including this year, grade school students have raised a 3-year total of \$54,925 and earned 4,279 books for their personal libraries! All students have taken home books each year on our "opening day," regardless of if they participated in the program, and some students will have added more than 40 books to their collections through this program. Research demonstrates that book ownership increases success for students. A few examples from an [Association for Library Service to Children](#) include:

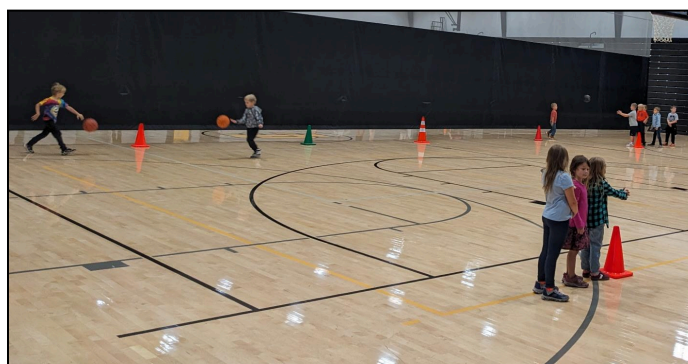
- Having just twenty books in the home subtly increases the likelihood of a child achieving a higher level of education. The more books, the better the outcome, and the number of books can have the same or more of an impact than the parent's education levels.
- Students that own books of their own are twice as likely than others to view reading as "cool" and less likely to be embarrassed to admit they enjoy reading. They are also more likely to recognize that their reading improves the more they read.
- Books in the home result in a better recognition of sounds and letters, a broader range of vocabulary, increased listening skills, increased and sustained reading time, a deeper understanding of how stories work, and an increased enjoyment of books and reading.
- 61% of U.S. children living at or below the poverty line have no books at home. (This program changes that immediately, just by being a student here!)

Skills PE

We've had some really positive feedback from our change to the way PE is structured this year! If you recall, the PE department K-12 collaborated last year to build a K-12 Physical Education Skill Progression map that they are utilizing to guide instruction this year. Half of our students have recently been working through a basketball unit here (seen below), and they have been doing really well on skill building! The other half were working on soccer skills outdoors, but are doing the basketball unit next. Students are more confident in these skills and are using them more during unstructured times like recess as well. Below is a set of snapshots from our basketball unit progression.



Kindergarten



1st grade



2nd Grade



5th Grade

Early Elementary Skills (K-2):

- ***Dribbling:** high and low, down and backs, number and open space, red light/green light dribbling
- ***Passing:** stationary partner bounce passes, passing one defender, other student getting open
- ***Shooting:** wall shooting with rebounding, inside 3-point shooting. Practice with big red outdoor baskets
- ***Defense:** Sliding on defense to match player with ball, intro game to show where markings are on court, heads up, crossover dribbling
- ***Vocab:** free throw, foul, rebound, layups

Late Elementary Skills (3-5):

- ***Dribbling:** high and low, down and backs, number and open space, step-back
- ***Passing:** stationary partner (chest & bounce), passing one defender, other student getting open, overhead
- ***Shooting:** rebounding, step-back shooting, jump shot, team shooting, free throws, 3 pointers, layups
- ***Defense:** Sliding and defensive rebounding, between the legs, crossover dribbling, intro game
- ***Vocab:** Free throw, foul, rebound, double dribble, traveling, layup