



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!

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Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Lea DeLuca, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
DATE: August 7, 2025
RE: Summer School and Back to School Update 2025-2026

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only
☐ Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated.
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic Information:

This memo is to update the Board of Education on the summer school program and provide information on the activities/events occurring in preparation for the start of the 2025-2026 School Year. We had a successful summer school program, and we are excited to welcome back students, staff, and administration for another great year.

2025-2026 Start of the School Year

In the spring, D33 admin worked with the Faculty Advisory Council to develop the theme for the upcoming school year. Together, we embrace our theme for this year: **All In: All of us, All for them.**

Below, you will find the important events with hyperlinks to more detailed information:

[Summer Professional Development](#) for staff- Month of August

[Administrative Retreat](#)- August 4-5, 8:30-3:30

[Gary Camp Ole](#)- August 4-8, 8:30-11:30

[New Staff Induction](#)- August 11-13, 8:30-3:30

[Opening Institute Days](#)- August 18-20, 8:00-3:00

Leman Walk the Schedule- August 18, 3:30-5:00

Elementary Meet the Teacher and Supply Drop-Off- August 20, 1:00-3:00

Start of the 2025-2026 School Year- August 21(1st-8th Grade), August 22 (Kinder), August 26 (Pre-K)

After-School Programming

During the 25-26 school year, after-school programming will be offered to all students in grades 1st-8th.

In our five elementary schools, the primary program will be *Impact Kids*, which offers enrichment activities that are academic, athletic, and interest-based courses (e.g., STEM, Spanish, robotics, sports, and homework help). Programs will run Monday-Thursday, 3:40 - 4:40 pm, on a trimester schedule.

Impact Kids staff will be hired and paid by the organization, with guidance and support from the Assistant

Director of Athletics and Activities. D33 staff will have priority to apply to teach the classes at the district's club rate. If we are unable to secure qualified staff, Impact Kids will provide top-tier instructors to maintain program consistency across schools. Parents/guardians will register through Impact Kids.

At Leman Middle School, *Beyond the Bell* will continue in the 2024–25 school year. Beyond the Bell consists of two components, MyLearning (academics) and MyInterests (clubs). Programming will be offered Monday-Thursday for students in 6th-8th grades. Both MyLearning and MyInterests will take place from 2:45 pm-4:15 pm. All students are invited to attend.

The focus of the MyLearning program will be on literacy and math. MyLearning will include recovery, enrichment, and homework support in order to meet the needs of all learners. Students may enroll at the start of each trimester, and once enrolled, will be assigned to classrooms based on teacher recommendations. Students have the ability to attend two days a week or all four days, based on their individual needs. MyLearning teachers will utilize our D33 programs and resources.

Staffing for MyLearning will include D33-certified teachers and paraprofessionals. In addition to the classroom teachers, Leman will also continue to have a Lead Teacher. The role of the MyLearning Lead Teacher includes, but is not limited to, supporting student enrollment, communicating with the Assistant Director for Teaching and Learning to ensure all student needs are being met, and supporting teachers with behavior management.

MyInterest will run concurrently with MyLearning. MyInterest clubs will be selected based on student interests and staffed by D33 staff members. Students may be enrolled in both MyLearning and MyInterest.

Activity buses will be available for all bus-eligible students after both elementary and middle school programs.

In addition to D33's Impact Kids and Beyond the Bell program, Turner will continue to offer CAPE from 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm. Students may be enrolled in both Beyond the Bell and CAPE. Indian Knoll, Wegner, and Leman Middle School will continue to partner with Puente del Pueblo.

Curriculum Night

We are excited to open our schools to parents on Curriculum Night in September. The dates and times are as follows:

Gary: September 9th from 6:00-8:00 PM

Leman Middle School: September 10th from 6:00-8:00 PM

Indian Knoll, Currier, Turner, Wegner: September 11th from 6:00-8:00 PM

At each Curriculum Night, the building administration will host a parent informational session in English and Spanish. We are excited to share that there will be a new format for curriculum night at the elementary schools based on feedback from parents and staff last year.

Background/Historical Context:

Summer PD:

We have been hosting Summer Professional Development opportunities for staff for several years. It allows staff to select the training and learning that best meet their needs.

Administrative Retreat:

The Administrative Retreat occurs each year at the beginning of August. All D33 administrators attend as part of the kick-off to the new school year. During this time, we review our data from the previous year, discuss our new goals and action plans, and engage in activities that prepare us to support our students,

staff, and families.

We hold New Staff Induction each year to welcome and acclimate the new D33 staff members. This is typically a two to three-day event that provides staff with information about D33 and allows them to meet their mentor, who will support them for their first year in the district.

Opening Institute Days:

Opening Institute Days include opportunities to kick off the new school year, build culture, develop school goals aligned with the D33 Strategic Plan, and prepare to support our students and families. State regulations require a maximum of four teacher institute days to be set aside each year. Each of the state's 867 districts determines its own needs to fill its teacher institute days.

After School Programming:

After-school programming was titled Beyond the Bell during the 24-25 school year. The MyLearning portion focused specifically on academics. It was held from 3:45-4:45 at the elementary and from 2:45-4:15 at Leman. MyInterest was run concurrently with MyLearning and provided students with an opportunity to participate in after-school clubs and activities. Staffing and coordinating the MyLearning and elementary MyInterest programs have presented challenges. We hope to address these challenges through the implementation of the Impact Kids program, which provides a more cohesive and sustainable structure districtwide.

Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:

Recommendations: