



Director of Learning

January 2025

Board Report

### **Teaching and Learning**

Upon returning from Winter Break, students in grades 3–8 will begin preparing for the DuPage County Regional Spelling Bee, scheduled to take place on February 20, 2025. During the week of January 13, 2025, classrooms will conduct practice spelling bees, followed by official classroom bees. A winner and a runner-up from each classroom will advance to the grade-level competitions. Grade-level spelling bees are scheduled for January 21, 22, or 23, 2025. The District 66 Spelling Bee will take place on the afternoon of Thursday, January 30, 2025. We look forward to celebrating our students' hard work and spelling talents throughout this exciting journey!

### **Assessment**

The Winter Assessment window concluded prior to the winter break. Students in grades K-8 have completed their assessments, and staff are now engaged in analyzing the data to develop strategies for supporting students' continued learning. Both students and staff have demonstrated exceptional effort in their academic work this fall and are eager to review the results.

### **Professional Development**

On January 6, 2025, we welcomed back our certified and non-certified staff with a full day of professional development. The event was thoughtfully designed to foster a positive, upbeat, and collaborative atmosphere, setting the tone for the important work ahead in our Competency-Based Education (CBE) journey over the next four months.

A heartfelt thank you to Team 66 for providing special incentives for our staff and to our administrative team for their thoughtful gesture of hand-writing personalized notes of appreciation to every staff member.

The day featured presentations from our Vanguard Teachers, who shared insights from their CBE journey, energizing the entire district. K-5 teachers engaged in their first *Inspire Science* professional development session, eagerly preparing to implement this innovative resource. Meanwhile, our 6-8 educators completed their third and final IXL training session, building on their expertise.

Additionally, all staff were given dedicated time to develop CBE assessments. Our paraprofessionals participated in a book study session led by Director Rhoads, thanks to a grant secured by Team 66 last spring.

The day was a testament to our district's commitment to continuous growth and collaboration, laying a strong foundation for the months ahead.

[November / December 2024 Parent Newsletter from the Director of Learning](#)