

# BRIDGES

*Building*

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Publication of Community Consolidated School District 168 WINTER 2017



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Steve Spangler's STEM Team Visits Rickover Junior High  
How to Prepare Your Children for MAP Testing  
Fall In Love with Literacy!

We are well into the school year and have already experienced so much success! We hope you can feel the excitement to learn like we do at Community Consolidated School District 168. Together, let's make the rest of the 2017-18 school year a great one!

## Superintendent's Message

As the autumn has quickly set upon us, we are in full swing here in Community Consolidated Schools District 168. We opened school with our fourth annual Back to School



Bash that brought families and friends together to celebrate the opening of our 2017-18 school year. We followed up with open houses that provided families an opportunity to connect with teachers and administrators. We are pleased with the addition of Dr. Jennifer Camilleri, new Principal at Strassburg, and Mrs. Tricia Walton, new Director of Early Childhood. We are looking forward to their contributions to the CCSD 168 family in the years to come. Our seventh

annual Community Fest brought out the community in full swing as usual! Thank you to Dr. Francine Pearce, Judge Adrienne Davis, Officer Joshua Morris, Ms. Tatiana Carter for participating as panelists, along with myself, to address questions from our community. Our district was also the recipient — thanks to a grant written by teacher Laura Bebout at Rickover — of close to \$30,000 in materials and professional learning from world renown, Steve Spangler!

This Fall also saw the historic passage of a new school funding law for schools that will provide additional state revenue in order to target specific areas of need for student support. The state has identified over 20 indicators that lead to increased student achievement. As a district, we are reviewing how closely we are aligned to those indicators with our current funding to determine how new funding could be spent in areas that will provide the greatest impact on student achievement. The state will share final numbers for each district in early 2018 as baseline funding.

As we have been reporting to the community, we have completed over a year of construction and updates to our buildings. The 2017-18 school year opened with all projects completed, with the exception of the Rickover Media Center updates which will be completed over the winter break. As of Jan. 2018, we will have completed:

- Addition of playgrounds at Wagoner and Strassburg
- Asbestos removal and new flooring at Wagoner, Strassburg and Rickover
- New piping and water filtration systems at Wagoner, Strassburg, and Rickover

- New, meet ready track at Rickover
- New media center updates at Rickover

Thank you to our community for your patience and support as we have worked to insure our buildings are moving towards being state-of-the-art facilities for our children.

This year, we are engaged in our second year of using the Common Core Standards-based Eureka Math program. This program provides rigorous math content for all children. As staff and students are getting used to the new expectations, we should begin to see greater results. Many thank-yous to our staff who have been facilitating the Eureka Math nights to support our parents as they are also getting used to this challenging program.

We have also added new, more rigorous reading programs across the district. We are thrilled to now be identifying a science curriculum for adoption in the 2018-19 school year. Our goal is to insure we have full, robust curriculum for our students. As we are focused on curriculum, we are also focused on instruction in the classroom connected to student need. Although our PARCC scores have been a struggle, we believe the work we are doing now will result in students beginning to show progress in the 2017-18 school year.

Additionally, our Board of Education has been engaged in updates to the branding of our district. As we are looking at the future and how we want our district to be perceived, they have spent considerable time looking at the district logo and the possibility of updating it. Community members will be asked to assist in the selection of a new logo in the coming weeks.

Many thank-yous to those who have participated in our open houses, parent coffees, STEAM Saturdays and other activities as we continue to open the door for communication with our families.

Thank you for your continued support of Community Consolidated Schools District 168 as we Transform for Student Success! #d168excels

— Dr. Donna S. Leak, Superintendent of Schools



Follow me on Twitter  
@SuptLeak







## Steve Spangler's STEM Team Visits Rickover Junior High for "Best Day Ever!"

District 168 special education teacher, Laura Bebout, was one of 16,000 sweepstake entrants who applied for a chance to receive a full-day of professional development from Steve Spangler and his STEM workshop team. Not only did Laura win the first place prize in the Citgo Fueling Education Program Sweepstakes, but she also received a \$5,000 gift certificate for related school supplies.

Steve Spangler is well-known for his work as a funny and engaging science guy on stage, television and as a YouTube celebrity. He is a leading engagement influencer for top brands and organizations who want to have impact and influence in today's marketplace. Spangler is an authority on STEM education with more than 2,000 television appearances to his credit. He is a regular guest on the "Ellen Show" and now has his own television series called DIY Sci airing on FOX affiliates nationwide. Spangler is a best-selling author, an Emmy award-winning television personality and a Hall of Fame Professional Speaker.

The Fueling Education Program has been helping educators by fostering educational opportunities in classroom all over the U.S. since 2012. Anna Fratto, public affairs and community relations coordinator from CITGO kicked-off the District 168 workshop with the mission behind the company's efforts to promote STEM education: "We want to show students the potential and opportunities that exist in their backyard, and STEM plays a significant role in the success of these future career opportunities."

The focus of the workshop was to explore best practices and innovative teaching strategies for engaging students in the scientific inquiry process and introducing them to future opportunities. It was not a sit-and-watch experience for the

teachers of District 168! These highly-engaged teachers were eager to use these hands-on experiences to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.



Steve Spangler, well-known for his work as a funny and engaging science guy on stage, television and as a YouTube celebrity, led a hands-on workshop for Rickover Junior High's teachers after teacher Laura Bebout took first prize in the Citgo Fueling Education Program Sweepstakes.



# How to Prepare Your Children for MAP Testing

NWEA (MAP) test is a growth assessment given to students that provides data to help teachers teach, students learn and administrators lead. The MAP test is administered three times during the academic school year, but it's the initial Fall testing period that provides teachers with a clear picture of where students are at the beginning of the school year so they can hone their curriculum accordingly. While teachers will communicate with students about the test, goals and expectations, there's no lack of opportunity for parents looking to prepare their kids for testing and other subject matter, like reading and mathematics. In Jan. 2018, your child will be tested and their growth from NWEA Fall 2017 to NWEA Winter 2018 will be measured. Please join us in a partnership to assist our students in reaching and or exceeding their projected growth RIT score.

## *Here are five ways that parents can prepare their children for testing:*

1. Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.
2. Provide a quiet, comfortable, distraction-free place for studying at home.
3. Make sure that your child is well-rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
4. Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
5. Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list or get suggestions from the public library.

## *Here are five ways that parents can help their children with reading:*

1. Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. For younger age children, read aloud to

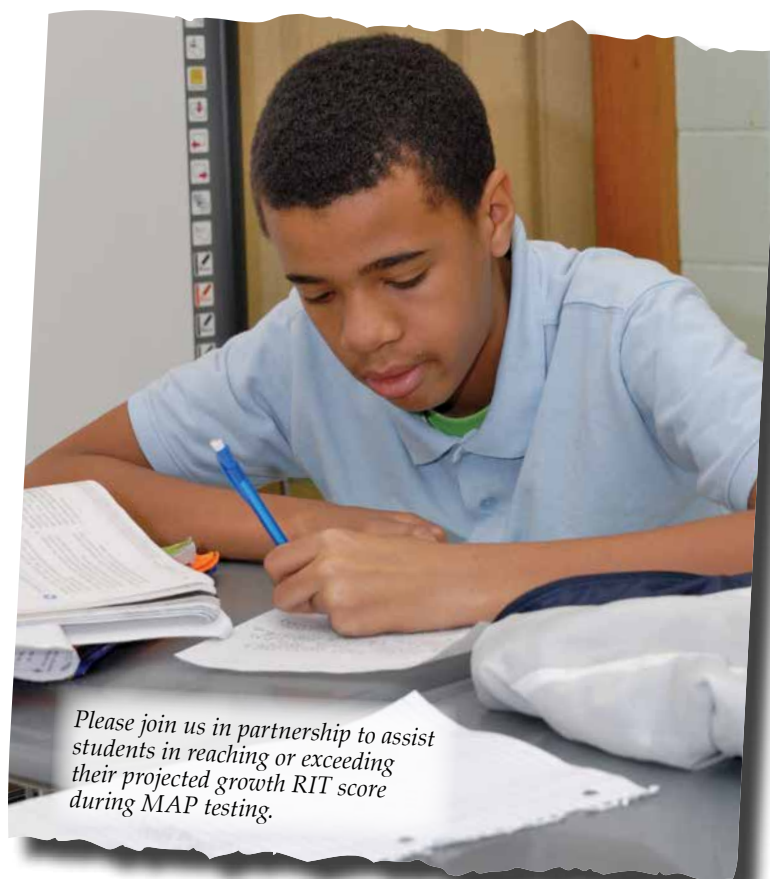
your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.

2. Make time for the library.
3. Have your child log on to Stride Academy in the evenings and on the weekends.
4. Follow your child's interests, and find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into these interests. Have your child log onto their MyOn account to access online books.
5. Work crossword puzzles with your child.

## *Here are five ways that parents can help their children with mathematics:*

1. Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles and activities that encourage strong math skills. Students can access Stride Academy online at home.
2. Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill.
3. The kitchen is filled with opportunities to teach fractional measurements, such as doubling and dividing food recipe ingredients.
4. Point out ways that people use math every day to pay bills, balance their checkbooks, make change and calculate a tip at restaurants. Involve children in projects that incorporate geometric and algebraic concepts, such as figuring how long it will take to drive to your favorite family members home for a fun visit.
5. Children should learn to read and interpret charts and graphs, such as those found in daily newspapers. Collecting and analyzing data will help your child draw conclusions and become discriminating readers of numerical information.

While teachers play an integral role in the education of children, it goes without saying that parental involvement makes the biggest difference in a child's scholastic success. For additional tips and ways to help your child succeed, ask their teachers for suggestions. We welcome and encourage parental involvement.





*At District 168, our goal is help students fall in love with literacy! What is better than reading a good book?*

## Fall In Love with Literacy!

Why not start early? Literacy is a lifelong skill. As the weather turns colder, support your child in **falling in love with reading!** A love of reading can start well before preschool. Be sure to read to children daily. To ensure children become accomplished readers, join the District 168 school community in sharing the joy of reading books to children. The Pre-K program at Wagoner has a lending library just for parents and students. The school also has a partnership with the Nancy L. McConathy Public Library, where families can get a free library card with a current driver's license and a current utility bill containing a current Sauk Village address.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) author, Yi-Chin Lan, has the following 10 suggestions for parents on ways to make reading a fun part of their everyday family life. Listed below are a few:

1. **Develop family reading routines and rituals:** Find a regular time of day when you can dedicate story time into your day. You can read in the morning, after school or before bedtime! Making story time a cozy routine makes reading an essential and pleasant activity.
2. **Reread your child's favorites:** It's common for young children to request the same book again and again. Re-reading familiar stories offers children a chance to absorb information over time and lets them master the whole story.
3. **Have fun while reading:** Try whatever style feels comfortable for you and your child. Some ways families have fun with stories include: Acting out the story while reading by using facial expressions, gestures, body movements and voices to make the story come to life. Making the story relevant to your child's life by adapting the story to include her name, a friend's name, or your pet's name. For example, surprise your child by saying

"Olivia, Olivia, what do you see?" when you read Eric Carle's "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" Finding props to go along with favorite stories and offering them to your child to use in her play.

4. **Change your setting!** It can be fun to read books in different places in and around your home. Try reading Eric Carle's "The Very Lonely Firefly" in a dark room with a flashlight. I've read "The Lamb and the Butterfly" (written by Arnold Sundgaard, illustrated by Eric Carle) to a group of 4-year-olds on the grass, and when they saw a butterfly fly by, they associated it with the one in the story! You can even ask your child where she wants to read a particular story.
5. **Try one of these books that trigger children's interest in reading:** Adam Lehrhaupt's Warning: "Do Not Open This Book!" Is a great example of a book that draws children into the act of reading. Children wonder: "Why can't I open this book?" and read on. Here are some others:
  - "Don't Push The Button" by Bill Cotter
  - "Go Away, Big Green Monster!" by Ed Emberley
  - "How To Hide a Lion" by Helen Stephens I
  - "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Joffe Numeroff
  - "Maisy's Fairground" by Lucy Cousins
  - "My Granny's Purse And My Mummy's Bag" by P. H. Hanson
  - "Press Here" by Herve Tullet
  - "Tap to Play" by Salina Yoon
  - "The Foggy Foggy Forest" by Nick Sharratt
  - "Where's Wally?" by Martin Handford

There are lots of ways to encourage and enjoy reading. Try these ideas and do more of what your child enjoys.

*(Submitted by: Lisa Hopson, Instructional Leader/Coach)*







## Message from Mrs. Kathy Hansen, Principal of Wagoner School

The staff at Wagoner School are working very hard to ensure student success. Before- and after-school programs are being offered to students as well as multiple interventions scheduled throughout the day. Besides reading, we are providing more interventions for math.

If you were unable to attend the Eureka Math Night last month we encourage all parents to spend some time looking at the parent portal of Eureka Math ([greatminds.org/math](http://greatminds.org/math), click on parents and create an account). There is information on the program and how to help your child with the Eureka math at home to reinforce the skills being taught at school.

We also encourage you to look at the new reading series, "Wonders." It also has a parent page. Websites and passwords for all the computer programs being used at Wagoner School were sent home with report cards. Please use these sites with your children. They make great homework and provide educational and fun activities.

On Oct. 30, Rickover students came to Wagoner school to provide fall activities with the first graders. Activities were stories, crafts, science experiments and pumpkin decorating. Some students even had their face painted. The first graders enjoyed partnering with the junior high students and the junior high students enjoyed sharing their time with the Wagoner students. A huge thank you to the staff and students of Rickover School.

Wagoner School is looking for volunteers who can commit one day a week to helping our students. Volunteers can listen to students read, practice sight words with individual students, monitor students on computer programs, and many other activities. Bring in your driver's license and state ID so we can do a background check, and we will be happy to schedule you on the day that is convenient to you.



*At District 168, we aim to instill a love of learning!*

## Message from Mrs. Tricia Walton, Director of Early Childhood at Blossoms Family Center

I once read a quote that said, "To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today." At Blossoms/Wagoner Early Childhood Center we believe wholeheartedly that involving parents is key to a child's healthy social-emotional development and academic development. Families have taken on active roles in a child's development since birth. We have found that there is so much to gain by a parent's active participation, even once a child has reached school age.

So, what exactly is parent involvement? In the past, it consisted of school meetings, volunteerism in the classroom and help with fundraising. Today, it is so much more and is ever evolving into innovative practices considering many parents work full-time. By offering a variety of opportunities for parent involvement, we soon see the many strengths of families that enhance our school community.

Here are some suggestions for parent involvement that will assist in contributing to the learning community, forming healthy relationships between home and school, and building relationships with your child's teacher and classroom community.

- Contributing to special projects and programs: Families can contribute to the classroom or special program by collecting "beautiful junk." Items that are sometimes requested by the teacher are buttons, shells, fabric scraps, keys, bottle caps (Snapple provides interesting facts), props for dramatic play or plays, etc.
- Sharing your culture: We are a wonderful melting pot of cultural heritages. Experiences and history can enrich any school community. Maybe you would like to share a story, art project, dance or photographs.
- Attend field trips: Join us!
- Complete surveys: Help to better the school community by being solutions based. Let your voice be heard.
- Share a talent: Maybe you play an instrument, keep a garden, are an insect or other animal expert, or have a special skill.

Families are important to the school community. The size of the contribution is not important. The positive message family involvement conveys to children is what is most important.

Keep these upcoming events at Blossoms/Wagoner Pre-K in mind:

- Dec. 1, 2017- Blossoms Field Trip
- Dec. 22, 2017- Parent/Child Activity Day



*At District 168, students receive a well-rounded education, make great friends and have fun, too!*

## You're Invited!

The Board of Education of Community Consolidated Schools, District 168, will hold their regularly scheduled board meetings and finance committee meetings for the school year on the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted (subject to change if necessary). They are held at the District Administration Building/Boardroom, 21899 Torrence Ave., Sauk Village, IL 60411. Finance Committee Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. (subject to change if necessary). Regular Board Meetings begin at 7 p.m. (subject to change if necessary).

## Board of Education

Tammy Jones.....President  
Philip Bazile.....Vice President  
Sene' Garrett.....Secretary  
Sharon Archie-Davenport.....Member  
Branard Barrett.....Member  
Marva Campbell-Pruitt.....Member  
Mary Howard.....Member

## Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, Bridges, Community Consolidated School District 168, 21899 S. Torrence Ave, Sauk Village, IL 60411, or call (708) 758-1610.

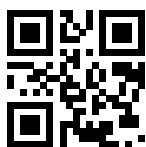
## Our Principals

Kathleen Hansen.....Wagoner Elementary School  
Jennifer Camilleri.....Strassburg Elementary School  
Chantel Dailey-Bullock.....Rickover Junior High School  
Tricia Walton.....Director of Early Childhood

## Our Phone/Fax Numbers

Administration Office.....(708) 758-1610  
Fax.....(708) 758-5929  
Wagoner Elementary School.....(708) 758-3322  
Strassburg Elementary School.....(708) 758-4754  
Fax.....(708) 758-2202  
Rickover Junior High School.....(708) 758-1900

## Our Website Address



[www.d168.org](http://www.d168.org)

Search for #d168excels on social media to see the latest photos and updates of all the great things happening at District 168

# BRIDGES

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*There is something to smile about at District 168! Wouldn't you agree that together with friends is the best way to learn?*

## All School Calendar, 2017-18

Nov. 23 -25.....Thanksgiving Holiday (schools closed)  
Dec. 14.....School Improvement Day (early dismissal)  
Dec. 22.....End of Second Quarter (early dismissal and 46 school days)  
Dec. 25.....Winter Break Begins (schools closed)  
Jan. 8.....Teacher Institute Day  
Jan. 9.....Students Return  
Jan. 15.....Martin Luther King Holiday (schools closed)  
Jan. 30.....School Improvement Day (early dismissal)  
Feb. 15.....School Improvement Day (early dismissal)  
Feb. 19.....Presidents Day (schools closed)  
March 5.....Casimir Pulaski Holiday (schools closed)  
March 13.....School Improvement Day (early dismissal)  
March 16.....End of Third Quarter (early dismissal and 46 school days)  
March 22.....Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 6:30 pm  
March 23.....Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (no student attendance)  
March 30.....Spring Break Begins (schools closed)  
April 9.....Students Return  
April 26.....School Improvement Day (early dismissal)  
May 17.....School Improvement Day  
May 25.....Last Day of School and End of Fourth Quarter (43 school days)