

FALL
2022

Enlightener

EA
EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

HISTORY MADE AGAIN!

COMMENDABLE

ALL EASD 131 SCHOOLS REACH HIGHEST RATINGS

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Moving Forward as One Team, One Plan

East Aurora School District 131 Stakeholders,

It is an exciting time to be in East Aurora School District 131! It gives me great pleasure to say KUDOS to all of our faculty and staff and a huge thank you to our Board of Education who challenge us and support us in doing great things for kids!

We are sharing in this edition many successes across the district, most of which have been a steady improvement for the past few years. I want to share a bit about the mindset we have adopted as a team across the district and our hopes for the future.

EA faculty and staff regularly participate in position-specific professional development to be the best they can be. This training occurs weekly, monthly and quarterly as well as on Institute and early-release days for students. Faculty and administrators also attend training nationwide and are even requested to serve as presenters for other districts—both throughout the State and across the country. Our staff have delivered presentations on Dual Language, Instructional Coaching, Pre-Advanced Placement Programs, Early College Initiatives, Early Childhood Education and Birth-to-3 programs, to name a few. The professional development District 131 faculty and administration attend, both in and out of the district, is provided by some of the nation's most noteworthy research practitioners. Presenters come from some of the top universities in the state, such as Loyola University Chicago, University of Illinois Chicago, Dominican University and Northwestern University.

Throughout this training, our focus has remained on one priority: our students. At every level, we have sought to learn the best strategies, most successful techniques, and implement proven programs for each student to reach their full potential!

This year we opened the school year acknowledging that we are *One Team* with *One Plan*. This year, our plan is highlighting *Equity Through Action*. More specifically we have spent the past few years actively building student belonging and removing barriers for all students. Our faculty has spent countless

hours on curriculum units that deliberately speak to students' past and present. This has been through nostalgia projects to build cultural connections in each classroom and providing opportunities for students to feel seen and heard. In January we will begin to work with experts to remove cognitive barriers for students through deliberate, structured learning at every grade level.

Our early college and career opportunities are growing as we work to expose students starting in 6th grade through high school to specific careers and skills to be successful in college, post-secondary training, and beyond.

Our successes in East Aurora 131 are not by accident, but rather due to countless hours of training, creating, developing, and partnering while utilizing our resources to develop our largest district asset- our people. In East Aurora 131 we are doing Equity! We are working to have greater numbers of students feel a sense of belonging in our schools and programs, and removing barriers that had previously limited our students' academic growth on state testing, receiving credit for bilingual and multilingualism, freshman passing core classes, and ultimately limited hundreds of students from earning college credit and from even graduating high school.

We may not have the same successes every year, because we have different students with varying needs and starting points. However, we will continue to provide the best practices available to each student at every level of their education, remove systemic barriers and reach for every child to feel like they belong so they can Reach Their Full Potential in EA!

Thank you all for all the ways you help us on this critical journey.

Dr. Jennifer Norrell
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Jennifer Norrell
Superintendent

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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Jennifer Norrell

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*Student Board Member

Follow us to see more EASD 131 student and staff achievements.



Board of Education Update

Greetings EA School District 131 Community, Parents, neighbors, and friends—please join in as we celebrate a few milestones this school year. We celebrate the work of our faculty, staff, and administration in helping our students remain focused on achievement as we moved back into our routine last school year. This strong and focused return to learning during the 2021-2022 school year led to historic achievements and recognition in all of our schools this Fall.

The Board of Education celebrates our Jumpstart (Birth to 3-year-old) and Tiny Tomcat preschool programs receiving some of the highest national and state recognitions for their excellency! Each of our elementary, middle, and high schools received the Commendable State designation, while the Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy received the State's highest designation Exemplary. We celebrate you *all*!

The Board of Education is also proud to make history by not only continuing to remain in financial recognition status, but also having the capacity to use our finances to further offset the tax burden for our constituents to the tune of roughly \$1.6M. This will allow the district to levy this December with a tax rate of less than 4% - the lowest tax rate in decades in East Aurora School District 131. We have maintained the lowest tax rate in all of Kane County for the past several years. This year, the Board was committed to reaching record low rates by using district fund balances to lessen the levy impact and deliver an approximate 3.9% tax rate.

Although this low tax rate will result in tax reductions from the school district for most

of our community, the Board is hopeful this will offset other increases our constituents may have to endure from other taxing entities. This commitment, however, will not derail the facilities and site improvements to our schools.



Annette Johnson
Board President

We are excited to begin our final HVAC projects next summer with a plan to have every school complete with new heating and air-conditioning before the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We also excitedly await the construction completion of our new *Resilience Education Center* in Summer 2023, which will serve as a 30,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility focused on mental health and social wellness for students and families.

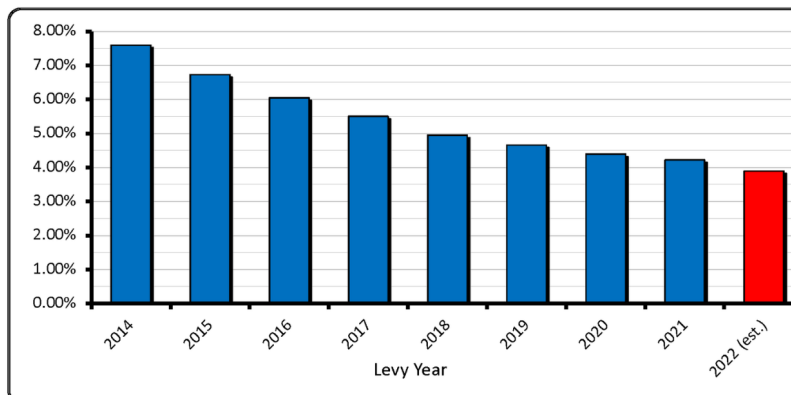
The Board of Education recognizes that there is so much to celebrate across our district—from student growth and academic improvements to finance and programming. Know that we plan to remain focused, along with our Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Norrell, to make certain we can maintain the needs of our students and families.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we thank you for being committed to the students of East Aurora School District 131.

Have a happy, healthy holiday season!

Annette Johnson
Board of Education President

Historical Tax Rates in the District



Want to engage with all that's growing in District 131? Have ideas for improvement, but not sure where to share your ideas? The following advisory groups are available for parents/guardians, staff, students, or community partners to participate in throughout the school year.



COUNCIL OF AMBASSADORS FOR ALL PARENTS (CAAP)

CAAP is a selective council for any parent/guardian who is an active member of at least one advisory council in the district. Members take part in an ambassador training program and meet with the Superintendent quarterly, collecting and sharing feedback on district-topics as discussed with other advisories and community groups.

For more information on CAAP, please email publicrelations@d131.org.

BILINGUAL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (BPAC)

BPAC advocates for excellence in all programs serving English Learners in District 131, providing support and education information to families and facilitating relationships amongst school leaders, parents, and District 131 staff.

For more information on BPAC, please visit www.d131.org/bpac.

AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT ASSOCIATION (AAPA)

AAPA discusses ways to achieve academic success and expand college resources to African American students. This council bridges the connection between schools and families in the African American community.

For more information on AAPA, please visit www.d131.org/aapa.

SUPERINTENDENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent of EASD 131, invites students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members to discuss the latest district initiatives, review and respond to data, and generate ideas for the district.

Superintendent Advisory Councils meet once per quarter and take place in the Administrative Center Board Room at 310 Seminary Ave. in Aurora.

For more information, please email info@d131.org.



Parent University 2022

For the first time in three years, EASD 131 parents and guardians were welcomed back in-person to the district's half-day conference exclusively for parents. Presentations on Social/Emotional Learning, Art & Play, College Readiness, and more were offered at this year's Parent University, held at East High on October 22. Participants got to experience sessions in both English and Spanish to accommodate as many parents as possible, while childcare was offered at Gates Elementary to allow parents time to focus on their own enrichment at the event.

The opportunity to speak with community organizations at a resource fair and the chance to make connections with other parents/guardians wanting to engage even further in their child's growth and future made for a day where East Aurora parents were truly the stars. The concerns and priorities of District 131 parents were both validated and encouraged on this day, as participants heard from their own community as part of the event's session offerings. EASD 131 Bilingual Parent Advisory Council president and parent, Liliano Olayo, presented on "The Importance of Viewing Parents Through a Lens of Equity", sharing her passion for parent involvement. NJROTC students acted as guides for parents throughout the day, while the East High Marching Band and Cheer Squad even made an appearance to rally participants towards an excellent day of learning. District 131 is grateful for the constant support and dedication of our parents—they are an essential part of our One Team, One Plan spirit.



THE REAL FACTS

The 2022-2023 school year saw the dawn of some wonderful achievements on the part of District 131 students. The accomplishments revealed in the Illinois State Report Card display the well-earned efforts of our Tomcats and the commitment of district leadership to empower all students to reach their full potential. From graduation growth to academic enrichment, East Aurora students at all grade levels are continuing on their path towards excellence.



Each year, District 131 awaits the data released by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to show our community just how far our students have progressed from the previous year. The Illinois State Report card provides an excellent snapshot of our students' graduation growth and academic enrichment. But this year, East Aurora School District 131 made history as well.

The Every School Succeeds Act from the U.S. Department of Education requires all states in the nation to assign summative designations to their schools. ISBE has four categories for its designations—*Exemplary*, *Commendable*, *Targeted*, and *Comprehensive*. This year, it was revealed that **all schools in District 131 have been assigned the top two designations—Exemplary and Commendable.**

Four school sites in the district made the leap of ascending a level in the designation categories: Allen Elementary School, Cowherd Middle School, Waldo Middle School, and East Aurora High School.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jennifer Norrell, attributed these successes to the staff and parents of district students, along with the unwavering commitment from the District 131 Board of Education.

“We would not have been able to make these strides without a strong Board that both challenges us and provides top resources to support each student reaching their full potential,” Norrell said.

EXEMPLARY	<p>The school is performing within the <u>top 10 percent</u> of schools statewide and has no student groups underperforming.</p> 
COMMENDABLE	<p>The school has no underperforming student groups greater than 67 percent, but the performance is not yet in the top 10 percent statewide.</p> 
TARGETED	<p>The school has one or more student groups that are performing at or below the level of the “all students” group.</p>
COMPREHENSIVE	<p>The school is in the lowest performing 5 percent of schools within the state and has a high school graduation rate below 67 percent.</p>

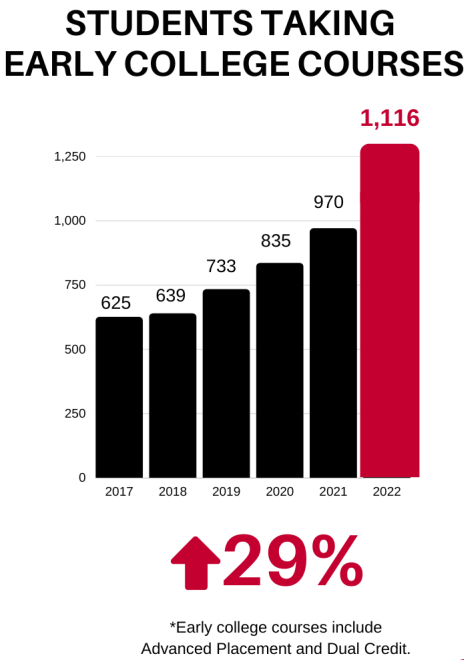
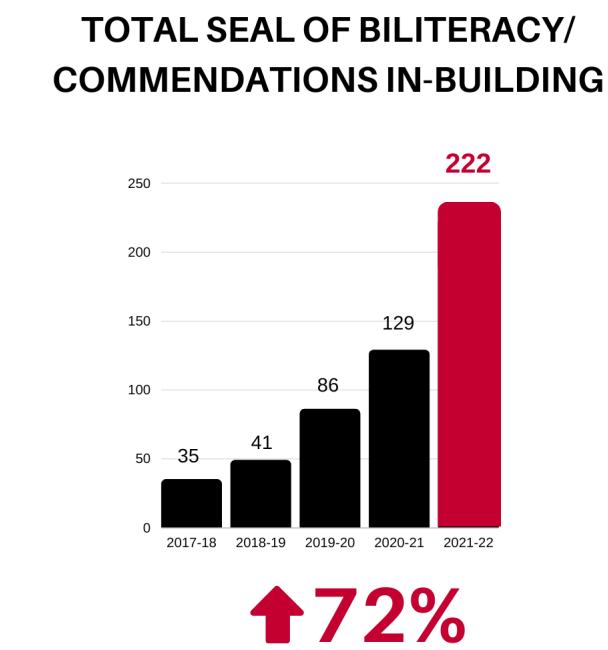
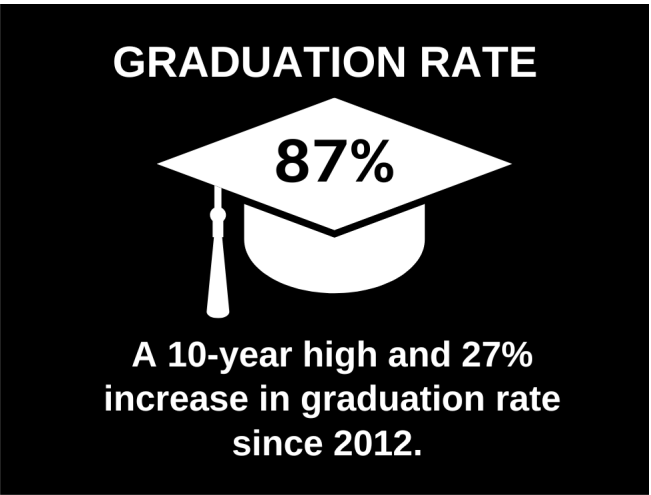
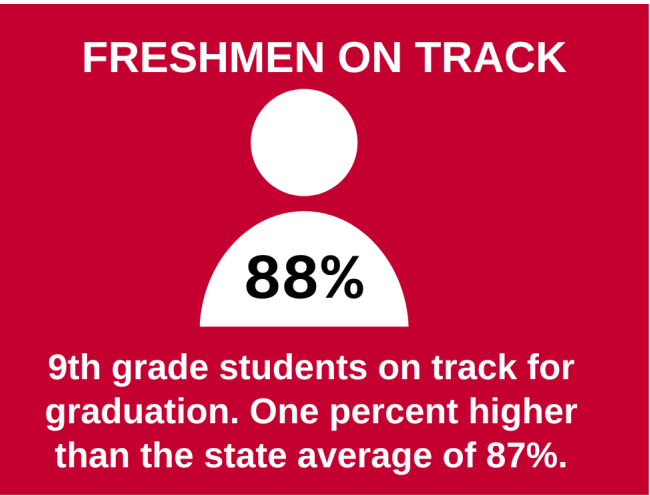
Early College Credits at Waubonsee Community College

Fourteen students at East High are currently enrolled in the Early College Program, where students take actual college courses at the Sugar Grove campus of Waubonsee Community College. This partnership gives Tomcats the opportunity to earn college and high school credit (for free), while connecting with their peers in an actual college environment. At the end of the Fall semester, these students will have earned six college credits transferable to any four or two-year college in the country.

To discover what opportunities are on the menu for Tomcat college & career success, contact Director of Middle and Secondary College and Career Readiness Asa Gordon, at agordon@d131.org.



Twelve of the fourteen students enrolled in the Early College Program.



Tomcats on the Move to Reach their Full Potential

Students at the Middle and High School Level Explore Off-Campus Opportunities Provided by District 131



Director of Middle and Secondary College and Career Readiness, Asa Gordon, with EAHS seniors at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL.

The College & Career Center—located inside East High—has been a bustling, revolving door of events and resources for students since the school year began. Tomcats can explore new interests and opportunities related to their post-graduation journey, even moving off-campus to explore these options.

On October 12 of this year, a small cohort of seniors, Director of Middle and Secondary College and Career Readiness Asa Gordon, and a number of East High staff visited Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. For many students, this trip was their first time visiting a college campus. Admission counselors at the university even conducted one-on-one admissions interviews with East Aurora students, allowing Tomcats to experience this critical college admission process and gain confidence in their interview skills in the process.

Also in October, 102 seniors had the chance to visit Waubensee Community College for a campus visit. This was one of the most extensive campus visits for the college from a single high school. Students received an hour-long walking tour of the Sugar Grove campus and its facilities—with many in awe of its size and access to pleasant outdoor spaces the campus offers. East Aurora High School alumna, Daniela Salazar De Luna, spoke to current Tomcats on the tour in a “Getting Started/Why Waubensee” series of presentations. The event was so successful, another campus visit is scheduled for late November, with more on the horizon for Spring 2023.

In conjunction with the City of Aurora’s African-American Heritage Advisory Board, fourteen East High students were able to attend the 100 Black Men of Chicago, Inc. College Scholarship Fair on Saturday, October 15. Held at the Chicago campus of the University of Illinois, the event provided insight into university and college life, curricular offerings, scholarship information, and more. Our Tomcats visited with over 75 colleges from across the nation, including those with academic or career specializations as well as historically black colleges and universities. As the school year moves forward, more events are in the works for Tomcats to learn from Saint Xavier University, Eastern Illinois University, Saint Francis University and more.

Prior to the 2022-23 school year taking off, nine East High students were already on the move gaining college insight and experience. Camp Spartan at Aurora University is a college preparation program which Tomcat students could attend to learn more about post-secondary options. The multi-day program allowed students to gain confidence in their ability to move through the post-secondary system, discover academic and skill-based passions, make new friends, and explore a college campus—all for free.

Exposure to academic interests and strengthening of skills does not simply begin at the high school level, however. District 131 middle school students similarly got a jump on their success during the Summer of 2022.

Twelve East Aurora 131 middle school students attended Northern Illinois University’s STEAM Camp over the summer, participating in one of the following exploratory programs: Engineering Amusement, Creative Media, Film, and Photography. These programs gave our young Tomcats the chance to engage with their peers and benefit from creative and skills-based exploration in order to learn more about their strengths, talents, and ability to reach their fullest potential.

District 131 is proud to continue finding exciting opportunities for our students to gain confidence in their post-secondary choices.



Asa Gordon with the thirteen seniors that attended the NACAC College Fair (National Association of College Admission Counseling)



African American Advisory Board Takes Students to College Expo

District 131 Hires New Safety and Security Officers

Retired Police Officers Fill New Roles in Ensuring the Safety of Students and Staff

East Aurora School District 131's first Strategic Goal is Equity—encompassing a firm commitment by district leadership to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

This goal manifests itself not just through the enactment of social/emotional and curricular strategies, but through the protection of our physical environments as well.

Beginning this school year, six new Safety and Security Officers were added to the district's personnel—a move which is already proving to be invaluable for our district. Retired police officers Patty Vega, Mike DeValdivielso, Robert Jones, Pedro Rodriguez, Michael Carrasco, and Ryszard Drozdowski are currently assigned to the fifteen elementary school sites which service students in grades pre-k through fifth.

While districts continue to evolve their educational practices and approach to nurturing the social needs of students, the area of safety and security is a responsibility that continues to be of the utmost importance for educational environments around the country.

"The amount of experience they bring to the district is priceless," District 131 Safety and Security Manager, Kevin Jenkins said. The officers' primary focus is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff at each site during all hours of the school day. In addition to other regulated tasks, Safety and Security Officers perform regularly scheduled safety compliance checks to ensure that schools are adhering to established best practice standards designed to keep schools safe.

The presence of these officers—all with previous police training—has been well received by students and staff alike.



*EASD 131 Safety & Security Officers. From left to right:
Back row: Robert Jones, Ryszard Drozdowski, Michael Carrasco
Front row: Pedro Rodriguez, Patty Vega, Mike DeValdivielso*

"I cannot express how happy we are to have Safety Officer Robert Jones in our building. Mr. Jones is observant, thoughtful, and direct when it comes to matters of safety. He is highly involved, dedicated, and takes charge of all matters he deems to be a safety concern. He is very professional and has developed an amazing rapport with staff and students," Hermes Elementary School Principal, Isabel Novak De Los Santos said.

Ultimately, the well-being of students in East Aurora schools is the passion of all district personnel. Yet the appointment of these new Safety and Security Officers reaffirms the commitment of district leadership in safeguarding the welfare of both students and all staff in our sites—ensuring the educational environment remains a protected one.

24/7 SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM

Safe2Help Illinois provides students with a confidential environment to share school safety concerns and receive additional resources to keep them healthy and safe.

Safe2Help Illinois is a 24/7 program. Learn more at:
www.Safe2HelpIllinois.com



Call: 844-472-3345 | Text: 72332



Michael Carrasco, Safety & Security Officer, performs a perimeter sweep during the school day.

Reaching the Gold Quality Standards

Tiny Tomcats Receive ExceleRate IL Award



Preschool students at the EASD 131 Early Childhood Center (ECC)



East Aurora School District 131's Early Childhood Centers, home to the Tiny Tomcats, were recently awarded the ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality Award—the highest of three quality circle ratings from the state.

Awarded to programs who meet or exceed specific benchmark qualities, the Gold Circle of Quality recognizes high-performing early childhood programs. The rigorous monitoring process includes a full day of classroom observations, file and data reviews, and the submission of detailed documents to show compliance with grant funding requirements. Both half and full day programs across Illinois are measured to confirm they are of the highest quality.

State-approved assessors observe and rate programs on quality benchmarks in areas such as learning environment, instructional quality, staff/child ratios, and professional development. Ratings run on a scale from 0 to 7, with preschool programs earning the Gold Circle of Quality if rated 5 or higher in all categories. District 131 was able to achieve this status in spades— achieving a rating of 6 in all nine categories.

All four preschool locations in the district received this high designation, with the Early Childhood Center, Aries "Jaybird" Gonzalez Child Center, O'Donnell Elementary School and Oak Park Elementary School sharing in the gold.

"Our staff works hard each day to provide the highest

quality programming to all of our Tiny Tomcats," said Rosary Horne, Director of Early Learning and Educational Grants. "Whether they are in our half day or full day classrooms, our preschoolers are receiving the highest quality curriculum, environment and interactions to move them towards kindergarten readiness, ensuring their success as they continue to learn and grow."

While the Gold Circle of Quality rating is active for three years, East Aurora's preschool staff are not slowing down. Preparation for the district-wide dual language program—which begins at the kindergarten level—is already underway in Tiny Tomcat classrooms. Staff at all centers continue to meet regularly to collaborate and reflect on teaching and learning best practices for all students.

"Now more than ever, young children benefit from opportunities to interact with other children, to learn to navigate big feelings...and to develop their academic and social emotional skills," Horne said. "In our Tiny Tomcat [program], our staff help our preschoolers develop those skills...beginning their lifetime of academic achievement and success in East Aurora School District 131. They belong here!"

If you would like to schedule a preschool screening for your child, please contact the EASD 131 Welcome Center at (630) 299-7460.

Jumpstart Program Pinned With PAT Blue Ribbon Status

Baby Tomcat Program Receives Nationally Recognized Designation

The EASD 131 Jumpstart Program completed the *Parents as Teachers* Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process and has earned the highest designation. The Blue Ribbon Affiliate status affirms that East Aurora's Jumpstart Program is among the highest quality for the home visitation and parent education field.

The Parents As Teachers (PAT) mission is to build strong communities, thriving families, and children that are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Rather than beginning the growth and developmental process at the preschool or kindergarten level, the PAT program starts this engagement at home and while children are beginning their earliest stages of exploration. To help ensure that PAT affiliates are adhering to the curriculum model and facilitate continuous quality improvements, PAT developed the Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process.

After completing a comprehensive self-study and reviewing processes to demonstrate the program is meeting the PAT model's essential requirements, Jumpstart was recognized as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate for the second time. This means the program is delivering an exemplary high-quality service to children and families and preparing District 131 students to thrive and make a difference in the East Aurora community.

"The Parents As Teachers format truly showcases the importance of parent involvement and investment in their child's overall development," said Susan Orozco, Early Childhood Center Principal.

The Jumpstart Program offers free parent enrichment to families with children prenatal to age three. Twenty-five years strong, the Jumpstart program has focused on parent-child interactions through play, development-centered parenting skills, and supporting family well-being. Parents receive in-home visits twice a month from a Jumpstart parent educator, who offers research-based strategies to reach necessary developmental milestones and social preparedness. These are designed to empower parents not only with the knowledge of how best to set their little ones up for success at the preschool level and beyond, but to engage them first-hand with that growth and development.

Specifically assigned to individual families for a three-year period, parent educators are considered District 131 parents' biggest supporters. They encourage the importance of reading and provide free children's books with each home visit. The program plans "Baby and Me" field trips so parents can make connections with other parents and build their circle of support. These trips also help babies and toddlers gain exposure to social settings and stimulating environments to start building background knowledge.



Jumpstart Parent Educators celebrate their second Blue Ribbon status.

"Last year we serviced over 100 Baby Tomcats," said Argelia "Vivi" Luna, Jumpstart Program Administrator. "We are excited that, for the first time, Jumpstart has a waitlist and there is a continuous flow of new monthly enrollment as children turn three. Parents are seeing the results from previous program participants. We are the families' biggest cheerleaders from infancy to high school graduation!"

Families are connected to community resources as needed to sustain a healthy, safe, and educational home environment. Prior to completing the program, Baby Tomcats, parents, and parent educators discuss preschool enrollment and classroom readiness.

"The Blue Ribbon status acknowledges the parent's and team's continuous potential to impact the district's tiniest Tomcats. My greatest joy of working with families with young children is to see them graduate high school, even college. My hope for Jumpstart parents is that they would continue to join advisory councils, lead local nonprofits, start local businesses, and empower other families by sharing the knowledge and skills learned while a part of Jumpstart," said Luna.

East Aurora School District 131 is proud of the Jumpstart Program's strong teamwork, effective operations, and dedicated service to community families. Congratulations!

Help your children reach their full potential before they enter preschool! East Aurora School District's Jumpstart Program offers FREE parenting enrichment services and support to families with children from prenatal through age three, as well as families who are expecting a baby. Visit www.d131.org/jumpstart or call (630) 299-7493 for more information.

The Board of Education Celebrates Another Year of Accomplishments

With Lowest Tax Rate in District History

The Board of Education is responsible for determining the policies which guide the operation of the district. The State of Illinois gives local school boards responsibility for setting policies in approval of courses of study and textbooks, adoption of an annual budget, construction, furnishing and maintenance of facilities, employment, and hiring and evaluation of the superintendent.

Learn more about the Board of Education at www.d131.org.



Ms. Annette Johnson, President
Years of Service:
2009-present



Mr. Dan Barreiro, Vice President
Years of Service:
2003-2007; 2017-present



Ms. Kimberly Hatchett, Secretary
Years of Service:
2015-present



Mr. Alex Arroyo
Years of Service:
2015-present



Ms. Avis Miller
Years of Service:
2019-present



Mr. Bruce Schubert
Years of Service:
2017-present



Mr. Juan Sifuentes Jr.
Years of Service:
2019-present



Daniela Arredondo
Student Board Member
2022-2023 school year



Arturo Samano
Student Board Member
2022-2023 school year

7 Number of consecutive years the Illinois State Board of Education has designated EASD 131 as "Financial Recognition" – the highest possible ranking.



Financial Recognition

Financial Review

Financial Early Warning

Financial Watch

8

Number of consecutive years the EASD 131 tax rate has been reduced - record low tax rates while continuing to expand opportunities.



2022
2021
2020
2019
2018
2017
2016
2015

2016-2017

- East Aurora High School expansion: new stadium with artificial turf field, fine arts wing, cafeteria, library, culinary arts, and 20 new classrooms
- EASD 131 earned "Financial Recognition" from the Illinois State Board of Education

2017-2018

- Bus transportation for students PreK-12th for the first time in the district's 167-year history
- New Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry opens at East Aurora High School
- Search conducted for new superintendent; Board hires Dr. Jennifer Norrell
- EASD 131 earned "Financial Recognition" from the Illinois State Board of Education

2018-2019

- EASD 131 Strategic Planning; mission, vision, and a five-year strategic plan
- District restructures 16M in debt and increases fund balance
- Historic three-year contract signed with East Aurora Council, AFT Local 604 Teachers Union
- Addition of energy-efficient lighting in all 20 school sites
- East Aurora Excel Academy opens new site on Indian Trail Road
- 59 new air-conditioning rooftop units added across the district
- EASD 131 earned "Financial Recognition" from the Illinois State Board of Education

2019-2020

- New heating and air conditioning added to seven elementary schools
- 1:1 Pre-K through 12th grade electronic devices
- iPad Mini's, iPads, laptops and hotspots for all students
- New Administration District Office purchased
- Newly-built Professional Development Center and Board Room
- Early Childhood Center and adjacent building purchased on Indian Trail Road
- 13 out of 17 schools designated as Commendable Status by State of Illinois
- EASD 131 earned "Financial Recognition" from the Illinois State Board of Education

2020-2021

- Implemented first district-wide Dual Language Program for all Kindergarten
- New heating & air conditioning added to one middle school and two additional elementary schools
- Building expansion for Gonzalez Child Center for Adventures Alternative Program K-5th grade; six new high tech classrooms, pet therapy room, yoga studio, cafeteria, gymnasium and courtyard
- EASD 131 earned "Financial Recognition" from the Illinois State Board of Education

2021-2022

- Adventures program opens in addition to a brand new Administrative Center in the old Copley Center Campus
- HVAC upgrades scheduled for Summer 2022 for five additional buildings
- Expanded the district-wide Dual Language program to include all Kindergarten and 1st grade students
- EASD 131 earned "Financial Recognition" from the Illinois State Board of Education

2022-2023

- Additional 5 HVAC upgrades completed totaling 15 buildings in the last 4 years
- Dual Language Program district wide through 2nd grade
- Lowest tax levy at an all-time low of 3.9%
- Ground-breaking of Resilience Education Center