

A Message from the Superintendent



The 2019–2020 school year is fully underway! Connecting with so many of you during my first year as District 39 Superintendent has been a pleasure, as has observing the incredible level of teaching and learning that takes place within our District every day.

We have so much to celebrate here in District 39. Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to support the continued growth of our students. Our instruction and curricular programming are aligned to the skills children will need to demonstrate as they prepare for success in life. We are able to provide our students with a robust educational program while remaining fiscally responsible with the resources entrusted to us by our community.

As proud as I am of our successes, I am even more proud of the way that our teachers, administrators and staff embrace our collective desire to do more for our school communities. This desire to maintain and continually pursue excellence is reflected in the strategic initiatives that we will look to accomplish this school year (see page 3). Notably, we are eager to continue our work in the areas of school culture development, student growth through differentiated instruction and our exploration of the effectiveness of technology in education. The continuation of this important work will have a lasting positive impact on our schools and students, both now and into the future.

This is an incredibly exciting time to be part of the Wilmette Public Schools community! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your comments or questions, and I will be happy to help.

Your partner in education,

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wilmette Public Schools District 39



Dr. Kari Cremascoli

Superintendent
Admin. Experience: 15 years
"Children are our priority. Every decision we make in District 39 will be made with the best interests of children in mind and a focus on student growth."



Dr. Kristin Swanson

Administrator for Student Services
Admin. Experience: 8 years
"Each child has infinite potential. I hope to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure that every child reaches his or her potential, socially, emotionally and academically."



Mr. Aaron Dubnow

Principal, Harper Elementary
Admin. Experience: 5 years
"Harper is a tremendous school supported by a caring community. I look forward to working with parents and faculty to bring out the best in each child."



Mrs. Dana Nasiakos

Principal, McKenzie Elementary
Admin. Experience: 3 years
"Alongside parents and teachers, I hope to cultivate the love and joy of learning in McKenzie students so that they thrive in the next stage of their learning journey."



Ms. Linda Moric

Assistant Principal,
Highcrest Middle School (Grade 5)
Admin. Experience: First year
"When students feel welcomed and supported, they succeed. I look forward to helping create a school community that encourages growth both academically and socially."



Mr. Anthony Haduch

Assistant Principal, Central and McKenzie Elementary Schools
Admin. Experience: First year
"I see myself as a Treasure Hunter. I search for the talents, skills, and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I look forward to working with your family this school year."



Stay Connected



Social Media: Follow us @Wilmette39 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Neighborhood Lists: Visit www.wilmette39.org/neighbor to subscribe to our local neighbor email lists in order to keep up with the D39 school news going on in your community.

Email: Email us at communications@wilmette39.org with your questions, feedback and suggestions.

D39 Approves FY20 Budget

The Wilmette Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved the Wilmette Public Schools Fiscal Year 2019–2020 Budget during the Board’s August meeting. The budget reflects the District’s commitment to fiscal responsibility while financing educational projects that support the academic, social-emotional and physical well being of each student.

What to know about the budget

- In order to maintain financial stability, the Wilmette Board of Education has a long-term goal of sustaining the overall end-of-fiscal-year operating fund balance at a level equivalent to 40% or more of operating expenditures. This ratio is projected to be 60.8% at the end of the fiscal year.
- The budget figures below do not include \$22 million for the Teacher Pension Flow-Through, which is the payment the State makes toward D39’s pension obligation.



FY20 Budget at a Glance

Total Operating Revenues.....	\$64,168,949
Educational (79%).....	\$50,625,043
Operations and Maintenance (14%).....	\$9,293,621
Transportation (3%).....	\$1,944,563
IMRF/Social Security (3%).....	\$1,648,738
Tort (1%).....	\$548,303
Working Cash (0.2%).....	\$108,681

Bond Issuance/Refunding	\$4,000,000
Non-Operating Funds	\$1,625,205

Total Operating Expenditures.....	\$62,052,891
Educational (83%).....	\$51,558,635
Operations and Maintenance (10%).....	\$6,193,829
Transportation (3%).....	\$2,007,574
IMRF/Social Security (3%).....	\$1,688,276
Tort (1%).....	\$604,577
Working Cash (0%).....	\$0

Construction Projects	\$7,022,614
Non-Operating Funds	\$2,290,156

Total Revenues and Other Sources of Funding

\$69,794,154*

Total Expenditures and Other Uses of Funding

\$71,365,661*

* Excludes transfers between funds and the Teacher Pension Flow-Through revenues/expenses described above

Budget Deficit \$1,571,507

The FY20 Budget reflects a planned deficit of \$1,571,507 due to one-time construction projects planned for the 2019-2020 school year. \$3.5 million has been budgeted for the construction of the Highcrest Library/Media Technology Center with large space air conditioning and a special education classroom renovation. An additional \$3.5 million has been budgeted for three classroom additions at Harper Elementary School necessary for implementing the Kindergarten Enrichment Program.

District 39 Strategic Initiatives

Making progress together toward a bright future

Wilmette Public Schools are committed to nurturing, guiding and challenging students to become creative thinkers, collaborators and productive citizens of a global society. In an effort to make meaningful, continued progress toward this mission, District administrators present strategic initiatives to the Board each year. The Wilmette Board of Education unanimously approved the strategic initiatives for the 2019–2020 school year during the September board meeting. Progress update on the strategic initiatives will be presented to the community in January and February. A high-level summary of this year's strategic plan can be found below:

2019–2020 Strategic Initiatives



Building School Culture and Community

District 39 will enhance efforts to promote inclusion, diversity and a sense of belonging throughout all District schools.



School Safety

District 39 will continue the implementation of the 2018 district safety plan which includes facility improvements and safe practices training for students and teachers.



Student Growth through Differentiation and Personalization

District 39 will positively impact student growth and achievement by meeting the learning needs of each student through differentiating instruction and personalizing interventions.



Grade K-8 Science Curriculum Review

District 39 will continue with the K-8 science curriculum review process while continuing professional development and training for educators.



Effective Integration of Technology

District 39 will explore ways to effectively leverage and integrate technology throughout classrooms as tools for teaching and learning.



Standards-based Learning and Reporting

District 39 will implement revised grade 5-6 report cards and progress reporting documents, engage stakeholders in learning about the new measurement tools and evaluate the success through feedback.



Creating Flexible Learning Environments

District 39 will complete construction of the last Library/Media Learning Commons space at Highcrest Middle School and continue evaluations of the effectiveness of each shared learning space throughout District 39 schools.



Sustainability Planning, Practices and Education

District 39 will review the feasibility of energy-efficient systems throughout its buildings and promote environmental literacy among its students.



Designing a Kindergarten Enrichment Program

District 39 will finalize implementation details for a Kindergarten Enrichment Program expected to launch at Harper and Central Elementary Schools during the 2020–2021 school year.



Delivering a Nutritious School Lunch Program

District 39 will evaluate the effectiveness of recent changes to the lunch program aimed at improving nutrition and student satisfaction.

Together, we help one another

District 39 created the Angel Fund as a way for community organizations and individuals to help our families facing financial hardship cover school fees, extracurricular program costs and other school expenses.



Please consider making a donation to the Angel Fund if able. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To donate, visit: wilmette39.org/angelfund

For More Information

Background and action steps for each strategic initiative can be found online at www.wilmette39.org under the "About Us" section.

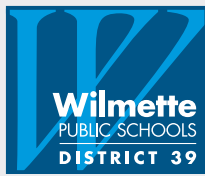
The approved FY19–20 budget can also be found in the "Annual Financial Reports" page of the District website under the "About Us" section.



The District 39 Educational Foundation, a 501c(3) non-profit organization, raises funds for projects that expand, enrich, and complement educational opportunities for the students, staff, and community in District 39. Visit us online at d39foundation.org for more information about our organization.

- Join us from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 4, 2019 for **Family Bingo Night** at Highcrest Middle School. Pizza salads and snacks are available in addition to prizes for winning bingo cards!
- The 7th annual fashion show, *Attire to Inspire*, will take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at Westmoreland Country Club. The event will include a runway show, boutique shopping and raffle prizes.
- Science Olympiad** program registration begins in October. Fun, non-competitive science-inspired classes for grades 5-8 begin in early December. Check d39foundation.org for more information.
- Our **Gripp Grant** deadline is November 8, 2019. Applications are welcome from District 39 teachers, parents and students.

Our enriching grants, programs and events are dependent upon your donations. We are grateful for the continued support of our generous community!



39 exPRESS is published by the District 39 Board of Education to provide information to local citizens about educational programs and activities. 39 exPRESS is printed on recycled paper.

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Celebrating Our Schools

In the fall, District 39 schools found many special ways to celebrate students, teachers and families as part of the District's *Building School Culture and Community* strategic initiative.



Central Elementary School

Celebrating Our Values: Central students and staff gathered for an all-school assembly in August. Central students came together in song and pledged to treat each other with dignity and respect as part of their "First Class Central" theme.

Harper Elementary School

Celebrating Our Goals: As part of the "Together We Make Harper" project, students and staff wrote their goals for the year on paper dolphins and taped them to a Harper mural located in the second grade hallway.



McKenzie Elementary School

Celebrating the First Day: McKenzie staff organized a Hollywood-style red carpet welcome for returning students and families on the first day of school. Each student was celebrated as they embarked on their year-long journey of learning and growing at McKenzie.

Romona Elementary School

Celebrating Special Days: At Romona, students are treated to a special luncheon with their principals during their birthday month. Students with August birthdays received mustang sunglasses in celebration of their bright futures.



Highcrest Middle School

Celebrating Our Actions: Students at Highcrest receive "Hawk Feathers" from teachers and staff to recognize instances where they exhibit Honest, Accountable, Welcoming, Kind and Safe (HAWKS) behavior. The feathers are used in a raffle where students can win prizes each week.

Wilmette Junior High School

Celebrating Each Other: Students and staff at Wilmette Junior High are working together to create team and classroom identities. Students also participated in a merit challenge in September to celebrate safe, responsible, respectful and inclusive actions.

