



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

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Awards and Achievements

Spring 2007 Update

An even dozen – Bright Red Apple Awards, that is!

District 64 was chosen as one of only 84 Illinois school districts to be awarded the 2006 Bright Red Apple Award by SchoolSearch. This is the 12th consecutive year District 64 was selected from among almost 900 school districts in the State. The award is based on five important criteria: academic performance; pupil/teacher ratio; expenditure per pupil; education level of teachers; and, average teacher salary. SchoolSearch provides comparative school district information to corporations, homebuilders, libraries, real estate professionals, and relocating families.

District 64 now has its first-ever “Blue Ribbon School”

Lincoln Middle School captured District 64's first-ever “Blue Ribbon School” designation this fall. Lincoln was one of only two middle schools in Illinois – and only 24 public middle schools across the nation – to be named a 2006 No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Lincoln was invited to apply for the award based on student achievement in the top 10% of the state on standardized tests, and had to pass a rigorous review of its curriculum and programs.

- Lincoln Middle School's **Physical Education Department** was also awarded a Blue Ribbon Program honor for 2006-09 by the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Lincoln's program is one of only 10 schools in the state to be recognized for its exemplary curriculum, instructional methods and facilities.

Emerson Middle School is in its third year as a prestigious demonstration school of the Association of Illinois Middle-Level Schools (AIMS). Recognition as a demonstration school indicates academic excellence, student access to a valued curriculum, strong organizational structures, and programs that support putting children first.

- *Both middle schools serve as models of best practices for teaching early adolescents, with frequent visits by other districts from surrounding areas to observe their programs firsthand.*

Take “note” of this program

District 64's **Instrumental Music** department is well known throughout the Chicago area for its excellent programs. Lincoln and Emerson Middle School bands receive high ratings from the Illinois Grade School Music Association at annual competitions. Student band and orchestra groups also perform in the local community -- catch a show soon!

Exciting happenings at District 64 elementary schools

Field School's Quality Improvement Team was honored in October 2006 with a *"Those Who Excel"* award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Comprised of 17 staff members from various grade levels and departments, the team leads the school's annual efforts to improve education by focusing on writing and reading instruction as well as the District's Civil Behavior goals of respect and responsibility.

Carpenter School was awarded a \$2,100 Arts Fund grant from the Illinois Arts Council; the Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council; and the following major contributors to the Park Ridge Arts Council: Northern Trust Bank and the City of Park Ridge. Funds are being used for students to create a mosaic for their school and to involve students in video production projects.

In recent years, **Franklin and Roosevelt Schools** have received grant funds to run a PEOPLE program to help reduce childhood obesity and physical inactivity. PEOPLE stands for Physical Education, Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle Enhancement. Grant funds from Illinois State University and the Centers for Disease Control enabled physical education teachers from these schools to create a program focused on improving physical fitness, nutrition and overall wellness. Students participated with their families and set goals to increase physical activity and nutritional awareness.

In conjunction with a grant from the **District 64 Elementary Learning Foundation**, **Washington School** second grade students raised \$2,500 to donate to the Shedd Aquarium. Students studied ocean life as part of the science curriculum, designed beautiful note cards depicting their favorite ocean animals and sold these cards to family and friends. Money generated from these sales was donated to the Aquarium, which acknowledged the students with certificates and a hands-on learning presentation.

Excellence in teaching

■ Two District 64 teachers have received National Board Certification. Fewer than 2% of all Illinois teachers have received this prestigious status. Teachers achieving this distinction must meet high and rigorous standards and undergo a demanding review of their professional skills and knowledge through a series of tests of their subject-matter knowledge, performance-based assessments, and in-depth analyses of their classroom teaching and student learning. ■ District 64 teachers and administrators have also been recognized by the professional organizations of which they are a part and often serve as leaders in these organizations. ■ More than two-thirds of all District 64 teachers hold master's degrees. Advancement of professional knowledge is an ongoing aspect of all teachers' work.

Outstanding student achievement

District 64 students annually score at very high levels on state and national achievement tests. Of all District 64 students, **92% met or exceeded state learning standards** as tested on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test administered in March 2006. The standardized test assessed math and reading skills of 3rd - 8th grade students and science knowledge of 4th and 7th grade students.

"The exceptional things that happen in our District are the result of all of us working together for excellence."

– Superintendent Sally Pryor

Please visit www.d64.org for more information about District 64, its programs and services.