



NEWS

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Three School District 64 Physical Education Departments Are First in Illinois to Earn "STARS" National Status

The Physical Education Departments of three Park Ridge-Niles District 64 schools are the first in Illinois to capture the prestigious STARS award from the National Association of Sports and Physical Education (NASPE). The winning department teachers were honored at the February 11 Board of Education meeting.

"We are delighted that Field and Carpenter elementary schools and Emerson Middle School have joined an elite group of outstanding physical education programs around the country," Superintendent Sally Pryor announced. "This award symbolizes the outstanding professional commitment our teachers have made to provide the highest quality physical education experience District 64 can offer to meet the needs of the whole child," she added.

At Field School, teachers Maureen Borowski, Holly Gansz and Jason Mata, along with Rich Czyz, who retired from District 64 in June, worked as a team on the extensive analysis required to submit the school's portfolio for judging. At Carpenter School, Karen Hastie, Sue McGovern, Harley Tom and Heather Friese, who also teaches at Franklin School, collaborated on the self-evaluation process. Teachers Robert DeMano, Lisa Nelson, Emmy Pasier, Aaron Schauer, and Kelly Van Horn comprised the Emerson Middle School team.

Each school prepared a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of their programs compared to rigorous standards for K-12 grade levels to apply for the recognition. A national panel of physical education professionals reviewed each school's portfolio, which included a rating of: curriculum; instructional practices; program resources; professional preparation, growth and development; and communication. STARS status is conferred for five years.

District 64 will accept the awards in April at the national conference of the American Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Carpenter, Field and Emerson join 34 other schools from across the country that have merited the designation since the program was begun in 2004.

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