



SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 13, 2024

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PRESCHOOL EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Dear Families and FSD 145 Staff,


We want to take this opportunity to share with you an important change that will be proposed to the board of education at their regular meeting on December 17th, to address disparities in academic and social-emotional preparedness that we see among our youngest learners. The proposal considers expanding our preschool program and consolidating all preschool classes to one central location to create a more unified and comprehensive early childhood program.

Our goal in expanding and centralizing our early childhood structure is to enhance Kindergarten Readiness, which is crucial for student proficiency in later grades. This consolidated approach will provide a consistent staffing model, resources, and support services in every classroom.

While we have seen improvements in preschool classrooms across the district, we believe that a centralized program will ensure a more cohesive and effective learning environment for our students and a much more robust way of utilizing our resources for preschool students. This change will allow us to focus on accountability and prioritization for Kindergarten Readiness, ultimately benefiting all students in our district. Since we are not able to allocate funds for building a new site for our desired early learning center, we will be utilizing building space that already exists in our district.

Recommended changes for SY 2025 in order to accommodate the preschool expansion project:

1. Preschool students and teachers/staff will move out of the elementary buildings and transition to the current site of Jones Farrar IB School in the Fall of 2025 of what will become the Early Childhood Center.
2. Elementary Schools will transition to a K-5 Model in the Fall of 2025. This will give the current 4th graders in the elementary schools one more year to remain in their school.



3. The current Jones Farrar K-6 IB students and teachers will move to Carl Sandburg Middle School in the Fall of 2025. JFIB will become a K-7 school in the Fall of 2025 and expand to a K-8 IB School in the Fall of 2026. **What does this mean?**

- JFIB will be able to offer the IB Continuum from its current PYP (Primary Year Programme) to adding an MYP (Middle Year Programme). JFIB will maintain its name due to its IB designation. The board and ROE 8 will take action to phase out Carl Sandburg Middle School permanently.
 - **Things to consider:** Run a lottery for an additional classroom of incoming 6th and 7th graders for the Fall of 2025 at JFIB. This will give JFIB 3 classrooms in each grade level. Current 5th and 6th-grade students in Carl Sandburg can apply through the lottery if they wish to be considered as a 6th or 7th-grade student in JFIB in the Fall of 2025. Student diversity will be taken into consideration when running the lottery.

4. Current 5th and 6th-grade students in Carl Sandburg will transition to FMS in the Fall of 2025 as future 6th and 7th-grade students unless they have been accepted into the Jones Farrar lottery. **What does this mean?**

- FMS will transition to a 6th-8th-Grade Model
- Current 4th-grade students in HAPP at Center Elementary will remain in 5th grade at Center for SY2025.
- The 6th grade HAPP/Honors Program currently in Carl Sandburg will move to FMS in SY25. In 2026, we will open another HAPP/Honors 6th-grade section in order to maintain two Honors classrooms in each grade at FMS. These are for the 5th-grade students coming from elementary schools who were not considered for the HAPP Program.

FSD Staff, families and community members are welcome to speak during the Public Forum at the December 17, 2024 and January 21, 2025 board meetings to offer their support or thoughts about this proposal. The December meeting will be held in the FMS Conference Center.

On behalf of the Board of Education and myself, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVAL



CONGRATULATIONS

To the following 6-8 grade students who were selected for the IL Music Education Association District 2 and 8 Music Festival held on Saturday, November 16

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Abigail Coverstone, Katie Elmore, Petronella Leverton, Eliza Coverstone, Elliot Fairman, Claire Maltry

CHORALE MUSIC

Corey McKillip, Marah Seals, Gavin Knipschild, Alex Bonsky, Serenity Pempilton, Malley Simpkins, Jeremiah Robinson-Guess, Jaysea Reisenbichler, Zoey Leach, Tayleia Nolan, Levi Remmers, Aubrey Stewart, Olivia Hicks

The students are pictured in this week's Around the District Video.

NJROTC AWARDS



SALUTE TO OUR CADETS

Cadet Commanding Officer and Rifle Team Commander: **Serenity Tuell**

Cadet Executive Officer: **Teighan Muder**

Orienteering Commander: **Chris Schneiderman**

Drone Team Commander: **Dakota Ihus**

Drone Team Member: **Noah Jowers**

Air Rifle Team co-commander: **Dylan Colberg**

WINTER BREAK

Winter Break begins Monday, December 23. School will resume on January 6, 2025.

All FSD Offices will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, 26 & Jan. 1, 2.

BE SAFE & ENJOY THE BREAK!



IESA SCHOLAR ATHLETE

CONGRATS JRUE

Jrue Montoya was nominated for the IESA Scholar Athlete Award. He is a 2 time state qualifier in Track and Field and Wrestling. He also has a 4.0 GPA.

The IESA Scholar Attitude Award honors those students who have maintained a high-academic standard while pursuing participation in their school community through IESA activities.

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