

SHINE 189



SUPPORTING.HELPING.INSPIRING.NEXT-LEVEL.EDUCATORS

VOLUME 7 - MARCH 2020

CULINARY TEAM WINS BIG AT COOKING COMPETITION



The East St. Louis Senior High School culinary team competed against other area schools in the October Platinum Chef Competition at SWIC-Granite City. The Flyers were awarded 1st place overall and Best Entree in the event. Eleventh grader Isaiah Haynes was awarded the Competition MVP as well as Team MVP for the second year in a row. We are extremely proud of the efforts of Chef Gregory Clemons, MVP Isaiah Haynes and all of the culinary students! The culinary program is one of several career exploration programs within Career and Technical Education (CTE).

SCHOOL DISTRICT 189 LEADERSHIP:

Arthur R. Culver
Superintendent

Tina Frye
Chief Human Resource Officer

Keisa Garrett
Chief of Schools

Jennifer Brumback
Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Sherry Reynolds Whitaker
Chief School Business Official

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

RC Clark
President

Lonzo Greenwood
Vice President

Irma Golliday
Secretary

Victoria Clay
Treasurer

Kinnis Williams Sr.
Member

LaKeisha Adams
Member

Betty Jones-Carr
Member

A SPARK FROM ARC: A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



“OUR GREATEST WEAKNESS LIES IN GIVING UP. THE MOST CERTAIN WAY TO SUCCEED IS ALWAYS TO TRY JUST ONE MORE TIME.”

– Thomas A. Edison

The challenges of the first semester took a lot of effort to overcome and caused some of us to grow weary. It is imperative that we replenish the drive, energy, and enthusiasm we exhibited at the beginning of the school year. If you are truly committed to empowering excellence, you will resist the temptation to become lackadaisical during times of fatigue or adversity. You must have an ardent belief in excellence so you are not tempted to settle for mediocrity or quit when you experience failure. Champions know how to keep a positive attitude, maintain concentration, and continue to work diligently when they are fatigued, while others simply quit.

People that quit typically blame others and make excuses for their lack of success. They often transfer their failure to something outside of their perceived sphere of influence. They fail to realize that excuses do not change existing conditions; therefore, it is better to spend time thinking about strategies that can lead you to success rather than excuses. I have never heard a person say that they succeeded because of the excuses they made or the people they blamed for poor performance.

In the middle of the school year, it can be easy for students and adults alike to become apathetic. You may be disappointed with the lack of progress. Or you may just be going through the motions without the drive and energy you once had. Never settle for this type of apathetic attitude and behavior. Rise above mediocrity or it will pull you down into spiraling negative thoughts. It may even lead to the thought of quitting.

Reflect on your answers to the following questions:

- Have you done your best today?
- Are you expecting better results when you haven't changed your approach?
- Are we demanding enough from ourselves and our students?
- What possibilities do you see as you look at your school/department?
- What potential do you see when you look at our students?
- In times of adversity, do you become pitiful or powerful?

Before entering a challenging situation, you need to take stock of who you are. Your attitude will dictate how you perceive the situation. How you perceive the situation will affect your vision, expectations and results. Communicate your high expectations to your students and the people on your team. Public accountability is a powerful force.

Remember, you can accomplish truly amazing things when you have a reason. What is your reason – your motivation – for excelling every day in your assignment? Use that reason to refocus your thoughts and approach to the challenges you face. What you think, you become. What you feel, you attract. What you imagine, you create.

It's always too soon to quit and never too late to make a comeback. Be encouraged by this inspirational message, adapted from a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier:

DON'T YOU QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit -
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint in the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It might be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

I encourage you to watch this video about not quitting to further inspire you:

youtube.com/watch?v=dYQ2lyMuPes&feature=youtu.be

Arthur R. Culver, Superintendent

EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT - EDI



Early Development Instrument

A community-based data tool to measure child development

School District 189 is one of a handful of communities across the state of Illinois partnering with the Erikson Institute Graduate School in Child Development to use the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI is a community measure that provides information about children's health, development and school readiness to help principals, school administrators and community partners improve services and community conditions that prepare children for success in school and life.

We are grateful to the efforts of all our Kindergarten

teachers for their careful and attentive completion of the EDI in January 2020. This data will be released back to our community in May for us to assess changes since the last EDI population measure, three years ago. Community partners from the Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Partnership, including many local early childhood providers, will use this data to inform their continuous improvement efforts.

Check out the interactive data maps for East St. Louis here: <https://edi.erikson.edu/map/?area=gestl>

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



The East St. Louis School District met and surpassed our United Way Campaign goal for 2019! We raised over \$24,000! Thank you, everyone, for your help and contributions! Last year we had three school campuses break the \$2,000 contribution level and this year we had four campuses to do so. One of these - Gordon Bush

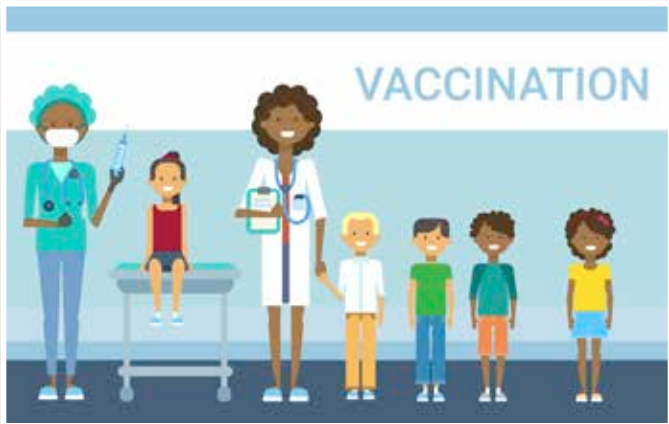
Elementary - set an astonishing new record by donating over \$4300 as a campus!. Let's give a special shout out to these school campuses:

- **Bush Elementary School**
"Superb Showing" Award Winner!
Raised over \$4,300!
- **Wyvetter Young School**
"Small But Mighty" Award Winner!
Raised \$2,400!
- **Mason/Clark Middle School**
"Consistent Contributor" Award Winner!
Raised \$2,300!
- **Vivian Adams Early Childhood Center**
"Positive Participant" Award Winner!
Raised over \$2,200!

Thank You!

IMMUNIZATIONS

WE HIT RECORD HIGH NUMBERS IN 2019



The East St. Louis School District is 91.2% compliant with Health Data! Thanks to the hard work of all who assisted with making families aware of needed health information for their child, School District 189 has a healthier student population this school year. We have 5,176 students in compliance during the 2019-2020 school year. What a tremendous feat!

CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION



On December 6, East St. Louis School District 189 invited students from each of its campuses grades 2nd through 8th to its first Celebration of Champions. The program's intent was to celebrate champions of all disciplines from athleticism to academics. Students from the 2019 IHSA four Championship Teams; Varsity Basketball, Girls Track, Boys Track, and Varsity Football along with CTE student Standouts and the BETA Club President, shared words of wisdom on the characteristics of a champion. They inspired the younger students to embrace the greatness that is inside of each of them by working hard, maintaining good grades, and displaying a positive attitude; reminding them that it takes these characteristics to be a true champion!

SEL CURRICULUM | RIPPLE EFFECTS



District 189 has adopted an exciting new online curriculum, Ripple Effects, to support students' social emotional learning (SEL) skill development and resilience-building. Ripple Effects is a technology-based intervention curriculum that delivers evidence-based motivational counseling to empower students in grades 3-12 to change their behavior and increase their academic success. Students individually log into the Ripple Effects online platform to complete activities on topics such as bullying, empathy, and controlling impulses. The program measures students' strengths, areas of growth, and progress throughout the year.

District 189 began piloting Ripple Effects in the 2017-18 school year at Mason/Clark Middle School and Dunbar Elementary School then expanded to East St. Louis Senior High School, Lincoln Middle School, and Wyvetter Younger Alternative Center last school year. Each school is engaging students in the program differently. For example, ninth-graders at the high school examine one assigned social emotional learning topic and one topic of choice twice weekly during the advisory period. We are excited that as of January 2020, all schools within the district have access to the curriculum.

Questions? Ask Liz Guzewelle, Social Emotional Learning Specialist, at liz.gusewelle@estl189.com.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT | Katelyn Allen



Katelyn Allen is the January 2020 Student of the Month at Lincoln Middle School. All of her teachers praised her for her positive attitude towards life, her willingness to assist struggling classmates with key concepts, and her kindness towards others. Katelyn actively participates in class and does an exceptional job on her assignments without seeking praise or attention. She never complains. Katelyn works hard to make sure she also has an understanding of the deeper meaning from what she is reading, projects she is working on and concepts she is learning. Ms. Allen was nominated by the 8th grade team of teachers.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT | Jayden Wheeler



Annette Harris Officer Elementary School administrators and faculty nominated fourth grade student, **Jayden Wheeler**, as Spotlight Student of the Month.

Jayden always shows great integrity among the staff and his peers. He displays his leadership skills inside and outside of the classroom. He is very intelligent, polite, and respectful. He is an honor roll student who is always willing to assist his peers in any capacity.

Congratulations!



RAD GRAD:



Mahogany Bonner | Class of 2019



Mahogany Bonner attends the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou), majoring in Psychology while minoring in Biology with an emphasis in Pre-med. She is doing well academically, maintaining A's and B's and is a member of Mizzou's Association of Black Psychologists. She plans to join the United States Airforce after college graduation to complete medical school and eventually open her own practice.

She shares, "One thing I believe will be helpful for our teachers and students to know is that it is okay to be outside of your comfort zone."



RAD GRAD:



Montez Holton | Class of 2019

Montez is a junior studying Business Administration and Sociology at Fisk University. He currently serves as the Mister Junior Fisk Royal Court. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. where he holds the position of Secretary of the Alpha Gamma Chapter. Montez also works as a Health Education Specialist for the "I AM Experience" Program at the university. Montez discusses the challenges of mental health and the need for early detection.

He credits his success to his seeking help to overcome mental health issues. He leaves this thought for future students, "Students, think about your decisions and the future those effects will bring. If you don't think school is for you, you have no support system, or you've never been out of these 89 blocks, take the leap and go off to college. Explore the world and experience new cultures. I then charge you to come back to give back to our community."



2019 EMERSON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Congratulations to **Quintina Fisher** of Gordon Bush Elementary! She was awarded the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award on November 17, 2019. Ms. Fisher teaches 3rd grade and is known for supporting a culture of high expectations. Her students in 2018-2019 exceeded the state average on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness! She is well-deserving of this award!



EMERSON
EXCELLENCE
IN TEACHING



(Pictured Left to right) **Jordan Hohm** and **Twyla Lee**, both educators at Wyvetter Young Alternative.

EDUCATOR MOTIVATORS

School District 189 has so many outstanding educators! Check out these teachers who also serve at a state level and raise issues relevant to our students, schools and communities.

Twyla Lee of Wyvetter Young Alternative is on the Advance Illinois Educator Advisory Council for 2019-2020. The council gathers to share their vital perspective, provide feedback and inform Advance Illinois' education policy agenda while building their own leadership in advocating for issues that advance educational equity statewide.

Jordan Hohm of Wyvetter Young Alternative is a Teach Plus Illinois Teaching Policy Fellow for 2019-2020. Teach

Plus, a national nonprofit that empowers teachers to lead improvements in policy and practice, launched two new Fellowship cohorts in Illinois for the 2019-20 school year. The Fellows focus on a range of issues of importance to Illinois' teachers, students, and parents, from effective teacher preparation and recruitment to ensure that all Illinois' children have access to high-quality early childhood education.

Mirna Diaz of James Avant Elementary has joined the 17-member Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education. The purpose of the Advisory Council on Bilingual Education is to advise the State Superintendent of the Illinois State Board of Education on issues which relate to the educational needs of students whose first language is not English.

PARENT POWER |

METRO EAST PARENT GROUP EARNED GOVERNOR HOMETOWN AWARD



Parents United For Change has been honored as a project winner for the 2019 Governor's Hometown Award. Through their advocacy, HB 5195 was made law to allow free transportation to students who live in high-crime areas within 1.5 miles of their school.

The Governor's Hometown Awards program gives formal recognition to those who contributed to their community's quality of life through projects that had strong volunteer support, met a need, and made a definitive impact. Parents United For Change are parents and grandparents uniting across greater East St. Louis to create a community where all kids are safe, healthy, educated and prepared for success in school and life.

School District 189, who nominated Parents United For Change for the Governor's Hometown Award, is the first school district in Illinois to apply and receive a waiver for all their students. It is estimated that the free transportation, which will allow an additional 1,800 students to ride the bus to and from an East St. Louis school, will begin with the 2020-2021 school year. The school district's transportation provider is in the process of adding a new fleet and recruiting additional drivers to meet the increased service demand.

CHARTWELLS STAFF ADVANCING EDUCATION



Chartwells Food Service has been a long-standing vendor for School District 189. In 2019, Chartwells Corporate launched a new K12 Scholarship program

to encourage their staff to pursue higher education. They recently awarded four scholarship awards across the nation. TaWanda Wright of the East St. Louis School District - Chartwells partnership was the only one in the state of Illinois to receive the scholarship award.

Since 1999, TaWanda has been part of the East St. Louis cafeteria team. Every day she worked hard to ensure her daughter could graduate from college and even earn her Master's Degree. TaWanda has a strong work ethic and commitment to high quality service to our students and schools. She is also a graduate of the East St. Louis School District 189. We congratulate her on her perseverance to achieve her own educational goals and wish her the best on this journey.

SUPERINTENDENT RECEIVES HONORS



Superintendent Arthur Culver received three honors during the month of October. Superintendent Culver was recognized with the Excellence in Education Award by Cognia, formerly AdvancED, during the 2019 Midwest Region Cognia Connect Conference in Chicago on October 30. He was recognized for “demonstrating unparalleled leadership” that has led to a system of support enhancing education for all students.

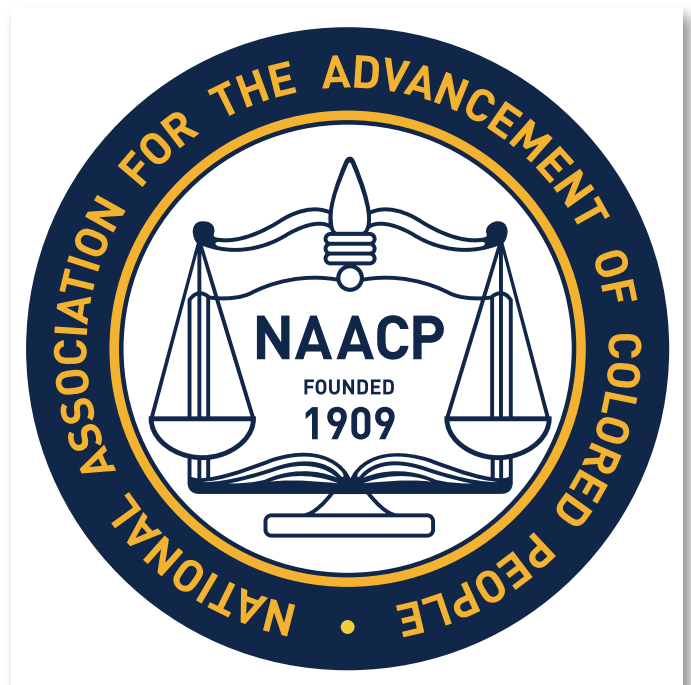
Superintendent Arthur R. Culver was named as an Education Award honoree by the East St. Louis Branch of the NAACP in recognition of his educational commitments and accomplishments while serving as Superintendent in School District 189. He was also honored by the 100 Black Men of Alton/Madison County Illinois as the State Farm “Good Neighbor” Mentor Award in October 2019. Superintendent Culver continues to put the needs of East St. Louis School District 189’s at the forefront of his efforts and it shows through the positive recognition and feedback that he has received. Keep up the great work!

NAACP RECOGNIZES THREE HONOREES FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT 189

Along with **Superintendent Culver, Brielle Foster** and **State Representative LaToya Greenwood** received recognitions during the NAACP-East St. Louis Branch at the 65th Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet.

Brielle Foster, 3rd grader at Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School, has been named as the Rising Star Awardee by the NAACP. Brielle has earned First Place in the District wide Spelling Bee for three (3) Consecutive Years.

State Representative LaToya Greenwood was honored by the NAACP with the Women Game Changers Award for her work and humanitarianism. In addition to her role as State Representative, Representative Greenwood also serves as the Director of Human Resources for the East St. Louis School District.



COMMENDABLE SCHOOLS



The Illinois State Board of Education released the annual School Report Card on October 30th to show how schools are progressing on a wide range of educational goals. One component of the Illinois Report Card is the summative designation – a descriptor of how well the school meets the needs of all students.

Four School District 189 schools earned the designation of Commendable: **Bush Elementary, Dunbar Elementary, East St. Louis Senior High School and SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School.** Commendable means the school has no underperforming student groups with performance not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide.

TEACHERS EARNING THE GOOGLE LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATION

The District has a cadre of teachers who recently completed their Google Level One Certification. This was a long process that involved after-school training and passing a certification test. These teachers each received a Google Chromebook Tablet as a token of appreciation for their efforts and commitment to using Google tools in their work with students. **Dyshunda Curtis**, one of our school Tech Leaders and who is also Google Level 1 and Level 2 certified, championed the movement at Mason/Clark Middle School and introduced the idea to the Tech Department.



The following teachers from **Mason/Clark Middle School** and **Wright Elementary School** attended all training sessions and passed the 3-hour long certification test: **Richard Lowe, Brian Munson, Leah Crowell, LaTia Jackson, Tamyra Taylor, Delecia Scott, Hollie Whiteman, Aaron Burke** and **David Kober.**

GOVERNOR PRITZKER VISITS VIVIAN ADAMS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Illinois Governor Pritzker visited a preschool classroom and held a press conference at Vivian Adams Early Childhood Center in January 2020 to discuss new state funding goals and innovations for early childhood education. Governor Pritzker was joined by **Senator Christopher Belt**, **Representative LaToya Greenwood**, **Representative Jay Hoffman**, **Representative Katie Stuart**, **Representative Nathan Reitz**, **East St. Louis Mayor Eastern** and **Superintendent Culver**. Representative Greenwood and Senator Belt were among the panel of speakers for this special occasion at our preschool center. Governor Pritzker expressed his determination to make Illinois the best state to raise children and spoke about the value of high quality early childhood education.

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PROMOTING A CLIMATE OF INCLUSION



School District 189 is thrilled to partner with Special Olympics Illinois as we strategically focus on fostering a climate of social inclusion in all schools. We are on the path to become a Special Olympics Unified Champion School District. District and school-based teams are intentionally planning and implementing activities where students with disabilities feel welcome and routinely included in functions and opportunities.

On February 19, local fans supported individuals with and without disabilities in a fun evening of basketball and dancing! The East St. Louis Flyers Special Olympics team hosted the Edwardsville Tigers Special Olympics team for an engaging game of basketball. Dunbar Elementary Cheer & Pom Squad performed at halftime.

Stay tuned for more inclusive sports, inclusive youth leadership opportunities and whole school engagement opportunities that support and engage all learners!

SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020 CAMPUS LEADERS:

Vivian Adams Early Childhood Center

Melanie Hood, *Interim Principal*
Devon McCallum, *Assistant Principal*

Gordon Bush Elementary

Brittany Green, *Principal*
Delicia Ferrell, *Assistant Principal*

James Avant Elementary

Quanshanda Nicholson, *Principal*
Latesha Clemons, *Assistant Principal*

Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary

Carlynda Coleman, *Principal*
Audrey Jackson-Luster, *Assistant Principal*

Annette Officer Elementary

Tifani Brown, *Principal*
Darla Wall, *Assistant Principal*

Dr. Katie Harper Wright Elementary

Maria White-Burton, *Principal*
Mica Ike, *Assistant Principal*

Lincoln Middle School

David Shanks, *Interim Principal*
Katina Griffin, *Assistant Principal*
Renaldo Jackson, *Assistant Principal*

Mason/Clark Middle School

Kim Jones-Riley, *Principal*
Gwendolyn Randolph,
Interim Assistant Principal
Dennis Love, *Assistant Principal*

Wyvetter Young Alternative

Darnell Spencer, *Principal*
Lena Dye, *Assistant Principal*

East St. Louis Senior High School

Dr. Justin Moore, *Principal*
Kimberly Allen, *Assistant Principal*
Anson Mitchell, *Assistant Principal*
Danielle Huff, *Assistant Principal*
Dr. Tesha Robinson, *Assistant Principal*