Welcome New Teachers

Ms Mary Carlo, First Grade Teacher
It is a pleasure to introduce Ms Mary Carlo, First Grade Teacher. Ms Carlo earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an English Language Learners Endorsement from Bradley University. She enjoyed a tour of Europe after graduation and hopes to be able to continue to travel in the future. She is appreciative of the tremendous support she has received since becoming a new member of the Cass School District 63 family.

Ms Sierra Desiderio, Special Education Teacher
Please welcome Ms Sierra Desiderio to the Special Education Team at Concord Elementary School. Ms Desiderio is a recent graduate of The University of Dayton and holds an Interventional Specialist License for Grades Kindergarten through 12. Outside of school, she enjoys running, reading and traveling. She appreciates the friendly environment of Cass School District 63 and enjoys working with kind and hardworking students every day.

Mrs. Ashley Howard, Fourth Grade Teacher
It is a pleasure to introduce Mrs. Ashley Howard as a Fourth Grade Teacher at Concord Elementary School. Mrs. Howard is a graduate of Lewis University. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, dancing and reading. She is grateful to be a part of this community of learners and is truly enjoying calling Cass School District 63 'home.'

Ms Alina Kloss, Kindergarten Teacher
Please welcome Ms Alina Kloss, Kindergarten Teacher. Ms Kloss attended University of Missouri, Columbia. She is happy to join Cass School District 63 due to its culture of positive energy. She looks forward to growing and learning with her students.

www.CassD63.org
Ms Alyse Lucas, School Psychologist

Please welcome Ms Alyse Lucas to the District as the School Psychologist. Ms Lucas works at both buildings to support students in their social-emotional, behavioral and academic needs. Ms Lucas attended undergraduate studies at Saint Mary's College and earned her Specialist's Degree in School Psychology from Illinois State University. She also holds an additional endorsement of NCSP (Nationally Certified School Psychologist). She enjoys pilates, yoga, and Pinterest. She has jumped in to help in many areas at both schools, including B.A.S.E. and Art Club.

Ms Belle Marien, Art Teacher

It is a pleasure to introduce Ms Belle Marien as the Art Teacher at Concord Elementary School. Ms Marien holds a Bachelor's Degree in Art and Design Education from Northern Illinois University. In her free time, she enjoys painting, drawing, photography, sculpting and playing with her cats! Ms Marien is thrilled to be a part of an art program that is fully supported by the District and integrated so well into the school culture.

Mr. Landon Mitchell, Physical Education Teacher

Mr. Landon Mitchell is a recent addition to the Cass Junior High School Physical Education Department. Mr. Mitchell earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater and then returned to Trinity Christian College to earn his Physical Education Licensure. Mr. Mitchell participated in NCAA Competitive aquatics during college and brings coaching experience to Cass Junior High School. Mr. Mitchell loves the outdoors and looks forward to bringing real world application to Physical Education classes. He hopes to foster life-long appreciation of health and wellness.
Welcome New Teachers

Mrs. Cinda Rokicki, Second Grade Teacher
Concord Elementary School is fortunate to have Mrs. Cinda Rokicki join the staff as a Second Grade Teacher. Mrs. Rokicki has earned a Master's of Arts in Education Degree from Northern Illinois University and was previously a Permanent Substitute Teacher at Concord Elementary School. She decided to join Cass School District 63 because of the amazing staff and wonderful families. Mrs. Rokicki enjoys her bowling league and sitting on her patio with a good book.

Ms Lauren Sanchez, Language Arts Teacher
Ms Lauren Sanchez is a recent addition to the Cass Junior High School English Language Arts Department. Ms Sanchez has a Secondary Education Degree with Endorsements in Middle School English, Language Arts, Social Studies and Political Science from Olivet Nazarene University. Ms Sanchez was drawn to Cass School District 63 by its strive for academic excellence, belief in standards based grading and our focus on a growth mindset. In her free time, you will find her reading, crafting or hanging out with her dog.

Mr. Mitchell Schwarzkopf, First Grade Teacher
Please welcome Mr. Mitchell Schwarzkopf to Concord Elementary School. Mr. Schwarzkopf is a recent graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and is a First Grade Teacher. A fun fact is that his wife is also a First Grade Teacher! Mr. Schwarzkopf moved to the area when he got married and was excited to find an opening in Cass School District 63. He has a love of sports and is excited to be coaching Cass Junior High School Boys Basketball this year.

Community Connections Committee
Lana Johnson, Chair
Christine Marcinkewicz
Mary Kate Favia
Matthew Etherington

www.CassD63.org
Meet our Newest Board of Education Member

The Cass School District 63 Board of Education had four seats on the ballot in the April 2, 2019 DuPage County Consolidated Election. The District is pleased to welcome back the following incumbent Board of Education members: Shelly Camden (President), Alice Esposito (Secretary) and Lana Johnson (Member). The District is also pleased to introduce the newest Board Member: Brad Carrino.

Mr. Carrino has lived in Darien for more than nine years with his wife Nicki and their two youngest children; their oldest is a graduate of Hinsdale South High School. Mr. Carrino received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Loyola University Chicago and a Masters Degree in International Business from Baker College.

He is currently a cloud technology trainer and a certified Scrum Master. He has spent his career developing technology, training programs and delivering technology and professional education programs. Brad has a demonstrated commitment to service including leadership positions in Toastmasters and Jaycees. Most recently he was a DYC soccer coach and a den co-leader for Cub Scout Pack 97.

Thank You, Rich Brandeis

Cass School District 63 would like to sincerely thank Rich Brandeis for his 12 years of service on the Cass School District 63 Board of Education.

During his 12-year tenure, Mr. Brandeis served in many roles and on many committees for our District, including Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Brandeis always believed it was critical to connect with the school community at large. This led to the formation of the Board of Education’s Community Connections Committee, which he chaired from its inception. This committee hosted District community nights and established this publication; The Cass School District 63 Community Connections Newsletter.

Mr. Brandeis was recognized for his service and dedication during his last Board of Education meeting on April 23, 2019.
Superintendent Search

The search for a new Superintendent of Schools is underway in Cass School District 63.

On August 18, 2018, Dr. Kerry J. Foderaro, Superintendent of Schools, announced his retirement effective at the end of the 2019/20 school year. Dr. Foderaro has successfully served as Superintendent of Schools for the past 15 years, since 2005 and the Board of Education is truly grateful for his leadership, dedication and significant efforts.

Last winter, the Board of Education interviewed executive search firms to assist in the Superintendent selection process. On February 19, 2019, the Board of Education selected and contracted with BWP and Associates. BWP conducted engagement meetings this past September, including sessions with school families, students, teachers, staff, administrators, the Board of Education, community members and community leaders. BWP also conducted an online school community survey to gather additional feedback.

BWP analyzed and utilized this feedback to develop a Cass School District 63 leadership profile to vet the numerous Superintendent candidates. A slate of candidates has been presented to the Board of Education for their consideration this November and December. The Board of Education is planning to appoint a new Superintendent of Schools in December, who will be scheduled to assume the Superintendent of Schools responsibilities on July 1, 2020.

For ongoing updates on the Superintendent Search, please visit the District’s website at www.CassD63.org/domain/251.

Did You Know?

Concord Elementary School is in the sixth year of its partnership with the Darien Rotary Club in participating in the Food for Kids; Changing Lives Through Nutrition Program providing packs of food to families in need on Fridays before students leave school for the weekend.

Eleven students from Cass Junior High School were selected to perform with the Illinois Music Education Association (IMEA) Junior Honor Band. Approximately 500 students from the Chicagoland area auditioned for this 150-member honor band. The faculty and staff are proud to have these students represent Cass Junior High School at this prestigious event.

Both schools, students and parents participated in the CAss Resources for Education (CARE) Cass 63 DASH this fall. Students, parents and staff run/walk a course created by the Physical Education Teachers to promote fitness, exercise, and a healthy lifestyle. The proceeds from the Cass 63 DASH are donated directly back to the District to fulfill the CARE budget.

Students from Cass Junior High School STEM class competed in the 2019 Illinois Water Tower Design Competition. Cass Junior High School fielded four teams with one team qualifying for the State Competition. The competition required students to design a stable tower that will efficiently take in one gallon of water and then drain the same amount. Points were awarded for design and efficiency, as well as for performance.

www.CassD63.org
Can you still have learning on a snow day?

Yes, you can! In June 2019 the State of Illinois approved guidelines to allow schools to institute ELearning Days in lieu of a severe weather cancellation day. Cass School District 63 has been a one-to-one technology school for many years. Students use their devices on a daily basis as textbooks, notebooks and calendars. Google Classroom is a staple in student learning. This technology allows for information to be sent and received between teachers and students.

The law established a five-hour minimum per day of school work, which includes e-learning days. In the event of an emergency school closing, Cass School District 63 will utilize ELearning, by having teachers available to students so that lessons and activities can continue in real time.

Ideally, all assignments should be completed and turned in on the ELearning Day. However, in special circumstances such as power or internet not being available, which could prohibit a student from completing work, grace periods will be provided.

The District looks forward to implementing this plan during this school year, should the need arise. Academically, it is more meaningful for students to continue learning within their curriculum, as opposed to adding extra days in June. As always, this program will be evaluated as to how well it works for students moving forward. So on the next snow day, power up, stay warm and keep learning!
Cass School District 63
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Brad Carrino
Lana Johnson
Jeff McCollian
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ADMINISTRATION
Kerry J. Foderaro, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Laura Anderson, Ed.D., Principal, Concord Elementary School
    District Director of Teaching and Learning
Christine Marcinewicz, Principal, Cass Junior High School
    District Director of Technology
Robert Strande, District Director of Fiscal Services
Leland Wagner, Assistant Principal, Concord Elementary School and Cass Junior High School

Kylee- Fourth Grade
Perspective
Concord Elementary School

Alexandra- Eighth Grade
Paint on Canvas
Cass Junior High School