

The Glenbrooks

a community publication by Glenbrook High School District 225

**Glenbrook
United Special
Olympics team
debut this fall**
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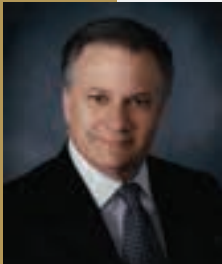
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Greetings!



The 2010-2011 school year is well underway with a multitude of school events and activities at both Glenbrook High Schools. It is a pleasure to welcome you to an incredibly vibrant school community that contains outstanding staff, innovative and dynamic academic programs, extensive extra-curricular opportunities and support services designed to ensure that each student attains academic success. A rigorous and challenging academic environment is complemented by athletic and activity opportunities that allow Glenbrook students to pursue a well-rounded high school experience. Our students continue to compete admirably at state and national levels and the reputation of the Glenbrooks is well known through the quality of their performances.

The economy has had a negative impact for many of our families and is a source of continuing concern for the school district as we seek to offer the same high quality Glenbrook experience to our current and future students. As we continue to proactively address funding issues, it is important to recognize the following district achievements under the Board of Education during the 2009-2010 school year:

1. Response to Intervention (RtI) programs were successfully implemented at both high schools in accordance with federal regulations. (See page 9)
2. Hebrew was officially adopted as a foreign language in the world languages departments at GBN and GBS.
3. A twenty-first century learning ecosystem was launched on the Internet using Moodle and Google Apps and is currently being used for classroom instruction and professional development.
4. Co-mingled recycling programs were successfully implemented in all district buildings.
5. The District Office moved to 3801 West Lake Avenue, enabling the renovation of the old district office building for use by the Glenbrook Off-Campus program and Glenbrook Evening High School beginning in January 2011. (See page 11)
6. Technology upgrades included transitions to active directory and a new district e-mail system.
7. A three-year budget reduction plan was adopted to address district economic concerns.

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District 225 approves 2010-11 budget

Community support and proactive reduction strategies keep district financially stable

On September 27, the Glenbrook High School District 225 Board of Education adopted the 2010-11 budget. The budget projects District expenditures of \$92,909,472 and \$92,972,476 in revenues, a positive balance of approximately \$63,000. Based on the adopted budget, the District forecasts a fund balance of \$59.2 million as of June 30, 2011. This represents an operating reserve of 61.5%, which is above the Board-established policy of a minimum of 33% in fund balances.

“At a time when many school districts are struggling, District 225 has maintained its financial stability through the support of our communities and the implementation of proactive cost-reduction strategies,” said Board President Skip Shein. “The fact that we are able to maintain our operating reserve at that level has led to the District’s AAA bond rating, which helps keeps our interest rates low.”

The District’s goal was to reduce expenditures without directly impacting student programs and staff. Cost-reduction efforts resulted in a total savings of more than \$850,000 for the 2010-11 budget and are projected to conserve an additional \$1,048,000 in the 2011-12 budget.

“School district expenses generally increase in a similar manner to other businesses,” said Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs Hillarie Siena. “Given that, District 225 continues to look for efficiencies in areas other than personnel and programs in order to maintain the level of services offered to students.”

The District built its budget on the assumption that funding from the State of Illinois will be severely reduced. In addition, it spent only 98% of its 2009-10 budget, which contributed to the financial stability of the current budget.

“This budget protects our staff and programs which are most important to our students, parents, and residents,” said Superintendent Mike Riggle. “We are maintaining a fiscally conservative approach that will allow the Glenbrooks to continue to meet the needs of future generations.”

The Board first reviewed the preliminary budget in July and continued to discuss its merits leading up to the public hearing on August 30. The official budget is available at www.glenbrook225.org.

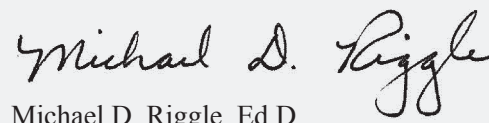
For the 2010-2011 school year, the Board of Education and administration are pursuing the following initiatives:

1. Implementation of a new student information system that will include greater access to information by students and parents.
2. A communication plan will be developed for the district.
3. Students will be issued district e-mail accounts to support academic interaction.
4. A plan will be developed and implemented for achieving a 10% reduction in energy consumption district-wide.
5. A cost reduction plan will be developed for implementation during the 2011-12 school year.
6. A comprehensive staffing plan will be developed for hiring certified and non-certified staff.

7. A new three-year technology plan will be developed.
8. A district theme of “Engagement” will be implemented as part of school and district improvement plans.

The Glenbrooks are excellent high schools with long track records of success. What we are able to offer our students is heavily dependent on the support of our local communities. Through our combined efforts, we can continue to achieve great things and remain leaders in secondary education.

With Glenbrook pride,


Michael D. Riggle, Ed.D.
Superintendent

District Special Olympics team debuts

On September 1, the inaugural District 225 Special Olympics team kicked off their season with a volleyball game. This is the first year that District 225 is participating in the Special Olympics. A combination of students from each of our schools comprise the Glenbrook United team and represent District 225 at numerous sporting events in the surrounding suburbs.

Students who participated on the Glenbrook United volleyball team are Kayla Buss, Yaseen Fawzi, Maddy Halamaj, Ryan Jennings, Bryan Nash, Patrick Nicholson, Ryan Manso, Sean Manso, Katie McManus, Logan Pitman, Daniel Raviv, Ryan Ricco and Karmesha White. The list grows with each day.

The Special Olympics provides students with positive opportunities to interact through teamwork and sportsmanship. The two main goals are to have fun and to compete to the best of one's ability. Team sponsors Pa'al Joshi, Kim Petty and Terry Harris and a cadre of volunteers coordinate the events.

Special Olympics has a motto: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." That seems to be a fitting motto for Mr. Joshi, who took on the challenge of organizing this intricate activity, and for this group of students, who will pave the way for future Glenbrook United teams.

They are brave – and winners!



Board of Education | Meeting dates and locations

The Board of Education meets regularly to discuss school topics and oversee the operations of the District. Agendas, minutes and supporting documents are available on the District website at www.glenbrook225.org.

Scheduled Meetings for 2010-11 | All meetings start at 7 p.m.

GBS Student Activities Center
November 8
December 13
January 10

GBN Library
January 24
February 14, 28
March 14, 21
April 11, 25
May 2, 16
June 13



Percentage of college-bound graduates remains stable

More than 96% of the Glenbrook North Class of 2010 is attending college this fall, with the majority (57%) deciding on schools located outside the State of Illinois. The remaining 43% of graduates stayed in state with the top two school choices being the University of Illinois – Urbana (U of I) and Oakton Community College.

Rounding out the top five college choices are Indiana, University of Illinois – Chicago (UIC) and the University of Wisconsin – Madison, a school that has been gaining popularity in recent years.

Of all of the students attending college, 79% stay in the Midwest. The remaining 21% are scattered throughout the country – and two students are experiencing adventures abroad in Peru and Israel. One student has joined the military. Another student will be attending the Commerical Diving Academy in Florida.

Overall, students applied to 363 colleges, an increase of 37 schools over last year. Our graduates can be found at 144 different institutions of higher education, an increase of nine from last year.

School	Students
U of I	50
Oakton	49
Indiana	31
UIC	21
UW Madison	20

Glenbrook North Science Teacher Scott Knapp was selected as one of three state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This prestigious honor is one of the highest recognitions a teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in Illinois. A local selection committee comprised of prominent mathematicians, scientists, educators and past award recipients chose Knapp out of hundreds of statewide entries. Knapp has more than 10 years of teaching experience and has been employed with District 225 since 2003.



Debating duo – four years later

GBN graduates Matt Fisher and Stephanie Spies dominated policy debate tournaments as partners in high school, winning the three most prestigious competitions their senior year: The Tournament of Champions, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Debate, and the National Forensic League Championship. After reuniting in their junior year at Northwestern University, this debating duo is poised to repeat their national success on the college circuit as seniors.

“Both of us come from a strong debate program at GBN, with a competitive history and a reputation for winning,” said Matt. “We have been brought up under a tremendous amount of pressure and so we know how to deal with it.”

Matt and Stephanie, political science majors who are both considering attending law school, didn’t start debating together again until their junior year at college, after partnering with upperclassmen at first to gain valuable experience. Now seasoned debaters at the top of their game, their goal is to win the National Debate Tournament (NDT) this spring.

Speaking of games, debating at the college level is roughly the equivalent of playing two sports, complete with practices, competitions, travel, scholarships, mental and physical stress. Debaters begin their “training” in the summer, and their season doesn’t end until spring.

“We study our opponents and strategize ways to outsmart them,” said Stephanie.



Policy debate, the type that Matt and Stephanie compete in, consists of teams of two that go up against other duos to argue pros and cons of actual political issues. This year’s topic of debate is increasing the number of visas that the U.S. gives to immigrants. Matt and Stephanie will spend all year researching this issue and preparing their statements. It culminates in rapid-fire debates where judges score them on a variety of components, including their personas.

“One of Stephanie’s best attributes is that she can speak so fast that our opponents can’t keep up,” said Matt. Stephanie states that she is more aggressive and competitive in debate than she is in real life. “It’s important to be assertive and win the crowd over – that can score big points with judges,” said Stephanie.

As for Matt, who is more reserved and quiet, his high school classmates were shocked to learn that he was a debater. “I was shy, but debate really gave me confidence to stand in front of people and speak.” Matt fell into debate, almost by accident, when he dropped an elective he disliked during freshman year and enrolled in debate out of convenience. Stephanie too, took an alternative path to debate, joining her sophomore year after encouragement from her parents.

After years of working together in both high school and college, these two debaters know each other well and can finish



Lydia Murphy-Stephans named 2010 Distinguished Alumna

Growing up in Northbrook, known as the speed skating capital of the world in the '70s, Lydia Murphy-Stephans found refuge and joy in the sport of speed skating. At age 12 she joined the Northbrook Skating Club and just three years later, won the National Short Track championship.

While at Glenbrook North, in addition to her skating, she focused on her education and participated in a variety of activities. Murphy-Stephans related that she considers herself privileged to have attended GBN.

She continued her education and speed skating while at National Louis University, where she received a B.A. in Education. She prepared for the 1984 Olympic Games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, where

she placed 13th in the 1,000 meter speed skate and was the top American finisher. Following the Olympics, she returned to Northwestern University, where she earned her master's degree in broadcast journalism.

Although she began her career at a television station in Marquette, Michigan, it wasn't long before ABC recruited her for a job at ABC Sports in New York. She became the first female vice president in the history of ABC Sports and was responsible for creating several important and award-winning shows that featured women athletes. After 13 years, she joined Oxygen Media, where she created and built its entire sports program. Currently, she is the president and co-founder of Peace Tree, Inc., a media consulting and executive producing firm. She was also named as Executive Vice President of programming and production for Madison Square Garden Media in 2006.

Known in the field of broadcasting for her dedication, competitive drive and innovative ideas, she has contributed to 22 productions and programs that have won Emmy Awards. She was inducted into the Amateur Skating Union Hall of Fame and was named one of the Women of the Year in 1996 by Women in Sports and Events. She was honored by Girls Inc. for her leadership role in the media. In 2001 she received the Women's Sports Foundation Journalism Award, and in 2002 she received a Telly Award.

Debate Continued

the other's sentences. "We work really well together, and we are really great friends outside of debate – and that relationship gives us an edge over the competition," said Matt. "Rapport is important in policy debate," added Stephanie. "You need to have a good relationship and be a good debater to succeed."

Also contributing to the success of the GBN debaters are active coaching assistance from alumni and a supportive school community.

"One of the reasons that GBN debate is so great is because of alumni who constantly come back to assist the current team," said GBN Debate Coach Michael Greenstein. "Matt and Stephanie

benefitted from coaching by alumni such as Michael Klinger (who was recently named Debater of the Decade). And now they come back to help out as well, and that truly demonstrates their quality of character."

In addition to the abundance of talented coaches, Matt cites the supportive GBN school community for his success. "As a public school (GBN), it takes a tremendous amount of support to compete with the private schools," said Matt. "If GBN and the community weren't supportive of this valuable program, there would be dozens of highly motivated students who would not benefit from this life-changing opportunity."

Students Named National Merit Semi-Finalists

Ten Glenbrook North High School students – Kyle Albert, David R. Baker, Julia M. Irons, Brandon M. Isaac, Kathryn J. Kadleck, Eli F. Klein, Chris W. Lee, Margot K. Tuchler, Matthew F. Tulig and Abigail L. Turner – were named National Merit Semifinalists in the 2011 Merit Scholarship Competition.

These students represent the top one percent of students who participated in the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screening of program entrants. The Semifinalists will now continue in competition to become National Merit Finalists and qualify for National Merit scholarships.

Student newspaper recognized by national association

The *Torch* earned recognition as an All-American newspaper from the National Scholastic Press Association for 2009-10. Scoring 4,331 out of a possible 4,400 points, the *Torch* was awarded Marks of Distinction in four categories: Coverage and Content; Writing and Editing; Photos, Art and Graphics; and Leadership. Judges' comments stated that the writing and editing were "The best I've read this year – A model of scholastic journalism and a great contribution to journalistic literacy."

Market Day provides experience for business-minded students

The GBN Management Class announces the launch of a student-run business, Market Day, offering restaurant-quality foods at great prices. The Market Day program at GBN will offer students a valuable business management experience. Order online at www.marketday.com or visit the student activities office for an order form. For more information please contact gbnmarketday@glenbrook225.org. A portion of the proceeds will be used to provide business students with professional experiences while another portion will be donated to a charity, to be selected by the students.

Student recognized for outstanding writing

GBN senior, Kate Kadleck, was recently honored with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Award in Writing. This recognition was earned for outstanding writing by submitting polished and impromptu pieces this past spring. A panel of English teachers judged more than 1,600 student entries from across the country and selected 543 as award recipients.



RtI: Response to Intervention

A basic introduction to this initiative and how it helps students succeed

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a recent, federally-mandated school reform designed to ensure that all students benefit from high-quality instruction. Even though RtI implementation is required by the 2010-11 school year, the Glenbrook High Schools have always offered a rich array of classroom supports for all students. RtI is not a special education initiative, but rather a means for providing targeted resources for students who require additional skills to attain academic success.

One of the main goals of RtI is to identify students' needs early and provide them timely academic assistance. At the Glenbrooks, we use multiple sources of data to identify students and make informed decisions about the type of services they may need.

RtI is comprised of three tiers of intervention targeting reading, mathematics and behavior, with increasing levels of intensity:

Tier 1 Tier 1 support is provided in all core academic areas, where teachers use different teaching strategies to meet the needs of students with varying skill levels in the same classroom. These support services are available to all students, with most students attaining academic success.

Tier 2 Tier 2 addresses the needs of those students who need short-term small group and/or individual instruction outside of the classroom to succeed academically. Parents will be notified when their child is identified for Tier 2 interventions.

Tier 3 Tier 3 provides similar services as the previous tier with increased frequency and intensity. Students in this tier may be considered for eligibility for special education services.

Both high schools are equipped with resource centers that are open before, during, and after school to assist students with their studies.

To learn more about RtI, visit these additional online resources:

RtI Action Network - www.rtinetwork.org/parents-a-families
Illinois State Board of Education - www.isbe.state.il.us/rti_plan/default.htm
Intervention Central Resources on the Web - www.interventioncentral.org

Did you know?

- The majority (95%) of the District budget is funded locally, largely through property taxes with less than 5% of funding provided by state and federal sources (compared to the average Illinois school district which receives approximately 38% from the state and 9% from federal sources).
- District 225 employs a total of 823 people. There are 424 certified teachers, 353 support staff, and 46 administrators working at GBS, GBN, Glenbrook Evening School, Glenbrook Off-Campus and the District Office.

Two new administrators fill vacancies at District 225

Glenbrook High School District 225 welcomes two new administrators to fill vacancies in the areas of special education and public relations. Jennifer Pearson began serving as the director of special education on July 1. Karen Geddeis started in her role as director of public relations on July 6.



"I am excited to be a part of the Glenbrook community and look forward to working collaboratively with students, staff, and families to create exemplary programs and services," said Pearson.

Jennifer Pearson has a strong background and understanding of special education. The past five years, she has been a key administrator at the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSSED). She led the Educational and Life Skills Program, developed short- and long-term plans for the program, including the implementation of the Response to Intervention initiative (RtI), implemented research-based curriculum, and assessed student outcomes. Prior to her time with NSSSED, Pearson worked as an assistant special education director for Township High School District 211. She began her career as a special education teacher at Lake Forest High School. It is also important to note that she is a graduate of Glenbrook North High School.

Pearson has presented at local, state and national conferences and is a member of the Illinois Alliance of Administrators for Special Education, Counsel of Administrators of Special Education, and the Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development. She received her BA in special education from Northeastern Illinois University and her MS in educational administration from Northern Illinois University. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Illinois-Chicago in the area of special education administration and supervision. Pearson replaces Dr. George Tuttle who retired at the end of the 2009-10 school year.



"I am thrilled to be a part of the Glenbrook team and look forward to continuing to build on the great successes of this district," said Geddeis.

Karen Geddeis, APR, has built a career in school public relations working at Niles Township High School District 219, School District U-46, and most recently at Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205. She has assisted with high-level communication challenges such as a successful referendum, contentious contract negotiations, numerous building-level crises, strategic planning, economic struggles, branding projects, district-wide event planning and e-communications/web 2.0.

Geddeis is one of only ten accredited school public relations (APR) practitioners in Illinois. She has been a member of both the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), and its Illinois chapter (INSPRA) since 2003. Geddeis has presented at national conferences and local universities. She has earned national and state level awards for various projects, most notably, two Golden Achievement Awards for a District Strategic Action plan.

Geddeis earned her BS in public relations from Illinois State University and fills the vacancy left by Diane Freeman, who recently retired after 25 years of service.

"We are excited to invite these talented and innovative educators to our district and look forward to the potential leadership they will provide our staff in their areas of specialty," said Superintendent Mike Riggle.

Former administration building transforms into classrooms

Construction has been ongoing since the administration moved out of the building located at 1835 Landwehr in Glenview this past summer. The former administration offices are undergoing renovations to establish classrooms, improve infrastructure, and reconfigure the layout to meet the needs of its new tenants, the Glenbrook Off-Campus program and the Glenbrook Evening School.

When students attend classes in their new facility at the start of the second semester in January 2011, they will enjoy eight classrooms that include a science lab, a home economics lab with a kitchen, and acres of outdoor space. The 12,000-square foot facility will also provide a secure visitor entrance where guests will be granted access to the school via a two-door locked vestibule near a reception area.

The total cost of renovations for the 1835 Landwehr and 3801 W. Lake Ave. facilities is approximately \$3 million. The District issued bonds and utilized its operating budget to fund these projects, which are expected to save the district more than \$500,000 in off-site facility rental costs, over the next twenty years. The project is scheduled for an on-time completion date (January 2011) and will meet the projected budget.

“The former administration offices on Landwehr are an optimal location for our Glenbrook Off-Campus and Evening school programs due to its contiguous location to GBS, square footage and outdoor space,” said Superintendent Mike Riggle. “Relocating our administrative staff to the West Lake facility was absolutely the best use of space and ultimately, the best choice for our students.”

The Off-Campus Program serves a range of 50-70 students annually and offers an alternative learning environment for students who benefit from being outside of the conventional high school setting. The program is currently housed in a 7,500-square foot, leased facility in Glenview that lacks adequate indoor and outdoor space.

The Glenbrook Evening School is an accredited high school that provides students in unique life situations an opportunity to obtain their diplomas during atypical school hours. There are 48 students currently enrolled at the school and more than 2,200 community residents have graduated since its inception in 1975. The school is currently housed at Glenbrook South.



1835 Landwehr: Former administrative offices transform into classroom space for students.



3801 West Lake Avenue: New location of administrative offices.

District 225 engages in green construction

The renovated facility at 1835 Landwehr:

- Maximizes the use of natural light
- Improves ventilation and insulation, reducing energy costs
- Features motion sensors to conserve lighting
- Utilizes a majority of refurbished furniture
- Recycled old materials in the new construction and disposed of unusable debris in a green manner
- Installed dual flush toilets to conserve water

Glenbrook High School District 225
3801 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, IL 60026

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District 225 is a learning community dedicated to students and committed to quality of thought, word, and deed.

www.glenbrook225.org

Highlights of community-interest events 2010-11

Warm up winter with the Glenbrooks

Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.

GBN Winter Concert
Sheely Center for Performing Arts
-or-
GBS Winter Choral Concert
Watson Auditorium

District-wide Glenbrook musical announced: *Chicago*

Students of GBN and GBS come together each year to present a musical performance and this time they will razzle-dazzle audiences with *Chicago*. Performances will be held at GBS on April 28, 29, and 30 at 7:30 p.m. with a special matinee on April 30, at 2 p.m. This spring, visit www.glenbrook225.org for ticket information and all that jazz...

Variety shows at the Glenbrooks are the hottest tickets in town. Singing, dancing, comedy, drama – the variety shows have it all and then some. Join our students and staff as they share their unique talents with the school community.

GBN – February 10, 11, 12 (7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday)

GBS – February 23, 24, 25, 26 (7:30 p.m. daily, 2 p.m. Saturday matinee)



Board of Education election information

On April 5, 2011, three District 225 Board of Education positions will be up for election. Interested candidates can obtain application packets from the District 225 Administrative Center, or online at www.elections.il.gov.

The first day to file candidate petitions and certificates of nomination will be Monday, December 13, 2010, starting at 8:30 a.m. Candidate filings will continue between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 13 through Friday, December 17. On the day of the deadline, Monday, December 20, the office will remain open until 5 p.m. to accept applications. Board members serve a four-year term. These positions are unpaid.

The District Administrative Center is located at 3801 West Lake Avenue in Glenview, just south of Glenbrook South High School.