



McHenry Elementary School District 15 Annual Update August, 2016

Dear Community Members,

I am pleased to report that 2015-2016 has been yet another successful year for McHenry Elementary School District 15. While student achievement remains our top priority, we have invested heavily in improving technology throughout the district, as well as renovating/expanding school facilities to complement student learning.

In terms of construction, mobile unit classrooms (21 in all) have been removed and replaced with newly constructed classrooms at Duker, Edgebrook, Hilltop, Riverwood, and Valley View Elementary Schools. In addition, Learning Media Centers have been renovated in these schools to allow for students to engage in activities that support the study and understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Finally, both McHenry Middle School and Parkland School have undergone renovation/expansion of both Learning Media Centers that have transformed these spaces into STEM Labs. These labs will afford our students the very best educational opportunities as we prepare our youth to meet and exceed 21st century learning standards in a complex, global economy.

As always, we appreciate your support as we make our schools a source of community pride.

Sincerely,

R. Alan Hoffman
Superintendent

Fiscal Responsibility

District 15 has earned the State of Illinois' highest rating for finances 10 years in a row.

Wellness

District 15 has earned the Fit-Worksite Platinum Achievement Award from the American Heart Association.

McHenry School District 15



Leadership

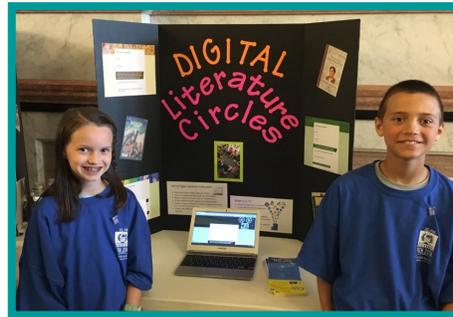
Dr. Hoffman and Dr. Reitz have been selected by ISBE to teach the new leadership standards state-wide.

Professional Learning Communities

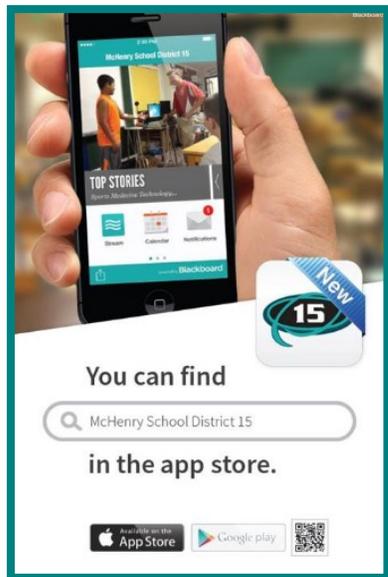
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Reitz has been chosen to present at the state-wide ASCD conference in the fall.

Cutting Edge 21st Century Schools!

Through the expansion of a high speed wireless backbone and innovative use of cloud based tools (such as Google Chromebooks in a 1:1 working environment), McHenry staff and students have been able to benefit through immediate access to information, curriculum and newly mandated online assessments. The district has utilized an adoption strategy over the last three years permitting the integration and fusion of technology with the ultimate goal of maximizing collaboration and information sharing across the district. It has been wonderful watching our schools grow in this capacity. Just this May, Valley View teacher, Danielle Jaeger was recognized alongside some of the best teachers in the state at Tech 2016 in Springfield for some of the innovative work that her students have accomplished this past school year incorporating the use of technology in the classroom.



Digital media and technology based communication tools have become an essential element for our schools. McHenry School District 15 has worked diligently to meet this challenge developing a cohesive Web Platform (www.d15.org) that incorporates important community content, curricular materials and cutting edge staff development information. McHenry's NEW web platform has already been recognized by outside school web developers for demonstrating a presence that strengthens family engagement and is now being used as a template for other school districts across the country.



NEW this school year, McHenry District 15 has introduced a newly-created integrated App for mobile devices that is now available for download and use! Please take the time today to download our new D15 app to your iPhone, Android or Tablet and explore all of our mobile content. Moving forward, there will be many advantages to having this App including timely notifications, trending news updates, important resource sharing and much more. Visit www.d15.org and see the current news section for more information!

McHenry School District 15 is Making Time to

Make a Difference in a Digital World



Ongoing Staff Development is a research proven best practice that the finest school districts in the nation are able to implement. In understanding this research, building the capacity for change and quality instruction has been a core goal and an essential element in strengthening the foundation of teaching and learning in District 15. Since the implementation of the Staff Development Wednesday (SDW) program, teachers and students have greatly benefited and the program has gained national attention receiving awards from the Learning Forward Association and the International Society for Technology in Education. These organizations are highly regarded for acknowledging only the most excellent practices in education.

School District 15's efficient and innovative staff development practices have worked together with a well-designed Technology Integration Plan where a 1:1 Google Chromebook environment has been fused across K-8 grade levels. Technology has become the backbone that has virtually removed all barriers to learning and broadened educational horizons for students, staff, and the community. To that end, McHenry School District 15 has been recognized by The Center of Digital Education for our deployment of digital content and curriculum that has revolutionized professional development and the quality of teaching and learning in McHenry.



Dr. Ray, Director of the Center for Digital Education, presents national award to District 15

McHenry District 15 teachers often comment that these improvements have dramatically improved their learning environment and re-energized the staff as a whole. Learning opportunities for staff and students are boundless, robust, research-based, and available on-demand at the click of a button. Never before has our entire community of learners been able to access information, collaborate, develop curriculum, share instructional best practices, and grow as a true professional learning community.

Student Achievement

Director of Learning Dr.

Laudadio has been chosen to present at the state-wide Raising Student Achievement Conference in St. Charles.

National Recognition

District 15 has earned national recognition for its innovative use of digital curriculum and staff development programming from ISTE.

Innovative Design and Programming

District 15 has been asked to lead a panel at the statewide conference in Chicago.

McHenry Elementary School District 15

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