

CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024



Embracing Autumn: A Season for Families and Schools

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, autumn arrives, bringing with it a vibrant tapestry of colors and opportunities for families and schools to connect. This season is not only a time of natural beauty but also a perfect opportunity for learning and bonding.

Autumn is a fantastic time for outdoor exploration and community engagement!

In this edition of the CCSD 46 District Newsletter you will find:

- Upcoming events (page 2)
- Information on our **Community Village Harvest** event taking place on Saturday, October 5 (page 3)
- Important information regarding school and district communications to families (page 4)
- Details on the restructuring of the District calendar for the 2025-2026 **and** 2026-2027 school years (page 5)
- Board of Education Meeting Update: Budget Hearing and General Meeting - September 18, 2024 (pages 6-9)



UPCOMING EVENTS



October 1 - Finance Committee Meeting - Frederick School 6:00 pm

October 2 - Custodian Appreciation Day

October 3 - Holiday - No School

October 5 - Community Engagement Committee Village Harvest Event, Grayslake Middle School/Grayslake Library 12:00-2:00 pm

October 8 - ECC Curriculum Night, ECC/Prairieview School, 6:00 pm

October 9 - District Newsletter



VILLAGE HARVEST EVENT - October 5, 2024

Mark your calendar for a fun Saturday event hosted by the CCSD 46 Community Engagement Committee and the Grayslake Area Public Library. The **Village Harvest** event, a gathering of community families to “Cultivate Community through Food, Fun, and Learning” will take place on Saturday, October 5th from 12:00-2:00 pm. The Village Harvest event will begin at Grayslake Middle School and proceed on the pathway to the Grayslake Library and will feature community partners with plenty of giveaways. The library will offer tours, card registrations and interactive stations focused on social and emotional learning.

Highlights include:

- First 100 attendees will receive a FREE PIE from Bake Share in Grayslake
- Hayrides to transport you from GMS to the Library - or just for fun!
- Passport to get stamped for a chance to win a PIEriffic raffle prize!



Special thank you to our sponsor, **Circus Kazoo** for providing entertainment along our partner pathway.



PARENTSQUARE COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM

CCSD 46 is excited to announce that we have adopted a new form of school-to-home communication called ParentSquare. This unified communications platform is designed to keep parents and guardians informed and encourage greater engagement and connection with our schools and the district. It provides a safe way for district administrators, school principals, teachers, staff, and parents to:

- Send and receive school and district newsletters
- Send and receive emergency notifications
- Send and receive school and class information
- Share pictures and files
- See calendar items
- and much more . . . all in one centralized place!

All district and school information will now be sent to your computer or phone via email and/or text through ParentSquare. **The District will be sending out a test Emergency Notification on Friday, September 27, at 4:00 pm.**

Teachers will not be using ParentSquare until the start of Trimester 2. Please be aware that they will not be responding to communications in ParentSquare until November 11th. After that date, classroom communications will be sent through ParentSquare as well.

Families will receive an invitation from ParentSquare in an email or text to activate their account. You can view messages through ParentSquare on a desktop or download the free ParentSquare app (available for iOS and Android devices).

Watch this helpful video [Parents—Getting Started Video](#) and download the [Parent/Guardian Getting Started Guide](#).

Have questions while you are using the platform? Click the question mark in the top right corner of the ParentSquare desktop version or the Help tab on the app (tap the triple bar icon at the top left) to find answers to most of your ParentSquare questions.



IMPORTANT CALENDAR INFORMATION



Due to the construction planned at all school buildings during the summer of 2026, the District is beginning the planning process to adjust the school year calendars for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

In order to incorporate an **extra two-week period** into the summer of 2026 for the purpose of completing construction projects, the District plans to **start the 2025-2026 school year one week earlier than usual and start the 2026-2027 school year one week later than usual.**

We are working with our high school partners to ensure that our winter and spring breaks continue to align to make vacation planning easier for our district families. We will share specific start/end dates as soon as they have been determined.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING REVIEW

CCSD 46 Board of Education Meeting Review is a brief summary of events and topics of discussion that occur at general board meetings.

We welcome you to join us at our meetings or watch our live video stream on the CCSD 46 website. We have two opportunities for public comments at our meetings. Board meeting schedules, agendas, video links, and minutes are available on the [BOE webpage](#).

Upcoming Meetings: October 16 (One meeting in October) | November 6 | November 20

All meetings are held at Frederick School, 595 Frederick Road, Grayslake.

BUDGET HEARING: September 18, 2024

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a Public Hearing for the FY 2024-25 Budget Hearing on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, in the Falcon Room of Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the Public Hearing agenda followed.

Mr. Chris Wildman, Chief School Business Official (CSBO) shared a presentation of the FY 2024-25 Budget. The budget will be an action item during the regular Board meeting. The presentation will be included in the Board packet.

An opportunity for public comment was available, no comments were made.

Dr. Stephen Mack, President, adjourned the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 6:16 pm.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING: September 18, 2024

The CCSD 46 Board of Education held a general meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, in the Falcon Room of Frederick School.

President Stephen Mack called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the agenda was the opportunity for public comment. No public comments were made.

Board reports were presented as well as the Superintendent report. Dr. Stephen Mack shared that Sue Walker was nominated for the IASB Holly Jack Award. Dr. Lynn Glickman congratulated Sue Walker on her nomination. She also highlighted the Community Engagement Committee Village Harvest event which will help connect families who are newer to the school district with longstanding CCSD 46 families. An email will be sent to new families to inform them about the event and request their participation in a survey. Dr. Glickman also shared that Back-to-School Nights have been completed, and on Monday, September 16th, the Media Center Core Planning Group met to begin planning the revamp of the district's Media Centers. Work will begin in the summer of 2026 to update those spaces. Dr. Glickman also shared that principal goal setting meetings have started for the 2024-2025 school year.

Also during the Superintendent report, Ms. Amy Gluck, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning shared that Planning and Design Teams (PDTs) have begun their work with many staff members volunteering to participate. The PDTs are focused on multilingual/bilingual programming, math (as this is the last year with the current resources), and Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards. Fall Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing for grades 1-8 is complete, with kindergarten testing set to begin in a few weeks. MAP testing, conducted three times per year and aligned with state standards, helps track proficiency growth, identify interventions, and support acceleration.

President Mack then requested a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes Minutes from previous meetings, the Personnel Report, FOIA Review, Exception Report, Accounts Payable, and Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Items voted on by the Board for this meeting included:

- Approval of the 2024-2025 Budget as presented
Approved: 5-0
- Approval of the FY24 EIS Compensation Report
Approved: 5-0
- Approval of the FY24 IMRF Compensation Report
Approved: 5-0
- Approval of the FY 2024 Tax Levy Timeline
Approved: 5-0

Unfinished Business, which are unresolved issues that were previously brought before the Board to be discussed further included:

- No unfinished business

New Business, which are new issues for the Board to discuss, included the following:

- Sustainability Resolution
Board Members Mrs. Kristy Miller and Mrs. Jessica Albert presented a draft of the Sustainability Resolution for Board consideration. Mrs. Miller reviewed the policies related to sustainability and outlined key points in the resolution. They invited an open discussion, and the Board of Education members and the Superintendent provided input. Mrs. Miller concluded by stating that she will incorporate the suggestions and present an updated resolution to the Board.

As the meeting drew to a close, topics for future agenda items were discussed, and the public once again had an opportunity to address the Board of Education. There were no public comments. The Board closed the general meeting at 7:25pm and went into closed session. With no business to occur after the closed session, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled Board of Education general meeting on October 16 will be held at 6:00 pm and live-streamed online. Please visit d46.org/board-of-education for more information.



CCSD 46 BOARD OF EDUCATION



Stephen Mack, EdD, President

Term: 2021-2025

Member Since: 2016

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5679

Email: mack.stephen@d46.org

Kristy Braden, Vice President

Term: 2023-2027

Member Since: 2018

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Term: 2021-2025

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Jim Weidman, Member

Term: 2021-2025

Member Since: 2013

Phone: 847-223-3540, ext. 5669

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VILLAGE HARVEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5: 12 - 2PM

**CULTIVATING COMMUNITY THROUGH
FOOD, FUN, & LEARNING**

Join us for a day of fun, food, and community! Stroll the path between GMS and the library to connect with community partners, enjoy live music, and explore interactive stations focused on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). At the library, take a tour, sign up for a card, and help bridge the gap between families new to the area and those who've been here longer—all while building our community's SEL capacity.

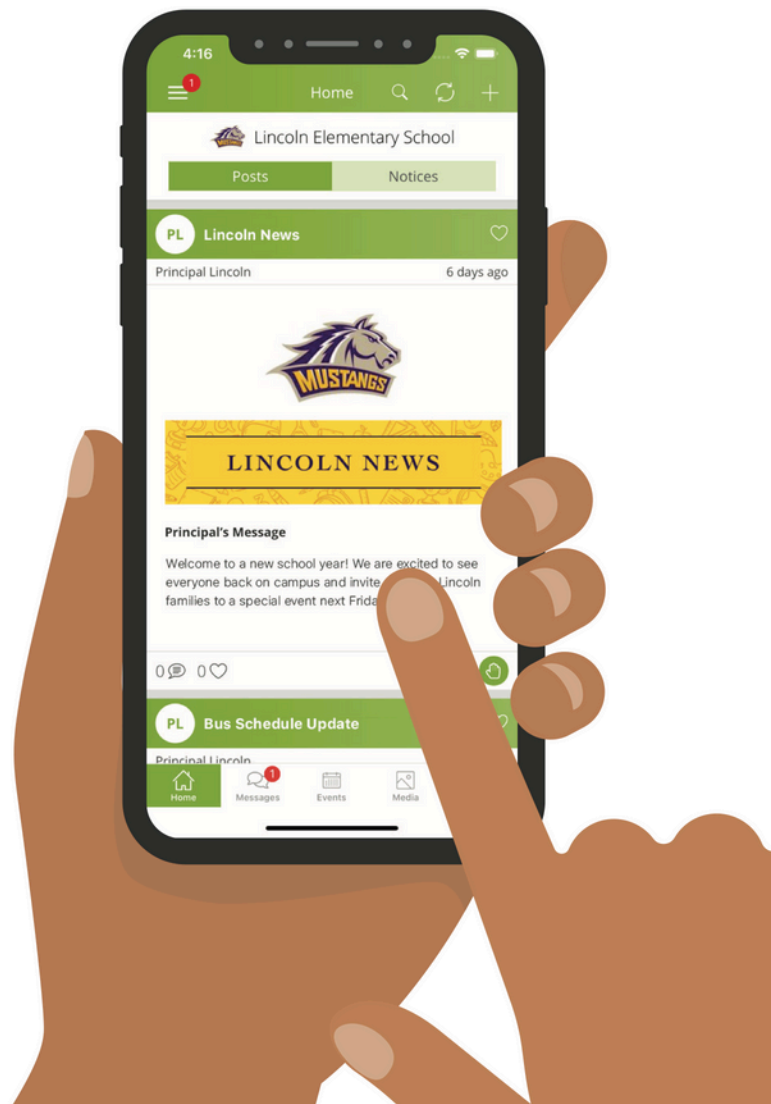
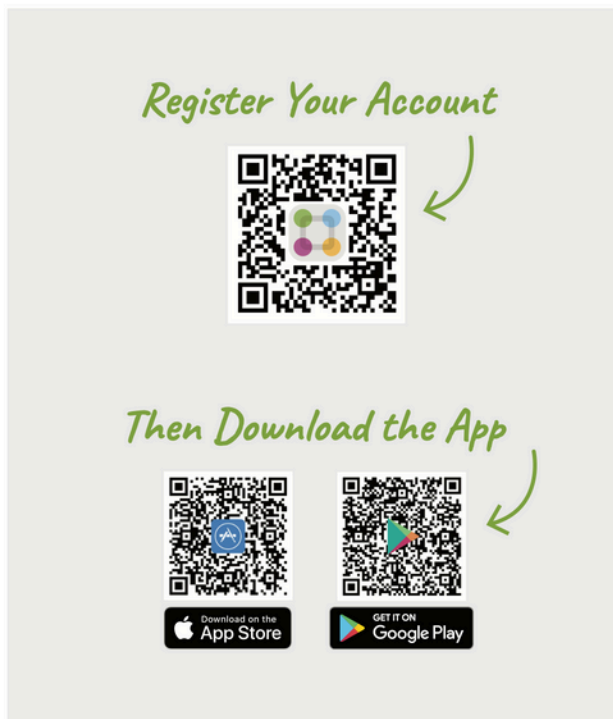


Our School is Using ParentSquare!

ParentSquare is a simple and safe way to connect and communicate.

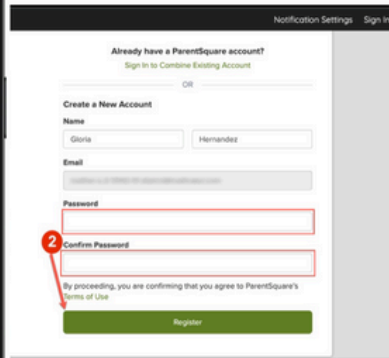
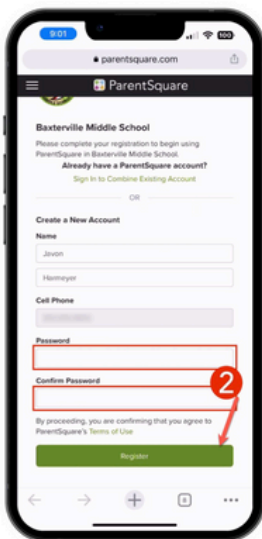
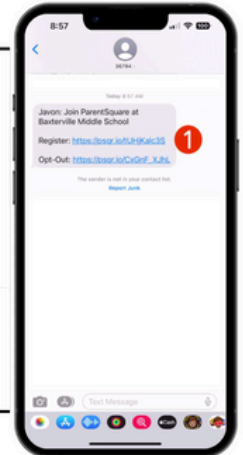
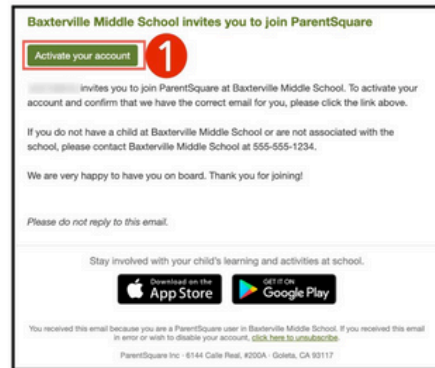
Register now so you can:

- customize email, text and/or app notifications,
- RSVP for classroom and school activities,
- sign permission slips, and
- securely receive important student documents.



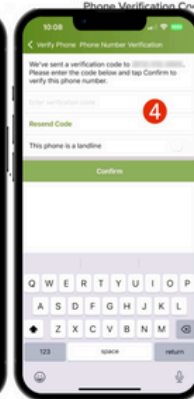
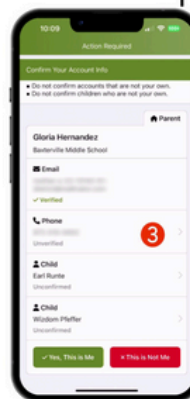
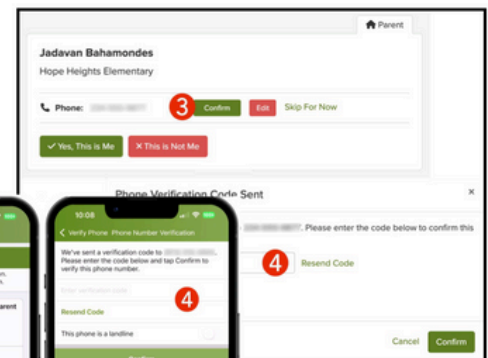
Parents & Guardians Getting Started Guide

1. Open the invitation email or text. Click **Activate your account** or tap the link to activate your account.

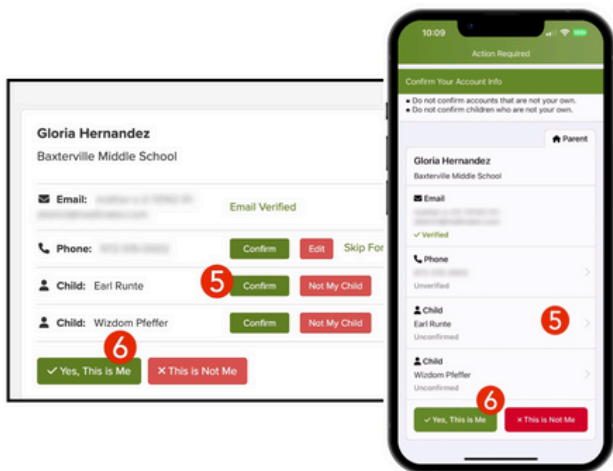


2. Create a Password for your ParentSquare account and click **Register**.

3. Click **Confirm** for your phone number and/or email. A verification code will be sent to the email or phone number.



4. Enter the verification code to confirm.



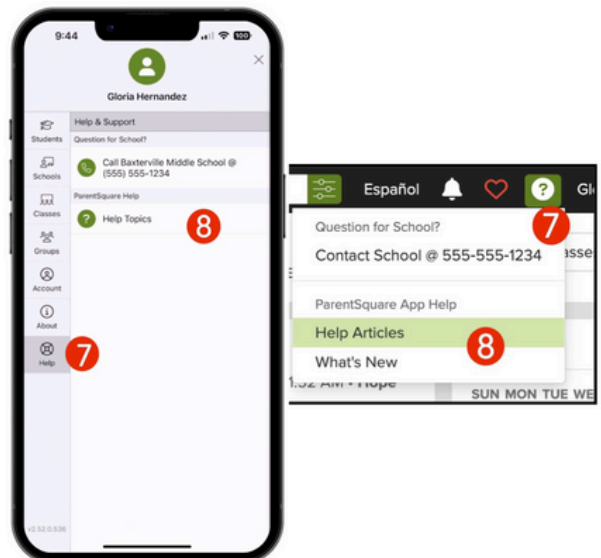
5. Confirm your child(ren) by clicking **Confirm**. Use Not My Child if a child listed is not associated with your account.
6. Select **Yes, This is Me** when you have confirmed your contact information and child(ren) associated with your account.

*Name misspelled?
Wrong email or phone number?
Missing a child on your account?*

Contact your child's school to get this information updated.

Once you are logged in to ParentSquare, you will be able to access self-paced training modules, video resources and help articles to assist you with using ParentSquare.

7. Click ? (Help) for help or your school contact information.
8. Select **Help Articles** to learn how to use ParentSquare.



The ParentSquare apps are free and available in both the Apple iOS and Android stores.

