



A World Of
Opportunities...

At
Pleasantdale School
District 107

The mission of Pleasantdale School District 107 is to ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.

www.d107.org

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Administration

Dr. Mark Fredisdorf, Superintendent
Mr. Matt Vandercar, Principal, Pleasantdale Elementary School
Mrs. Meg Pokorny, Principal, Pleasantdale Middle School
Ms. Kim Freislinger, Assistant Principal, Pleasantdale Middle School
Mrs. Kelly Voliva, Director of Special Education
Mrs. Catherine Chang, Business Manager

Phones

District Office (Superintendent)	708-784-2013
Pleasantdale Elementary School	708-246-4700
Pleasantdale Middle School	708-246-3210
Business Office	708-784-2172
Special Education Services	708-784-2175

Staff

The District 107 staff is composed of talented professionals dedicated to providing the highest quality educational experience possible for the children of Pleasantdale. The majority of the staff members have attained the educational level of masters degree or beyond. All staff members are involved in the District's professional development program focusing on continuous training and growth for all teachers and administrators.



The School District, comprised of portions of the communities of Burr Ridge, Countryside, Indian Head Park, Willow Springs and unincorporated Cook County, is located in southwestern suburban Cook County, approximately 25 miles from downtown Chicago. District residents enjoy easy access to major expressways, an abundance of urban and suburban cultural and sports events, and a beautiful location in the gently rolling hills of the Des Plaines River Valley.

There is strong support for Pleasantdale School District 107 within both the parent and the non-parent community. Three successful school referendums (1993, 1997, 2006) were passed on the first attempt, signaling widespread support for the direction and achievements of the district.

The District recently earned four awards for academic excellence from outside agencies. They are:

- A+ Award for scoring in the top 5% of all Illinois School Districts on Statewide Standardized Tests, October 2008,
- Chicago Sun-Times Top 50 Middle Schools Recognition, November 2008,
- Bright Red Apple Award for Excellence from the independent School Search Organization, January 2009,
- State Board of Education Academic Excellence Award.

The awards are particularly noteworthy as the District did not apply to be recognized by any of the agencies. The awards were given by independent observers based on objective criteria that were applied to all Illinois school districts. Pleasantdale's academic achievement has grown steadily over the past seven years. This would not have been possible without the strong support of the entire community.

The Schools

Two schools serve Pleasantdale School District 107:

Pleasantdale Elementary School

8100 School Street
LaGrange, IL 60525
708-246-4700
Grades Pre K through 4

Pleasantdale Middle School

7450 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
708-246-3210
Grades 5-8



Overview

Recent renovation and expansion projects at both schools have resulted in modern facilities. Both schools provide warm, yet secure environments conducive to learning a challenging curriculum. Fully equipped with educational technology and other essential tools for learning, each classroom and learning area meets the needs of both teachers and children.

Pleasantdale Elementary School

In 1997, Pleasantdale Elementary School was recognized as one of the best schools in the nation when it received the National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Education. Chicago Magazine ranked Pleasantdale Elementary School in the top 25 suburban schools in 2006. The child-centered focus of the staff and the active involvement of the parent community combine to provide a positive environment conducive to the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of elementary children. A commitment to early childhood education, inclusive practices and researched based instructional strategies create the school's distinct climate.

Pleasantdale Middle School

According to the Chicago Sun Times, Pleasantdale Middle School posted the highest gains on statewide standardized testing among the top 50 middle schools. The intimate size of the school, along with a commitment to the team concept and student advisory program, make Pleasantdale Middle School an optimum environment for the education of young adolescents. A rigorous curriculum, combined with attention to developmental, social and emotional issues, create a well-balanced and effective educational experience. Students leave Pleasantdale with well-documented skills for success at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange.

The comprehensive K-8 curriculum in District 107 is closely aligned with the Illinois State learning standards in all subject areas. Curriculum expectations for students in all grade levels are listed on our website www.d107.org. Below are highlights and themes from the curriculum in each subject.

Reading

- Balanced instructional approach that merges a strong skill base and phonics program with varied literature experiences
- Regular sustained silent reading periods at all grade levels
- Age-appropriate reading for pleasure and incentive programs
- Intermittent assessments for reading comprehension to assure accountability and enhance diagnostic ability
- PTA support through literary events and related activities

Language Arts

- Balanced instructional approach that combines a strong skill base with varied writing and literacy experiences
- Acquisition of skills is equally balanced with application of skills
- Reading, writing and other language arts skills are emphasized across the curriculum in all subject areas

Social Studies

- Combines concepts from history, geography, economics, government and social science at all grade levels
- Updated, state-of-the-art maps, globes, atlases and software provide hands-on experiences
- Multiple sources of information utilized at all grades, including software, internet, textbooks, primary sources, secondary sources and artifacts
- Concepts often enhanced through curriculum integration with fine arts, Spanish and other subject areas

Science

- Balanced instructional approach that merges content knowledge, scientific method and "hands-on" discovery/inquiry activities
- Multiple sources of information utilized at all grades, including software, Internet, textbooks and artifacts
- Real world, problem-solving activities emphasize critical thinking while pursuing genuine solutions to problems facing the community



Math

- Rigorous instructional approach that combines sequential skill development with critical thinking and problem solving
- Acquisition of skills is equally balanced with application of skills
- Hands-on use of models and manipulative materials are utilized in an age-appropriate manner
- Mastery of math facts and other key skills are required

Health

- Taught by a trained health specialist in Middle School
- Specific concepts also taught in grades K-4 by classroom teachers in an integrated fashion with science, social studies and language arts
- Emphasis placed on preventative measures that promote personal health, fitness and safety, and decision-making that leads to a healthy lifestyle

Fine Arts

- Art taught by trained specialists in grades K-8
- Music taught by trained specialists in grades K-8
- Drama clubs offered as an extra-curricular activity in grades K-4 and 5-8; school musical production provided as an extra-curricular activity in Middle School

Physical Education

- Program emphasizes physical fitness, skill development and knowledge of games/sports in grades K-8
- PE taught by trained specialists three times weekly in grades K-4
- PE taught by trained specialists daily in grades 5-8

Spanish

- Comprehensive Spanish program begins in kindergarten and proceeds through 8th grade
- K-4 Spanish program combines an introductory oral foundation with an understanding of cultural concepts
- Middle school program culminates in the completion of high school freshman Spanish

Instrumental and Choral Music Programs

- Comprehensive instrumental music program is offered in grades 4-8
- Instrumental music choices include band, orchestra (strings) and jazz band
- Instrumental music is taught by trained specialists who teach individual and small group lessons and conduct regular whole group rehearsals before school
- Choral music is offered as an optional program in grades 5-8



In addition to the comprehensive curriculum provided in all subject areas, District 107 offers a wide variety of supplementary programs that support and enhance the educational experience for children. Below are the key aspects of each educational support and enhancement program offered in the district.

Special Education

- An inclusive philosophy provides the foundation for a continuum of services
- Classroom teachers, special education teachers and support staff collaborate to meet the needs of students with disabilities
- La Grange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE) provides additional resources and support
- Continuous parent communication and involvement are expected

Reading Improvement

- Reading specialist provides additional support for students achieving below grade level in reading and vocabulary
- Reading specialist and classroom teachers work collaboratively to provide effective instructional approaches to increase vocabulary and comprehension

English Language Learners (ELL)

- Intensive instruction in the English language is provided for children who come from homes where English is not the primary spoken language
- Children in ELL participate in classroom instruction while developing mastery of English

Gifted Education (“Connections”)

- Formal identification begins in third grade
- “Pull out” component consists of a series of enrichment units taught by gifted education specialists designed to extend and enrich topics from the regular curriculum
- “Push in” component involves gifted education teachers and regular teachers collaboratively presenting units in the classroom that extend and enrich the curriculum for all students at their instructional level
- Gifted enrichment units are also offered to non-identified students who may possess a specific talent or interest in the topic of instruction

Extra-curricular Activities

- Wide variety of clubs, intramural sports and intramural academic activities offered at both schools in grades 1-8
- Peer leadership club provides community service experiences for middle school students
- Student council active at both schools
- Interscholastic sports offered in middle school including basketball, volleyball, softball, and soccer
- Middle school students trained in peer mediation to solve conflicts
- Math contests, Scholastic Bowl and other age-appropriate academic challenges offered

Pre-School

Bright Beginnings



As a service to the community, District 107 provides an optional, fee-based preschool program called **Bright Beginnings**. Half-day and extended day programs are available for three-year-old and four-year-old children. In addition, an extended-day kindergarten program is also offered as another fee-based option for District 107 families. The three-year-old, four-year-old and extended-day kindergarten programs are all taught by skilled and experienced certified teachers with an extensive early childhood background. **Bright Beginnings** is also an inclusive program with disabled and non-disabled children offered equal access to this effective preschool experience. All children involved in **Bright Beginnings** are provided a solid foundation for future school success.

Pleasantdale

Summer Academy

Pleasantdale Summer Academy, Worlds of Wisdom and Camp Invention are extension and enrichment programs offered on a voluntary basis to District 107 students. Exciting, activity-oriented courses are designed for all grade levels K-8. Courses are created and taught by highly qualified teachers. Held in a comfortable air-conditioned building, Pleasantdale Summer Academy, Worlds of Wisdom and Camp Invention provide a relaxed yet enriching educational experience for interested children and families.



Technology is an integral component of the educational program throughout the district. Technology is not emphasized as a unique curriculum. Instead, it is utilized within the instructional process as a crucial tool to enhance learning. Key aspects of technology integration within the district include:

Technology

Computer Labs

- Each school is equipped with 24-computer station labs and a portable lab with a class set of laptops
- Labs are used for direct instruction of computer skills and technology integration activities

- The District has two full-time technology specialists who provide technical support for integration activities
- Labs also include additional educational technology hardware such as scanners, digital cameras, laser disc players, poster makers, etc.

Classroom Technology

- Classrooms in the district are equipped with 2-4 computers
- Internet access is available in each district classroom
- All classrooms are wired for voice (phone), data (computer), video and cable access
- Large screen monitors are installed in each classroom and multi-media stations are available, one per grade level

Use of Instructional Technology

- Technology-enhanced activities are built into all curricular areas
- Teachers work in teams to create new technology integration learning experiences throughout the year
- Mastery of specific technology skills and technology integration in the classroom is expected of all staff members and students

Technology Skills

- Specific instruction in keyboarding, word processing and Internet is provided and assessed
- Students in grades 5-8 participate in the Modular Technology Program as a component of the middle school exploratory program. The Modular Technology Lab contains 16 stations or modules that provide students with real world applications of technology in fields such as robotics, flight aviation, video production, radio broadcasting and satellite communications



Strategic

Planning

Pleasantdale School District 107 involves many parents, teachers, students and other community members to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that serves as a blueprint for excellence. Key components of the plan are as follows:

Core Values

We believe that...

- ...family provides the foundation for development of personal values.
- ...all people have intrinsic value.
- ...there are no limits to human potential.
- ...honesty and trust are vital to achieving common goals and positive relationships.
- ...people are free to make choices and are responsible for the results of those choices.
- ...involving diverse people and perspectives promote understanding and new ideas.

Mission

The mission of Pleasantdale School District 107 is to ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.

Strategic Objectives

- Each student will consistently exhibit behaviors that reflect our core values.
- Each student will meet or exceed individual academic goals consistent with district academic standards.
- Each student will demonstrate the desire, ability, and confidence to pursue and apply new learning.

Strategic Delimiters

We will not implement any new program or service unless:

- It is consistent with and contributes to our mission.
- It is accompanied by the training needed for effectiveness.
- It is accompanied by a plan to assess its effectiveness.

Strategies

We will:

Evaluate and adjust our communication system to efficiently and effectively convey information to our school community critical to the success of our strategic plan.

Create a system that focuses available resources to elevate our existing curricula so that each student attains our strategic objectives.

Set, monitor and adjust the pace of implementation to preserve the energy and commitment of our staff in order to achieve our strategic objectives and mission.

Continuous Improvement Through Strategic Planning

Implementing action plans created as part of the strategic planning process are the means for continuously improving the quality of educational services. As a result, the academic and social growth of our students continues to increase. Pleasantdale School District 107 does not rest on its laurels. We are committed to a mission that ensures success of all students.

Active and Supportive PTA

All parents and teachers are encouraged to be active in the district 107 PTA. The PTA provides valuable services to the educational program including volunteers, guest speakers, special events and financial support.

