

Press Release

Beginning with this current school year, Kankakee School District #111 has changed its general education classrooms for kindergarten through sixth grades to College & Career Academy (CCA) classrooms. This has been planned since May, 2014. The need to move to PARTIAL grade centers will enhance our efforts to increase the quality of education for those students enrolled in the College & Career Academy. Students in the College Career Academy will have a career focus in the following:

- Kindergarten: Human Services & Education
- 1st Grade: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- 2nd Grade: Health Science
- 3rd Grade: Business, Marketing & Administration
- 4th Grade: Communication & Information Systems
- 5th Grade: Skilled & Technical Sciences
- 6th Grade: ALL CAREERS, with a focus on individual student career choice

Our goal is to partner with industry/community service organizations in Kankakee County by having companies/organizations adopt schools based on the career strand. We will begin to connect our students to careers as early as kindergarten.

Partial Grade Centers for the College & Career Academy students will assist us in increasing the support for each grade level. Each existing elementary building will continue to house kindergarten through third grade students by continuing to house Magnet Programs. There will be three schools considered partial grade centers as described below:

Building	Programs
Aroma Park	Closed
Edison	One grade level of CCA classes; Technology Magnet
Lafayette	Student Support Services (IMPACT, CIPS, Support services personnel)
Lincoln Cultural Center	Montessori, Fine Arts Magnet
Mark Twain	One grade level of CCA; Dual Language Magnet
Proegler	All preschool programs
Steuben	Dual Language Academy, Math Magnet
Taft	Two Grade levels of CCA classes; Science Magnet

John Hattie's (2003) research places additional funding (without supports to teachers and students) among the least effective strategies for increasing student achievement. Hattie, along with other researchers in the field, identify the "teacher" and "supports to students" as having the biggest impact on student achievement.

During the past two school years, Kankakee School District 111 has focused on increasing student engagement. We have provided teachers with current curriculum materials as well as other supports

for increasing teacher effectiveness. Although we are forced to restructure the elementary schools in order to reduce expenditures, we will continue to keep the focus on increasing student engagement and teacher effectiveness which has the most impact on student achievement.

Our goal has been to finalize all major changes by the first week in December in order to properly plan for the restructuring. Any additional major changes to reduce the budget will be explored during the 2016-17 school year for implementation during the 2017-18 school year. We will also continue to look for additional revenue sources.

Stay in touch with Kankakee School District 111 through our Facebook or the district website: Ksd111.org.