

Dr. Nathan S. Schilling, CSBO  
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Mark D. Crotty, CSBO  
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

Dr. Tanya L. Carter, CSBO  
Executive Director of Human Resources

Dr. David A. Kostopoulos  
Executive Director of Curriculum & Assessment

Ms. Mary P. Ford, BCASE  
Executive Director of Student Services

## LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT 158



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ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
18300 Greenbay Avenue  
Lansing, IL 60438-3009  
P: (708) 474-6700  
F: (708) 474-9976

*"Putting the Children First with a Commitment to Continuous Improvement"*

December 20, 2022

### WINTER BREAK LETTER

Dear #**158Strong** Community,

I hope this message finds you well and ready for the upcoming holidays. Winter Break is just around the corner and we have much to be thankful for. All three of our elementary schools – Coolidge, Oak Glen, and Reavis – have been designated **Commendable** by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). For an unprecedented fifth consecutive year, District 158 has received a **Perfect Score** on our annual Health/Life Safety Inspection. Memorial has partnered with multiple ministries – including First United Methodist Church, Living Grace Church, and Mexico Missions – to distribute hats, coats, and gloves to families. Over **4,000 batteries** have been collected from our schools and donated to Batteries For Tots. Construction of Lester Crawl's new addition is on-schedule and anticipated to be completed in February 2023. And long-time Lansing resident, parent, volunteer, fan, and playground supervisor Donna Gill received our inaugural **ABCDE Award**! Please consider submitting a nomination for a Quarter 2 recipient at the following link:

[www.d158.net/page/abcde-award](http://www.d158.net/page/abcde-award)

An important initiative this school year is **chronic absenteeism**, which is defined by law as "absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause" (105 ILCS 5/26-18). This means a student in District 158 can be absent up to 17 times for any reason, including out-of-school suspension, in 2022-2023 without being designated as chronically absent. Those who miss a significant number of days may receive interventions such as parent contact, social work, home visits, citations from the police, and referrals to the Regional Office of Education. Unlike truancy, absences in which a student is called off by a parent still count towards absenteeism. Please contact the office of your child's school for more information. We encourage families to work in partnership with our staff to ensure your child is not reported to ISBE as chronically absent. To promote positive school attendance, students with no absences each month will be entered into a gift card raffle!

Finally, we are continuing to accept participants for our upcoming **Lansing Area Science Fair** on Saturday, January 28. Students are welcome to participate with a partner. Please encourage your child to join the longest running area science fair in Illinois! I wish all of our stakeholders a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nathan S. Schilling, CSBO  
Superintendent of Schools  
Lansing School District 158