



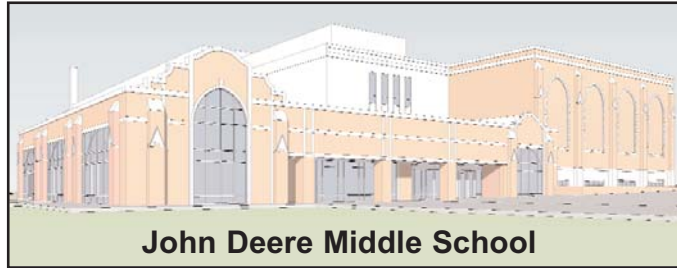
## Structure change will benefit students

### Middle School plans to enhance academic achievement

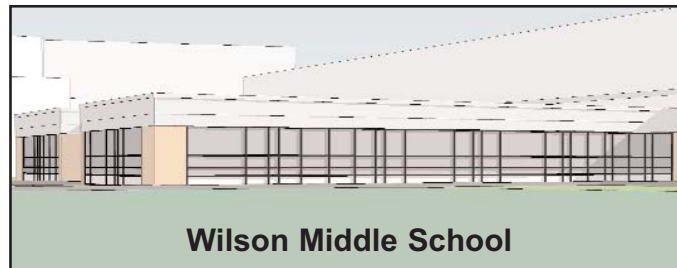
In 2011-2012, Moline School District No. 40 will undergo a major shift in structure when 6th graders are moved to the middle school to create a learning structure of K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. By making this change, opportunities for academic achievement will be enhanced.

First, the idea of making this change is nothing new. In a strategic plan developed by the community in 1991, transitioning the 6th graders was one of the major goals. In the most recent plan developed with the community, this same goal of re-structuring the District emerged once again. In weighing the various options, the Board of Education decided in December, 2007, to endorse this structure.

Moline has had a two-year structure since 1984 when 9th graders were moved to the high school and the concept was changed from a junior high to a middle school in 1988. Looking at national data, the trend has moved toward the 6-8 structure in the middle school. In 1981, 25 percent of the nation had a 6-8 configuration. Twelve years later, it had increased to 65 percent and by 2000 it increased to 75 percent.



John Deere Middle School



Wilson Middle School

One major reason for this is to increase the amount of time between school transitions. Research has shown that students benefit academically when given enough time to develop a sense of identity within a school. In a two-year school, students transition in the first year and transition out the second. The “revolving door” approach has been shown to have the least academic benefit. This has been the case in Moline where student performance has declined from elementary to middle school.

When students enter high school, they need to be able to handle a more rigorous curriculum which is vastly different than what is experienced in an elementary school. The three-year transition more effectively bridges that gap. Sixth grade

students will have the benefit of more labs, computer time, and specialized instruction based on academic need. Students will also have more opportunities for social growth through extra-curricular activities.

Parents have concerns over students being ready at 6th grade to move to the middle school. Research points to the fact that students today enter adolescence earlier than 50 years ago. In the design for Deere and Wilson, this concern has been addressed by grouping rooms together for each grade level so that students are placed together in a common environment.

By making this transition, Moline is recognizing a need that must be met for our students to be successful.

## In the Spotlight



Moline High School students raised more than \$45,000 during the Share Joys events, which included the annual Donut Eating Contest, raffles and food sales. The money raised was used to buy clothes for 250 children from the District.



Students at Washington Elementary School received new boots just in time for the snow fall. The Moline Kiwanis Club bought 19 pairs and made the special delivery.



Title 1 schools in Moline received \$800,000 from the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Funds were used to purchase educational materials that included Smart Boards and computer equipment.

## Moving forward despite challenges



Connie McElyea  
Board President

As we begin the New Year, we are in the early stages of preparing the 2010-11 budget. We all know this is going to be a challenging year because of the lack of state and federal dollars allotted for education. Our district is like most of the school districts across the state being forced to look at reductions for the upcoming year. As we move forward with the process, the board members, Superintendent Lee, and cabinet members have agreed reductions should be made throughout the District, meaning all departments, building levels, administration, and board members will be affected in some way. While making these tough decisions we want to ensure it will have the least impact on student achievement.

Superintendent Lee continues to share general ideas of reductions and approximate cost savings with the Board. What can the public do? We encourage everyone to contact their state and federal legislators to remind them how vital education funding is to all children! Moline/Coal Valley will get through these challenging times and continue to "Educate Our Future With Pride!"

As a reminder, upcoming "Neighborhood Nights" are scheduled at several schools. These meetings are an informal gathering to allow District 40 stakeholders and community members to tour the host school, and the opportunity to have open dialogue with Board and cabinet members. This is an opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, or to share a compliment to the Board and/or staff members. We hope to see you there!

## Six inducted into Hall of Honor



The Board of Directors of the Moline High School Hall of Honor inducted six distinguished and outstanding alumni on January 15 at Wharton Field House. From left to right are Bob Vogelbaugh, Stanley Leach, Steven Combs, Paul Norton's daughter, Lynn Norton-Parker, Steven Kruse, representing his sister-in-law Stephanie Sundine, and Scott Thompson.

## Board of Education

Bob Vogelbaugh	(309) 797-2768
Dr. Angie Normoyle	(309) 764-3828
Connie McElyea	(309) 799-3603
Dr. James Kopel	(309) 517-4782
Cecilia O'Brien	(309) 764-7956
Dr. Rafat Padaria	(309) 743-6700
Alan Anderson	(309) 736-4239

## MHS All-State Musicians



Five Moline High School students in the chorus, orchestra and band received the Illinois Music Education All-State designation. The award is the highest honor given by the Illinois Music Educators Association. Back row, from left to right, are Zina Ellis, junior, Chorus – Alto I; Jens Hurty, junior, Chorus – Baritone; and Kelsey Knott, senior, Orchestra - violin. Front row, from left to right, are, Kelsey Carlson, senior, Band – flute; and Ian Miller, senior, Choir – Tenor I.

## Upcoming Events

ISAT Testing	March 1-12
Kindergarten Pre-Registration	March 11
Third Quarter Ends	March 12
Parent-Teacher Conferences	March 18-19
Spring Break	April 2-9

## Moline School District No. 40

[www.molineschools.org](http://www.molineschools.org)  
1619 11th Avenue - Moline, IL 61265  
(309) 743-1600

## Mission

The mission of Moline School District No. 40, in partnership with the communities of Moline and Coal Valley, is to educate individuals by providing superior student-centered educational experiences, which will prepare them to become contributing and productive citizens, responsive to the changing local and global needs.

## Teachers Earn National Board Certification



Kathleen  
Griesenbeck

Congratulations to Kathleen Griesenbeck, an English teacher at Moline High School, and Kelly Mulcahy, a Social Studies teacher at Wilson Middle School, for meeting the Nation's Highest Teaching Standards: National Board Certification for 2009.



Kelly  
Mulcahy

Stay informed about happenings in the Moline School District. Sign up for *ENEWS* at

[www.molineschools.org](http://www.molineschools.org)

## Strategic Plan

**Student Achievement** - Moline/Coal Valley School District No.40 makes a commitment to every student that each will reach his/her full potential both academically and socially, thereby creating productive and responsible citizens who are life-long learners.

**Facilities/Technology** - Moline/Coal Valley School District No.40 will have facilities of the appropriate size and type so that they are equipped to meet the educational, extracurricular, and community needs of all stakeholder groups. Special emphasis is placed on students meeting their full academic potential.

### Parent/Community Involvement & Communications

Moline/Coal Valley School District No. 40 will communicate the District's vision, successes and how they are achieved, and other pertinent information to all stakeholders and audiences. Through communications, the District will increase community and parental involvement as stakeholders in our school district.

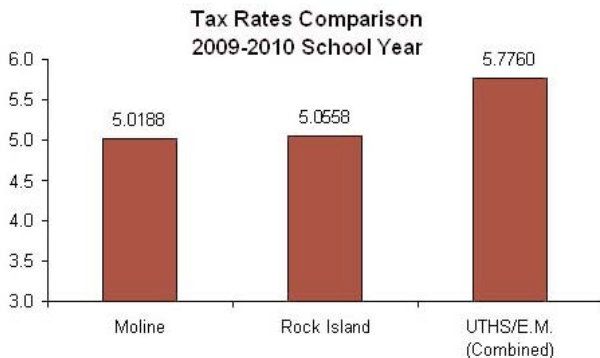
**Continuous Improvement** - Moline/Coal Valley School District No.40 will ensure that people, processes, and procedures needed to sustain improvement in the district are in place now and in the future.

**Sustainability** - Moline/Coal Valley School District No.40 will enhance the knowledge, skills and teamwork of the elected Board members to effectively carry out their responsibilities to implement the strategic planning process while ensuring financial stability for the District.

## Demographics - Dollars & Sense

The Moline School District No. 40 Tax Rate for the 2009-2010 school year is 5.0188. The tax rate is the portion of the taxes that supports the instruction of approximately 7,500 students. This rate compares favorably with our neighboring districts: Rock Island (5.0558) and combined East Moline Elementary and United Township High School (5.7760).

An average home valued at \$100,000 generates about \$1,675 annually in tax revenue to support the educational activities for our students. Of the current year budgeted, about 45% of revenues are generated from local property taxes: homeowners. This is the most stable revenue source for the District. General State Aide (GSA) is the next largest revenue source, about 15% GSA is an allocation from the state based primarily on number of students offset by District wealth—the greater the local Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) the less we receive from the State. Due to the uncertainty of the state revenue the District is more reliant on local revenues to support the instructional education of our students.



## Superintendent's Message

It's snowing, cold, and slippery; the meteorologist says it could be the worst storm in decades; the street where we live hasn't been plowed and I don't feel comfortable going outside, BUT school is still open. Should I send or take my child?



### Parents: the decision is yours!

Dr. Cal Lee  
Winters in Northwest Illinois often bring snow, ice, cold, and strong winds making it difficult to get around town and to school. In defense of our meteorologists, their predictions must cover a wider viewing audience, so it's not unusual for the storms 'worst' to miss us. When they do occur, however, the Rock Island, United Township and Moline superintendents jointly make the decision to open or close schools for seven districts and five non-public schools on the Illinois side of the Quad-Cities. For details on how that decision is made and what to do if you decide to keep your child home, please refer to the letter that was sent home in December and is also available on the District website: [www.molineschools.org](http://www.molineschools.org).

In general, we base the decision on the following:

- The municipal street departments can maintain all of the main streets in an acceptable manner.
- The District's facilities' department is able to keep our driveways, walkways, doorways and parking lots cleared sufficiently for pedestrians, cars, and emergency vehicles.
- The weather forecast supports the decision.

Like most other school districts in Illinois, the overwhelming majority of our parents work outside the home and have limited options for childcare when school is cancelled. As much as possible, we try to stay open to give families a choice because, when we close, parents must decide whether to:

- Stay home and lose the day's wages (if they're an hourly worker)
- Take a personal day,
- Vacation day
- Leave their child(ren) home alone.

When we are able to keep schools open, EVERY parent has a choice. They can keep their child(ren) home (excused absence) or send them to the care of school staff and administration.

Does this mean that schools will always be open regardless of the weather? No, student safety is our first consideration and there have been a number of times in the past when school was cancelled due to roads that became impassable or as a result of excessively cold, icy or snowy conditions.

Let's hope that the rest of the winter is mild and for any snow or ice to fall on the weekend and away from roads and power lines. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at (309) 743-8102 or [clee@molineschools.org](mailto:clee@molineschools.org).

## 2010 District Spelling Bee Winners



The District spelling bee was held January 18. The following students will compete in the regional competition in March. From left to right are: Dyllin Idle (29), 2nd Place; Rajiv Kartham (24), 6th Place; Jeremy Drobushевич (19), 4th Place; Shawn Wherry (10) 3rd Place; Tallia Galvin (41), 5th Place; and Varun Ravichandran (43), 1st Place.

## Volunteer Corner



Ken Franklin

Mr. Ken Franklin is a valuable volunteer at Washington Elementary School. He has been providing support to students in grades 1-5 for more than 10 years.

With a caring and compassionate ear, Mr. Franklin listens to students read, helps them with math facts, and assists them if they need to get caught up on missing work. He is a positive male role model in the lives of many of the Washington students.

Mr. Franklin comes to school everyday, even in bad weather. He is always anxious to begin the school day and ready to spend quality time with the students at Washington. He develops a great rapport with each and every child he helps. Ken always has a smile and is a very patient person. Besides being very generous with his time, he also provides extra supplies for the classroom. We can't imagine Washington Elementary School without Mr. Ken Franklin.

## Wilson Middle School Alumni



Help us find memorabilia, photos and students for our upcoming 50th year celebration in 2012.

Contact us at:

[mckee@molineschools.org](mailto:mckee@molineschools.org)

Help our city receive Federal Funds for schools, roads, services and programs.

**Be Counted!**

**Fill out your Census**

Learn more at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

United States  
**Census**  
**2010**

Moline School District No. 40  
1619 11th Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265

*Visit our website at [www.molineschools.org](http://www.molineschools.org)*

## Building success for students

The designs for the District's expansion and renovation projects at John Deere and Wilson Middle Schools are progressing as planned. Preliminary proposals were shared with the Board of Education and the community at a public forum held on October 27. With the input received, the project has continued to evolve. The most recent updates were presented at a second forum held on January 25.

The projects' estimated costs remain within the desired budgets. Even so, the District continues to apply for appropriate grants for energy efficiency, sustainable practices and awaits decisions from the funding entities. The District also anticipates rebates from Mid-American Energy for the conservation measures incorporated into the construction. These projects being completed at this time offer opportunities to the Quad-City community by creating new jobs during tough times. District 40 also will benefit from securing good prices by contractors looking for work.

Bids for this work are anticipated in late February and in April. The ground breaking is expected to take place sometime in March or April. Completion is scheduled for August 2011 with much of the interior work being done during the summer months. Updates on the exterior of the buildings and a limited amount of the interior work will occur during the school year. The construction activity will be sequenced and staged to not disrupt our students' school days.

Construction at John Deere Middle School will occur on the south side and southwest corner of the building. The wells for the planned geothermal field will be on the west side. The existing tennis courts and football fields will not be disturbed.

At Woodrow Wilson Middle School, the new classroom construction will occur on the west side of the building and a small addition on the front will be added near the library. The geothermal field will be on the south side. The football field, tennis courts and main parking area will not be disturbed.

The architectural designs of both buildings can be seen on the front of this *Maroon Messenger* and at [www.molineschools.org](http://www.molineschools.org).

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