

## Press Clippings 08/16/2019

### Streamwood High names English teacher new principal

By: Norrine Twohey



Dr. Jennifer Van Deusen, principal Streamwood High School



The Honorable Pamela Loza, right, swears in Attorney Miriam Cooper as the new Northwest Suburban Bar Association president.



Colleen M. Hurley was certified as a Guardian ad Litem and Child Representative in Cook County.



Brina Kay's "Heat of the Moment" album art, Nashville Tennessee

- School District U-46 appointed Jennifer Van Deusen principal of Streamwood High School. Van Deusen, who brings more than a decade of experience in U-46 to her new position, joined U-46 as an English teacher at Elgin and South Elgin high schools.

She later served as a dean of students and, in 2014, was named associate principal at Bartlett High School. In June, she was named interim principal at Streamwood High School.

Van Deusen holds an undergraduate degree in English from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, a Master of Science in educational leadership from the University of New England, and a Doctoral degree in ethical leadership from Olivet Nazarene University.

According to U-46, Van Deusen is "dedicated to fostering a culture of lifelong learning through student-focused and intervention-based instruction."

- Family Law Attorney Miriam Cooper was recently sworn in by the Honorable Pamela Loza as the new Northwest Suburban Bar Association president.

Each year, a new president takes the helm for the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, the tradition continued when new officers and the board of governors were sworn in.

The Honorable Jill Cerone-Marisie installed the executive council officers for the new fiscal year. They include Gary Newland, first vice president; Moe Ahmad, second vice president; Kenneth Apicella, treasurer; and Anthony Calzaretta, secretary.

Judge Cerone-Marisie also installed the new board of governors for 2019-2020: Jonathan Anderson, Robert Boszko, Allen Gabe, Patricia Jochum, Raj Jutla and Joseph Vito. Kristina Buchthal Alkass is the association attorney and Tracy Callahan is the parliamentarian.

After her installation, Cooper thanked Executive Director Julie Barth and office administrators Christine and Sharon at the Northwest Suburban Bar Association office. She also thanked her family members, Rabbi Lifshitz, attorneys Shawn McKenna and Brandy Wisher and her office staff.

- Colleen M. Hurley, an attorney at Schaumburg-based Lavelle Law, was certified as a Guardian ad Litem and Child Representative in Cook County. A Guardian ad Litem is an attorney appointed by a judge to investigate the best interests of a child in divorce or custody cases.

The process to become a Guardian ad Litem and Child Representative took roughly two years, as Hurley had to complete training and three pro bono Child Rep cases through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services in the Domestic Relations Division in Cook County. Hurley earned her J.D. and Certificate in Family Law from DePaul University College of Law.

Hurley's desire to work with children began at an early age and was confirmed after interning at the Children's Advocacy Center in Champaign County while earning her undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois. It was here that she saw a great need for advocacy for children in crisis.

- U.S. Air Force Airman Connor R. McCluskey graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

McCluskey is a 2019 graduate of Maine West High School, Des Plaines.

- Schaumburg native Brina Kay, a singer songwriter, recently released her third single, "Heat of the Moment," produced by Mike Anderson, a Nashville-based composer and producer.

"Heat of the Moment" was inspired by the city of Chicago. Kay said memories of going downtown with family and friends for sporting events, concerts and music festivals, specifically the city's annual Lollapalooza, influenced the song's production and lyrics.

The single will also be accompanied by a music video filmed in Chicago and directed by Joshua Lockhart of J. Lockhart Media.

Last March, Kay released her first single out of Nashville, "Horizon," which has surpassed 45,000 streams on Spotify and was nominated for the Best Singing and Best Song awards by the SongBro podcast.

Her second single, "Rome," was released in June and she is set to release a fourth this month. "Heat of the Moment" is available on most streaming services.

**---Chicago Sun-Times---08/16/2019**

## **Illinois schools are starting earlier and earlier — except in Chicago**

More than half the state's public school districts this year brought either teachers or students back by Wednesday.

**By: Nader Issa**



If it seems like students in Illinois are going back to school earlier and earlier in August — infringing on late summer family vacation time — that's because districts have slowly moved up start dates over the past decade or more.

Dozens of school districts across the Chicago suburbs are back in session this week, in some cases marking the earliest start date ever, completing a trend that saw hundreds of school districts statewide holding class by mid-August. The old standard that classes began after Labor Day is no longer true in the vast majority of districts in Illinois.

At least two dozen districts in Cook County — with dozens more in DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will — brought their kids back to the classroom by Wednesday.

At Maine Township High School District 207 in the northwest suburbs, students' summers ended Tuesday when they went back to the three high schools in the district — Maine East, Maine South and Maine West.

A district official said the move to an earlier first day of school came in the 2015-16 academic year with the intention of wrapping up the fall semester before students go home for winter break in December.

In the past — and currently at schools with later start dates — tests and projects from the first semester have been saved for the first weeks of January, after winter break was done. That meant students were studying and finishing up projects during what was supposed to be time off.

"We know that high school students are more stressed than ever before. So one area we thought we could alleviate that stress was to give students a true break," said Brett Clark, spokesman for the Maine Township district.

”Starting earlier allows us to finish up that semester before that winter break happens,” Clark said.

Maine doesn’t have a specific target day or date in mind for the start of the school year. Administrators instead choose a first day that works out to meet the goal of getting the fall semester done by winter break, Clark said.

Since the change was implemented four years ago, school has started about a week or so earlier: Both this year and last year, the Maine high schools started August 13; in 2014-15, the last year before the change, students went back August 19.

## **Seismic change**

Over the past 15 years, there’s been a seismic change in the first day of school across the state.

In 2004, only 16 of the 1,006 school districts statewide — less than 2% — had teachers or students back by August 14, according to records kept by the Illinois State Board of Education. This year, 502 of the state’s 910 districts — more than 55% — saw teachers back or classes getting underway by that date.

Willowbrook High School in Villa Park started Wednesday, at least 10 days earlier than in 1999 when school started August 24. The change has been made easier by the installation of air-conditioning in that time, one teacher said.

**School District U-46** in Elgin and Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 — the second and fifth largest districts in the state, respectively — both started Wednesday.

Chicago Public Schools, which has long stuck by its post-Labor Day start, goes back Sept. 3.

School started Wednesday at Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205, where Guido Nardini wasn’t too upset to take his two sons to their 5th and 6th grade classes.

“I think they were ready for it,” said Nardini, co-owner of Club Lago in River North. “We had just gone to a summer camp, and they knew that at the end of the summer camp they were on their way back to school.”

Nardini said he didn’t have any problems with the early schedule and could work family vacations around the school calendar. Earlier start dates mean kids are done with school by May or very early June in many districts.

“All I know is summer was last week, and this week there was a wave of middle school kids streaming through my house after the first day, and I was on peanut butter and jelly duty feeding them,” Nardini said. “But put me down for one that I’m happy the school year started.”

**---The Courier-News---08/16/2019**

## **Elgin principal finding her way in new job**

Coleman fourth principal since Kimball Middle School opened in 1960

**By Rafael Guerrero**



Kimball Middle School Principal Charlotte Coleman, right, helps a student with a concern on the first day of school on Wednesday. (Rafael Guerrero/The Courier-News Photos)



Charlotte Coleman, the new principal at Kimball Middle School in Elgin, talks with volunteer Luis Garcia on Wednesday on the first day of school.

Wednesday marked the first day of school for 670 students at Kimball Middle School in Elgin. It also marked a first day of sorts for Charlotte Coleman.

Coleman is the school's new principal. For the Kimball community, the change at the top is rare — she is only the fourth person to hold the job since the school opened in 1960.

And like the seventh-graders who are new to the building and to middle school, Coleman is acclimating and ready to start the new academic year, she said.

“I probably have my own pressures I’ve given myself,” Coleman said. “I want to make sure I can take Kimball and move it forward. The position, period, is motivation enough. And the students that I get to know and the parents are motivation for me.”

Coleman replaced Al Tamburrino, who retired at the end of the last school year after 19 years at the helm as Kimball's third principal. To put that into perspective, most schools have a new principal every three years, according to Illinois State Report Card data. And District U46 has 50-plus schools and more than 38,000 students.

This is Coleman's first stint as a middle school principal. Until this summer, she was the principal of Nature Ridge Elementary in Bartlett, a job she held for more than five years. In her 20 years as an educator, 13 have been spent in District U46 schools.

Helen Shales, secretary to the principal, has been at Kimball for 25 years. The longevity of its principals has served them well, she said.

"It's always a sign of a good school," Shales said. "It's continuity for the kids. They see familiar faces, they know the teachers. The teachers know the building, they know how things work. It's a great advantage.

"(She has) big shoes to fill, it's a lot of responsibility, but she will do fine," she said. "She's jumped in with both feet."

The low turnover rate in the job has been a point of pride for the school, Coleman said.

"They have a dynamic staff here, a very positive and supportive staff wanting to know who they're working with and (that they have her) support," she said. "Even as I came in, they have been going over and beyond what I ever imagined."

Coleman also credited Tamburrino with sharing "valuable tidbits" that have helped her get her feet under her in the new job.

"Trust the staff, trust their knowledge and expertise, listen to parents and understand they are simply advocating what is best for their child," she said. "With regards to students, developing those relationships and getting to know them and where they come from and their backgrounds."

She had her first chance at putting those into action when he attended the seventh-grade orientation session, where she was able to meet with new students and their families. She did the same thing at Nature Ridge, she said.

She was also in the hallways Wednesday morning, greeting students and helping them get to the right classrooms. It gave her a chance to talk with staff and volunteers as well.

"I love seeing the staff getting ready to help once the passing bell rings," Coleman said.

Among the students she helped were new seventh-graders Maggie Hernandez and Rafael Valdes.

"It's been an interesting day, a lot of back-and-forth, up-and-down," Valdes said. "When I was looking for my first class, I was looking for it downstairs when it actually was upstairs."

"It'll probably take a week to get used to the building," added Hernandez, although she preferred moving from room to room over being in the same place all day, as was the case in elementary school.

Coleman said she still has plenty to learn as a first-time middle school principal. About 30 students Wednesday needed to print out their class schedules, something she never had to worry about as an elementary principal. There were locker combinations to figure out, and two students had to be calmed as they fought back tears from first-day-of-school stress.

“I know there are differences (between elementary school and middle school), but let’s talk about similarities. One is you still have nervous parents, nervous students,” she said. “We want to accommodate that and help them with that.”

**---WBBM NEWSRADIO---08/16/2019**

## **Second Largest School District In Illinois Welcomes Students Back To School**

**By: Bernie Tafoya**

**CHICAGO (WBBM NEWSRADIO)** -- Believe it or not, summer is over for thousands of children in the Chicagoland area as school resumed this week. On Wednesday, among the openings was Elgin District U-46, the second largest district in Illinois.

There was an energetic welcome and flag raising ceremony that started the new academic year at Ridge Circle School in Streamwood. Principal Janelle Raine said she's "excited" to open the year, Ridge Circle School's 50th anniversary.

Parent Erika Roque is excited for her 11-year old son Mario.

"It's a new year. He's going to learn more...and he's going to get more friends," she said.

Cortney Fallon took a picture of her 5-year-old son Caleb underneath the banner of Ridge Circle School in Streamwood. It's his first day of kindergarten and she was feeling a bit nervous and anxious about it.

As for Caleb, he said he was ready to have fun and learn his ABCs.





U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said the district spent more than \$40 million over the summer on infrastructure improvements. Also, in addition to 14,000 high schoolers having Chromebooks, 12,000 5th through 8th graders are getting them too.

"Students will now be able to continue their learning when they get home at night and not have the weight of a bunch of textbooks in their backpack and hopefully, engage in more interactive, 21st Century learning skills," he said.

Sanders said it's amazing how students take care of the Chromebooks. Out of the 14,000 distributed last year, he says only 50 were lost or unrepairable.

There are nearly 39,000 students in District U-46.

Please click on the link <http://bit.ly/2TDhDaa> to watch the videos related to this story.