

SAUGANASH SCHOOL

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Sean Kennedy - Principal's Report to LSC & School Community

February 9, 2026

2024 – 2026 Continuous Improvement Work Plan

| Priority #1 | Priority #2 | Priority #3 |
|--|---|---|
| Curriculum & Instruction | Inclusive and Supportive Learning | Partnership & Engagement |
| <p>Theory of Action:</p> <p>If we...have a school wide culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy, reinforced by comprehensive professional development</p> <p>then we see...greater student and staff investment and participation in the curriculum through exposure to other cultures and diverse experiences.</p> <p>which leads to...enhanced relationships among all stakeholders and improved academic progress in all content areas and among sub groups.</p> | <p>Theory of Action:</p> <p>If we...develop an integrated team consisting of grade band representatives, special education teachers, EL endorsed teachers, related service providers and administrative representatives in order to identify student learning needs, set individual learning goals for students, and review progress monitoring (in conjunction utilizing Branching Minds as a platform to track student progress) data every five weeks.</p> <p>then we see...consistent implementation of MTSS interventions specific to each student's learning needs as determined by the Inclusion and Supportive Learning team as well as communication of strategies and supports across each student's teachers and service providers.</p> <p>which leads to... student tier movement in Star 360, improved grades, increased attendance, and eventual transition out of the MTSS program. Additionally, students who require further interventions and/or evaluation for more intensive services will be identified.</p> | <p>Theory of Action:</p> <p>If we... create a consistent structured behavioral system across grade levels with administrative, staff, parent, and student input that identifies accountability standards related to behavioral expectations and resulting positive and negative consequences that are transparent to families</p> <p>then we see...increased student respect toward peers and staff, increased student preparedness and on-task classroom behavior, increased student involvement toward incentives for positive behavior, decreased misconduct reports, increased parent involvement and communication regarding student behavioral progress</p> <p>which leads to... which leads to -increased on-task behavior and resulting positive learning outcomes (grades, test scores) -increased student and staff morale -positive and open relationships between staff, students and parents</p> |

ILT/CIWP Team: Lauren Ackermann, Hallie Askovich, Emily Carroll, Krista Evans, Sean Kennedy, Katie Gragson, Matt Allore, Katie Styzek, Michael Tader, Dawn Arens, & Isabella Portelli

Sauganash Happenings: Teacher, Staff, Parent, Community & Student Recognition

Teachers & Staff

- Robotics Team - Advanced to STATE - Saturday 2/14 @ Elgin Community College
- Celebrated National Counselor's Week last week
- Signing up for PTO Teacher Time activities

Community

- LSC Election March 18, 2026 (7am-6pm)
- LSC Candidate Forum - Monday, February 23 - 3:30pm (Room 205)

Field Trips

- PreK-2nd - Greatworks Theater coming to Sauganash on ~~January 30th~~ (POSTPONED - Now 2/25)
- 5/6th Irish American Heritage Center 3/4, PreK Chicago Children's Museum 3/4

Athletics & Extra Curriculars

- Two 5/6th Basketball Tournaments this week. 2/9 and 2/11.
- 5-8th Grade Dance 2/13
- Winter athletics having great seasons
 - (7/8th Boys & Girls basketball teams are closing out their seasons with 5/6th starting
 - Mr. Zumbahlen and Mr. Gunderson just opted into all spring sports (Track & Field, Boys & Girls Flag Football, Girls Soccer)

Friends of Sauganash PTO:

- Sauganash Has Talent - Talent Show 2/4 during the school day. Thursday 2/5/26 a 5:00pm show
- 2025 PTO Gala "Casino Royale" - March 7th @ Lone Tree Manor, Niles IL

Domain 1: Organizational Leadership

Oversees systems, structures, and processes for continuous improvement

- A. Vision, Mission & Goals:** Collaboratively sets vision, mission, and goals that reflect high expectations for every student & ensures the vision, mission and goals to drive school decisions.
- B. Strategic Planning & Budgeting:** Facilitates the development, implementation, monitoring, and adjustment of school-wide plans and allocates resources strategically and equitably.
- C. Continuous Improvement:** Creates a continuous improvement cycle that integrates strategy development, implementation planning, data review, and practice fusing to achieve sustained high impact practices that uphold measurable improvement without burdening marginalized groups.

Instructional Teams:

- ILT team has transitioned to the CIWP Writing for 2027-2029
 - Using our 2/17 professional development day to identify priority areas and milestones

January Budget Items:

Approval for budget transfer (Agenda Item 5.a.i)

- i. Budget Transfer of \$39,870.12 from Benefits Pointer Line (Fund 115 / Acct: 52140) to Miscellaneous Bucket 677189 (Fund 115).
 1. Transferring excess amounts from a Benefits account with a surplus to a Miscellaneous account which currently has a deficit of \$4,118.60.
 2. The remaining balance of \$35,751.52 in Miscellaneous Bucket 677189 will pay for miscellaneous aides.

Domain 2: Instructional Core

Ensures rigorous and coherent curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned to the needs of every student

- A. Courses & Content:** Ensures academic programing and curricula are culturally responsive, rigorously prepare students for academic and postsecondary success, and align to student and school needs.
- B. Instructional Strategies:** Ensures implementation of effective classroom instructional strategies and interventions aligned to student and school needs.
- C. Assessment Data:** Oversees use of quality assessments and disaggregation of data to inform equitable instructional decisions.

iReady & Star 360 MOY Implementation: Students are all done with MOY assessments. They are in the process of being printed in color and will be sent home at the end of day 2/10.

Network 1 Rigor MOY Focus Walk

- We will do our middle of the year focus walk on 2/24 with the Instructional Empowerment tool.

High School Process: Counselors checked in with the Class of 2026 to confirm their GoCPS accounts were complete and accurate prior to the deadline. Ms Portelli put together a great video: [Spring 2026 GoCPS Information](#)

Domain 3: Culture and Climate

Ensures that organizational norms, routines and systems equitably promote the students' intellectual, social, and emotional development

- A. Family & Community Engagement:** Proactively fosters relationships with families, local school committees, and community members and helps them own and contribute to school goals.
- B. Connectedness & Well-being:** Creates a school climate that promotes social, emotional and physical health and ensures the safety, positive behavior, and well-being of all students, staff and self.

C. Systems & Structures: Effectively organizes and manages school logistics (communication, scheduling, space, procedures, etc.) to accomplish school goals and create a positive, inclusive school culture.

Starting School Tours - Prospective Families: We will have our first school tour on Wednesday morning. This is for new families coming into the neighborhood or anyone interested in hearing and seeing more about Sauganash.

Piloting Wayfinder SEL Curriculum Our upper grade 6-8 teachers will be piloting a new social emotional curriculum called Wayfinder. This is a research based program that seems to be more geared towards our middle grade students as they prepare for high school and beyond.

LSC Election 2026 LSC 2026 Election 3/18 (6am-7pm - Room 126)

- LSC Candidate Forum - Monday, February 23 - 3:30pm (Room 205)

Attendance: Sauganash's current attendance rate is 95.06%. (November 95.93%, January 95.37)

Domain 4: Talent

Ensures identification, development, and retention of diverse talent and cultivates leadership

- A. Development & Evaluation:** Creates opportunities and structures for continuous growth of staff and self by ensuring they have equitable access to training, coaching and/or other development resources. Provides fair assessments of performance including timely feedback to inform development.
- B. Professional Culture & Retention:** Creates a collaborative professional culture in which staff of all backgrounds feel valued, respected, and want to stay and contribute to the school's goals.
- C. Leadership Teams & Development:** Creates and supports effective teams, distributes leadership roles and responsibilities, and develops leadership capacity of staff.

Talent & Hiring Updates

- We welcome some new staff since our last LSC meeting
 - Ms. Mitchell-Lopez (8th Grade Math TAT)
 - Mr. Joel Guarano - New SECA (2nd & 4th grade)
- We are in the process of interviewing for a 1st grade TAT position. We have 4 interviews this week.

Principal/AP Professional Learning: Monthly Network 1 principal/AP meetings on second or third Thursday each month.

- Department of Principal Quality - Year 2 Principal Cohort (BiMonthly Professional Learning)
 - Next session 2/9 at Michelle Clark High School
- Department of Principal Quality & Network 1 Assistant Principal Professional Learning Community

- Ms. Arens attended in December on 1/29 at Chicago Academy. They asked Ms. Arens to lead a session for the other AP's, so very cool to have her receive a shout out from the director of principal quality professional development.

REACH Observations: Ms. Arens and I have completed 42 REACH observations (58%, January was 44%) so far. We started this school year with the PATs, or teachers going on leave, and moving into the Tenured Teachers.

***Note:** Every element of each competency may not be addressed every month. But, taken collectively all reports across the school year will address fully every element of each competency.

Sauganash Mission & Vision

The mission of Sauganash School is to provide a high quality educational program that meets the academic needs of our students through an integrated curriculum, differentiated instruction, and the use of technology. Sauganash School is committed to meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of our students. We are dedicated to fostering a positive school climate that enables all students' intellectual growth to maximize their potential and prepare them for college and career path readiness.

Welcome to Sauganash.... "Believe to Achieve...The Power of a Chief!"

Miscellaneous Updates

- We partnered with State Rep Mike Kelly and Senator Ram Villavalam's office and created Valentine's Day cards for senior citizens. They will be delivering them to retirement homes, veterans centers, and other area wide locations.