

Plainfield Community  
 Consolidated School District 202  
 serves residents in Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Joliet, Naperville,  
 Plainfield, Romeoville, and unincorporated  
 Will and Kendall counties.

# Know Your District 202 Schools

Fall 2004



## District 202 opens school for another year of learning and growth

By Dr. John Harper, Superintendent of Schools

Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 recently enjoyed the start of another successful school year. The hallways of our 20 campuses buzzed with excitement as **21,571** students entered our classrooms. That is an enrollment increase of **14.6%** over last year at this time. For **2,778** of those students it was the first time they had attended a District 202 school. Our district staff — more than 2,200 strong — welcomed each student as we embarked on another year of learning and growth.

That's growth as individuals as well as growth as a school district. As is the case with all growth, our climbing enrollment poses significant opportunities and challenges. On the average, District 202 welcomes **2,400** new students each year. This year is no exception. In fact, from the day school let out for summer until the first day of school this year, the district's total enrollment grew by **2,064** students. As families continue to move into homes within our **64-square-mile boundaries**, we will continue to add new students. We welcome these families as they join us knowing that they bring with them unique backgrounds, experiences, and qualities to add to our school community.

### Aggressive School Construction Schedule

To accommodate the arrival of the thousands of families who have joined our district over the years, we have embarked on a very aggressive school construction program. The support of local taxpayers and state construction grants has allowed us to build, re-build or renovate each of our 20 schools

over the past 11 years. Sixteen of those campuses are completely new buildings that have developed their own new cultures. This year we opened our **fifth middle school**. Next year we will open our **third high school** as well as our **thirteenth and fourteenth elementary schools**. In 2006-2007 we will open another elementary school and the year after that another middle school. We are building schools as quickly as the state's debt limitations will allow.

### Hiring New Staff

The addition of this many students and this many schools requires the hiring of many new staff members. While over a six-year time span an average of **92%** of our teachers have chosen to remain with us year after year,

our growth has led us to hiring 1,214 new teachers over the past 11 years, including the **224** who joined us for this school year. On top of that, we have hired 68 new support staff this year to meet the needs of our students. As new students register throughout the school year we will continue to hire staff members as needed.

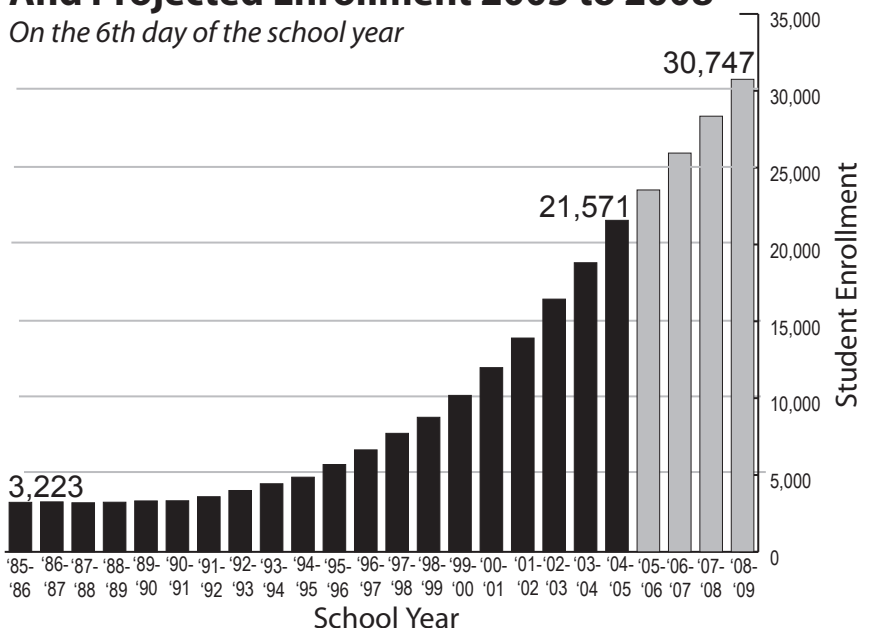
### Creative Learning Space Solutions

Our administrators and teachers are working very hard to meet our constitutional responsibility of providing school-aged children with an appropriate public education. Faced with enrollments that continue to exceed the design capacity of our schools,

See Learning & Growth on next page

### District 202 Student Enrollment 1985 to 2004 And Projected Enrollment 2005 to 2008

On the 6th day of the school year



# Learning and Growth (continued from previous page)

administrators, teachers, and staff members are finding creative solutions to our space challenges. Plainfield South High School is utilizing an overlap

schedule with juniors and seniors in the building approximately two hours before the rest of the student body and freshmen and sophomores there for approximately two hours later. Many elementary schools are using space not originally designed as regular classrooms including space in media centers and rooms designed for art and music. Some have converted their staff dining room into a classroom and others are using team teaching to meet the needs of more students in a classroom.

As an administrative team, district office staff, principals and I have met to develop a plan to address the continued growth. A thorough review of projected growth shows that each of our campuses will be able to accommodate its anticipated growth

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**I must also ask for our community's patience, understanding, and continued support as we embrace the opportunities our growth brings and work to face the challenges it poses as each of us — and the collective us — learn and grow.**

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except for Lincoln Elementary School. We have paid close attention to growth in each attendance zone because we are cautious to not inadvertently transfer an overcrowding problem from one campus to another. We will continue to monitor enrollment closely at each of our campuses to be sure growth is not greater than anticipated. Plans have been made to curb new enrollment at Lincoln Elementary School and to spread that growth among our elementary schools with lower enrollment numbers.

## **Cooperation And Support Are Important**

As educators we are committed to keeping the best interests of students at the forefront as we continue to meet the challenges of our rapid growth. Growth has brought us some very exciting

perspectives, and new experiences to help us become the unique district we are today. At the same time, however, we did not construct Plainfield South High School with the intent of running an overlap schedule. It was not our intent to convert media centers or staff dining rooms into classroom space to accommodate growth. I applaud our building administrators, teachers, staff, and parent groups for their creativity and ingenuity as they continue to grapple with these challenges at the local school level. At the same time I must also ask for our community's patience, understanding, and continued support as we embrace the opportunities our growth brings and work to face the challenges it poses as each of us — and the collective us — learn and grow.

opportunities and some very unique challenges. Those who have joined our community over the years have brought new ideas, new

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### **Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202**

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