

ELLSWORTH ELEMENTARY

August 2025

Dear Ellsworth Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! I am thrilled to join Ellsworth as your new principal. It is my honor to join a team of such dedicated staff, and I cannot wait to greet our students in a few weeks. Thank you to our Ellsworth families for your continued partnership. Our connections between home and school foster the safety, success, and growth of our students. It is going to be a great year! Please see a few back to school updates below. Additionally, please watch for my weekly newsletter to parents beginning August 10th.

Back to School Update

The 2025–2026 back to school update information can be found on our website by hovering your cursor over the “Our School” tab in the middle of the gray banner and then clicking on the “Back to School Update” tab in the drop-down menu. You can also click on the website’s Back to School Update banner. If you are new or returning to Ellsworth, several opportunities will be available to you during August and September to meet other families and find out about our school. Celebrate the new school year through participating in these exciting happenings!

Class Assignments

Classroom and teacher assignments for kindergarten through fifth grade will be posted through Infinite Campus on Wednesday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. Parents will access their child’s classroom assignment via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Visit the District 203 website (<http://www.Naperville203.org>) and click on the Resources tab on the far right in the gray banner and then click on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal link on the right side. Follow the prompts to create your parent account. If you have difficulty with your account, contact the help desk by email at parentsupport@naperville203.org.

Transportation

All bus riders will be met by staff members at the start of the school year to guide children to their grade level classrooms. While transportation information can be accessed in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (<http://www.Naperville203.org>) starting on August 6 at 3:00 p.m., please check back frequently, including the day before school starts, as changes can occur in routes, pick-up times, and/or drop-off times. If you need assistance regarding transportation information, call the Transportation Department at 630-420-6464.

First Day of School

The first day of school for all students in kindergarten–fifth grades will be Thursday, August 14th. Instruction for all grades begins promptly at 8:15am with students entering the building after 8:00 am. Please make sure that your child is not dropped off prior to 8:00am for supervision by staff begins at 8:00am. Students arriving after 8:15am must use the front door (Door 1) to enter the school and will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Dismissal for all students is at 2:30pm.



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New Literacy Resource Implementation

During the 2025–2026 school year, District 203 will be implementing a new elementary literacy curriculum supported by a Board adopted resource. The literacy resource is entitled Into Reading. Our revised curriculum addresses all of the essential elements of literacy, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, handwriting, and grammar. It supports the Illinois Learning Standards and provides a rigorous structure that aligns with the Science of Reading Research. Students will engage with authentic, complex texts that are infused into daily instruction and include both fiction and nonfiction that are connected to rich themes.

The implementation of this new resource will reflect current best practices in literacy instruction, which emphasize the integration of reading, writing, word study, and comprehension as essential components of a comprehensive and effective literacy block from kindergarten through fifth grade. Due to the change of the elementary literacy curriculum being implemented this coming school year, the literacy instruction for our 4th and 5th grade students in the Project Idea (PI) Program will mirror the core literacy block and PI students will engage in a literacy block with the same teacher for both reading and writing.

At Ellsworth, instruction for our students in 4th and 5th grade PI will be provided by Tisha Allison.

Home and School Events

As we prepare for the school year, we invite you to join us for a few upcoming welcome events:

- Kindergarten Meetup: Incoming Kindergarten families are invited to meet one another on Wednesday, August 6, at 4:00 PM at Columbia Estates Park.
- Second Cup of Coffee: All parents and guardians are welcome to join us for coffee and conversation on the blacktop immediately following the bell on the first day of school.

Important Dates

- First Day of School - Thursday, August 14
- Second Cup of Coffee - Thursday, August 14
- Curriculum Night - Thursday, August 28
- No School (Labor Day) - Monday, September 1
- Picture Day, Thursday - September 11
- Fun Run/Ice Cream Social - Friday, September 26

Sincerely,

Mrs. Britta Waszak



Britta Waszak
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