



COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 154
THORNTON, ILLINOIS 60476

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WOLCOTT SCHOOL
200 NORTH WOLCOTT STREET
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Dear Wolcott School Community:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Harman, Mr. not Dr. I started at Wolcott on July 1, and have spent a busy month learning about my new school district. As I have had the opportunity to talk with various individuals, I have learned that Wolcott School is obviously a place in which the community and staff take a lot of pride. I feel that it is my mission to continue and build upon all the good things that have gone on here.

Unfortunately, as you probably know, the school is experiencing difficult financial times. We have had to cut, scale back and/or redirect many programs simply for lack of funds. A lot of school districts around the state are experiencing the same thing. However, that does not change the pain of having to make tough financial decisions that affect programs. Hopefully the community will once again rally behind the school at the next referendum. It was so close the last time; I know that there have to be the handful of additional votes out there to see it through.

In the meantime, we are making adjustments. Please be assured that the board's number one consideration is continuing to provide a high quality basic education for each of our children. We hope that by relying on volunteer help, putting off major purchases, and everyone pulling together we can get through this crunch and back into a program building mode instead of only trying to maintain.

Registration will take place Wednesday, August 3, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and on Thursday, August 4 from 6-8 p.m. The school fees this year will be \$100 per child K-8. Families must present proof of address at registration (please see other side for details.) An Athletic Booster Club has formed to continue Wolcott's sports participation. Interested parents are urged to join this group. Volunteer coaches will also be needed. The Boosters will be on hand along with the PTA to answer your questions and help you get involved. Participation in sports will require a \$75 per sport fee, but this will not be due until the student actually makes the team. The Music Parents are also working to arrange a fee structure so that Band and Chorus can continue. General Music and P.E. will continue to be taught, as well as Spanish for qualifying students in Grades 6-8.

The Life Safety Renovation work will not be finished in the library or lunchroom, so we are going to hold registration in the space available (probably the gym). Just follow the signs when you get here. In case you are wondering how all this renovation work fits in with the financial problems I just talked about, Life Safety renovations are done with special funds that cannot be used for anything else. The State requires that they be done as soon as you get the money to do them. We had the money in the Life Safety account and so we are bringing the school up to code this summer.

I hope your summer has been going well, even with the heat, humidity, and lack of rain. I have been wondering how the air can be so consistently humid, when so little moisture has fallen out of the sky. See you at registration.

"Every great work, every great accomplishment, has been brought into manifestation through holding to the vision, and often just before the big achievement, comes apparent failure and discouragement." **Florence Scovel Shinn, Artist and Author**

Yours for Wolcott School,

Stephen Harman
Superintendent/Principal