

Discover214



***Visit from the White House!
First Lady Jill Biden explores
our Career Pathways program.***

Welcome to District 214

District 214 is one of the largest high school districts in Illinois, serving more than 12,000 students from eight communities. Our nationally recognized District includes six comprehensive high schools and one specialized school with six programs, in total offering more than 600 academic courses and 140 co-curricular opportunities. We provide all of this while exercising sound fiscal management for our communities and taxpayers.

District 214 encompasses eight cities and villages across 68.3 square miles. Our communities include residents in Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling.

All six high schools in District 214 (Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, John Hersey, Prospect, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling) have received state or national academic recognition. They are ranked among the top 150 Illinois high schools by *U.S. News & World Report* and among the state’s most challenging schools by *The Washington Post*.

We believe high school graduation is not an endpoint, but an important step toward a student’s future. We want to help all students think about their future, in a fast-moving world of evolving industries and changing technologies. Not only do our students and their families rely on us to provide a meaningful education, but our country and our local economies rely on us to help create a pool of educated, motivated and skilled employees. Our Career Pathways program and workplace learning experiences help students discover their future success.

Table of Contents

2	Welcome to District 214
4	First Lady Jill Biden visits District 214
8	District 214 Career Pathways
10	Discover Real-world Learning
16	Discover Arts and Culture
17	Discover People and Programs
18	Discover Lifelong Learning
19	Discover Your Impact



District 214 is committed to helping students explore careers and determine what they want to pursue beyond high school. To do this, the District has created a strong academic and career program, Career Pathways, that makes the high school experience relevant and engaging. Through our Career Pathways program, students can:

- Explore careers through career-focused courses
- Earn college credit and industry certifications
- Participate in work-based learning experiences such as internships

Our District 214 Career Pathways program includes 16 Career Clusters, or groups of career fields with a common theme.

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Engineering and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics



Through these clusters, students can choose from over 40 programs of study, each with a sequence of career-focused courses, opportunities to earn early college credit and industry-recognized certifications, and access to work-based learning experiences.

District 214 is a national leader in providing early college credit opportunities. We offer a number of ways students can simultaneously earn high school and college credit, while saving time and money. These include:

- Advanced Placement courses
- Dual credit classes
- District 214’s Early College Center
- Early College Credit
- Work-based Learning Experiences

Students can explore careers and learn employability skills needed to thrive in the workplace through work-based learning experiences with numerous business partners in the community including:

- Apprenticeships
- Internships
- Micro internships
- Co-curricular activities

District 214 schools provide 140 co-curricular activities, which helps students gain leadership skills, persistence, grit and determination including:

- Athletics
- Career-focused clubs
- Community service groups
- Fine and performing arts



We are creating and cultivating innovative and relevant educational experiences. We are working together to break down barriers to college access and affordability, and taking back the narrative of public education.

Our students are leaving with the skills they need to succeed, the passion to make our communities better, and the experiences and grit to excel.

Discover214

This issue of **Discover214 Magazine** features video stories of our students, staff, programs and events.

Use your phone camera to scan the QR codes on the pages and watch these stories come to life!

You can also find us on YouTube by searching *High School District 214*.





**First Lady praises
career-connected
learning at
District 214**



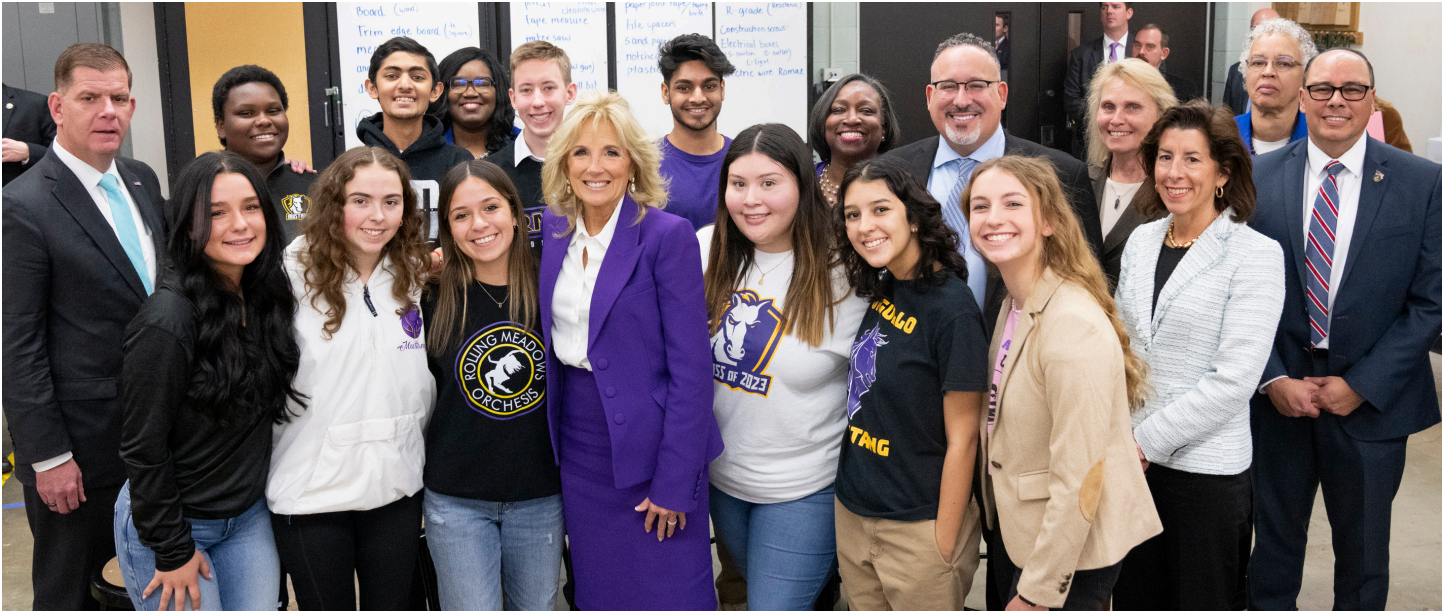
Everyone was on the same page when First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and three Cabinet secretaries admired student work and learning opportunities at Rolling Meadows High School.

Their consensus? Career-connected learning of the kind District 214 has long emphasized is precisely the way to prepare students for good jobs and provide employers with the skilled workers essential to success.

Stopping at Rolling Meadows as part of a National Apprenticeship Week in November, the First Lady piloted a student-designed robot, admired a student-

built high-mileage vehicle and heard students describe the value of their chosen career pathways and work-based learning experiences.

“As a community college professor, I see how badly we need this and how kids can start early,” Dr. Biden told students and staff. “Not everyone needs a four-year degree. It’s all about jobs.”



“If we could take what we have here and bottle it up and have it across the country, this would be a better country.”

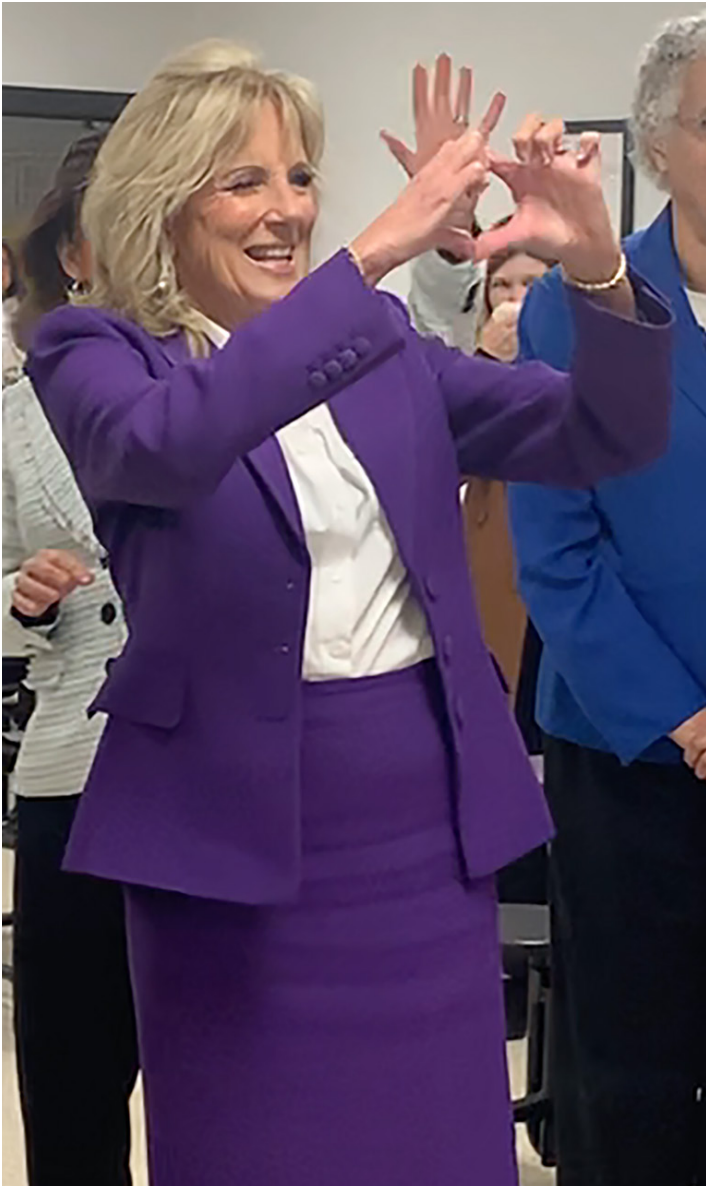
—U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

District 214 has greatly expanded its nationally recognized approach to career-connected learning over the past decade. Students can now connect with any of the district’s 1,000-plus community partners. Last year alone, more than 2,300 students participated in more than 4,000 work-based learning experiences. Students discover their futures from among 39 career pathways.

District 214’s Dr. Lázaro López was the moderator of the panel with Dr. Biden. He told the guests: “District 214 has transformed our schools to deliver on the promise of career-connected learning. The 12,000 students across our district are positioned to discover their future. This means our students graduate inspired, informed and ready to pursue a career with economic mobility.”

Students told guests about the value of their career pathways, work-based learning and, in some cases, their motivation. Rolling Meadows sophomore Kate Foley said the pathways program has solidified her interest in pursuing a career in biomedical engineering. She told the First Lady that her mother is a three-time cancer survivor and she hopes one day to find a better way to deliver treatment to cancer patients.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, for one, was impressed, saying, “If we could take what we have here and bottle it up and have it across the country, this would be a better country.”



Also accompanying Dr. Biden were U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, both of whom echoed a long familiar theme in District 214: Leveraging partnerships between schools and employers helps companies recruit and retain talent while strengthening local economies.

During the visit, which also coincided with American Education Week, Secretary Cardona announced a new White House initiative called Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success, which aims to connect students to high-quality training programs.



Rolling Meadows High School student gets personal invite to State of the Union address

Rolling Meadows High School student Kate Foley received the invitation of a lifetime when she was personally invited by First Lady Jill Biden to the State of the Union address.

Foley and Dr. Biden first met in November when the first lady visited Rolling Meadows High Schools as part of National Apprenticeship Week. They sat beside each other during the roundtable discussion on the District 214 Career Pathways program.

Kate left a big impression. Just days before the State of the Union address, she received a phone call from the first lady inviting her to attend. She was one of 26 guests and had the honor to sit beside her again, this time in the First Lady’s viewing box.

The First Lady said she was impressed by Kate. She tweeted, “You light up the classroom when you talk about your dreams of becoming an engineer – am honored to have you join me at the State of the Union.”

“It’s really crazy that she remembers me,” said Foley. “I met her in November, once, so for me to have made a big impression, and realize, ‘Oh my God, she remembered me,’ is an unearthly feeling.”

On the menu: student-created dishes!

Culinary arts students from Rolling Meadows High School had an exciting and unusual opportunity: To see food dishes that they created featured on the menu of a local restaurant.

Students in the ProStart culinary arts program spent months creating summer menu items for Rep’s Place. Owner Mike Reppe is an RMHS alum, and worked with ProStart teacher Kimmi Krupicka and division head Dave Wietrzak to develop the opportunity for these advanced culinary arts students. The students not only created the menu items, but also had the real-life business challenge of costing out the ingredients, planning and evaluating the preparation, writing up formal recipes, and making each dish work as part of a larger Mexican-themed summer menu. The 14 dishes include a balance of starters, small plates, main entrees and desserts.

“It’s been a great opportunity to give our students a real-life business experience in the restaurant industry,” Wietrzak said. “Work-based experiences like this speak to our district’s focus on life and career readiness.”

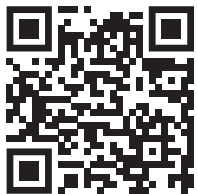


Discover Career Pathways

District 214 is committed to helping students explore careers and determine what they want – or do not want – to pursue beyond high school. Students can choose from over 40 programs of study, each with a sequence of career-focused courses, opportunities to earn early college credit and industry-recognized certifications, and access to work-based learning experiences.

Scan the QR codes to watch District 214 students explore a wide range of career opportunities and real-life experiences.

Specialized Schools prepare students for working life



The Great District 214 Culinary Competition: Bake Off



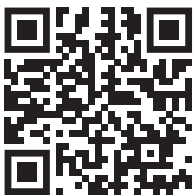
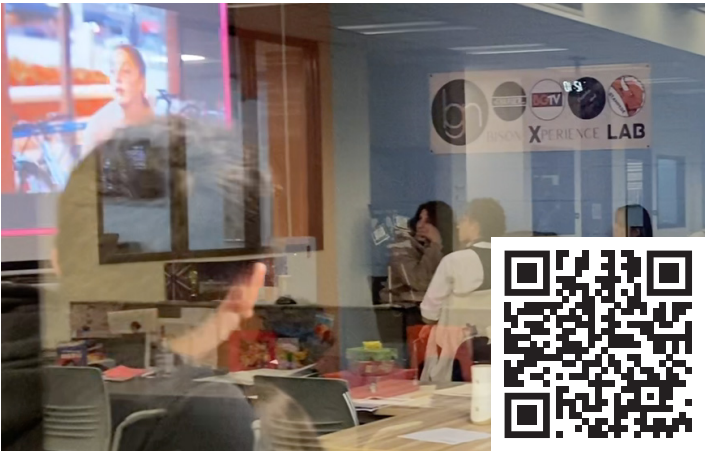
Students explore career opportunities in the Transportation field



These students are working with real lawyers to hold a mock trial



D214 Multimedia students take part in this year’s Media Day



Discover Real-world Learning

District 214 is a national leader in helping students find their future path to college, career and life.

The District has been expanding the opportunities for students to get hands-on experience in their chosen career through internships and apprenticeships.

These career-connected experiences are provided by the District and also by more than 1,000 partner organizations in our communities.

Meet Rolling Meadows High School senior Alexis Mennis. She has an apprenticeship as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre.

Scan the QR code to see her day-in-the-life, and check out how students are getting real-world learning experiences in a variety of career fields.

Photo by Alyce Henson



DISCOVER214

@DISTRICT214 | WWW.D214.ORG

Internship leads to opportunities for aspiring medical student



Schaumburg Boomers give high school students summer internships



Spotlighting manufacturing pathway apprentice Oscar Gonzales



Neko's hospitality and tourism internship with the Bakester

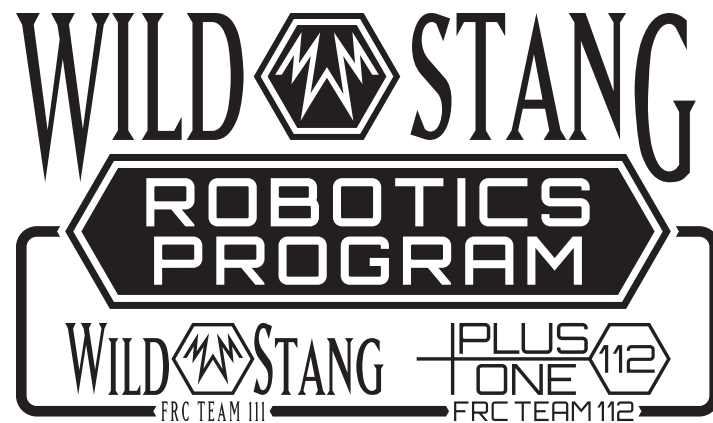
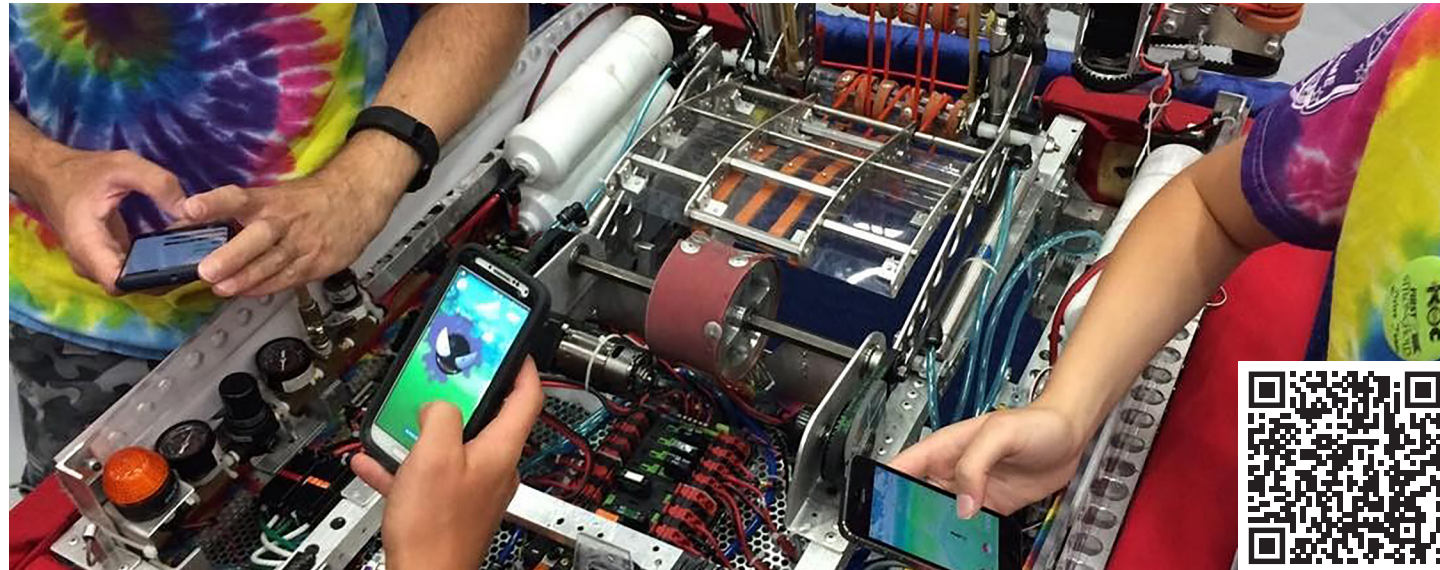


Student explores veterinary career through summer apprenticeship



Spotlighting Multimedia pathway apprentice Maeve Molina





Robots may—or may not—someday rule the world. In the meantime, designing and operating them for crowd-pleasing competition provide multifaceted and high-value learning for high school students.

District 214 students have been demonstrating that for 28 years through the District's award-winning WildStang Robotics teams. The common thread of each year's competition is that students and professional engineering mentors build robots: big robots, up to 6 feet tall and 150 pounds. Students design, fabricate and program these robots with the ability to move around on a playing surface, pick up objects with their arms and score by dropping the objects into a goal. Each year, competition organizers unveil a new challenge, which means that each year's team must begin its work from square one.

Mark Koch, a retired District 214 teacher who now serves as program coordinator, said: "Of 75 kids in the program, I'd say two-thirds want to go into a career in science or engineering or technology of some kind. About one third say, 'I love this (WildStang work). And I want to be an English major.'" Regardless of their career goals, WildStang team members represent student effort and learning at their best. "They're self-motivated. They're inquisitive. They're bright," Koch said of the students.

The WildStang Team began during the 1995-96 school year as a partnership between Motorola Solutions and Wheeling and Rolling Meadows high schools. The WildStang name was selected by students as a mashup of the Wheeling Wildcats and the Rolling Meadows Mustangs. Today, District 214 students from all six comprehensive high schools compete, and the effort is still sponsored, in part, by the Motorola Solutions Foundation.



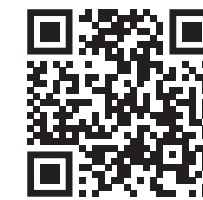
Robot Rumble students smash and grind their competition

Hundreds of engineering and manufacturing students spend months preparing for this moment: to build a high-powered robot that can withstand battle.

The annual Robot Rumble draws teams from all six comprehensive schools in District 214 and from several other suburban high schools. Their robots compete one-on-one in a plexiglass arena. Students operate their robots via remote control. In each match, the last robot standing – or moving – advance to the next round.

While similar events have long been part of the national scene, District 214 expanded opportunities for local students and spectators by launching its own version more than a decade ago.

"It's such a great showcase for student learning in our engineering and manufacturing classes," said Dave Wietrzak, Career and Technical Education and Physical Education division head for Rolling Meadows High School. "This has been teacher-led



from the beginning, as teachers at all of our schools saw benefits for students in long-term learning. It's proven to be successful, as kids go on from this with skills that they take into college and that help get them jobs. It goes far beyond the competition."

This event exposes students to so many career pathways in manufacturing and the trades alike.

Scan the QR code and these bots in action!

High Mileage students from across the midwest compete at the Autobahn Country Club

Across the nation, states have developed learning opportunities for high school students to engage in the design and fabrication of energy efficient vehicles, promoting and preparing them for related careers in engineering, manufacturing, and transportation technology.

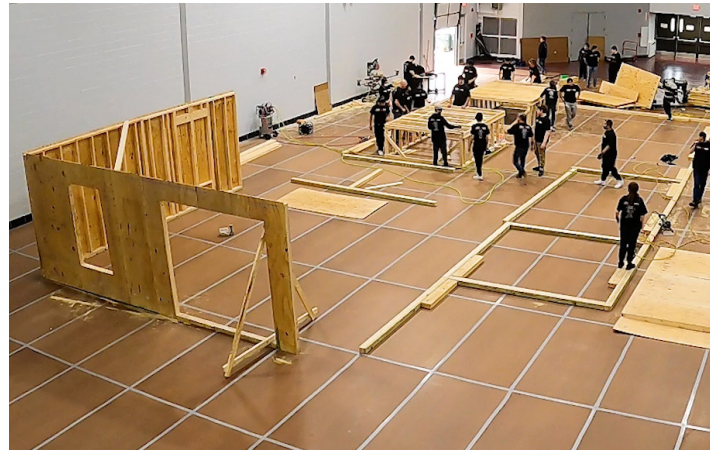
District 214, in collaboration with Challenge USA, annually hosts teams from schools across the Midwest for the Illinois Energy Efficient Vehicle Competition (IEEVC), a 21st century STEM competition in which students design, build and test a small, one-person vehicle with a focus on energy efficiency. Teams compete at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, Illinois.



To see how these vehicles are designed and fabricated by our District 214 students, scan the QR code and enjoy the competition.

D214GIVESBACK

Construction students give back to veterans.

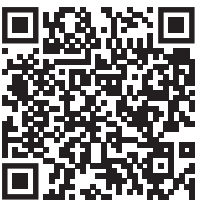
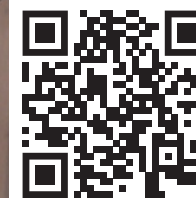


District 214 students build a community center for veterans

For several years, students and teachers from three District 214 schools have been part of a unique opportunity to help out military veterans. The District 214 team has been working in partnership with the Nine Line Foundation, an organization dedicated to meeting the needs of severely injured veterans and their families. Last year, Architecture and Construction students at Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove and Rolling Meadows high schools built 10 “tiny homes” to serve as short-term housing at Nine Lives’ veterans village in Georgia.

Then the team took on a bigger project: constructing an 1800 square foot community center for the veterans’ village. “These students are building the framework for the entire village,” said Nine Line Foundation president and CEO Megan Hostler. “They’re helping us help veterans move on with their lives.”

See the full story of the community center build—and its impact by scanning the QR code below.



Practical Architectural Construction (PAC) History

Practical Architectural Construction (PAC) launched in 1985 as a home construction program that gives students the opportunity to work together to build one single-family home every two years.

The dual credit program with Triton College offers hands-on experience in all areas of construction, from laying foundations to finishing structures. Under the supervision of program instructors, students get experience in areas such as demolition, flooring, cabinets, tile work, plumbing and electric. The program uses local subcontractors to handle concrete, heating and other more advanced areas.

When the home is finished, it is sold and the proceeds go toward the purchase of a new house for the next project. Single family homes built through this unique program are located in Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling.

Students enrolled in PAC can also participate in SkillsUSA, a statewide competition for students involved in the trades.

Watch the home renovation unfold by scanning the QR code.

Discover Arts and Culture

Our students come from all over the world, with more than 70 languages spoken at home. See how our programs embrace diversity and how learning is strengthened through our fine arts programs.

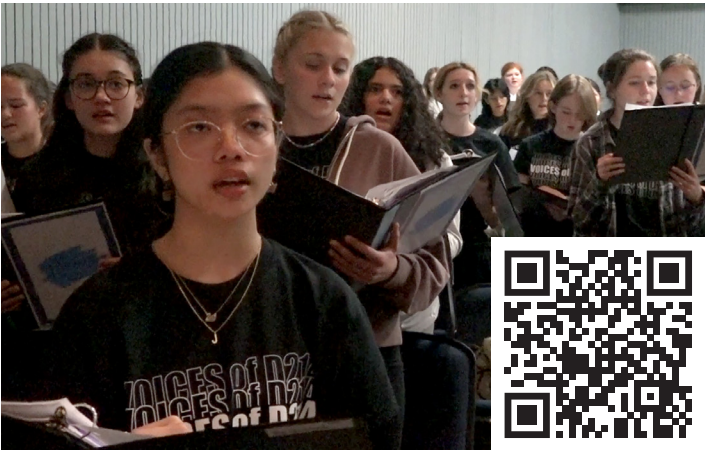
Students celebrate Asian heritage through ASA Showcase



Everyday is Black History celebrates black history and culture



Arts Unlimited Voices of D214 Festival



A day of learning and collaborating at Dance Day with Arts Unlimited



SpongeBob SquarePants summer musical



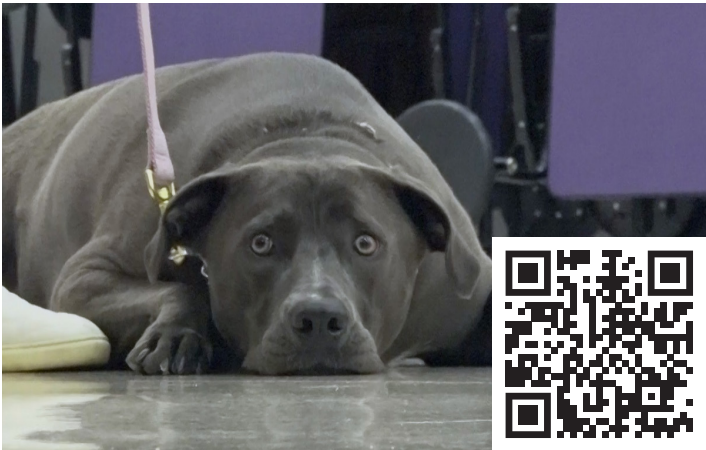
Discover People and Programs

Our educators go above and beyond to create learning opportunities to support all students. Scan the QR codes to discover some of our inspiring staff and unique programs.

Students reap benefits of Eastern Illinois University dual credit coursework



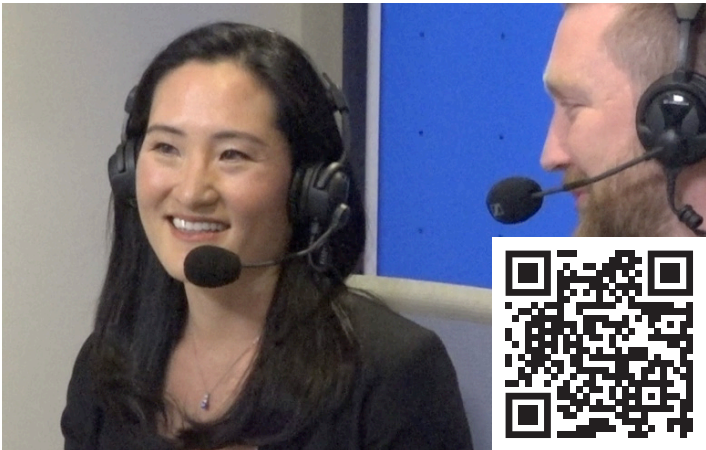
Rolling Meadows dog therapy program teaches students to be dog handlers



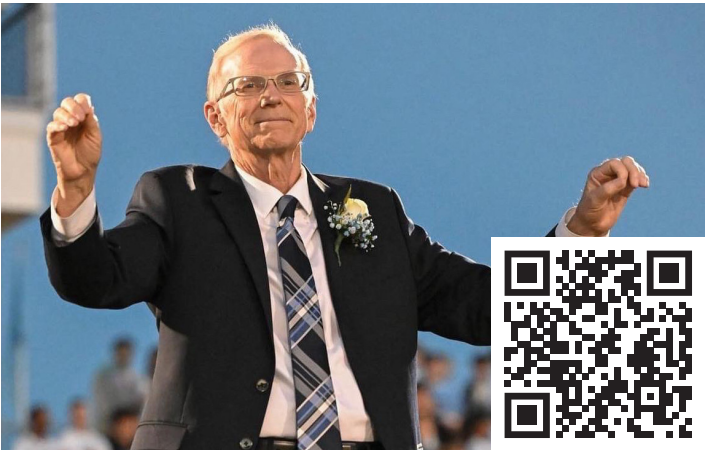
Free dental services for District 214 students



Teacher by day Big Ten Network commentator by night



Drum roll please: Prospect dedicates band room to former director





Discover Lifelong Learning

In 1947, High School District 214 established a Community Education program to offer area residents opportunities to continue learning and enhance their lives.

Today, District 214's Community Education program serves 50,000 people annually, providing individuals with a wide range of enrichment classes for children and adults—ranging from arts to core academics to fitness to personal finance—as well as a robust travel program, professional development opportunities, adult and family literacy classes, and resources to complete their GED and earn a bachelor's degree.

Classes are held onsite in District 214's schools and also online, giving individuals access to affordable and convenient learning taught by experts and professionals. Some of the many offerings available to those in the District 214 community include:

Adult Education and Family Literacy
This program within Community Education provides opportunities for adults who want to learn English, earn their high school equivalency certificate or become United States citizens. Students come from dozens of countries all across the world. All classes in these programs are free.

Cultural and Performing Arts
Community members are offered access to shows, performances and festivals in District 214's boundaries and beyond.

Professional Development
Residents can build skills or learn something new in courses that range from accounting, data analysis and effective writing to marketing and project management.

Read to Learn
During one-on-one tutoring sessions, volunteers help community members improve their reading and writing skills.

Travel
Community members can sign up for top-notch day trips, theater/opera trips, motorcoach tours, extended air packages and international excursions.

Youth, Family and Parent Programs
Arts, culinary, dance, fitness and athletic, language, music and STEM courses are offered for toddlers, children and adults.

Learn more at www.ce.d214.org.

Irma is achieving her dreams after earning a GED

Earning a GED can open doors to a new job or career. After working 16 years in the hospitality industry, Irma wanted a change. She went through the Community Education High School Equivalency program, and was able to fulfill her dream to buy a new home for her growing family.

Learn more about D214's Adult Education programs at: www.ce.d214.org/adulted and watch Irma's story by scanning the QR code.



Discover Your Impact

We embrace our diverse communities and student body, and work to provide opportunities for all students and support for their families. In addition to what happens directly in our school buildings, the District 214 Education Foundation supports students and their families through school and throughout life by strengthening their education, fostering their well-being and expanding their opportunities.

The District 214 Education Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support students and their families, innovation, student

success and lifelong learning beyond the limitations of conventional public education funding.

Contributions have brought first-generation students and their parents to college campuses; funded Advanced Placement tests for students who cannot afford the fee; bolstered the business dreams of standout entrepreneurial students; supported students and their families during the pandemic; and awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships.

Our generous donors help us sustain our mission and enable all of the tremendous impacts we celebrate. We hope to greatly expand the number of students and families we can serve, and facilitate even more significant change for each cause we fund.

Learn more at d214foundation.org.

Building a community of learners and leaders

Funds provided by the District 214 Education Foundation and Elk Grove High School are helping future generations in the Oasis Mobile Home Park. Each summer, high school students lead the camp to encourage young children to read. Thanks to generous donors, this community now has a mobile library filled with donated books in both English and Spanish.

Scan the QR code to see how our students are inspiring others.



**High School District 214**

2121 South Goebbert Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-718-7600 | www.d214.org

District 214 Community Education

2121 South Goebbert Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-718-7700 | www.ce.d214.org

District 214 Education Foundation

2121 South Goebbert Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-718-7700 | www.214foundation.org

Buffalo Grove High School

1100 West Dundee Road
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
847-718-4000 | www.d214.org/bghs

Elk Grove High School

500 West Elk Grove Boulevard
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-718-4400 | www.d214.org/eghs

John Hersey High School

1900 East Thomas Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-718-4800 | www.d214.org/jhhs

Prospect High School

801 West Kensington Road
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
847-718-5200 | www.d214.org/phs

Rolling Meadows High School

2901 West Central Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847-718-5600 | www.d214.org/rmhs

Wheeling High School

900 South Elmhurst Road
Wheeling, IL 60090
847-718-7000 | www.d214.org/whs

Specialized Schools

2121 South Goebbert Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-718-7775
www.d214.org/specializedschools

Early College Center

www.d214.org/ecc

International Newcomer Academy

www.d214.org/newcomer

LIFE Transition Program

www.d214.org/life

The Academy at Forest View

www.d214.org/academy

Vanguard School

www.d214.org/vanguard

Young Adult Program

www.d214.org/yap