

# D211 POST: NEW PRINCIPAL NAMED AT FREMD HIGH SCHOOL



At its February 18, 2021 meeting, the High School District 211 Board of Education approved the appointment of Mark Langer as principal at William Fremd High School, effective July 1, 2021.



*Mark Langer has been named as the new principal for Fremd High School.*

Mr. Langer, currently assistant principal at James B. Conant High School, will take over the principalship from Kurt Tenopir, who will move into his new role as assistant superintendent for administrative services on July 1st, following seven years as principal at Fremd High School.

Mr. Langer began his teaching career as a science teacher at Palatine High School in 2003. He was named the school's dean of students for the 2011-2012 school year. He served as 10-month assistant principal at Conant High School for the 2013-2014 school year, and then returned to Palatine High School as 10-month assistant principal for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Langer was named 12-month assistant principal for discipline at Conant High School, serving in that capacity from 2015-2017, and was promoted to his current position as 12-month assistant principal for buildings & grounds and activity director in 2017.

*"Mark Langer is a dedicated and thoughtful leader who embraces new opportunities allowing for every student to excel," said Superintendent Lisa Small. "He partners with students, staff, and parents to gain the perspective of all stakeholders as he ensures a positive impact on a school. His reflective nature, open-minded leadership style, and dedication to excellence is a great match for the William Fremd High School community."*

Mr. Langer graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in food sciences and human nutrition. He earned his master's degree in secondary education from National Louis University in 2003, and earned a second master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University in 2011. In 2019, Mr. Langer was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education with a Those Who Excel award in the School Administrator category.

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# D211 POST: NEW PRINCIPALS NAMED AT HOFFMAN ESTATES AND SCHAUMBURG HIGH SCHOOLS

*Palatine, Ill.* – At its January 16, 2020 meeting, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Michael Alther as principal at Hoffman Estates High School, and the appointment of Brian Harlan at Schaumburg High School. Both appointments will be effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Alther, currently an assistant principal at Palatine High School, assumes the principalship from Josh Schumacher, who was recently named District 211 assistant superintendent for instruction. Mr. Harlan, currently an assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School, will take over the principalship from Tim Little, who will retire after serving District 211 for 33 years, including the past 13 as principal at Schaumburg High School.



*Mr. Michael Alther has been selected as the new principal for Hoffman Estates High School.*

Mr. Alther has been an assistant principal at Palatine High School since 2004, serving first as 10-month assistant principal for two years and then in 2006 as 12-month assistant principal lead disciplinarian, before being promoted in 2008 to the position he currently holds as 12-month assistant principal for staff development, building and grounds, and student activities. Mr. Alther came to District 211 in 2002 as a business education teacher at Palatine High School. He began his teaching career as a high school business education teacher in Community Unit School District 303 in St. Charles where he taught for seven years before coming to District 211. Mr. Alther earned his bachelor's degree in business education from Illinois State University in 1995, and in 2000, he received his cooperative education certification from Southern Illinois University. Mr. Alther earned his master's degree in educational leadership from Aurora University in 2002 and has since taken coursework towards a doctorate in curriculum and instruction through Aurora University.

*"Mike Alther is a dedicated and reflective leader,"* said Superintendent-Elect Lisa Small. *"During his 16 years as an administrator in District 211, I have watched him partner with students, staff, and parents to positively impact students – enhancing their experiences in the classroom, increasing career exploration*

*opportunities, creating diverse afterschool connections, and preparing them for success. Mike is the perfect fit as principal at Hoffman Estates High School, and I know that his enthusiasm will add to the unwavering Hawk pride found throughout the school community."*



*Mr. Brian Harlan has been selected as the new principal for Schaumburg High School.*

Mr. Harlan began his career in education as a science teacher at Hoffman Estates High School in 2007. He served as the school's dean of students during the 2012-2013 school year, before being named a 10-month assistant principal at Fremd High School in 2013. In 2015, Mr. Harlan returned to Hoffman Estates High School, accepting a 12-month assistant principal position at the school, responsible for student intervention and discipline. The following year, he was appointed to his current position as 12-month assistant principal, overseeing staff development, building and grounds, and student activities. Mr. Harlan earned his bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2004, and his master's degree in geology from Northern Illinois University in 2007. He earned a second master's degree in school leadership from Concordia University in Chicago in 2012. In 2015, he earned a master's degree in school business from Northern Illinois University and a chief school business official endorsement.

*"For many years, Tim Little has been an important member of our administrative team, not only at Schaumburg High School, but throughout District 211, and he will be missed," said Dr. Small. "I am excited about Brian Harlan taking over the principalship at Schaumburg High School. He is leader who embraces a culture of continual improvement and will provide dynamic support to help all students succeed. He believes in high expectations for every student and will work diligently to implement successful approaches to help guide students toward their post-high school choices. He truly values direct connections with all school community stakeholders, and this will make his student-centered focus rewarding for all within the Schaumburg High School community.*

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# DISTRICT 211 FACULTY VISIT MHUB FACILITY IN CHICAGO

To continue maximizing opportunities for District 211 students in manufacturing and entrepreneurship, District 211 strives to find various ways to connect its students with real-world experience.



*Laser Cut Artwork at mHUB*

District 211 teachers were invited to tour a new facility in Chicago called mHUB on Oct. 25. At the facility, they were able to see firsthand what collaboration between the manufacturing and entrepreneurial fields looks like today.

“This facility confirms that District 211 is doing all of the right things for our manufacturing and entrepreneurship students,” said Lisa Small, associate superintendent for Instruction. “The equipment and machines we have at District 211 are on par with what professionals are using in the field. District 211 looks forward to finding ways to connect our students with the mentors and resources connecting to mHUB.”

On its website, mHUB is described as, “Chicago’s first innovation center focused on physical product development and manufacturing. By connecting the manufacturing sector with the vibrant technology entrepreneurial community, mHUB will ensure Chicago’s legacy remains that of a beacon to a region that builds products, and also the future.”

Small said mHUB is planning educational events and school outreach programs in the future. The equipment found in the manufacturing areas of mHUB allow ideas to go from being an idea to design to prototyping or limited manufacturing.

Here is what District 211 teachers had to say about mHUB:



“It would be great for our students to experience mHUB through a hacking or making competition where they create a multidisciplinary group of students to build a rapid prototype to solve a challenge.” – Jeffrey O’Brien, SHS Mathematics Teacher

“My mHUB visit provided me an eye opening experience of the resources available to create a link between student ideation and product launch in our entrepreneurship class.” – Tony Miller, CHS Business Teacher

“mHUB provides an opportunity for students to see real-world applications of the concepts we cover in classes. From an Applied Tech perspective, students in D211 have experience working with much of the equipment that mHUB has available. The students would be able to experience concepts learned in Applied Tech, Business and other classes in a real world collaborative environment.” – Wayne Oras, HEHS Applied Technology Teacher

“I think this is an amazing opportunity for education of all ages to work with and around large companies, entrepreneurs, and engineers to get authentic experiences in learning that will fuel their passion for learning.” – Alex Larson, PHS Applied Technology Teacher

“mHub was an entrepreneur/innovators dream space. Students would be able to see how people in the real world collaborate. Bringing students to MHub or having them collaborate with people there would be a great experience.” – Anna Griffin, SHS Applied Technology Department Chair

“This sort of space is the missing piece for students and professionals to collaborate and develop products.” – Mike Karasch, FHS Applied Technology Teacher

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# LOCAL RESIDENT GIFTS \$500 HONORARIUM TO SCHAUMBURG HIGH SCHOOL APPLIED TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



*Harry Raimondi, Technical Services Manager at Bales Metal Surface Solutions, presents his \$500 honorarium to Lisa Small, associate superintendent for Instruction at Township High School District 211, to benefit Schaumburg High School's applied technology program.*

Schaumburg resident Harry Raimondi, Technical Services Manager at Bales Metal Surface Solutions, recently presented Schaumburg High School with a \$500 honorarium he received for his professional accomplishments in moldmaking.

"Our advanced manufacturing programs at SHS and PHS have equipment preparing our students for either immediate employment in the industry or the opportunity to continue their education at an accelerated pace at Harper College," said Lisa Small, associate superintendent for Instruction at District 211. "The generous donation to the Schaumburg High School program allowed for the purchase of additional consumable materials used within the machines such as machineable wax and aluminum."

Raimondi was named Moldmaker of the Year by the Society of Plastic Engineers/Mold Making and Mold Design Division. He was presented with the national award during Amerimold Expo, which took place in Rosemont in June. Given annually, the award recognizes one professional who has made a significant, positive contribution to the moldmaking industry.

His \$500 honorarium was given to the cause of his choice. Raimondi selected Schaumburg High School's Applied Technology department to be the recipient, and he presented the gift to Lisa Small, associate superintendent for Instruction at Township High School District 211.

Raimondi has worked at Downers Grove-based Bales since 1996. He has been in the business for more than 50 years and is a frequent speaker and panelist at industry events nationwide.

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## PHOTOS: ISBE, PARCC REPRESENTATIVES VISIT DISTRICT 211 FOR PARCC TESTING



*Schaumburg High School students enrolled in E101 English 1, E102 English 1, and E108 English 1, find their seats before the start of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Test on March 3.*

District 211 participated in the PARCC Test on March 3. The PARCC website states: "The PARCC member states share this fundamental goal: ensuring that every student graduates from high school prepared for success in college and the workplace. The PARCC states' high quality assessments will allow parents and educators to see how children are progressing in school and whether they are on track for

postsecondary success. The PARCC assessment also provides teachers with the ability to identify students who may be falling behind and need extra help.”

Wes Bruce, off-site consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education, and Margaret Horn, vice president of State Engagement & Outreach for PARCC, Inc., visited Schaumburg High School during PARCC testing on March 3 to view the testing site and discuss District 211’s preparation and implementation of the test.



*Wes Bruce (center), off-site consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education, and Margaret Horn (center-right), vice president of State Engagement & Outreach for PARCC, Inc., visited Schaumburg High School during PARCC testing on March 3 to view the testing site and discuss District 211’s preparation and implementation of the test. From left to Right: Dan Cates, District 211 superintendent of Schools, Lisa Small, associate superintendent for Instruction at District 211, Wes Bruce, off-site consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education, Margaret Horn, vice president of State Engagement & Outreach for PARCC, Inc., Tim Little, Schaumburg High School Principal.*

# DISTRICT 211 EARNS SPOT ON COLLEGE BOARD'S AP DISTRICT HONOR ROLL



District 211 has been named to the College Board's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll, and is one of 26 school districts in Illinois to receive the award. This is the second time in the award's five-year history that District 211 is a recipient.

The Honor Roll recognizes 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada that have increased access to AP course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores 3 or higher on AP exams.

"We're very proud of our students and teachers for taking the challenge of more AP classes, as well as attempting the exams to see if they can get college credit," said Lisa Small, associate superintendent of Instruction at District 211. "Our goal is that each student experiences a college level class, whether it's through an AP class or a dual-credit class before they graduate."

Inclusion on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2012 to 2014, for the following criteria. Since 2012, District 211 has seen an increase of 317 students taking advanced placement exams for a total of 2,978 District 211 students. Additionally, since 2012 the District has increased the number of exams taken, totaling 6,224 exams.

For more information about the AP District Honor Roll, please visit its website [here](#).

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## NEW PRINCIPALS NAMED AT CONANT AND FREMD HIGH SCHOOLS



*Julie Nowak was appointed as principal at James B. Conant High School.*

At its January 16, 2014 meeting, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Julie Nowak as principal at James B. Conant High School, and the appointment of Kurtis Tenopir at William Fremd High School. Both appointments will be effective July 1, 2014. Mrs. Nowak, currently High School District 211's director of special education, will take over the principalship from Tim Cannon, who will retire after serving District 211 for 32 years, including the past nine as principal at Conant High School. Mr. Tenopir, currently an assistant principal at Fremd High School, assumes the principalship from Lisa Small, who was recently named District 211 associate superintendent for instruction.



*Kurtis Tenopir was appointed principal at William Fremd High School.*

Mrs. Nowak has been the District's director of special education since 2008, serving as the assistant director of special education from 2007-2008. Prior to that, she was the special education department chair at Palatine High School from 2001-2007, and began her tenure in District 211 as a special education teacher at Hoffman

Estates High School from 1994-2001. Before coming to District 211, Mrs. Nowak was a special education teacher at Jacobs High School in Algonquin from 1993-1994. In 2001, Mrs. Nowak received a Those Who Excel award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Mrs. Nowak received her bachelor's degree in education from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in educational administration from National Louis University.

*"Tim Cannon has been a key part of our administrative leadership, not just at Conant High School, but throughout District 211, and with his retirement, Julie Nowak will continue the instructional leadership that Mr. Cannon has provided to the Conant community,"* said Superintendent-Elect Dan Cates. *"I am excited about Mrs. Nowak taking over the principalship at Conant High School. Her commitment to students, along with her instructional experience and leadership, make for a powerful combination. Everyone who has met or is associated with Julie knows what a hard-working, quality, and caring person she is. I am very confident that in her new role she will continue to make great contributions, impacting a great number of students, families, and staff."*

Mr. Tenopir joined District 211 as a 12-month assistant principal at Fremd High School in 2011. Before coming to District 211, Mr. Tenopir gained administrative experience as an assistant principal for instruction at Deerfield High School from 2008-2011 and as an assistant principal at Belvidere High School from 2005-2008. Mr. Tenopir began his teaching career as an English teacher at Grand Island High School in Grand Island, Neb., in 1998 before moving to Belvidere High School, where he served as an English teacher from 2001-2005. Mr. Tenopir received his bachelor's degree in English education from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1998. He went on to earn a master's degree in educational administration with a Type 75 certificate from Northern Illinois University in 2005. In 2007, Mr. Tenopir received a superintendent's endorsement on his Type 75 certificate from Northern Illinois University. Mr. Tenopir is currently working on his doctoral dissertation.

*"Dr. Small has done a terrific job leading Fremd High School and developing leaders who will continue the school's excellence,"* commented Dr. Cates. *"Kurt Tenopir is a perfect fit for the principal position. Having led initiatives at Fremd High School for the past several years, he is familiar with the school community, and in his new role he'll have the opportunity to expand his instructional strengths and insights. He knows and relates well with students, parents, and staff. People throughout the Fremd community appreciate Kurt's positive attitude, excellent work ethic, and enthusiasm for the students of Fremd High School."*