

Dear Central School Community,

It has been 9 months of collaboration to create playground plans that represent the most thoughtful and accessible space while being conscious of cost, reusing material and donating to the fullest extent. Thank you for your patience!

As you may know, the Central School playgrounds are about 20 years old. As much as they have been enjoyed, they are showing extensive wear and tear with many replacement pieces keeping them together. When the main space was created, the plan included two separate areas, making it more difficult to run freely between the structures. Our new plan will make the space one large area for easier access and play.

Both playground plans exceed the minimum required by the ADAAG for accessible play components. The existing plastic border will be lowered and ramps added for easier access. There will be multiple ground level activities that are easily accessible by mobility devices and include new adaptive swings. Furthermore, the equipment will be built at various heights to meet a variety of skills, needs and interests.

Our community is a champion for charitable endeavors and the environment. We have found various ways to align this project with our wonderful community ideals. We are able to reuse the existing plastic border and some of the existing mulch, which saves removal manpower, landfill space and money. The existing playground equipment has been accepted for donation by a Rockford, Illinois charitable organization named Kids Around The World. They will come in and remove the equipment at no cost. They will then refurbish salvageable pieces and create playgrounds internationally. The ability to donate the equipment is not only great for humanity and the environment, but saves a significant amount of money.

Now that we have the plans, our next step is to initiate the Pathway To Play Capital Campaign. The 2019/20 fundraising goal for the first phase landscape engineering (including the dig down and removal of dirt) and the equipment itself (with construction thereof) for the Kindergarten and 1st - 4th Grade Playgrounds is \$100,000. Phase 1 includes the large structures and the swings with the remaining equipment coming in Phase 2 the following year. If we can raise \$170,000, we can complete Phase 1 and 2 in the Summer of 2020.

Along with our school teachers and staff, District 39 will contribute to these initiatives. The teachers have already donated their time and talents and will continue to do so next year with Sign Up Parties and

auction items. District 39 contributes by removing the two Ash trees on the playground in accordance with the Village of Wilmette, filling in the large amounts of mulch and maintaining the area and equipment.

The Fundraising Team will be busy this summer planning fun events for the 2019/20 school year. They are currently looking for Sign Up Party sponsors. Please click [HERE](#) to learn how you can help make these initiatives a reality.

Since these playgrounds are used by the community, the Fundraising Team plans to seek donations from local businesses. If you are a business owner or know of someone willing to donate, please contact [fundraising@centralschoolpta.org](mailto:fundraising@centralschoolpta.org).

The Pathway To Play is a big undertaking. But, the resulting playgrounds will be a much needed upgrade that all of our students can access and enjoy for many years to come. Please take a moment to "fly through" the new playgrounds by clicking on The Central School Playgrounds Video [HERE](#).

The PTA would like to especially thank Central Dad, Peter Hepner. Peter connected us with Play and Park Structures and provided his expertise to our mission. We are so grateful for his willingness to contact us and offer to help. We look forward to coming together as a community to bring these plans to our school in the summer of 2020. Thank you to everyone who have already contributed and to those that will.

Sincerely,

Your Central School PTA and Becky Littmann