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VOL. 13 • NO. 10 WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM THURSDAY, March 3, 2016

## Young Hearts for Life comes to Addison Trail

By Dee Longfellow  
For The Independent

**ADDISON** — On Thursday, Feb. 25, Elmhurst Hospital came to Addison Trail High School for a Young Hearts for Life® (YH4L) Cardiac Screening Program.

“Our No. 1 priority at District 88 is the safety and well-being of our students, and this event allowed us to provide students with free electrocardiograms (EKGs) to identify those at risk for heart conditions,” said Principal Michael Bolden. “On that day, our field house was filled with cardiac screening machines, doctors, nurses and volunteers. It was amazing to see the field house filled with hundreds of students, and we’re incredibly thankful to Young Hearts for Life for offering us this opportunity to help ensure our students’ health. It was a tremendous day.”

Bolden said they couldn’t have done it without the support of several others including the staff and volunteers at Young Hearts for Life; about 65 community volunteers, who assisted on the day of the event after attending a training session. Nardi’s Tower of Pizza in Addison donated lunch for the workers and volunteers; the Odeum Expo Center, who provided the privacy stations; and, Edward-Elmhurst Health, who sponsored the program.



When Addison Trail High School hosted a Young Hearts for Life cardiac screening event on Feb. 25, State Representative Kathleen Willis, (77th district), and her husband Tom assisted in screening sophomore Ryan Sheehan during the event. courtesy photo

See HEARTS, Page 3

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• **HEARTS**

Continued from page 1

The purpose of the event is to get early screenings of young people's hearts that will serve as a baseline for the rest of their lives. It is also a chance to catch any irregularities or potential problems that could lead to something more serious. We've all heard the tales of teens in their junior or senior year of high school who suddenly drop dead from a heart attack, sometimes after a sports event, and no one really knows why until it's too late.

At another YH4L event held about a year ago, the Independent spoke to John Regalado, who lost his son Robert in 2009.

"I call it the 'Silent Killer,'" he said. "[Robert] had no symptoms, and had passed three physicals - the regular back-to-school physical, a physical to play football and another to run track. All the physicals found nothing wrong. Then one day, he came home a little tired, went to lie down in his room and about 10 or 15 minutes later, his brother found him unconscious. The paramedics were unable to help him.

"Robert had played sports for nine years and never showed any signs of a heart problem. Unfortunately, his first symptom was his death."

Regalado and his wife Laura have managed to channel their

grief in part by volunteering at YH4L events. They also started "Bobbo's Fund for Young Hearts," where Laura serves as president, to raise funds and awareness for the cause.

"We just don't want anyone to ever have to go through what we did with Robert," Regalado said.

"It just takes a couple of minutes to help and it could save a life," said Mary Woods, who lost her son in 2007. Woods' son had a condition called HCM and passed away at 29 years old.

"The doctor said that those who are diagnosed with the condition usually die before they are 30 years old," she said. "My son died at 29."

Like the Regalados, Woods only wants to help any other families who might have to go through what she did.

"If we could have had someone help our child, if only we had testing like this back then," she said.

More than 660 students were screened, assisted by the staff and volunteers at Young Hearts for Life as well as about 65 community volunteers, who attended a training session and assisted for part of the day.

For more information about Young Hearts for Life, go to YH4L.org.



photo by Paul DelGuidice

**Tough cookies**

Braving the cold for a good cause: Bill Kortum of Villa Park bought some cookies from Addison Troop 42186 scouts Luciana Casucci, Mia Soldana and Anabella Casucci on Sunday, Feb. 21.

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## SPORTS

MARCH 3, 2016 • 18



Willowbrook senior Matt Rowland (center, with medal) is surrounded by supporters who traveled to Champaign to cheer him on at the state Class 3A wrestling finals. Rowland took home the 170 pound title for the Warriors. courtesy photo

# King of the mountain

## Willowbrook senior Matt Rowland reflects on his wrestling state championship

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

Understandably Willowbrook senior wrestler Matt Rowland is rather excited.

Rowland recently won the 170-pound Class 3A state wrestling championship, becoming the fourth Willowbrook wrestler to win a state crown.

"It's awesome," he said. "Being able to bring the state title back to Villa Park and having everybody support me is a great feeling."

Rowland topped off his high school career by pinning his opponent in the championship match in just 23 seconds.

"It's my senior year and the end of my Willowbrook career and to end it in fast fashion like that, not too many people can say they got to go out on that note," he said.

Rowland was amazed that he was able to record a pinfall in that quick of a timespan.

"I don't think anybody would have thought I would pin someone in the state finals in 23 seconds," he said.

Rowland credits the quick pin to Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy.

"Murphy was with me in the tunnel and the kid I was wrestling was warming up next to me and taking his (wrestling) shots," he said. "Murphy told me to go with an inside cradle. I went out there and used an inside cradle and the rest was history. That was great coaching. They told me what I needed to do and I did it exactly like they told me. Coach Murphy noticed he was leaning really heavy over his knee. It took a couple seconds and the rest was making sure he didn't roll through on his back. It's surprising because he pinned his first three opponents. I knew I had to pin him quick. He was a judo guy so I knew I had to get to him fast."

Rowland said last year's second-place finish at state provided an added push. "Last year got the better of me," he said. "I was real nervous. This year I was much more comfortable and confident. I was ready to attack."

Rowland also lauded the support he received from the fans who made the trip down to Champaign.

"All 58 wrestlers in the program came down on a fan bus," he said. "After the match we took a picture and they all had orange on. It was all the wrestlers in the program and family. It was really cool to see. We had a lot of support, way more than any other team down there."

Rowland's next challenge is wrestling at the collegiate level. He's headed to North Carolina next season.

"It's very bittersweet moving onto the next level," he said. "I'm sad to leave the Willowbrook program and the Murphy family. Bryan Murphy (retired longtime Willowbrook wrestling coach) and his son (Brandon) coached me every match in my high school career. They would do anything for me and I would do anything for them. It was more like a father-son relationship."

Rowland was thrilled his older brother, Dan, was there to witness the title win. Dan Rowland finished second in the state in 2013 and took third in 2012.

"I look up to him," said Rowland. "I think my brother was the most proud of me out of anybody. We're going to make a duplicate of the bracket board and he's

going to keep one at his house."

Rowland finished his high school career with 184 wins and three state medals. At state this year he pinned his first opponent, won 8-5 in the quarterfinals and then scored a 20-5 technical fall win in the semifinals in a match that lasted only 3:38, before scoring the quick pin in the finals.

"I was pretty dominant at the state tournament," he said. "This is all pretty mind-boggling to me. I always envisioned being a state champion and I had to sacrifice a lot to get there, but I could never imagine doing it the way I did. It's what I've worked for and now I guess it's really over. The chase is complete. No more high school wrestling. I'm happy with how it ended but at the same time I'm sad that it's over."

Rowland said he would like to be remembered at Willowbrook as a hard worker and a friendly student-athlete.

"If you always work toward your goals they should work out for you if you stay on the right path," he said.

And Rowland's path led him straight to a state championship.

# Addison Trail boys basketball team defeats Proviso West

**Blazers opened  
postseason  
play earlier  
this week**

By Mike Mizaga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team wrapped up the regular season on a positive note thanks to a 52-50 West Suburban Conference crossover victory against Proviso West, which was part of the conference's annual position night games.

The win moved Addison Trail to 14-14 overall. The Blazers finished WSC Gold Division play with a 4-8 mark.

Addison Trail won the game thanks to a Ryan Zygowicz offensive rebound put-back basket with 2.5 seconds to play.

"We fought back after being down big," said Addison Trail

coach Brendan Lyons.

Proviso West held an 18-7 lead at one point in the first quarter and led 18-10 going into the second quarter.

"We tightened up the defense quite a bit and got the ball inside to Eric Grygo," said Lyons.

Grygo finished with 25 points and pulled in 12 rebounds.

"Eric was a monster like he's been all year," said Lyons. "He's getting pretty close to averaging a double-double (double figures in points and rebounds) for the season. He was right around 12 points and nine rebounds heading into the game."

Lyons felt the game provided his team with some strong momentum heading into this week's playoffs.

"It doesn't hurt," he said. "It was nice for our seniors to win on our home floor for the last time. It's nice going into the playoffs with a win. Outside

of one or two games this season we feel like we've been in almost every game and have been right there. We feel like if we come to play, on any given night we have a chance."

Earlier, Addison Trail lost its final conference game by a 60-51 count to Hinsdale South.

"This was our actual senior night because the crossover game can't be a senior night," said Lyons. "Hinsdale South came out on fire and hit its first five 3s and we were down 22-7 in the first quarter. They have a big 6-11 guy who is going to Northwestern and he scored for them."

Addison Trail cut the lead to 35-28 at halftime and got the margin down to four points on several occasions in the fourth quarter.

"That first-quarter hole was too big to overcome," said Lyons. "Our guys had an answer after that but it wasn't good enough."

Heading into the postseason, Lyons likes the varied contributions the team is receiving. "Overall, it's been a team approach both ways on offense and defense," he said. "Jack Kalbas has been scoring for us of late and Michael Williams had missed some time with a sprain but has had some nice games. Ryan Zygowicz is shooting the ball better. Zach Novak has played well and Nick Fugarino has come in and done a lot on both ends. We're getting contributions from up and down the lineup."

Lyons added balanced scoring has been a telltale sign this season. "The more balanced we are the better off we are," he said. "Eric Grygo has been consistent for us all year. We find when we have balanced

scoring each night we're usually in good shape offensively. Defensively we're holding teams to around 50 points and that's a good threshold for success."

Addison Trail opened the playoffs Monday against District 88 neighbor Willowbrook as part of the Class 4A Benet Academy regional in Lisle. The teams split the two WSC Gold Division meetings.

"This is the rubber game," said Lyons. "The nice thing is scouting will not be a big deal. It's going to be a matter of who comes out ready to play."

The winner of the Addison Trail-Willowbrook game played sectional No. 1 seed and host Benet Academy on Tuesday.

## Fenton wrestling team faces Antioch in dual-team sectional

**Bison girls track  
team fares well  
at indoor meet;  
Burriss sets  
school indoor  
long jump mark**

By Mike Mizaga  
Correspondent

The Fenton wrestling team saw its strong season come to a close at the recent Class 2A Fenton dual-team sectional.

Antioch scored a 43-30 win over Fenton and advanced to the Class 2A state quarterfinals in Bloomington.

**Fenton girls track**

The Fenton girls track team won a recent indoor triangular meet against Montini and IC Catholic Prep.

Fenton won the eight-lap relay with a time of 2:46.71. That team included Trisha Butz, Stephany Padilla, Skylar Dolecki and Sarah Mason.

Cassidy Kelly won the 440 dash with a time of 1:13.78, while Maria Trentadue won the shot put with a throw of 32-3.

Emmy Burriss won the long jump at 17-3 3/4. Charity Bullis won the one-mile run with a time of 6:29. Katrina Krebsch won the high jump at 5-3, while Hanna Matuszewski won the one-lap dash with a time of 18.81.

Fenton finished second in the 400 relay with a time of 1:18.54. That group included Butz, Melanie DeJesus, Padilla and Mason.

Crystal Valadez was second in the 50 high hurdles with a time

of 8:11. M. Garcia was second in the 880 run with a time of 2:51.08. Gianna Caliendo was second in the 440 with a time of 1:14.32. Valadez was second in the 50 low hurdles with a time of 8:24.

Alexus Petrella was second in the one-mile run with a time of 6:51.55. Butz was second in the one-lap dash with a time of 20.50.

Kaitlyn Jordan was third in the 50 high hurdles with a time of 8.52. DeJesus was third in the 50 with a time of 6:9. Bullis was third in the 880 with a time of 2:53.72.

Daniell Ferbache was third in the shot put with a throw of 26-0. Krebsch was third in the long jump at 14-9 1/2. Katherine Dominguez was third in the one-mile run with a time of 7:36.39, while Dolecki was third in the high jump at 4-4.

Butz took fourth in the 50 dash, while Jordan was fourth in the 50 low hurdles. Mason was fourth in the long jump.

Burriss set the school indoor long-jump record for varsity, while Krebsch set the new school indoor high school record for the frosh-soph level.

**Fenton boys basketball**  
The Fenton boys basketball team opened play earlier this week in the Class 4A Chicago Whitney Young regional.

Fenton, the No. 20 seed in the Class 4A Riverside-Brookfield sectional, opened play Monday against No. 13 seed Chicago Schurz. If Fenton won that game, it played Tuesday against host Whitney Young (No. 4 sectional seed).

## Addison Trail girls basketball team wins playoff game

**Blazers graduate five  
seniors from this  
year's team**

By Mike Mizaga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls basketball team wrapped up its season with a 1-1 mark in recent Class 4A regional play.

The Blazers opened the playoffs with a 54-47 victory over Hoffman Estates in quarterfinal action.

"We played very well," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader.

Against Hoffman Estates, Diamond Pikulyk led the Blazers with 14 points, while Maria Koulogeorgas added 13 points. Nicci Scorza chipped in 12 points, all coming in the fourth quarter.

"Defensively we played very well," said Schader. "We held Hoffman to 12 points in the first half."

Addison Trail led 18-12 at halftime.

"Hoffman scored 22 points in the fourth quarter and we scored 27 points in the fourth," said Schader. "It was an offensive explosion. We played well and hit some free throws down the stretch and took care of business."

The Blazers then lost 65-35 to Batavia in regional semifinal action. "Batavia has a senior who is going to St. Louis and she scored 31 points. She's very good. She's a lefty who is very quick. We couldn't stop her."

Pikulyk led the Blazers with nine points. "Our scoring was spread out in that game," said Schader.

Addison Trail finished the season with a 10-18 overall record.

The Blazers graduate five seniors, including Koulogeorgas, who averaged 9.6 points a game. Other senior graduates include Nicole Pudlo, Tegan Graff, Ksymena Kwasnik and Marina Stokes.

Koulogeorgas earned all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division honors. "Maria has done a great job here for us," said Schader. "She's a true competitor who played hard and played well at the end of the season. We definitely will miss her."

Addison Trail returns six players from this year's team.

"We do have a lot of kids coming back who played a lot for us," said Schader.

"Alyssa Pham averaged 7.5 points. Diamond averaged 7.5 points and five rebounds. She did a great job as a junior. Alyssa played a ton of minutes and handled the ball. Nicci Scorza got better as the season went on and players like Diana Graciano, Jasmin Mehmeti and Marie Baumgartner also got better as the season went on. We have good kids coming back who will help us out."

Schader liked how his team played down the stretch and is excited about what the future will bring.

"We definitely played a lot better toward the end," he said. "We played better defensively and offensively."

Addison Trail's freshman team finished 16-8 while the sophomore team was around the .500 mark.

"The freshmen went 16-8 with two kids up with the sophomores," Schader pointed out. "Hopefully these kids at the lower levels will continue to put in the time and continue to get better so they will be able to help us out in the next few years. As long as we stay healthy we should be OK."

## AT selects Sophia Belvedere as 88's Best for February

ADDISON — Sophia Belvedere has been named as Addison Trail's February recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding service work. Belvedere, a senior, was recognized during the Feb. 22 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Belvedere's academic record is exceptional. She is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction and has received the AT's Best award. To date, she has taken 12 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses and nine Honors courses and has received a grade of A in all of them.

"There are not enough superlatives to describe Belvedere — it is like she was created in a lab by teachers for teachers," said Laura Magnavite, social studies teacher. "As a student in my AP European History class, Belvedere exceeded expectations on a daily basis. I was taken immediately with her enthusiasm, which took the form of constant questioning — questions that demonstrated her keen mind and desire to know not just the what of history, but more importantly the how and the why."

Math teacher Julie Rana agreed.

"Not only is Belvedere successful academically, but she also encourages and helps her fellow classmates, so they experience success (as well)," she said.

Belvedere has a passion for math and science and has a keen awareness she is a minority in that field. This has made Belvedere even more aware of her purpose in life — she is passionate about helping others and often tutors students in math. She knows that by helping others see what she sees, she can increase the number of women in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and simultaneously further her goal of making the world a better place.

Her ambition to learn does not stop in the classroom. She has an affinity and genuine concern about how she will contribute to the world in which she lives and works very hard

to help. "Service embodies something that's really important to me — treating others how you want to be treated and giving back not only because you're expecting to receive back, but simply because you want to," she said. "It makes me happy knowing I contributed to something beyond me."

Her extreme kindness has led her to serve her community in many capacities, including school, church and the Village of Addison. Belvedere works with Student Council during Teacher Appreciation Week and also helps tutor students. The environment is particularly important to Belvedere, and she enjoys participating in the annual Park Pride Cleanup event hosted by the Addison Park District. Holiday volunteering also is close to Belvedere's heart — she works with the Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization to create and deliver holiday baskets, and she also works with the Trinity Free Clinic every year. Belvedere has been an active volunteer at many church events, school events and holiday food drives and has lent her service to many students at Addison Trail.

While involved in too many activities to count, Belvedere said her favorites include Science Olympiad, Math Team, Pay It Forward and International Dance. Belvedere has taken home many awards in those areas; her eight-person math team has placed first several years in a row, and she placed first in the individual test for geometry and advanced algebra in the West Suburban Conference math competition. But Belvedere doesn't just participate in those clubs — in many cases, she serves in leadership positions. She is President of Science Olympiad, Vice President of National Honor Society, an officer in Best Buddies, a Board Member in Key Club and a PE Leader. Belvedere credits much of her ability to guide others to the West Suburban Conference Leadership summits she has attended and led.



photo provided  
Pictured with Principal Michael Bolden is Addison Trail senior Sophia Belvedere who has been named the February recipient of 88's Best recognition.

A continuous curiosity is what motivates her as a learner. She is deeply proud of her tutoring work with other students, helping them better understand their struggles and truly realize the power of knowing.

"The point of pursuing knowledge is because you want to, not because you have to,"

Belvedere said. "We would have a better place in this world if we all wanted to know more."

She plans to attend Northwestern University or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign next fall. She plans to major in chemical engineering, with a focus in sustainable energy.

## Addison Trail celebrates African-American History Month

ADDISON — Throughout the month of February, Addison Trail students and staff have participated in events to celebrate African-American History Month.

The Addison Trail Black Student Union participated

in the Black Student Leadership Conference on Feb. 23 at College of DuPage.

• Students have learned about their culture through International Fest Week, a weeklong event that teaches students about various

countries and culminates with the International Dance Show.

• Students participated in Youth Equity Stewardship Series (YESS!) training from the Youth Voice Leadership Series, presented by

Benjie Howard and Wade Colwell-Sandoval with the New Wilderness Project.

• Students from Addison Trail and Willowbrook will take a field trip in March to the DuSable Museum of African American History.

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WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A  
PLAINTIFF  
VS  
LUIS CORRAL AKA LUIS M CORRAL; RAMONA CORRAL; CITY OF ELMHURST;  
DEFENDANTS  
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UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE  
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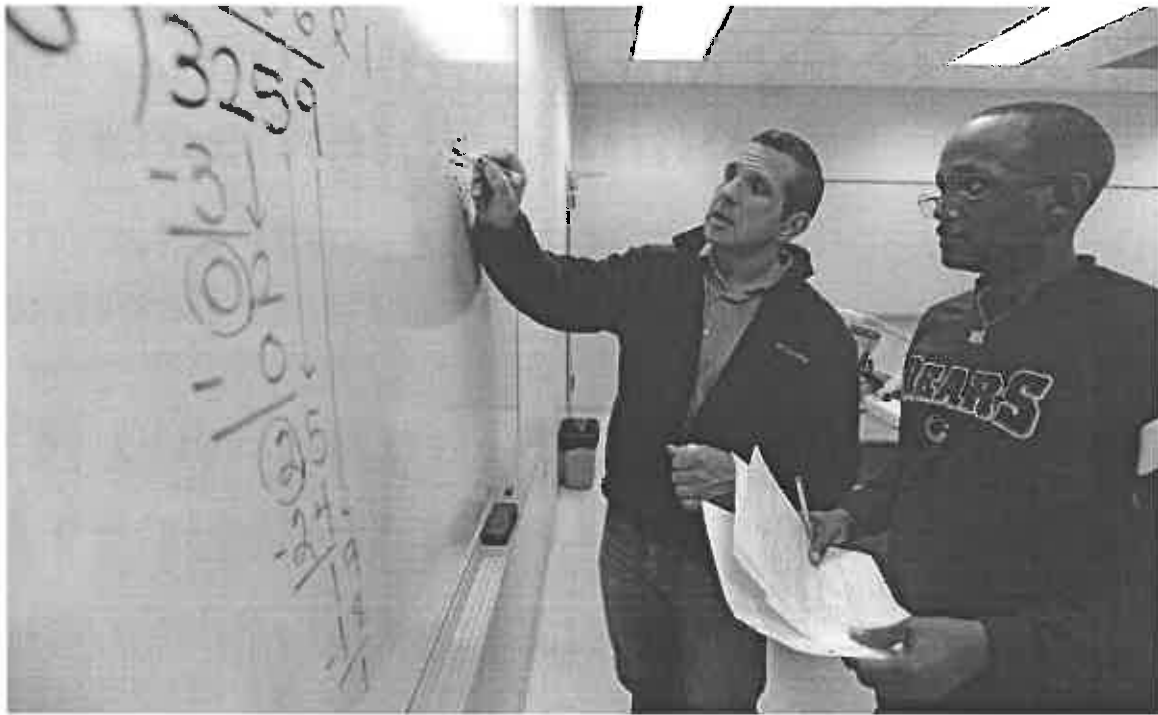
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Education | updated: 3/7/2016 4:34 PM

# Which community college students need remedial teaching

## Students who skip senior math, college placement standards fall short



**Bill Clark, an associate professor at Harper College in Palatine, teaches a developmental math class for students like Kevin Mack of Rolling Meadows.**

*Mark Welsh | Staff Photographer*



**Madhu Krishnamurthy**

Linear equations, quadratic expressions and ratios might be a pain to many high schoolers. Yet, not understanding those basic algebraic principles is causing them much more angst after graduation.

Nearly half of Illinois high school graduates enrolled in state community colleges require remediation, according to new data from the Illinois State Board of Education.

It shows 48.7 percent of nearly 40,000 high school graduates enrolled in community colleges required remediation in at least one subject -- 41.1 percent in math, 20.3 percent in communication and 16.1 percent in reading. In the suburbs, depending on their high school, 16 percent to nearly 68 percent of graduates attending community colleges are taking remedial classes, again, mostly in math.

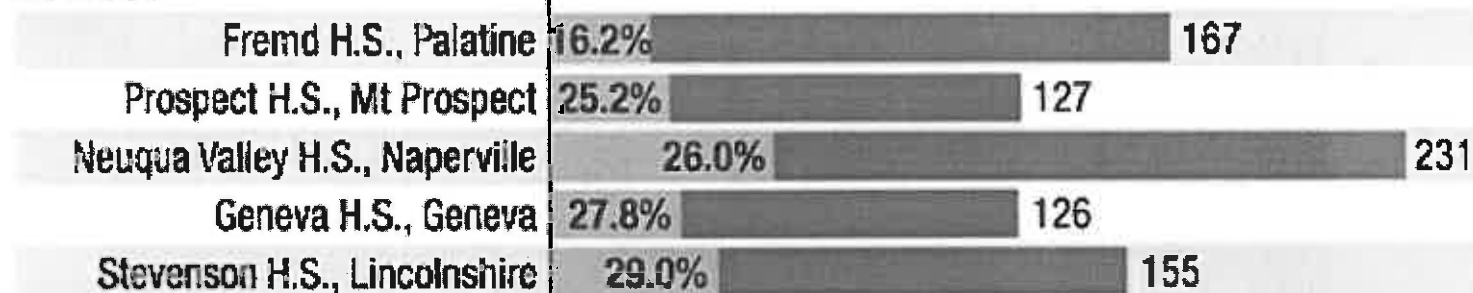
Students skipping math their senior year and "arbitrary" college placement standards account for the abundance of students needing help, educators say. Some, though, suggest remediation in general is a bad idea.

## Who needs remediation

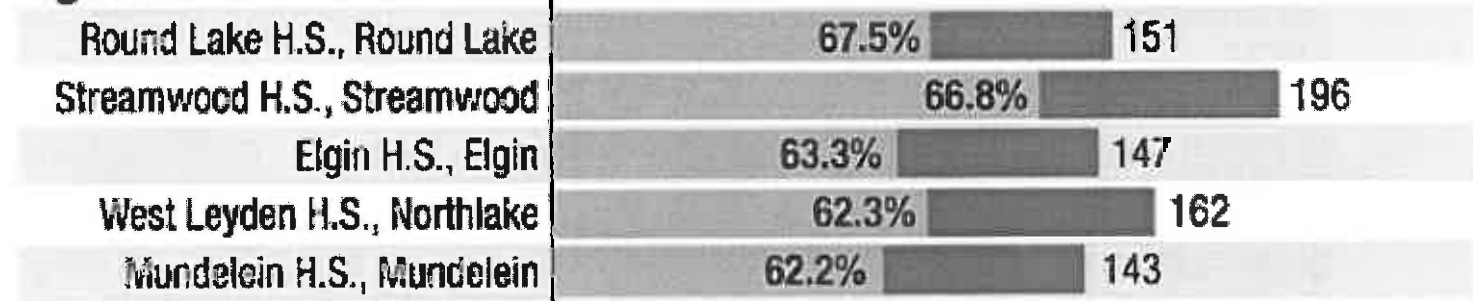
Community colleges are grappling with the number of high school students who need extra help. Here are suburban schools with the most/fewest students in college remediation.

■ Number of students enrolled in Illinois community college | ■ % in remediation

### Lowest



### Highest



Source: Illinois State Board of Education

For now, suburban high schools, with the support of community colleges, are addressing the problem by offering dual-credit opportunities and college-level remedial classes during senior year. Also, training is being provided for high school teachers and counselors to better understand college entrance requirements.

At Round Lake Senior High School (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?school=Round+Lake+Senior+High+School%2C+Round+Lake&id-name=340491160260006&schtype=HIGH+SCHOOL#mainpge>), 67.5 percent of graduates attending College of Lake

County in Grayslake need remedial help -- primarily in math (53.6 percent) -- though some students also needed to make up for poor reading and communication skills.

This year, the school introduced a new applied math course for struggling students who might not be on a college trajectory and hired a college and career counselor to work with students in grades six through 12 to help them choose career pathways, said Principal Donn Mendoza.

Students, he said, also can take free math remedial classes at CLC in the summer.

Round Lake middle school students now can visit colleges for career exploration and use an online "career cruising" software to help identify fields of interest. And all high school students meet with counselors to set goals after graduation and work toward meeting them.

"We want our kids to be thinking about their future earlier," Mendoza said. "Now we are engaging in planning more than we ever have."

## Four years of math

Some educators and advocacy groups are calling for a change in state law, which now requires only three years of math to graduate high school. They say if students avoid taking math during senior year, they tend to forget concepts; that yearlong gap in learning hurts when they take college placement tests.

Through Elgin Community College's Alliance for College Readiness, officials have seen fewer students in remediation classes. The program is a partnership of teachers and educators from ECC and public school districts in its service area: Elgin Area School District U-46, (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=SD+U-46%2C+Kane+County&dist-ID=310450460220000&district-name=SD+U-46#mainpge>) Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300, (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district-name=CUSD%20300#mainpge>) St. Charles Community Unit District 303, (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=St+Charles+CUSD+303%2C+Kane+County&dist-ID=310453030260000&district-name=St+Charles+CUSD+303#mainpge>) and Burlington-based Central School District 301 (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=Central+CUSD+301%2C+Kane+County&dist-ID=310453010260000&district-name=Central+CUSD+301#mainpge>).

The proportion of high school graduates who were completely college-ready grew from 24 percent in 2006 to 38 percent in 2015, said Julie Schaid, ECC associate dean for college readiness and school partnership. Three of the alliance partners -- districts 300, 301, and 303 -- have adopted a fourth-year high school math curriculum, developed by the alliance's math team and aligned to [Common Core State Standards \(http://www.corestandards.org/\)](http://www.corestandards.org/) and ECC's readiness criteria for college-level math. In three years, enrollment has grown from 300 to 800 students this year, Schaid said.

ECC also is debuting a new math course this fall allowing students going into non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields to complete their developmental math requirements in one semester.

Harper College in Palatine similarly has been working with Northwest Suburban High School District 214, (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=Township+HSD+214%2C+Cook+County&dist-ID=050162140170000&district-name=Township+HSD+214#mainpge>) Township High School District 211 (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=Township+HSD+211%2C+Cook+County&dist-ID=050162110170000&district-name=Township+HSD+211#mainpge>) and Barrington Unit District 220 (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district-name=Barrington%20CUSD%20220#mainpge>) to reduce the numbers of freshmen students needing remedial coursework.

As a result, from 2010 to 2014, the college has seen a 27 percentage point increase of high school graduates placing into college-level math, Harper associate provost Brian Knetl said.



"We've implemented for some of the high schools placement testing in the junior year so students have some sense of what their level of college readiness is," he said. "It's that fourth year of math that we are finding out is a really significant predictor of college-readiness."

## Redefining ready

Placement in English and math remedial classes alone is not an accurate indicator of how ready students really are for college-level work because educational institutions have varying standards -- some "arbitrarily high" -- of acceptable scores for college readiness, educators say.

For instance, DuPage County school superintendents have been asking College of DuPage to lower its requirement of a 23 score on the ACT math test to get into a college credit-bearing course.

"That's what elevates the math (remediation) numbers," said Scott Helton, superintendent of [DuPage High School District 88](http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=DuPage+HSD+88%2C+Dupage+County&dist-ID=190220880160000&district-name=DuPage+HSD+88#mainpage) (<http://reportcards.dailyherald.com/index.php?district=DuPage+HSD+88%2C+Dupage+County&dist-ID=190220880160000&district-name=DuPage+HSD+88#mainpage>), which includes Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools. "The national college readiness cut score is 22."

More than 43 percent of District 88's graduates attending community colleges need math remediation. Helton says the traditional model of college remediation just doesn't work anymore. Low-income, black and Latino students are affected the most by the high bar for college entrance and often end up losing interest, running out of financial aid or dropping out, he said.

"They have these artificial barriers that drive these kids into remedial courses," he said. "Many community colleges are getting rid of this old remediation model and they are putting kids into credit-bearing courses with supports.

"Using arbitrary scores, using a 23, doesn't make sense to us. In every high school around here, we've all gotten rid of our remedial programs. All the national research says you have to be in more rigor in order to grow."

In District 214, where more than 35 percent of the district's high school graduates attending community colleges require remediation, those same students could be deemed ready for the same courses at a state university because "there are no universal standards," said Lazaro Lopez, associate superintendent.

"I don't believe that the data that we see is entirely representative of our students, or even statewide," he said.

Lopez said the current approach to college remediation doesn't take into account whether students are doing college-level work in high school, but rather is predicated on test scores.

Nearly two-thirds of District 214 graduates have taken an Advanced Placement math class or dual-credit English and math classes in partnership with Harper College in Palatine, he said.

"That is a more accurate assessor of their being college-ready," Lopez said. "I really don't believe developmental education has any place in our college campuses. Ultimately, it really is about us redefining senior year of high school across the state to make sure that students have access to Advanced Placement, dual-credit courses, and developmental education courses at the high school taught through a community college."

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# Suburban Couple Competes to Win Wedding on 'Today'



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*AT GRAD*

A suburban Chicago couple has made it to be one of three finalists competing to win a dream wedding from the "Today" show.

John West and Kaitlin Roseman live in Glenview and like most young couples these days, met online when they connected on "Plenty of Fish" five years ago. West grew up in Addison and Roseman in Glenview.





John West and Kaitlin Roseman both come from big suburban Chicago families, so it was a natural fit to submit themselves for the chance to win "My Big Fat TODAY Wedding." NBC 5's Zoraida Sambolin has more. To vote for John and Kaitlin, visit [here](#). (Published 3 hours ago)

But nothing about these two is traditional. She was actually the initiator in the beginning.

For the first date they went to a local sushi spot, and ended up talking for so long they closed down the restaurant. Not wanting it to end, they ended up planning their second and third dates that same night.

"She was so unique and bubbly and I liked everything about her," West told "Today."

So why do they want to win a wedding? The competition is called "My Big Fat TODAY Wedding" and big families is exactly where they both came from. West has more than 50 first cousins, and Roseman's dad is one of nine.

West told "Today" he fell in love with Roseman's big heart, and she says he fell for his sense of humor and ambition.

"She has just the kindest, sweetest heart," West said of the elementary school teacher. "She makes everyone's day better."

He decided to make it official with a New Year's Eve proposal, and the excitement hasn't worn off since.

"Everyday I wake up and I'm just so excited to be engaged to him," she said.

- **VOTE HERE for John and Kaitlin**

Voting ends Friday at 8:30 a.m., when the winning couple will be named on the show.

Published 5 hours ago

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