



Naperville Community  
Unit School District 203

## **Business Community Education Partnerships**





**W**e got involved  
as a partner  
with the District to  
provide students with  
real-life applications  
of their school learning.

## **Who are we?**

Naperville Community Unit School District 203 is comprised of 21 schools and over 19,000 students, making it the fifth largest school district in Illinois. Our Business Partnership program is supported and endorsed by the District 203 Board of Education and the local Chambers of Commerce.

## **What is the purpose of a business partnership?**

Business Community Education Partnerships have been part of the educational fabric in America since the time of Eli Whitney (1790's). Recognizing the economic benefit of a skilled population, businesses continue to partner with schools today. A Business Community Education Partnership is designed to be mutually beneficial. A partnership may provide direct support to student activities, instruction enrichment or staff support/development.

Business partners have the unique opportunity to make a direct impact on students in their own community. What better return on an investment in our shared future?

Partnerships engage the community in the educational process. They help students make connections between curriculum and how it applies to life beyond the classroom. Corporate giants such as AT&T, Procter & Gamble, Sears Roebuck and Company, General Electric and IBM took the lead in showing their commitment to education earlier in this century.

Educators and business people understand that involvement by the business community is imperative for the success of public education.

“To better prepare students for successful lifelong employment in a competitive global marketplace, businesses are becoming deeply involved in all aspects of education. Partnerships now successfully embrace a myriad of activities from internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing to strategic planning and curriculum development.”

[Source: Illinois School Research and Development Journal]

## Why become a partner?

**T**op officials representing both the partner organization and District 203 attend every partnership signing, including Superintendent Dr. Alan Leis, a member of the Board of Education, Director of Community Relations Nina Menis, the co-chairmen of the Business Community Education Partnership Executive Council and the school principal.





## What are some benefits of a business partnership?

Benefits are as many and varied as the partnerships themselves.

Students gain valuable experience and a true understanding of the skills needed in the workplace. Teachers, school administrators, parents, business people and communities benefit as well, as they share expertise and resources, thus developing a genuine appreciation of each others' roles in the education of children.

For more than a decade, District 203 has been recognized, both locally and nationally, for its leadership in partnership development. Through our experience with hundreds of partnerships, the following outcomes have emerged —



**T**he process was very satisfying from a business perspective in that we are making a difference in getting the students to understand they may actually use some of the things they are learning one day.

### FROM THE BUSINESS/COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE:

- Enhanced business image in the community
- Increased recognition and support for efforts put forth on behalf of students
- Opportunities for employees to share time and talents in meaningful ways, while working with students and staff
- Promotion of skill development, thus reducing the level of on-the-job training needed for workers/employees
- Accessibility to shared facilities and training, depending on availability
- Opportunity to share relevant business practices that pertain to students
- Unique ability to influence students' career decisions

### FROM THE SCHOOL/STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:

- Increased awareness of business world best practices
- Provision of resources and ideas aligned to the curriculum
- Support of professional development for teachers and staff
- Promotion of successful role models for students
- Establishment of additional motivation for students to achieve academically
- Enhanced exposure to career opportunities through Career Insights and job shadowing

## BUILDING BLOCKS

- Establish a partnership committee where members of both organizations participate and share responsibility for developing plans and actions that will benefit both parties
- Identify ways the partnership can support the curriculum in the school/district
- Outline mission, goals and objectives, as well as related curricular activities
- Schedule an informal ceremony for partnership signing
- Encourage feedback at the end of the year/project and remember to celebrate

## WHAT CAN BUSINESS PARTNERS DO?

- Provide valuable information about career opportunities within a given industry
- Supply goods and services to the schools/District
- Serve as a guest speaker on curriculum-related topics
- Inform students about what is expected of them in the work place
- Provide teacher externships
- Give tours of your business/organization
- Teach job searching skills
- Enhance curriculum
- Provide internships
- Job shadowing
- Co-teach a class
- Mentor students

**I liked how prepared they were for my visit, it made me feel very welcome. They asked me about my career plans and showed me how pharmacy would relate to nursing.**



**What are the building blocks for a successful partnership?**

## Where do partnerships fit in at the District level?

The Office of Community Relations provides support to six organizations which assist District 203 in further enhancing its mission. These organizations develop resources for students in our schools that are above and beyond what is funded by tax dollars.

### OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

#### Volunteers

##### General Home & School

##### School Family Community Partnership Teams

##### HURRAH (Happy Upbeat Retirees [& other] Residents Actively Helping)

##### Naperville Education Foundation

Kid Boosters

Jeanine Nicarico Memorial Fund for Literacy

Born to Read program

Brassington Fund for Special Olympics

##### District 203 Alumni Association

#### Business Community Education Partnerships and Executive Council

Exemplary Partnership Awards Breakfast

Partnership Forum

Career Insights – a partnership between the Rotary Club of Naperville, Rotary Club of Naperville Sunrise, the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, District 203 and Indian Prairie School District 204

**P**ete Nechi and Brad McGuire accept their award for the “Beat Pete” program at District 203’s annual Exemplary Partnership Awards Breakfast.





Business Community Education Partnerships engage and share knowledge and experiences, while helping to develop competent, confident young workers and community leaders of the future. Our students need to know how to learn, as well as what to learn. To be successful and productive we must learn throughout our careers, throughout our lives. We invite you to join us in “Building a Passion for Life Long Learning” by becoming a partner with one of our 21 schools.

**How can you  
get more  
information  
about  
partnerships?**



**B**usiness partners contribute their judgement and expertise to the final presentation made by Naperville Central High School's Business Management class.

**T**hank you for your support of our schools!



Nina M. Menis  
*Director of  
Community Relations*

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Look for the following additional information on the Naperville Community Unit School District 203 website at [www.ncusd203.org](http://www.ncusd203.org):

- Shareholders Report
- Highlights of the School Year
- District 203 Profile
- Partnership Nuts & Bolts
  
- Schools Cannot Do This Alone – [www.jamievollmer.com](http://www.jamievollmer.com)

**WHOEVER TAKES A CHILD BY THE HAND TAKES CARE OF THE FUTURE**

