



Mark Sheridan Math & Science Academy

School Information Session and Tour
2025-2026

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Commitments to Success
- IV. About Mark Sheridan Math & Science Academy-History
- V. Kindergarten & School Information- Current
- VI. Growing Up Kindergarten: Guidance for Success
- VII. Q & A
- VIII. Tour



Meet the Assistant Principal, Mr. Linke



My name is Joseph Linke. I am honored to serve as Assistant Principal at Mark Sheridan Math & Science Academy, where I lead the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), and Behavioral Health Team (BHT) to strengthen instructional practice, equity, and student support systems. With over ten years in education and five in leadership, I focus on cultivating collaborative, data-driven teams that use continuous improvement cycles to enhance teaching and learning. Previously at Skinner West Elementary, I served as ILT Lead, MTSS Lead, and Math Lead, experiences that deepened my commitment to equitable access, distributed leadership, and rigorous, inclusive instruction for all students.

Meet the Principal, Ms. Nessner

Elizabeth Nessner
EANessner@cps.edu

Served in the education sector over 25 years

- Teacher- parochial and CPS (Skinner West)
- Assistant Principal at Mark Sheridan
- Principal of Healy Elementary from 2017 to 2021
- Executive Director (CEO) of the Civic Leadership Foundation, an educational non-profit organization that has worked alongside Sheridan since 2018.
- Principal of Mark Sheridan Academy, beginning in the Fall of 2024



Work Hard. Be Kind.

Our Recommitments

Our district has three overarching commitments that drive our work: **Academic Progress**, **Operational Excellence**, and **Building Trust**. Within each priority area, we are outlining our Recommitments – proven strategies that we are using in the immediate term and beyond to help our students and school communities fully recover from the pandemic.



Digging Deeper: MSA Guidance and Reflections for Continuous Improvement

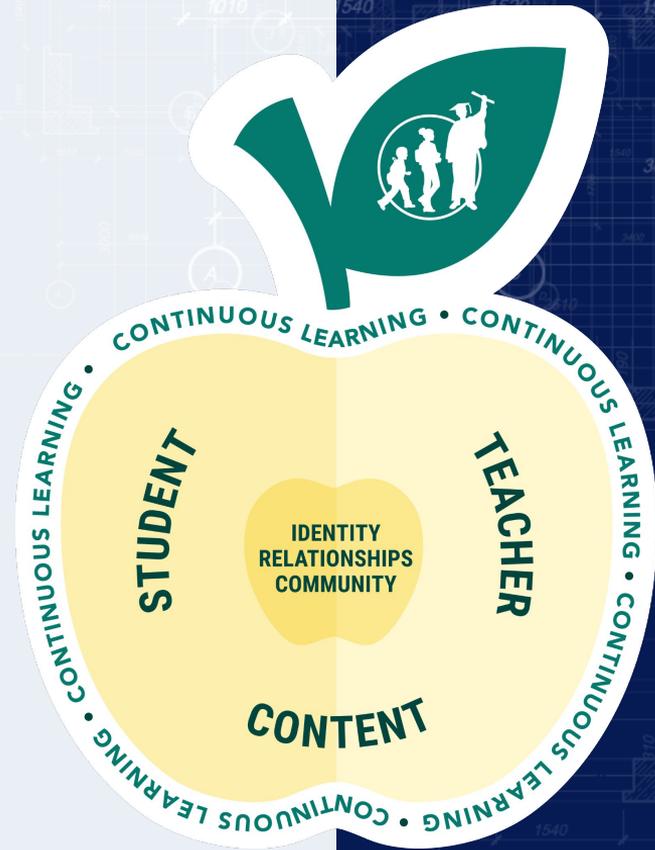
Teacher Challenge: The reflection questions below are a quick and easy way to reflect and assess your practice each day.

- **Rigorous:** Was it rigorous? Were your students engaging in meaningful, grade-level, standards-aligned work? Did students feel engaged and empowered in the learning?
- **Joyful:** Was it joyful? Did students see themselves reflected in the learning? Did they get to experience the FUN that is learning? Did students feel joy outside of their classrooms?
- **Equitable:** Was it equitable? Did every student experience the same rigor and joy? Were students with disabilities, ELs, and students furthest from opportunity-centered in our school?

CPS Instructional Core Vision

To educate for equity, the CPS Instructional Core centers on identity, community, and relationships.

Students must experience core instruction that is responsive to and sustaining of who they are and what they bring, and empowers them to connect, imagine, and act as ethical, critical actors that shape the world.



Our Core Values

These core values will continue to guide the work we do every day for our students. They will also guide our planning and practices as we work together with our educators, families, and communities to implement the programs, services, and initiatives detailed in this Blueprint.



**Student
Centered**



Whole Child



Equity



**Academic
Excellence**



**Community
Partnership**



**Continuous
Learning**

Who we are...

Mark Sheridan Academy is a magnet school that focuses on science, math and overall academic excellence, while integrating a fine arts and technology curriculum. Sheridan is committed to increasing student achievement, including high school advanced placement, as well as its advanced programs through its comprehensive Specific Aptitude Program in science and math.

Mark Sheridan Academy has been recognized as a Spotlight School by the Illinois State Board of Education, A School of Distinction by the Chicago Public Schools and A National Title I Distinguished School, as well as one of the most diverse schools in the state of Illinois. Last year, we were one of two schools in CPS that were awarded the Magnet School of Excellence by the Magnet Schools of America.

The road of Continuous Improvement and Data Transparency

Celebrations:

- **Measurable Student outcomes**
- **Communication with stakeholders**
- **Student Engagement**

Our Current Work:

- **Network Support & Alignment**
- **Focus on inputs, conditions, and resources;**
- **Progress monitoring our priorities;**
- **District accountability mindset**
- **Developing a Growth Mindset**

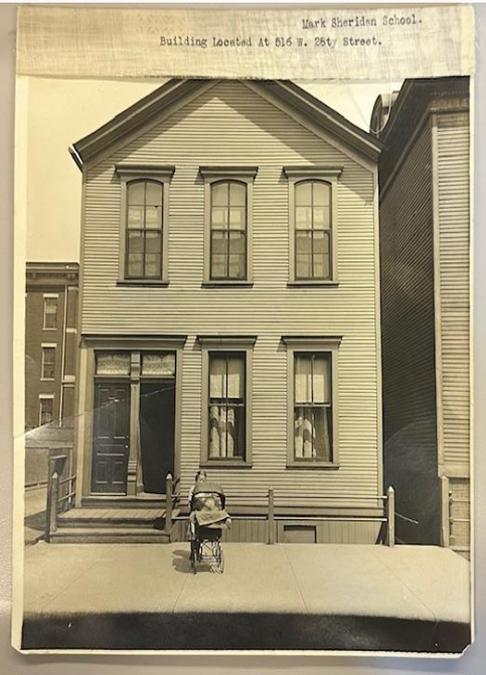
SY25 Performance Data

- Attendance as of 9/18/24 is 97.75%
- 79% of students in Grades 3-8 were “On Track” as of 9/17/25.
- 80% of K-2 students demonstrated Proficiency on i-Ready ELA in Spring ‘24.
- 75% of K-2 students demonstrated Proficiency on i-Ready Math in Spring ‘24.

History of Mark Sheridan



Starting small can lead to remarkable growth and significant achievements.



Sheridan School, established in 1881, stands as one of the oldest public schools in Chicago still operational today. The school is named after Mark Sheridan, an Irish immigrant who was born in 1826 and arrived in Chicago in 1856. Upon his arrival, he initially found work in the meatpacking industry. Over time, Sheridan dedicated himself to public service, holding positions such as highway overseer, ward alderman, and police commissioner. Sadly, he passed away in 1877, before the school's construction began.







After 115 years, MSA received some exciting renovations! The 9,000 square-foot annex was completed in the fall of 2018 and features a STEM classroom, bathrooms, and a state-of-the-art gymnasium. In addition, Sheridan received a new elevator, improvements to the parking lot, and updated landscaping. The upgrades also included the installation of a new fence, a brand-new playground, and as of August of 2025, artificial turf to maximize play.



Mark Sheridan Academy: Kindergarten

Curriculum: English Language Arts

- ❖ Wonders Curriculum
- ❖ Spectrum Language Arts
- ❖ Teacher Created Materials
 - Subject and Skill-based Practice
 - Foundational Reading & Writing
 - Skill Development
 - Phonics and Phonemic Awareness

Curriculum: Math

Envision Curriculum

Teacher Created Materials & Manipulatives

- Subject and Skill-based Practice
- Skill Development: numbers, counting, sorting, and grouping
- Academic Language