



## Golden Apple Impact in District 26

### Senator Darby A. Hills



**15** Golden Apple prepared **Teachers** who are teaching or have recently taught in this district.

- Cary (3)
- Palatine (3)
- Wauconda (3)
- Harvard (2)
- Island Lake (2)
- Barrington (1)
- Mundelein (1)

**11** Golden Apple **Scholars** are undergraduate, future teachers who are residents of this district.

- Hoffman Estates (6)
- Palatine (2)
- Algonquin (1)
- Fox River Grove (1)
- Mundelein (1)

**2** Golden Apple **Accelerators** in our teacher preparation residency program for career changers.

- Hoffman Estates (1)
- Lake Zurich (1)

**22** Golden Apple **Academy Members** are Exceptional Teachers or Leaders who have won or were finalists for our **Excellence in Teaching or Leadership Award** in this district.

- Palatine (11)
- Barrington (5)
- Mundelein (3)
- Cary (1)
- Fox River Grove (1)
- Hawthorn Woods (1)

**In our recent survey of over 100 Illinois school principals who employed Golden Apple-prepared teachers during the 2024-2025 school year, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback:**

- **Over 90%** said Golden Apple Scholars are **well prepared** to be **effective educators** and have a **positive impact** on the school and community.
- **Over 90%** want to **hire more Golden Apple prepared teachers**.
- The **majority** reported that Golden Apple Scholars are **more ready** than **other early career teachers** across Danielson Domains.

**District Spotlight:**

➡ A principal in your district stated, "our Golden Apple Scholar is very confident and appears to really enjoy her role as a second grade teacher. She puts in countless hours and is, obviously, hard working!" The principal also noted, "we were lucky to add a second Golden Apple Scholar to our staff beginning in the 2025/2026 school year. Both scholars have become close friends, support one another, and are incredible assets to our school. We are very appreciative to have them on our educational team!"



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### 15 Prepared Teachers

Anna Karcz: Wauconda Grade School, Wauconda  
 Mia Storz: Three Oaks School, Cary  
 Gina Russell: Three Oaks School, Cary  
 Sebastian Martinez: Lincoln Elementary School, Palatine  
 Tara Davis\*: Wauconda High School, Wauconda  
 Paola Alcantara\*: West Oak Intermediate School, Mundelein  
 Jamie Devant\*: Matthews Middle School, Island Lake  
 Dayna Laffey\*: Gray M Sanborn Elem School, Palatine  
 Emily Garcia: Wauconda Grade School, Wauconda  
 Maria Mercado Juarez: Crosby Elem Sch, Harvard  
 Cassidy Woodman: Crosby Elem Sch, Harvard  
 John Anderlik: Matthews Middle School, Island Lake  
 Krishma Patel\*: Lincoln Elementary School, Palatine  
 Katie Johnson\*: Barrington Early Learning Center, Barrington  
 Chloe Hardy: Three Oaks School, Cary

### 11 Undergraduate Scholars

Jasmine Moreno: Mundelein  
 Kaitlyn Madderom: Fox River Grove  
 Dominika Brzegowy: Palatine  
 Nazheli Silos: Hoffman Estates  
 Maria Ochs: Algonquin  
 Alexandra Marconi: Hoffman Estates  
 Coralyn Johnson: Palatine  
 Linnea Eaves: Hoffman Estates  
 Nonoka Wachi: Hoffman Estates  
 Madison Schleede: Hoffman Estates  
 Allison Price: Hoffman Estates

### 2 Accelerators

Katrina Neal: Timber Trails Elementary School, Hoffman Estates  
 Virginia Ortega: May Whitney Elem School, Lake Zurich

### 22 Academy Members

Karen Bauder♦: Immanuel Lutheran School, Palatine (1991)  
 Barbara Figlewicz♦: Gray M Sanborn Elem School, Palatine (1999)  
 Jaime Gasunas: Gray M Sanborn Elem School, Palatine (2009)  
 Carol Gaul♦: Gray M Sanborn Elem School, Palatine (1996)  
 Dianne Hamelly♦: Fremont Elem School, Mundelein (2006)  
 Sharon Kranz: Roslyn Road Elem School, Barrington (2008)  
 Susan Maciag♦: Stuart R Paddock School, Palatine (1997)  
 David Sobel♦: Hunting Ridge Elem School, Palatine (2009)  
 Michael Bachrodt♦: Wm Fremd High School, Palatine (1992)  
 Enid Alvarez: Lincoln School, Mundelein (2009)  
 Lori Anderson: Grove Avenue Elem School, Barrington (2014)  
 George Vlasis♦: Hough Street Elem School, Barrington (2015)  
 Joshua Norten: Cary-Grove Community High School, Cary (2016)  
 Joanna Angelopoulos: Gray M Sanborn Elem School, Palatine (2015)  
 Andre Zielinski: Stuart R Paddock School, Palatine (2015)  
 Jacquelyn Negus: Quest Academy, Palatine (2014)  
 Daniel Morvaj♦: Lake Zurich Middle - N Campus, Hawthorn Woods (2008)  
 Jane Szybowicz: Fox River Grove Middle School, Fox River Grove (2017)  
 Sara Blair Winter-Rosenberg♦: Mundelein Cons High School, Mundelein (2017)  
 Kristie Charles♦: Hunting Ridge Elem School, Palatine (2006)  
 Lori Hedberg Ford: Barrington CUSD 220, Barrington (2023)  
 Brigitte Hurst: Grove Avenue Elem School, Barrington (2017)

\* Alumni - Scholars who have completed at least 5 years of teaching

^ School Principal

♦ Award Winner

March 2026