

# NewsBits

Fall 2020

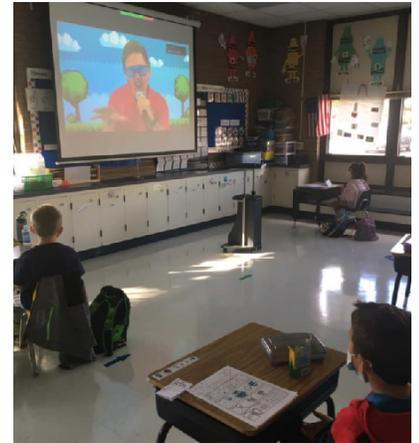


## District 62 welcomes back in-person learners

Dear District 62 Community,

When I reflect on the last six months, I realize the deep meaning behind the last few weeks. Back in the spring, we found ourselves quarantined as we prepared for a pandemic, something we had never experienced in our lifetimes. The future was very uncertain and we understood we had a long road ahead.

The months of September and October have been truly incredible in our district as we welcomed back just over 2,000 children. We anticipated bumps in the road like we experienced with our closure of Cumberland Elementary in October and managed with care as we navigated through this time. Despite these challenges, the best part of our days has been the opportunity to see children engaged, learning and connecting with their teachers and their peers.



We continue to monitor all our metrics and cases in our buildings very closely. The safety of our students remains our priority. I invite you to look at our [dashboard](#) which provides our community with a look at District 62 metrics pertaining to COVID-19 cases within our in-person learning community. We hope this tool will be useful to our community as it aligns with Goal 4 of our Strategic Plan: Family and Community Connections. District 62 is dedicated to continuously reviewing and refining the ways in which we communicate and share information.

As an educator, I feel that our primary role is to support children. And this fall, we were able to support these children and our families by embarking on this journey during this very unique time in all our lives. At our schools, I am truly amazed at the dedication of our administrators, administrative assistants, teachers and staff as everyone worked together to make these first days a success. I appreciate our team here in District 62. They have helped us anticipate, plan and prepare for this extraordinary journey.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Hertel, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## District 62 recognizes its fall Difference Makers

Last year, District 62 began a formal recognition program to honor those staff members considered “Difference Makers”. This recognition program aligns directly with Goal 3 (Work Environment) of the district’s five-year strategic plan. Those recognized as a Difference Maker will receive a coin to commemorate this honor.

### What is a Difference Maker?

Difference Makers are a defining example for the learning community of District 62. They do a great deal for others without seeking recognition or acknowledgment. They are selfless leaders who do what is best for children. They aspire to make the District 62 learning community a better place through their dedication, commitment and support of public education.



Congratulations to our fall District 62 Difference Makers:

### District 62 internal Back IN School Taskforce:

Made up of union leadership, administration and staff, these individuals began the school year making sure that protocols were in place for staff’s safe return to work. Thank you to these individuals who have given their time to support such a critical cause for District 62.

### District 62 external Back IN School Taskforce:

The external taskforce is made up of parents and community leaders who began collaborating with us to prepare for our students’ safe return to the classroom this fall. The taskforce began meeting in August and will continue to meet throughout the year.



Hailey Keefe (left) and Kaylen Zarembski (right).

These South Elementary 1st grade teachers recently welcomed back students.

They have had a

supportive and positive energy since Day 1. We thank you for making a difference in children’s lives.

## District 62 seeks paraeducators

District 62 invites its community to apply for the position of paraeducator. Spanish and Polish speakers are highly encouraged to apply.

Visit here to apply: [bit.ly/62Paraeducators](https://bit.ly/62Paraeducators)

### Responsibilities include:

- Supporting students in a variety of environments throughout the day with academic instruction, behavior support, and functional skills (ie. Toileting, feeding, self-help).
- Helping teachers with different tasks (ie. making copies, laminating, preparing materials).
- Being flexible with your assignment based on the needs of the building.
- Ensuring the safety and security of students throughout the day.
- Supervising children while the teacher is remotely teaching.
- Maintaining confidentiality of student information.

**Position Hours:** school days Monday - Friday

- Elementary Schools: 8:40 am to 3:40 pm
- Middle Schools: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

### Pay:

- Pay per hour with a high school diploma: \$14.84
- Pay per hour with a four-year degree: \$16.15

### Benefits:

100% paid Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO or HMO coverage for employee with an additional option to purchase for the entire family.

For more information, contact **Janet Arroyo**, (847) 824.1173



## FinanceBits

At its September meeting, the Board of Education approved the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. This year, the district created a conservative budget given the immediate needs of meeting the challenge of COVID-19.

Revenues are projected to be over \$90 million and expenses are estimated at slightly over \$110 million, creating a potential deficit of \$19.8 million. The deficit is the result of the pandemic and the district remains operationally strong, leading to probable surpluses in later years.



Apply today! [bit.ly/62substitutes](https://bit.ly/62substitutes)

### Seeking substitute teachers



District 62 invites you to apply to serve as a substitute teacher. It's a perfect opportunity for those wanting to spend time with students, earn extra dollars and give back to public education.

Questions? Contact: Sylvia Ortega at [ortegas@d62.org](mailto:ortegas@d62.org) or 847.824.1136

## District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

The Board members of the District 62 Foundation would like to wish each and every business and family connected to District 62 the very best. We know these are difficult times and we hope that everyone is finding the support they need to get through the challenges they face.

Each year, the Foundation supports District 62 staff and students by offering competitive grants for the teachers in District 62. In the 2019/2020 school year nearly \$29,000 in grant money was awarded. When student learning went remote at the end of March 2020, not all the grants had been completed. About 80% of the grant associated activities had been completed, 10% had to be cancelled all together based on the individual circumstances of the grant, and 10% are on hold.

While the future of the postponed grants is uncertain, the future of the District 62 Foundation grant program is not. The District 62 Foundation mission is to “preserve and enhance educational opportunities” for district students. It is the Foundation Board’s intention to resume that mission and reinstate the grant program once students can engage in enriching educational opportunities safely.

As members of the community and long time supporters of District 62 we wish the District 62 administrators and staff continued success and fortitude in these difficult times. We look forward to better days ahead and hard work on behalf of the District 62 students.

For more information on ways to support the District 62 Foundation go to [www.d62foundation.com](http://www.d62foundation.com)