

NewsBits

January 2019



District 62 students celebrate Computer Science Education Week



Students throughout the district were provided with the opportunity to participate in computer science exploration activities that included the Hour of Code as part of Computer Science Education Week that began December 3.

Students utilized analog tools (i.e., paper and pencil), laptops, iPads and robotics to explore computer science concepts and wrote their own lines of code.



“District 62 has participated in Computer Science Education Week activities for the last four years, originally focusing on the concept that everyone can code. Today, the focus extends to creativity and computer science,” said Chief Technology Officer Adam Denenberg. “In addition, our sixth and seventh grade students are provided coding instruction utilizing Apple’s Swift Playgrounds curriculum as part of the Instructional Technology curriculum. This is an exciting week for our students and we look forward to empowering them with technology.”

Activities included an “unplugged” coding without a digital device, and a “plugged” coding with a digital device activity titled Dance Party from the [Code.org](https://code.org).

More information about Computer Science Education Week can be found at: <https://csedweek.org/>

Give us a holler

We hope you enjoy the winter edition of NewsBits. As always, feedback is welcome. Please e-mail Director of Community Relations Jennifer Tempest Bova: bovaj@d62

District begins focus on implementation of five-year strategic plan

The Board of Education formally approved a five-year strategic plan for District 62 on June 18,



2018. This is where our work truly begins. Within the five strategic plan goals, 13 priorities have been defined for the district to assess and analyze. This fall, the district formed action plan committees to plan, study and define next steps.

The five Action Plan Teams will focus on the following Goals/Strategies:

Goal 2, Strategy 2: Continuously enhance social, emotional and health needs.

Goal 3, Strategy 2: Build trust, confidence, support and relationships within the work environment to impact staff health and well-being.

Goal 3, Strategy 3: Assist staff identify, use and reflect on key data sources to monitor and report progress and drive instructional decisions.

Goal 4, Strategy 1: Improve communication and collaboration with families and the community through clear expectations, engagement, input and ownership.

Goal 5, Strategy 1: Equitably allocate resources to meet the needs of all students and ensure the district continuously improves.

We look forward to beginning this exciting journey with all of you this fall which cannot be a success without the input and support from our staff, families and community.

A public dashboard has been created for the purpose of allowing public access to student achievement, financial, and other data that are important to you as a community member.

Our district is focused on student performance, district environment, and finance and resources. This dashboard allows the public to view the district's progress toward each of our five district goals. We invite you to view our [ECRISS Dashboard](#) so you may monitor District 62's progress to date.

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1: **Student Growth and Achievement**

Engage all students in learning that leads to academic growth, achievement, and readiness for high school, college, career, and life.

Goal 2: **Learning Environment**

Provide personal support to each student to develop the skills and confidence to be self-sufficient learners.

Goal 3: **Work Environment**

Provide personal support to each staff member to develop the skills and confidence to be innovative, exemplary, and visionary leaders of the district and their profession.

Goal 4: **Family and Community Connections**

Engage families and the community as partners to support student success.

Goal 5: **Resources**

Effectively, efficiently, and equitably manage the district's facilities and financial resources.

Kindergarten Registration: Save the date

Kindergarten registration will be held February 5 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Parents should go to the school in their home attendance area to register their child. Kindergarten students who will enter District 62 for the 2019-2020 school year must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2019.



FinanceBits

The Board of Education adopted the 2018 tax levy in the amount of \$74,029,000. This is a 6.93% increase over the prior year and it is based on the increase in the 2017 Consumer Price Index, Urban (CPI-U) of 2.1% and the projected increase in new construction within the district. It should be noted that taxpayers on existing properties within the district will see an increase of approximately 2.1%.

A public hearing was held on December 17 prior to the Board voting on the final levy.

Seeking substitute teachers

District 62 invites its community to consider applying to serve as a substitute teacher to support those staff who are on long-term leaves. In addition to these long-term roles, the district has day-to-day substitute positions available for your consideration. Be part of the District 62 community. Click here to begin the process: <http://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 or 847.824.1136

Every Student Succeeds Act site

In 2015, the federal legislation known as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was formally adopted. This legislation replaces No Child Left Behind and brings with it a main focus on equity. Illinois formalized its ESSA plan in 2017.

Districts across the state have a complex task ahead as we learn about ESSA, its requirements and how we can best support ALL students.

District 62 has created a webpage that serves as a resource of information about ESSA and will be updated frequently with facts, links and helpful reading materials about this legislation. Click [here](#) to begin learning.

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

The District 62 Education Foundation was founded in 2001. The 501c3 charitable organization is separate from School District 62. It was established to support and enhance educational opportunities for District 62 students.

The primary way the Foundation supports the staff, and therefore the students, of District 62 is through Foundation grants. The grant program was initiated in the Foundation's first year. That first year, three grants were awarded, each grant being \$150. Since that time, the Foundation has awarded hundreds of grants totaling close to \$300,000. The Foundation receives money through staff donations, private donations, bequests, endowments, and its annual Benefit.

Some of the grants currently in progress include flexible seating for Special Education classrooms and monthly community outings. Multiple classrooms of students will take field trips to Chicago's most renowned museums including the Chicago History Museum, Lizzadro Museum, Adler Planetarium and Shedd Aquarium. STEAM and interactive-based theatrical performances, math games and activities, and literacy night/reading programs at the middle schools round out the current educational extracurricular experiences.

Save the dates:

- The Foundation will host a chess tournament on **February 2** at Iroquois Community School. Details [here](#).
- The Foundation's annual benefit dinner will be held **March 1** at Café la Cave. For more information on how you can support the District 62 Education Foundation's work or to learn more about the Spring Fling please visit www.d62foundation.com.