

NewsBits



June 2019

62 Ignite Innovation initiative begins this fall

In a few months, classrooms throughout District 62 will participate in Phase 1 of a new initiative to provide students with 1:1 iPad devices for the purpose of enhancing and extending student learning at school and at home.

“62 Ignite Innovation allows us to focus on anytime, anywhere learning,” said Chief Technology Officer Adam Denenberg. “We are excited to collaborate with approximately 80 teachers this fall



who will help lead this initiative before it is formally introduced the following school year.”

The iPad provides tools for students to access information, collaborate, and create projects to present their views and ideas on their learning for an authentic audience. In addition to the built-in cameras and an audio recorder, apps such as Keynote, Clips, Pages, Explain Everything, and Seesaw allow students to express their understanding in new and creative ways.

“Engagement and quality of work has been shown to increase when students have a choice in how they demonstrate their learning and when they receive feedback in an enriching environment,” said Denenberg.

Professional development was provided for teachers this past spring and additional training and support will take place this fall.

“We are very excited to introduce this initiative next school year,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul E. Hertel. “Students need the proper tools in order to learn in new and creative ways. We look forward to watching this initiative come to life in our classrooms and beyond.”



62 Ignite Innovation Vision Statement

Provide all learners across the district a 1:1 tool to increase engagement, promote student voice and choice, and ignite creativity in school, at home, and beyond.

Alignment with District 62 Strategic Plan

The 62 Ignite Innovation initiative aligns with the 5-Year Strategic Plan including the areas centered around student engagement and student voice.

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

Strategy One: Increase opportunities for student voice, engagement and responsibility in being an active participant in their learning.

Learn More

For more information on this program, including a video on what this will look like, please visit our website:

bit.ly/62ignites

District 62 welcomes new administrators to the team

Kelly Krueger will become the Principal of Iroquois Community School this July. Krueger has served as Principal of Central Elementary School for the past 10 years.



During her time at Central, she was an integral part of the implementation of the district's 5-year Strategic Plan that was adopted in 2018, supported a new model of co-teaching for English Learners and enhanced the school's use of student data to drive instructional decision-making.

"I have heard wonderful things about the staff, students and families at Iroquois and look forward to providing academic experiences for children at Iroquois that are rigorous and relevant," said Krueger. "I've had wonderful, enriching experiences at Central and will miss the learning community. I look forward to becoming part of the Iroquois family and am humbled to have this opportunity to embrace this role."

Erica Cupuro was named Principal of Central Elementary School, replacing Kelly Krueger who was named the Iroquois Community School Principal.

Cupuro has held various roles in the district including that of student services coordinator, building psychologist, psychology department chair, and curriculum coordinator. During her time in District 62, Cupuro not only completed her internship at Central school, years later she served as the psychologist for the school.



"I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to lead Central School. Mrs. Krueger and her staff have done an amazing job for the past 10 years," said Cupuro. "I recognize that I have big shoes to fill, and am up to the challenge. While I have had the privilege to work

in every school in District 62 over the past 20 plus years, Central school is near and dear to my heart."

Panagiota "Patty" Tzortzis joins Algonquin Middle School as their new assistant principal.

Tzortzis was the assistant principal at London Middle School in Wheeling School District 21. Prior to that, she served as the coordinator of instructional technology and Spanish teacher in Evanston/Skokie School District 65. She also taught Spanish at Deerfield High School and spent a year teaching abroad in Mexico.



"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to join the Algonquin Middle School team," said Tzortzis. "I look forward to collaborating with staff, students and families to nurture individual strengths and facilitate social emotional growth, as well as promote academic excellence."

Dr. Margo Giannoulis will be the Principal of North Elementary School, replacing Denise Fernandez who retired last school year.

"It is an honor to be selected as the Principal for North Elementary in a district that perseveres for the success of all students," said Dr. Giannoulis. "I am committed and excited to meet and serve the parents, staff and students in District 62."

Giannoulis began her teaching career as a law and history teacher at Kenwood Academy in Chicago for ten years. She began her principal residency program in 2011 at Phoenix Military Academy. Since 2012, Giannoulis has turned around multiple elementary and high schools in Chicago with teams of teachers, parents, students, and by involving the community.



Jill Dzik will join the District 62 team as a Student Services Coordinator.

Dzik comes to District 62 after having spent four years in District 64 as a Student

Services Coordinator. Prior to that, Dzik served as a special education teacher and a behavior specialist in both the Chicago suburbs and Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“I am honored to join the Department of Student Services in D62,” said Dzik. “I look forward to meeting the staff, students, and community, and to begin forming partnerships to make great positive change for students.”

FinanceBits

With summer upon us, District 62 is closing out fiscal year 2019 in the business office and continuing to plan for fiscal year 2020. Throughout the schools and buildings, summer cleaning and improvements are now underway. Related to long-term debt, the district is investigating using its Fund Balance to pay down some of the existing debt and then refunding the remainder which has the potential to save the district over \$11 million in interest payments over the life of the debt. Discussions continue regarding how to best address the needed improvements at the Administration Center related to safety, security and plumbing.

Seeking substitute teachers

District 62 invites its community members 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

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

The [District 62 Education Foundation](#) Board gathered this summer for its annual strategic planning session. Board members met to discuss goals and plan events for the upcoming school year. This school year, the Foundation was able to support the students and staff of District 62 in a variety of ways:

- The Foundation awarded \$750 grants to each school in honor of the parent support groups that exist in many of the district schools. The Foundation's request was that the money be used for a cultural arts or STEAM assembly. Many schools took advantage of the program and students were treated to maker space activities, performing arts presentations, as well as engaging hands-on science experiments.
- For the second year in a row, a \$2,500 competitive grant was awarded to one school principal. This year's recipient was Colleen White, Principal of Cumberland Elementary School. The grant funded a visit by renowned and award-winning author Laurie Lawlor. Following her first visit to Cumberland, she returned on several other occasions to conduct writing workshops for grade 3-5 students.

The District 62 Education Foundation will award grants for the 18th year this fall. Certified staff members of District 62 compete for grants up to \$1,000 to fund various programs that enhance learning opportunities for students in their classrooms. The applications are accepted through August, then decisions are made by a panel of judges and money is awarded in September.

For information about how you can get involved in serving on the District 62 Education Foundation Board, please contact President Elizabeth Murphy at murphy@d62.org

Behavioral specialist roles expand in D62

As District 62 continues to maintain its focus on supporting all students, a critical role was introduced this school year in the form of a Behavioral Specialist. This position was designed in an effort to provide intensive support to the district's most challenging special education students, assist with self-contained programs, and respond to students in crisis from the general education setting who have been identified as needing intensive behavioral intervention.



Allie Brand took on the role this fall and has had such success

that the district will add another Behavioral Specialist to the team for next school year.

Brand worked with the C.A.S.E. Special Education Cooperative upon graduating from Elmhurst College. She remained with the cooperative, as a middle school and high school teacher, in their alternative school, for seven years. During that time, she obtained a Masters Degree from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Forensic Psychology. Brand later worked in District 41 as a self-contained emotional disabilities teacher.

"Allie Brand has done a phenomenal job supporting our students, classroom teachers and administrators, understanding behavior but also responding to student needs when they arise," said Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Ellen Swanson.

"While much of this role is seen as crisis support, this role also focuses on providing proactive and supportive strategies in the classroom through professional development, grade level teams or even at the building level when a particular school sees a need in their population for their students."

This year, Brand worked with 100 students and 250 staff. The addition of another position will provide comprehensive support in order to see situations through more thoroughly.

"It was an honor to be chosen as the first in-house behavior specialist for District 62," said Brand. "This district has a reputation for having unparalleled social-emotional supports, which made this opportunity all the more appealing. This specific job has evolved as the year has progressed. Each day presented itself with different student profiles, that required individualized problem-solving and programming. The one constant that has remained, has been the effort and true dedication that the teams working with these students display.

"Although there have been many accomplishments this year in regards to student behaviors, the most challenging part of this job has been the inability to support programming with fidelity. I am beyond thrilled to have Jenny Walsh as a partner next year, and look forward to learning from the specific skill-set that she has to offer the students and staff in the district."

A familiar face in District 62, Jennifer Walsh begins her new

"This role also focuses on providing proactive and supportive strategies in the classroom through professional development, grade level teams or even at the building level when a particular school sees a need in their population for their students."

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Ellen Swanson

role this fall. She previously served as a social worker at Cumberland Elementary School for the past decade. Walsh has experience working with many district programs and has a Masters Degree in Social Work and a Masters Degree in Child Development. For the past four years, Jenny has served as a district-wide trainer in Crisis Prevention Institute techniques and has become a district trainer in Ukeru in the past year.



"I know Jenny Walsh will be greatly missed at the building level by staff and students," said Swanson. "However, in her new role, all of the children and staff in our district will receive her support."

"I am thrilled and honored to take on the role of Behavioral Specialist for the 2019-2020 school year," said Walsh. "I have a passion for supporting students to grow and achieve to their fullest potential. I look forward to meeting new staff and students throughout District 62. Working with Allie this year has been a very positive experience and I am excited to collaborate with her. I feel lucky to work in a school district that places social-emotional development at the forefront."