

# NewsBits



Spring 2022

## Superintendent Paul Hertel to retire at the end of June

After 35 years in education, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul E. Hertel will begin a new chapter of life in retirement.

“I admit I’m facing a mixture of emotions with this retirement,” said Dr. Hertel. “District 62 has been my family for many years and I will leave with so many wonderful memories. I could not ask for a better team of educators. I have been so impressed with their dedication, especially during such challenging times.”

Dr. Hertel became part of the District 62 family in 2006 when he joined the Human Resources

Department as a Director. He was named Assistant Superintendent in 2007 and two years later, became Associate Superintendent where he served as lead negotiator with all four labor groups, supervised and evaluated principals and participated in a \$109 million district master plan renovation. Prior to joining District 62, Hertel served 19 years in School District U-46 in Elgin. In U-46 Hertel taught third and sixth grade in the elementary schools and then taught for one year at Abbott Middle School. He became an administrator in 1996, serving as an assistant principal at Abbott Middle School, and was an elementary principal for seven years at Wayne Elementary School from 1999-2006.



Please join us as we celebrate  
Dr. Paul Hertel’s retirement and  
welcome incoming Superintendent  
Dr. Michael Amadei.

Reception: 5:30 p.m., June 21  
Westerhold Early Learning Center.

Refreshments will be served, with  
the program beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
Please RSVP to Tracy Sommerfeldt at  
sommerfeldt@d62.org or  
(847) 789.5102.

Dr. Hertel was named the Superintendent of Schools in June of 2018, having served as interim in 2017. During his tenure as Superintendent, Dr. Hertel successfully negotiated a five-year teacher contract, implemented a five-year Strategic Plan, oversaw the implementation of a district technology initiative that gives students access to 1:1 learning and led the charge to be among one of few school districts that offered in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year. He maintained contact with staff, developed a quarterly Superintendent Council in order to establish trust and also convened a community task force in the fall of 2020 that focused on the safe return of students back to in-person instruction.

“I never thought I’d lead a district during a global pandemic,” said Dr. Hertel. “We have had to shift our focus in so many ways, on so many occasions. I have heard from staff, families and the community about how they’ve been impacted by the pandemic. This has been one of the most challenging times as a school administrator and I know I will leave this district having learned so much from this experience.”

When Dr. Hertel retires on June 30, Dr. Michael Amadei will take on the role as Superintendent of Schools.

“I have great confidence in Dr. Amadei and know he will have a vision for this district that will lead to extraordinary accomplishments,” said Dr. Hertel. “Dr. Amadei cares deeply about children, staff and the families we serve. His compassion will be an asset to his position and I look forward to seeing this district soar in the future.”

Dr. Hertel will look forward to traveling this fall, working on his golf game and supporting others working in the field of education when he can.

“I will always see myself as an educator and will leave this district with many special memories,” said Dr. Hertel. “However, I am ready for retirement. It’s time for a new beginning.”

## 2022-2023 calendars updated

### First day of school

Iroquois Community School: July 13, 2022

10 month schools: August 15, 2022

### Election Day

November 8, 2022 has now been declared a state holiday. School will not be in session.

### Veterans Day

School will be in session on November 11, 2022. District 62 will honor those who have served our country on this school day.

### Winter break

December 22, 2022 through January 6, 2023

### Last day of school

Iroquois Community School: May 31, 2023

10 month schools: May 31, 2023

The revised 2022-2023 calendars for our 10-month schools can be accessed [here](#).

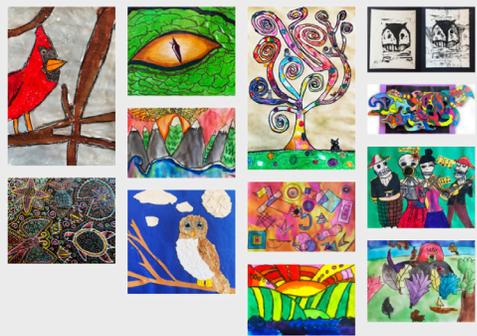
The revised 2022-2023 calendars for Iroquois Community School can be accessed [here](#).

## Student artwork featured as part of Gallery 62

Congratulations to those students whose artwork was selected to be featured as part of Gallery 62:

- **Jairus Enage** (Algonquin Middle School)
- **Hadley Smith** (Central Elementary School)
- **Ashir Arsalan** (Chippewa Middle School)
- **Caitlyn Thommes** (Cumberland Elementary School)
- **Noelle Greenhow** (Forest Elementary School)
- **Bianca Gava** (Iroquois Community School)
- **Charlie Metzler** (Iroquois Community School)
- **Lily Lawpattanapong** (North Elementary School)
- **Wiktor Zawadzki** (Orchard Place Elementary School)
- **Sebastien Garcia** (Plainfield Elementary School)
- **Leila Keo** (South Elementary School)
- **Mia Martinez** (Terrace Elementary School)

The Gallery 62 Art Exhibit was introduced in 2008 as a way to recognize works of art created by District



62 students under the guidance of district art teachers. The Board of Education presents the original art to the parents or guardians during eighth grade promotion ceremonies.

The 2022 Gallery 62 artwork can be viewed [here](#).

## District 62 recognizes its 25-year employees

- **Saul Argudo** (North Elementary School)
- **Pamela Carrico** (South Elementary School)
- **Dawn Cory** (Westerhold Early Learning Center)
- **Donald Dudek** (Chippewa Middle School)
- **Patricia Hanrahan** (Plainfield Elementary School)
- **Laura Hayek** (Orchard Place Elementary School)
- **Francesca Liberti** (Orchard Place Elementary School)
- **Siri Nelson** (Iroquois Community School)
- **Gary Niemiec** (Cumberland Elementary School)

## District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

It is great to have summer upon us! Time to get out and enjoy the weather and enjoy each other's company once again.

Typically the [District 62 Foundation](#) is not active in the summer when school is out of session. Our work of offering grants to teachers, in order to enhance the educational opportunities for District 62 students, takes place during the school year. The Foundation Board members would like to encourage people to get out over the summer and support some of the people in the community that have been so supportive of our organization throughout the school year.

Ron Onesti and his O-show team members were big supporters of the District 62 Foundation. There are many great shows coming to the [Des Plaines Theater](#) in the coming months. Take in a show and enjoy this historic building and the fantastic entertainment that is right on our doorstep.

The [Des Plaines History Center](#) has many interesting historical displays that will instill pride and nostalgia in your soul. The dedicated staff is very knowledgeable and makes the experience fun for all ages.

Local businesses were a large part of our fundraising success. [R.C. Wahl Jewelers](#) has supported the Foundation for years. [Village Bank and Trust of Des Plaines](#) is one of our newer partners but is making up for lost time. Show them support by paying their storefronts a visit.

All of these organizations supported us, and the community we live in, throughout this past school year. It would be nice for them to know we, and the families of District 62 students, support them back. Make it a great summer . . . one to remember.

To learn more about the Foundation visit [d62foundation.com](http://d62foundation.com).

## D62 receives \$1 million from tech buyback partner Diamond Assets

Community Consolidated School District 62 is proud to announce it was the recipient of funds that will go directly to support future technology needs.

The district received a check in the amount of \$1,085,018 for its recent upcycling of the district's older Apple technology from [Diamond Assets](#), a trusted Apple technology sustainability partner. The funds will be reinvested in future technology needs to help ensure that students, teachers, and staff of District 62 remain with the highest-quality technology going forward.

In November 2021, Diamond Assets purchased more than 6,400 Apple products from District 62. Based on the number and condition of the technology products, the district earned more than \$1 million which will be reinvested in new technology.

Diamond Assets works with school districts, higher education institutions, businesses, and government agencies to buyback their older technology and provide them with a long-term technology game plan to reinvest those funds into new technology.

"We are thrilled to accept this check on behalf of our students, teachers, and taxpayers of District 62," said Dr. Paul E. Hertel, Superintendent of Schools. "We recognize that now, more than ever, ensuring our teachers and students can communicate and engage through the newest technology is critical. This buyback program allows us to continually enhance the learning environment for all in the district."

The Apple products collected from District 62 are securely data-wiped, sanitized and updated, as appropriate, and then resold – or upcycled – to other organizations or agencies. It provides considerable equity to other schools and organizations around the world which buy the newly upcycled products.

"The quality of the products from District 62 were very well cared for which allowed us to provide them over one million dollars through our buyback program," said Tim Schigar, Director of Procurement for Diamond Assets. "Our mission is to provide schools with a path to sustainable technology and this school district is a perfect example of the priority they place on their students and their community."

"Both teachers and students need a constant stream of fresh technology in order to thrive, and there are individuals who can benefit from the newly upcycled products," said Diamond McKenna, President of Diamond Assets. "Rather than worrying about what to do next with their equipment, we want educators to focus on what they do best: helping children learn. This is exactly what District 62 is doing."



From left to right, Diamond McKenna, CEO; Dr. Paul Hertel, Superintendent of Schools; Adam Denenberg, Chief Technology Officer; Keith Schmidt, CRO; Dr. Timothy Schigur, Director of Procurement - Education

## District 62 recognizes its Difference Makers

Last year, District 62 began a formal recognition program to honor those staff members considered “Difference Makers” who are a defining example for the learning community of District 62. 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. We thank our Difference Makers for doing a great deal for others without seeking recognition or acknowledgment. They make the District 62 learning community a better place through their dedication, commitment and support of public education.

Congratulations to our spring **District 62 Difference Makers:**

**Kristan Krupinski** is the definition of a Difference Maker. She never hesitates to lend a helping hand. Kristan puts her heart and soul into the Educational Life Skills department. District 62 is so lucky to have her.



**Claire Asher** and **Abby Rowley** have supported Cumberland during a critical time. They help any child or staff in need as they fill a social worker absence in the school. We appreciate everything Claire and Abby do.

**Diane Robinson**, aka DRob, has made such an incredible impact on generations of students at Plainfield through her music classes. She knows each and every student by name as well as something uniquely special about each child.

**Lucy Campos** is always willing to lend a helping hand. She is patient, kind, and understanding with her students. She takes on her assigned duties then goes above and beyond to help our school in any way she can.

Three cheers for **Jeannie Pantelin** and **Sue Duffy** from Cumberland. These teachers have worked together to help children learning at home last year transition into school this year. They truly made a huge difference.

## FinanceBits

Since March 2020, the district has incurred higher expenses related to COVID-19. Some of these costs are offset by additional federal funding. State revenues have been more timely in the last year. The State of Illinois has increased revenues over the last year and the state has been more current in paying its bills, this too is partially the result of increased federal funding in response to the pandemic. Like other institutions and individuals, District 62 has seen larger increases in expenses due to higher inflation. The district remains in strong financial condition and it will successfully manage pandemic and inflationary challenges.