

NewsBits



Winter 2021

District 62 in-person learners back in school

Welcome to 2021. I know many of us have been looking forward to beginning a new year. I am very hopeful about the next several months. On January 19, we welcomed back approximately 2,000 students back into our schools five days a week. As I walked through our schools that day, I quickly realized that for both students and staff alike, they were eager to return and very happy to be engaged in the classroom. I continue to be highly impressed with our staff and their commitment to supporting students, whether they are in the classroom or learning remotely. We understand that each of our families have different circumstances. We are here to serve as a resource always.

I was also very happy to see nearly 600 of our staff receive their first vaccine on January 31 thanks to a partnership with the Frisbie Senior Center and Jewel-Osco Pharmacy. February 21 marked the second dosage for our staff and I feel strongly that this will be a huge step forward for our district.

It's hard to believe that next month marks one year since the pandemic began. We have accomplished things that I never thought were possible and have worked extremely hard to help others. I continue to be amazed at how our community partners have supported us and collaborated and know that these relationships are ones that we will value always.

To our families, thank you for entrusting us with your children. We will continue to do everything we can to keep our schools safe for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Paul Hertel'.

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



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 winter District 62 Difference Makers:

Forest Elementary’s paraeducators **Lucy Edwards, Robert Bachar, Marcia Schiavone, Ruth Conklin, Wendy DeVitto, Erica Bosley** and health clerk **Kathy Framke**. Through meal distribution, instructional support, materials distribution for remote learners, bus supervision...these individuals have gone above and beyond to support teachers, students and community!

As she implements Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI), **Peggy Martin** makes a remarkable difference in students’ lives, ensuring they become readers! What a gift she is giving them -- a gift that will last a lifetime. Not only that, but Peggy has also humbly agreed to share a video of one of her LLI lessons as her techniques have been identified as exemplary, allowing principals and fellow reading specialists to continue their professional learning in high quality reading intervention practices. Bravo, Peggy! You are a valuable asset to students and staff alike.



Congratulations to **Colleen Nielson** (Central Elementary School) and **Catherine Wiemann** (Algonquin Middle School). These individuals renewed their National Board Certification, a rigorous process that is also the highest professional certification a teacher can have. We applaud you both.

A shout out to **Kathy Ryan**. She is the heart of the district’s Community Relations department and has done a great deal of work behind-the-scenes to celebrate staff, especially during these challenging months. Kathy doesn’t expect the recognition, but she certainly deserves it.

The head custodian at Plainfield Elementary **Alex Korte** goes above and beyond the call of duty every day! He keeps our school sanitary and safe, removes all the snow and ice, and is a valued member of our Plainfield family. Mr. Korte is a Difference Maker. Plainfield Elementary thanks him for his dedication and service, and is very grateful for all he does!



English Language Learners Coordinator **Elizabeth Juskiewicz** has gone above and beyond to support student learning during this pandemic. She has partnered with families to support them to set-up home learning environments, directly worked with students to assist them with their learning, and collaborated with teachers and principals to design the best possible lessons for students.

Check out the D62 annual report



The 2019-2020 Community Consolidated School District 62 annual report is now available online in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Polish](#). The annual report features fast facts about the district, financial updates and a student data overview. It also includes a review of the Year 2 implementation of

the five-year strategic plan which was adopted by the Board of Education in June of 2018.

Online registration now open

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for all students, including those new to the district. **New this year:** In addition to any students new to District 62, Kindergarten students will begin their registration process online. Families must register via the district's web-based parent portal before making an appointment to visit their home school and provide necessary documents that include proof of residency, birth certificate and health forms. More information can be found on the district website, www.d62.org

Additional information about District 62's online registration process can be found here: [rebrand.ly/62onlineregistration](https://www.d62.org/62onlineregistration)

FinanceBits

The Board of Education adopted the 2020 tax levy in the amount of \$78,443,000. This is a 6.95% increase over the prior year and it is based on the increase in the 2019 Consumer Price Index, Urban (CPI-U) of 2.3% 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 2.3. A public hearing was held on December 14, 2020 prior to the Board voting on the adopted levy.

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

Greetings from the [District 62 Foundation!](#)

At this time last year we were putting the finishing touches on our annual fundraiser that took place on March 6th. We had a wonderful event and raised money to support the staff and students of District 62 through our grant program. Shortly after that, many things changed and students were educated via a remote learning platform. It became impossible for the Foundation to provide some of its longtime programs for students such as musical conferences for band and orchestra students, field trips, school assemblies etc., as we have done faithfully for the past 20 years.

With the world opening up again, we are pleased to announce that the Foundation Board will begin to focus on the 2021/2022 school year. We will once again offer grants to District 62 staff members and promote exceptional programs that enhance the education of District students. With the success of our fundraising event in March 2020 we will be able to continue to make a meaningful difference in students' lives and how they see the world. We look forward to the opportunity.

We have watched from the sidelines with great admiration as School District 62 staff continue to provide excellent support and a superior education for all its students. We are looking forward to once again being part of the District 62 strong educational experience. Congratulations to every staff member of the district, you should be very proud. We appreciate all you have done and continue to do.