

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Downers Grove Grade School District 58
We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

2018



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MEET THE DISTRICT 58 BOARD OF EDUCATION



The District 58 Board of Education holds monthly public business meetings, typically held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at a District or Village facility.

- Doug Purcell**, President
dpurcell@dg58.org
- Elizabeth Sigale**, Vice President
esigale@dg58.org
- Kirat Doshi**
kdoshi@dg58.org
- Greg Harris**
gharris@dg58.org
- Darren Hughes**
dhughes@dg58.org
- John Miller**
jmiller@dg58.org
- Jill Samonte**
jsamonte@dg58.org



Learn about the Board's meeting agendas, committees, policies, meeting minutes and more by visiting dg58.org and selecting the "School Board" tab. Contact the entire Board of Education, via Board Secretary Melissa Jerves, at 630-719-5803 or boe@dg58.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in a safe, nurturing, and child-centered environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society.

CORE BELIEF STATEMENTS

- Each student is capable of learning and deserves to be educated and challenged to reach his/her highest potential.
- Education is the foundation for success, both in academic achievement and social emotional development.
- Within each child, we will cultivate the social awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making skills necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- Educators, students, families, and community members should work together to support the healthy development of all students.
- The school environment should be stimulating and engaging, with opportunities for creative, collaborative, and meaningful learning experiences.
- The school environment should be safe, friendly, and nurturing, where everyone comes to learn, grow, and develop.

VISION STATEMENT

We Envision a school district that inspires children, sparks creative and innovative thinking, celebrates diversity, and builds visionaries.

We Seek an education that excites minds, touches spirits, challenges abilities, and prepares our children for life.

We Believe every child should be expected to grow, stretch, evolve and embrace the challenges of the future in a global environment.



SUPERINTENDENT'S GREETING

Dear District 58 Community Member,

It is a very exciting time to serve the District 58 community! This past school year, the District completed work associated with its 2011 Strategic Plan and kicked off a community-wide effort to develop its new 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. This effort, called Vision 58, asked community members to share their vision for District 58's future to help guide our pursuit of excellence. We received a tremendous community response, and I thank everyone who participated.

VISION 58 STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORT:

47 FOCUS GROUPS **575** PARTICIPANTS **1,900+** COMMENTS

2,463 ONLINE SURVEYS COMPLETED BY PARENTS, STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



All of this community input helped inform the 2018-22 Strategic Plan, which the Board of Education approved in May 2018. This summer, teams of teachers, parents and administrators developed the plan's annual action objectives and accountability measures to ensure we keep on track. We look forward to updating the Board and community with our progress over the next four years. This publication's stories will offer the community a snapshot of District 58's success completing the 2011 Strategic Plan's priority areas, which focused on student learning, social-emotional learning, technology, and facilities and finances. This publication will also highlight the new goals that the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan charges us to complete:

GOAL 1: Focusing on Learning: Enhance and support learning to meet the needs of all students.

GOAL 2: Connecting the Community: Cultivate and strengthen community relationships by focusing on communication, collaboration and consistency.

GOAL 3: Securing the Future: Provide safe and effective learning environments in fiscally-responsible ways.



Thank you again for your support of excellence in education. Learn more about District 58's 2018-22 Strategic Plan at dg58.org/vision58. Learn more about the recently-completed 2011 Strategic Plan at dg58.org/2011strategicplan.

Sincerely,
Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

FOCUSING ON LEARNING IN DISTRICT 58

The 2011 District 58 Strategic Plan's first priority area focused on Student Learning (Curriculum, Instruction and Programming).

Since 2011, the District has achieved many goals that support and enhance student learning, including: implementing new Common Core-aligned math and ELA curriculum resources, creating the Biliteracy Program, increasing the instructional day by 20 minutes, starting the Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program, developing a digital citizenship curriculum, launching several new special education programs and much more. Learn details about the District's annual student learning progress on the 2011 Strategic Plan website at dg58.org/2011StrategicPlan.



The District community reaffirmed its commitment to student learning in the 2018 Strategic Plan with its Focusing on Learning goal:

2018-22 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1:

Focusing on Learning: Enhance and support learning to meet the needs of all students.

This goal includes objectives related to rigor, curriculum, alignment and commitment. Learn more about this goal and progress at dg58.org/vision58.

SPOTLIGHT ON BELLE AIRE

District will fully implement new ELA resources in the fall

Tara Fulton, a third grade teacher at Belle Aire, enjoys finding creative ways to enhance learning in her classroom. For example, to complement an Advancement in Technology unit, her students hosted an "Invention Convention" this spring.



"Students researched an inventor, developed and delivered a first-person speech, and reproduced a replica of the invention their inventor was most famous for," Fulton said.

With the Invention Convention, Fulton's students exercised creativity, research, writing and communication skills while demonstrating their knowledge. Fulton used District 58's rigorous new elementary English-Language Arts (ELA) curriculum resource, Benchmark Advance, to guide this instruction.

"The new ELA resources gave my students new opportunities to learn, collaborate and share," Fulton said. "I am able to better differentiate my instruction to challenge each student to do his or her best. I am excited to use these resources again next year!"


Last school year, a few elementary classrooms from each school and all middle school ELA classes used the new resources, as part of a soft rollout that incorporated teacher ELA professional development. In addition to the Benchmark Advance resources, the District also introduced StudySync ELA resources for students in grades 6-8. The District is fully implementing the new ELA materials districtwide during the 2018-19 school year.


"These new ELA resources provide students more rigorous, Common Core-aligned material and assessments, as well as offer teachers more opportunities to meet the needs of all learners," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul.

IN OTHER CURRICULUM NEWS

During the 2018-19 school year, District 58 will make the following curriculum adjustments to better serve student and staff needs:

 **1ST AND 2ND GRADE ART INSTRUCTION:** increase from biweekly to weekly classes.

 **3RD-6TH GRADE P.E. INSTRUCTION** increase from 2 classes per week to 3 classes per week.

 **TEACHER PLANNING:** While students participate in their additional art or physical education class, 1st-6th grade classroom teachers will have a new weekly opportunity to collaborate and plan meaningful instruction with their grade level teaching partners.

FOCUSING ON LEARNING

District 58 continues to achieve academic excellence

District 58 students take the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP, assessment every fall, winter and spring. The test evaluates students in math, reading and language usage. Nationally, the median District 58 student scores at the:



91% of parents say: "My child is getting a quality education."





View District 58's new Points of Pride flyer for more celebrations and data citations at dg58.us/pointsofpride.


Looking ahead: this October, the State will officially publish District 58's 2017-18 PARCC assessment scores, in conjunction with its school district report card. District 58 looks forward to sharing the results of this mandatory state assessment with the community.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEES MAKE PROGRESS


District 58's curriculum committees, which comprise administrators and teachers, met several times this school year to plan and improve the District's curriculum. Here's a brief summary of their accomplishments:

 **THE MATH COMMITTEE** regularly reviewed the math blueprint, identifying specific areas to enhance based upon performance and assessment data. The math blueprint provides all District 58 schools with a consistent guide to the District's math curriculum.

 **ELA COMMITTEE** members synthesized feedback around the first phase of ELA resource implementation (see page 4) as they prepared materials to support professional development activities for next year's district-wide resource implementation.

 **THE STEM COMMITTEE** explored and evaluated several curricular resources to support Next Generation Science Standards-based instruction, and plans to pilot the top options as well as design high-quality professional learning for District 58 teachers during the 2018-19 school year. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math.

 **THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE** developed recommendations for revisions to the exploratory course offerings. They plan to finalize their recommendation and create curriculum for these potential classes during the 2018-19 school year, with the goal of implementing the classes in 2019-20.

 **THE NEWLY-FORMED SOCIAL STUDIES COMMITTEE** met for the first time and reviewed the Social Studies Learning Standards and built the foundation for the committee's future work.

FOCUSING ON LEARNING**District focuses on social-emotional learning at all grade levels**

What's best for kids? District 58 2018 Teacher of the Year Patti Cepeda reflects on this question often. For the majority of her 29-year District 58 career, Cepeda worked as a special education teacher. However, in 2013, she accepted a new opportunity: to serve as the District's first behavior specialist. In this role, Cepeda worked with teachers to address individual and class-wide student behavioral issues.

"Patti's specialized skillset and natural abilities as a collaborator make her an asset to any team digging into student behavior and looking for creative and out-of-the-box solutions," said Jessica Stewart, assistant superintendent for special services.

Creating a districtwide behavior specialist position was one of several goals District 58 established as part of its Student Well-Being/ Social-Emotional Learning Strategic Plan priority area in 2011. In addition, District 58 has:

- Integrated the Responsive Classroom model for elementary students. This framework helps schools promote academic, social and emotional growth. For example, all elementary classrooms start their day with a morning meeting to set the tone for respectful learning. Many elementary schools also lead a School Families program, which creates groups, or "families," of children representing all grade levels. The families meet regularly and discuss positive social-emotional themes.
- Implemented the Second Step curriculum resource for all students, including preschoolers. This resource provides all teachers with age-appropriate curricular lessons related to bullying prevention, digital citizenship, empathy, communication, respect and more.
- Began analyzing School Environment Survey and 5Essentials Survey results to guide district and school improvement efforts, particularly in the social-emotional learning areas. According to the results, 97% of surveyed students said their teacher cares about them and 94% of parents said their child's school environment is supportive and inviting.
- Added growth mindset lessons into the social-emotional learning curriculum. A growth mindset helps students see mistakes not as impenetrable roadblocks, but rather as a natural part of the learning process.

Learn more about social-emotional learning at dg58.org/social-emotional-learning.

**SPOTLIGHT ON HENRY PUFFER****Henry Puffer running clubs promote social-emotional skills**

Henry Puffer Teacher Andrew Kupisch started a new running club last fall for fifth and sixth grade boys. The club blended physical activity with social-emotional learning lessons, complementing the skills learned in the classroom. During their final club session, the Downers Grove North Cross Country state champions visited the boys, cheering them on and sharing some personal insights into their successful season.

Meanwhile, Henry Puffer's Girls on the Run Club finished their second season. This club is modeled after the nationally-recognized Girls on the Run organization, which empowers girls to be happy, healthy and confident through running and other positive activities.

**FOCUSING ON LEARNING****District 58 integrates technology into curriculum**

Consider the modern workforce. Whether one works in an office, the field or a classroom, technology has grown ubiquitous and vital to most industries' success. Likewise, District 58 remains committed to teaching students technology skills that will be integral to their future studies and careers. As part of its 2011 Strategic Plan Technology for Teaching and Learning priority area, District 58 piloted a 1:1 technology program in winter 2013. This program provided participating students with an iPad, which teachers used to complement instruction. Over the next two years, the District expanded the program districtwide and trained teachers to integrate the technology into their daily instruction. With an iPad, students enjoy new opportunities to collaborate with peers, explore augmented reality, create educational multimedia and much more. In fall 2017, older iPads were replaced with Chromebooks at the middle school level.

This summer, the Board of Education reinvigorated the 1:1 program by approving a technology refresh, which will provide new 1:1 iPads with a keyboard for students in grades 3-6; 1:1 iPads without keyboards for grades 1-2; and 2:1 iPads for kindergarteners. Middle school students will continue to use existing Chromebooks. The refresh will also give teachers additional technology training and support to ensure that the devices are used consistently across classrooms. Learn more about the District's 1:1 technology refresh at dg58.org and view the May 2018 and June 2018 Board Briefs.

**HOME GROWN EXPERTS****Indian Trail team publishes educational technology series**

Six Indian Trail teachers and staff co-wrote NOW Classrooms, an innovative book series on educational technology. The team collaborated with 19 other Chicagoland educators to create the five-part series, which aims to help educators incorporate technology into their instruction.

"The books help educators to differentiate lessons for ability and/or grade levels where teaching and learning come first and technology fits naturally into the lessons," said Beth Hatlen, a NOW Classrooms co-author and Indian Trail reading specialist. "Technology should never stand alone. It should be authentically integrated in a meaningful way throughout all lessons."

The series received positive feedback and has sold **1,785 copies** to school districts worldwide, including some copies here in District 58. Learn more at dg58.us/nowclassrooms.



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY IN DISTRICT 58

2018-22 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2:

Connecting the Community: Cultivate and strengthen community relationships by focusing on communication, collaboration and consistency.

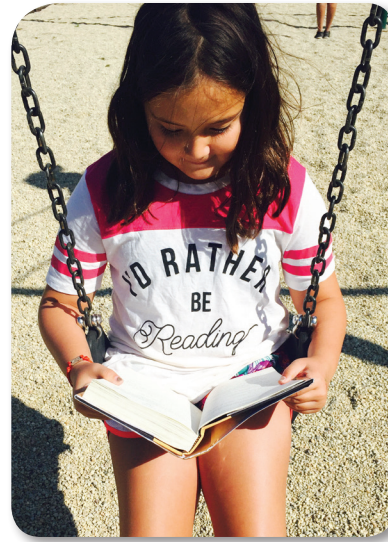
The District's new Strategic Plan aims to improve community engagement. Through this goal, the District aims to improve communication, collaboration and consistency.

Communication: Foster a culture of trust by proactively and openly sharing District processes, decisions, and information in a transparent and timely manner.

Collaboration: Improve engagement and outreach connecting the community, staff, administration and Board of Education to achieve their shared mission.

Consistency: Develop systems to promote equity and consistency of the student learning experience.

Learn more about this goal at dg58.org/vision58. The District will provide goal updates to the Board and community throughout the school year and share this progress on this website.



KEEP UP WITH DISTRICT 58

District 58 communicates with the community through a variety of channels, including:

WEBSITE: Visit dg58.org for up-to-date news and information.

COMMUNICATE 58: During the school year, District 58 publishes its award-winning newsletter, Communicate 58, about every two weeks. Sign up to receive it at dg58.org.

BOARD BRIEFS: The District summarizes each Board meeting through its Board Briefs newsletter. This newsletter is emailed to all parents and posted on the District homepage. The District's website also includes audio for all Board business meetings and workshops.

SOCIAL MEDIA: The District shares timely, pertinent information on its Facebook (www.facebook.com/district58) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/dgdistrict58) pages, as well as video on its YouTube (www.youtube.com/DownersGrove58) channel. Please follow us!

SEESAW: Many District 58 teachers use Seesaw to communicate with parents. Seesaw is a digital portfolio app that gives parents real-time access to their child's work and an overview of what students are learning. District 58 aims to implement Seesaw in all classrooms by 2019-20.



COLLABORATE WITH DISTRICT 58

District 58 encourages all community members to engage with the school district. Opportunities include:

ATTEND A BOARD MEETING: The Board of Education holds monthly business meetings, in addition to regular workshops and special meetings. Business meetings generally take place the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at a District facility or Village Hall. All Board meetings offer a Reception of Visitors, during which the public may make comments. During Board workshops, the Board offers an extended opportunity for community dialogue. View the calendar at dg58.org/meeting-calendar.

JOIN A GROUP: In fall 2018, the District will recruit new members for different school district groups, including the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council and possibly Board of Education committees. Joining a District group gives community members an opportunity to more directly collaborate with district leadership. See the website this fall for more information.

TAKE A SURVEY/SUBMIT INPUT: The District administers a school climate survey to parents, students and staff each winter. District and school leadership use survey results to guide school improvement efforts, and results are posted at dg58.org/surveys. The District will post information about this year's survey window in late fall. Not a parent, student or staff member? District 58 welcomes all stakeholder input and invites community members to submit feedback on individual schools to the school principal or general school district feedback to Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt at mhewitt@dg58.org.

JOIN THE PTA: If you are a District 58 parent, joining your school's PTA offers a great way to get involved, learn more about your school, and meet other parents. Visit dg58.org/ptaschools for more information.

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

Trimester shift aims to enhance parent-teacher conferences, communications

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Dr. Jayne Yudzentis collaborated with teachers and administrators to brainstorm ways to make parent-teacher conferences and communications more meaningful. This review yielded a recommendation to shift the District to a trimester schedule, which will allow conferences to take place before the first report card is issued.

"We want to shift the focus of parent-teacher conferences to be more about student learning, and less about grades. We hope this will help our parents better understand what their child is learning and how they can best support their child earlier in the school year," Dr. Yudzentis said. Dr. Yudzentis added that staff also felt that the trimester schedule will give students additional time to demonstrate mastery of skills. District 58 will share more information about this shift in fall 2018. View a Board presentation regarding parent partnerships in communication and reporting at dg58.us/parentpartnerships.

58 DOING GOOD SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Students help with hurricane relief

District 58 has a strong history of serving not only the local community, but also those in need nationally and internationally. This fall, schools united to help victims of hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma. All District 58 schools participated in "Hats for Houston," raising roughly \$12,500 for Hurricane Harvey relief. Schools allowed students to wear hats for the day in return for making a donation to the American Red Cross.

Pierce Downer students, parents, staff and teachers joined together after school to test and pack solar lanterns with phone plug-in capabilities and headlamps to help victims and first responders. They partnered with Watts of Love, a Downers Grove organization that works globally to provide light and electricity for families and homes without power.

Whittier students Vivan and Naya started a program called Bracelets for Dominica. With friends, the girls made and sold handmade bracelets and donated the proceeds to help the Commonwealth of Dominica, which was affected by Hurricane Maria.

These are just a couple ways District 58 helped with hurricane relief this year. Thank you for your service! Read more service stories on the 58 Doing Good page at dg58.us/58doinggood.



Education Foundation's KOHA app connects with community

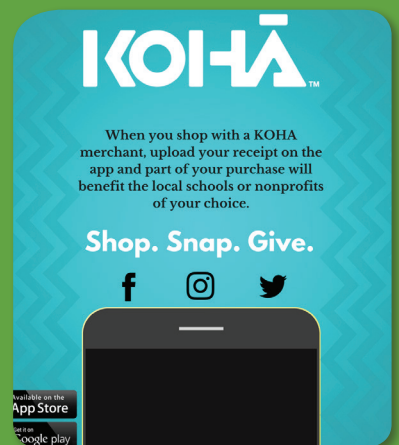
This past year, District 58 Education Foundation members created the KOHA loyalty program app and piloted it in Downers Grove. KOHA fundraises for District 58 schools, supports local businesses and awards users points toward exclusive deals and freebies. More than 25 local businesses in and around Downers Grove have already joined KOHA.

KOHA is easy to use:

- Download KOHA Life in the App Store or Google Play.
- Choose the school you would like to support.
- Shop a local business in KOHA.
- Snap a picture of the receipt and a portion of your purchase goes to the school of your choice.
- Earn rewards points that you can use at ANY KOHA merchant in the app.

Learn more about KOHA at www.koha.life.

Learn more about the Education Foundation at www.58foundation.org.



SECURING THE FUTURE IN DISTRICT 58

District 58's fourth priority area in its 2011 Strategic Plan focused on Facilities, Finance, Operations and Maintenance.

District 58 made tremendous progress toward achieving this priority area's goals. Since 2011, the District developed a comprehensive facilities report, resolved capacity concerns at Lester and Pierce Downer schools, upgraded its front door security systems, started a school radon and lead testing program, and, when faced with state budget cuts, made districtwide efforts to spend responsibly without decreasing staff. The District presented a balanced tentative 2018-19 budget to the Board of Education during its August meeting. This tentative budget includes about \$68 million in both revenues and expenditures. The Board is expected to vote to approve the budget at their Monday, Sept. 10 meeting, following an open budget hearing. View the budget at dg58.org.

Although District staff have worked hard to maintain facilities and the budget, this area will continue to be a priority throughout the 2018-22 Strategic Plan. Over the next 22 years, District 58 will need \$75 million to fund necessary building maintenance. The new Securing the Future strategic goal will address this need and others:

2018-22 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3:

Securing the Future: Provide safe and effective learning environments in fiscally-responsible ways.

Guided by this goal, the District will create a focused and long-term facility improvement plan that ensures safe, modernized and effective learning environments for all students. The plan will especially consider facility issues important to the community, including improving safety/security, installing air conditioning, transitioning to sixth-through-eighth grade middle schools, improving class size with enrollment projections and analyzing district facility use.

This goal also challenges the District to ensure sufficient financial resources to reinvigorate and sustain District facilities, support quality programming, and attract and retain highly effective staff.

View more information about this goal on the Strategic Plan website, dg58.org/vision58.

LESTER SPOTLIGHT

Lester celebrates three-classroom addition

The project added:

3 CLASSROOMS

ADA-COMPLIANT BATHROOMS

FLEXIBLE RESOURCE SPACE

"This project has been a long time coming," said Board Member John Miller. "It's something we talked about when I first joined the Board (in 2009), and it's been thoroughly examined ever since. I'm happy to see this improvement move forward."

Learn more about the Lester project at dg58.us/lesterproject.



Crews spent this past summer building the Lester addition.

SECURING THE FUTURE

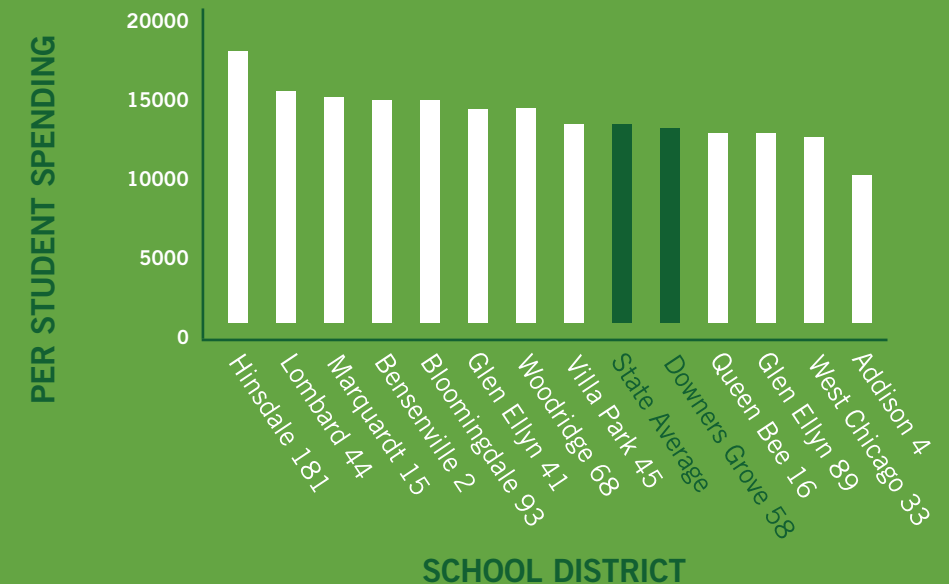
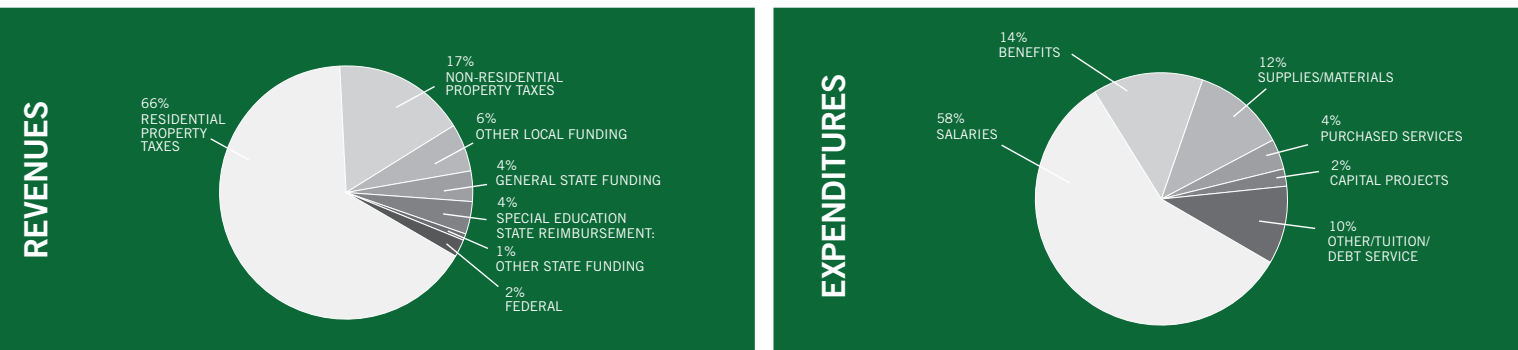
District 58 money facts

- District 58 spends **\$12,702 PER STUDENT**. The average Illinois school district spends **\$12,973 PER STUDENT**. (Source: Illinois Report Card)
- District 58 has **THE FOURTH LOWEST PROPERTY TAX RATES** among DuPage County's 29 elementary school districts. (Source: DuPage County Clerk Tax Rate Booklet)
- District 58 is **TAX CAPPED**. This means that the District cannot increase local revenues more than the Consumer Price Index, or CPI. In recent years, inflation has outpaced the CPI.
- The Illinois State Board of Education awarded District 58 a "Financial Recognition" rating, its **HIGHEST FINANCIAL STRENGTH RATING**, for 17 straight years.
- Moody's Investors Services awarded District 58 an **AA1 RATING**.



District 58 spending

Source: 2017-18 District 58 budget (prior to audit adjustment)



Source: Illinois Board of Education, www.illinoisreportcard.com

This bar graph compares District 58 to all large DuPage County elementary districts, as defined by the Illinois Board of Education.

CELEBRATE 58

District 58 students learned a lot during the 2017-18 school year! Here are a few of the many exciting stories happening in our schools. Learn more information about each of these topics, as well as other District 58 school news, at dg58.us/stories.

HIGHLAND STUDENT WINS NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS CONTEST

The national chapter of PTA Reflections presented Asha G., a Highland second grader, with an Award of Excellence for her short film, called "My Ultimate Ninja Dream." This award is the PTA Reflections' program's highest honor, and Asha was one of only three elementary students in the nation to receive it. Reflections is a national PTA arts recognition and achievement program for students. Through Reflections, students in preschool through 12th grade are invited to submit works of art in six areas: Dance, Film Production, Literature, Music, Photography and Visual Arts.



HILLCREST STUDENTS DESIGN INSTRUMENTS WITH AN EAR FOR SOUND

Hillcrest fifth graders spent time studying sound in science this year. They demonstrated their learning in a very creative way: The students fashioned instruments using everyday household objects, like rubber bands, PVC pipes and glass bottles. They applied their newfound knowledge on volume, pitch and tension to guide their design. When finished, they tested their instruments with their peers, and explained how the instruments worked using key vocabulary related to sound.



"It's always impressive to see the creative and thoughtful ingenuity that goes into these instruments," said Hillcrest Principal Michelle Rzepka.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS EXPLORE AUGMENTED REALITY

Last December, El Sierra first graders chased dinosaurs, while Highland and Kingsley third graders swam through bodies of water. Fairmount fifth graders explored DNA up close, while Lester sixth graders embarked on a Mt. Everest hiking expedition.

How? Google's Expeditions Augmented Reality Pioneer Program team brought its Expedition AR app into these five District 58 schools. Students received mobile devices with Google's built-in augmented reality, or AR, technology. The AR technology mapped the classroom's physical space and placed 3D objects throughout the room. Students used the devices to walk around and explore the objects. While this activity was fun, it also served important educational purposes. Teachers could select which Google AR experience they wanted for their students to explore, tying it in to their current curriculum. For example, Katie Cronquist's El Sierra second graders explored natural habitats.



"We're studying habitats in science right now, and the Expeditions AR experience is helping the students immerse themselves in different habitats without leaving the classroom," Cronquist said.



PIERCE DOWNER COLLABORATES WITH IXL

Jamie Lindberg's second grade classroom at Pierce Downer joined a national IXL challenge last spring and placed 20th out of 13,000 classrooms. IXL is an educational app that challenges students with adaptive and personalized math and reading questions. Lindberg's students shared that IXL helped them enjoy math and reading more, and it gave them opportunities to collaborate with peers to solve problems.

"Students would tell me how they set up playdates just to practice IXL with their friends, setting alarms to wake up early and squeeze in a few more questions before school, and begging me to stay in at recess to answer just a couple more questions!" Lindberg said. **"The students also built each other up, and helped one another set goals for at home practice. They inspired me!"**



WHITTIER SIXTH GRADERS USE 3D COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN TO SOLVE REAL-WORLD PROBLEM

How do you keep a glue stick from rolling off your desk? Whittier Librarian Kelly Coleman, Instructional Coach Megan Ryder and Downers Grove North Technology Teacher Tony Ciezadlo challenged Whittier sixth graders to find an answer.

The students formed groups and brainstormed common glue stick product challenges and possible solutions. They took precise glue stick cap measurements with dial calipers and created their designs using Tinkercad CAD software. They printed their prototypes using a 3D printer that Coleman received through an Education Foundation grant. Finally, the students presented their designs to their classmates, demonstrating why their product did the best job solving the challenge. A panel of judges, including their principal, a teacher and an engineer, voted on the best designs and presented the winners with the Golden "Glube" Awards.



WGN VISITS LESTER'S MIX-IT-UP DAY

Doreen Arlow's Lester fifth graders joined Our American Voice, a national educational program that teaches civics and empowers students to organize an action project that improves their school or community. For their action project, Ms. Arlow's students chose to hold two Mix-It-Up Days last spring during lunchtime. This project encourages students to sit with someone new at lunch and strike up a conversation. Its goal is to get students to move outside their comfort zones and befriend someone who might not have as many friends.

"A lot of kids found out how similar they were to each other and enjoyed each other's company. We got good reviews and the students learned a lot about each other," reflected fifth grader Ada.



The students' project gained local attention: WGN reporter Erin Ivory visited during the second Mix-It-Up Day and aired a positive news story on the students' efforts!

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS CLUBS EXCEL

District 58 middle schoolers can stretch their creativity, engineering and math skills by joining Robotics Club. Each spring, the schools participate in the University of Illinois Extension/4-H Robotics Challenge. This year, Herrick's Robotics Club earned the Team Spirit Award and the Most Creative Award. In addition, their club's sponsor, Science Teacher Jill Henry, received recognition for her five years serving as a 4-H Robotics Club sponsor. O'Neill's Robotics Club won the Teamwork Award and the Judge's Choice Award. The latter award is given to a team that most clearly explains their thought process for designing and engineering the robot.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Way to go District 58 staff!

THE DGEA TEACHER'S UNION named PATTI CEPEDA the 2018 Teacher of the Year. Cepeda recently retired from District 58 after serving the District's special education programs for 29 years.

"Her outlook on challenging behaviors is always positive, and she is consistently open to collaborating and providing insight into student needs," said Caitlin Choinski, a Highland School social worker and one of Cepeda's Teacher of the Year nominators.

Kingsley Acting Principal ELYNN CUNNINGHAM and O'Neill BEST Teacher KATELYN MORGAN received the Education Foundation's Distinguished Service Award (DSA) in May 2018. This year's DSA ceremony also recognized 24 District employees, who were each nominated by a parent, student or colleague.

THE DOWNERS GROVE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB (DGJWC) awarded four \$500 grants to District 58 teachers for innovative programs and continuing education opportunities. Teachers who received the grants include: TRACY CAPRARO (Highland), CAITLIN CHOINSKI (Highland), JENNIFER GORMAN (Kingsley), CARLI HOCHSTETTER (Kingsley), CHRISTINA GAMBOA (Kingsley), JESSICA ATKINS (Herrick), BERNICE HOMEL (O'Neill) and GENEVIEVE HAHN (Herrick).

THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION awarded 16 grants totaling more than \$10,000 to 18 teachers last school year. The grants fund STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) resources, PE equipment, musical instruments and tools, and classroom libraries and reading resources.

Congratulations to the 66 employees who received GREEN APPLE AWARDS during the 2017-18 school year. The Green Apple program invites the community to make a donation to the Education Foundation in honor of a special District 58 employee. Each recipient received a Green Apple Award card, with a personalized message from the gift giver. In addition, the Green Apple Award winners are celebrated on the District's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/district58.



SCHOOLS OF DISTRICT 58

Belle Aire School
3935 Belle Aire Lane
630-719-5820

Henry Puffer School
2220 Haddow Ave.
630-968-0294

Hillcrest School
1435 Jefferson Ave.
630-719-5840

Lester School
236 Indianapolis Ave.
630-719-5855

Whittier School
536 Hill St.
630-719-5865

El Sierra School
6835 Fairmount Ave.
630-719-5825

Herrick Middle School
4435 Middaugh Ave.
630-719-5810

Indian Trail School
6235 Stonewall Ave.
630-719-5845

O'Neill Middle School
635 59th St.
630-719-5815

Grove Children's
Preschool
is housed at Indian
Trail and Henry
Puffer schools.
Learn more at
dg58.org/preschool.

Fairmount School
6036 Blodgett Ave.
630-719-5830

Highland School
3935 Highland Ave.
630-719-5835

Kingsley School
6509 Powell St.
630-719-5850

Pierce Downer School
1436 Grant St.
630-719-5860



NEW FACES IN DISTRICT 58

Welcome new administrators!

TODD DRAFULL, District assistant superintendent for business/chief school business official

KEVIN BARTO, District director of buildings and grounds

KATIE HANNIGAN, District manager of business services

CHRISTINE COLLINS, Pierce Downer principal

LAURI COLE, Hillcrest and Pierce Downer assistant principal

STEPHANIE DORNAN, Herrick assistant principal

Administrative team changes:

MELISSA SAWISCH, Kingsley principal



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER (general administration)

1860 63rd St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-719-5800

- DR. KARI CREMASCOLI, Superintendent of Schools
- DR. JAYNE YUDZENTIS, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel
- JESSICA STEWART, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
- TODD DRAFULL, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO
- KATIE HANNIGAN, Manager of Business Services
- MEGAN HEWITT, Community Relations Coordinator

LONGFELLOW CENTER (technology, buildings and grounds)

1435 Prairie Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-719-5867

- JUSTIN SISUL, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- JAMES EICHMILLER, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning
- KEVIN BARTO, Director of Buildings and Grounds
- GEOFF NEUSTADT, Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds



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DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60516
WWW.DG58.ORG | 630-719-5800

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District 58 2018-19 Calendar

August 20-21	Teacher Inservice Days*
August 23	First Day of Classes–Full Day
September 3	Labor Day*
September 20	School Improvement Day–Half Day
October 8	Columbus Day*
October 9	Morning Teacher Inservice Day; Afternoon and Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences*
October 11	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 16	End of First Trimester
November 12	Veterans Day Observed – School in session
November 19-23	Thanksgiving Break*
November 26	Teacher Inservice Day*
Dec. 24-Jan. 4	Winter Break*

January 7, 2019	Classes Resume
January 15	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 17	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 18	Teacher Inservice Day*
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *
February 18	Presidents Day*
February 28	End of Second Trimester
March 1	Teacher Inservice Day*
March 25-29	Spring Break*
April 1	Classes Resume
April 19	No School
May 9	School Improvement Day – Half Day for Students
May 27	Memorial Day*
June 12**	Last Day of School

*No school for students

** June 6-12 are Emergency Days and may be declared holidays if not needed for emergencies. If no Emergency Days are used, the last day of school will be June 5, 2019.

District 58 seeks substitute teachers!

Earn up to \$110 per day.
Enjoy a flexible schedule!



Visit dg58.org/subs to learn more.

We hope you find this annual publication to be informative and useful, and we welcome your feedback. If you have a question about this or any other District 58 publication, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt at mhewitt@dg58.org or 630-719-5805.

DISTRICT 58 PARTNERED WITH USPS TO DELIVER THESE REPORTS FOR ABOUT \$.09 A HOUSEHOLD.