

2016

Annual Report to the Community



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



58 educates: pp. 3-6 Learn updates about District 58's curriculum, report cards, assessments, kindergarten enrichment, preschool, social-emotional learning and other special programs.



58 innovates: pp. 7-9 Learn how innovative resources, such as Genius Hour, iPads and instructional coaches, have enhanced learning.



58 allocates: pp 10-11 Learn how the District balances its budget and determines its facility projects.



58 celebrates: pp. 12-13 Learn about the many accomplishments that our schools, students and staff have achieved this year.



58 collaborates: p. 14 Learn how the Education Foundation supports student learning through their Teacher Grants Program (pictured above) and other services.

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Dear District 58 Community Member,

Thank you for your continued support of District 58's mission! We have a lot to celebrate as we reflect on the 2015-16 school year and look forward to 2016-17.

Across the District, our teachers and staff have worked hard this year to grow minds, inspire learning and shape the character of the incredible young people we serve. We did this each day with passion, enthusiasm and joy, and our students' bright smiles, love of learning and academic accomplishments provide us with many reasons to celebrate.

This Annual Report captures an overview of the programs, services and people who carry out District 58's mission, vision and core beliefs. Read on to learn about our outstanding curriculum and innovative services, including our recently expanded kindergarten enrichment program (page 5), our social-emotional learning programs (page 6), advancements in our curriculum (page 3) and the Genius Hour concept several teachers use successfully (page 7). Flip to pages 10-11 to learn about the District's budget and facilities projects, and see pages 12-13 to read about our school, student and staff achievements.

Each day, District 58 works hard to provide a high-quality education that meets all students' needs. Thank you for helping to support our students' achievements together. I wish you all a restful conclusion to summer, and I look forward to a great school year in 2016-17!

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

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.

District 58 at a glance

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 serves approximately 5,000 preschool through eighth grade students from Downers Grove and portions of Darien, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Westmont and Woodridge, in its 11 elementary schools and two middle schools.

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.

58 EDUCATES

District challenges students to think critically



District 58 finished another successful year of learning and growth! In the classroom, teachers focused on challenging and encouraging students to reach their highest potential. Outside the classroom, teachers and administrators

worked collaboratively on the District's many committees to evaluate and improve the curriculum, while following the state's Common Core Standards.

At Herrick and O'Neill middle schools, students experienced their first taste of learning with the state's new Next Generation Science Standards. This inquiry-based approach allowed students to investigate different scientific phenomena, develop questions about the phenomena, and follow up with a variety of teacher- and student-created experiments. These learning experiences allowed students to truly "think like a scientist" and do similar work to actual professionals in the field. For example, in the photo to the right, Jill Henry's Herrick seventh graders experiment to see if corn labeled "Non-GMO" grows differently. Throughout the year, students built engineering structures,



seventh graders deeply investigated biology, and eighth graders learned the foundations of physical science.



Elementary teachers and students continued their mathematics journey in conjunction with the Common Core

Standards. Students explored different facets of math, working collaboratively with other children to identify unique solutions to problems, explain the reasoning behind their solutions, and develop alternative methods for resolving mathematical challenges.

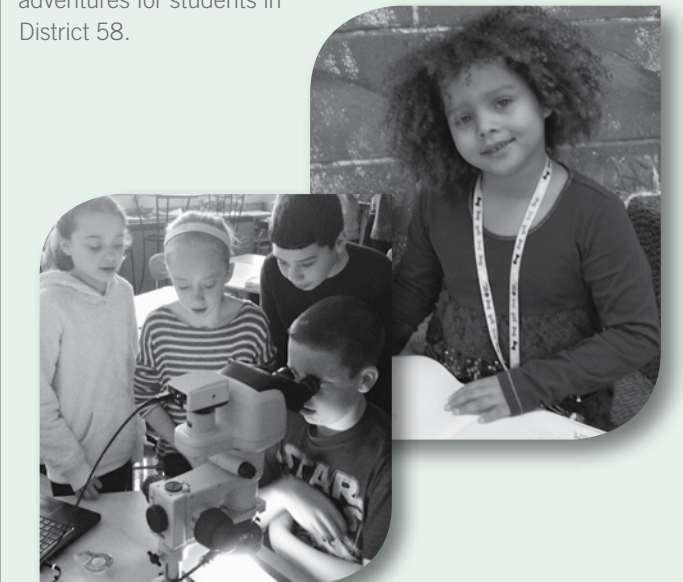


Teachers challenged children at their instructional level, encouraging students to ask thoughtful and profound questions.

Kindergarten teachers and reading specialists introduced a new foundational skills reading framework to

help students learn to decode text. Teachers provided individualized and differentiated small-group instruction, which challenged each student at their current reading level, even if the student was above or below grade level. This framework provided non-readers and readers alike the opportunity to develop new skills and enjoy reading new texts throughout the year.

Teachers and administrators continue to work on refining students' learning experiences. The English-Language Arts, Math, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) committees worked during the 2015-16 school year to develop tools and learning opportunities that will be the basis of future learning adventures for students in District 58.



Students succeed on MAP assessment

Students demonstrated strong academic gains throughout the 2015-16 school year. For the third consecutive year, District 58 used the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments to benchmark student growth and achievement. The assessments analyze students' understanding of concepts in **Reading, Mathematics and Language Usage**, giving children questions at their academic achievement level rather than simply their age level.

In the area of **Reading**, the median District 58 student achieved above the 70th percentile in 7 out of 9 grade levels. Students grew at an above average rate in Reading, with 62 percent of students meeting their growth targets (national average is 50 percent) and earning as a group 20 percent more growth points than average matched students.

In the area of **Mathematics**, the median District 58 student achieved above the 70th percentile in 4 out of 9 grade levels. Students grew at an above average rate in Math, with 60 percent of students meeting their growth targets (national average is 50 percent) and earning as a group 12 percent more growth points than average matched students.

The **Language Usage** assessment is administered in second grade and beyond. In this area, the median District 58 student achieved above the 70th percentile in 5 out of 7 grade levels. Students grew at an above average rate in Language Usage with 65 percent of students meeting their growth targets (national average is 50 percent) and earning as a group 26 percent more growth points than average matched students.

"We continue to be very proud of how our students are learning and growing throughout the school district," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Matt Rich. "These assessments are simply one celebration of the fantastic accomplishments of District 58 students, teachers and families." Learn more about the MAP assessment in the July 2016 Board Briefs, located at www.dg58.org.

District improves report cards

This upcoming school year, District 58 report cards will be shorter and simpler. The District is making these changes after considering parent input and recommendations from its two Report Card Committees.

District 58 formed two Report Card Committees in the 2015-16 school year to review and improve how the District reports student progress information to parents. The committees, comprised of administrators and teachers from all District 58 schools, reviewed grading and reporting practices and surveyed District 58 parents to gain additional feedback. A brief summary of the work completed and future plans was shared with all staff and the Board of Education in June 2016.

Elementary Report Card Committee Update: For the 2016-17 school year, the elementary report cards will continue to include information related to standards, non-academic factors such as work habits and social skills, and letter grades for grades 3-6 for reading, language arts/writing, science and social studies. The Elementary Report Card Committee is meeting throughout the summer to continue refining the math section of the report card and plan for teacher professional development.

Middle School Report Card Committee Update: For the 2016-17 school year, the middle school report card will contain letter grades in each subject, returning to the format from the 2014-15 school year. Progress reporting will include electronic access via PowerSchool to parents regarding student achievement.

Committee Work 2016-17: Both committees will continue to work during the 2016-17 school year to make additional report card improvements for years to come. The goal is to develop a report card that shares progress in relation to Illinois Learning Standards and Common Core State Standards; accurately and clearly reflects student achievement; and is communicated in a manner that is easily understandable by students and parents.

The Report Card Committees will develop draft report cards that meet the above criteria. The committees will gather feedback on the draft report cards from both teachers and parents during the 2016-17 school year, with the goal of implementing the revised report cards in the 2017-18 school year.



District expands kindergarten enrichment program

District 58's Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program, or OKEEP, will expand district-wide for the 2016-17 school year.

OKEEP offers kindergarteners academic enrichment in literacy, math, social studies and science, as well as exploration in physical education, music, socialization and play. Participating kindergarteners attend District 58's existing half-day kindergarten program in the morning. They continue to OKEEP enrichment in the afternoon.

District 58 piloted OKEEP at its five Title 1 schools during the 2015-16 school year. OKEEP teachers noticed that the extra enrichment has been transformative for their students' learning and a welcome opportunity to explore.

Indian Trail OKEEP Teacher Beth Hatlen incorporates science technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities into her enrichment each day.

"The children are engineering and building things," Hatlen said. "They are creating elaborate science experiments and using advanced problem-solving skills to figure out how to build things and improve upon what they've already created."

Likewise, Henry Puffer OKEEP teacher Carrie Murphy noticed how the enrichment program has helped her students with reading and writing.

"I now have more time to spend on writing lessons, and I've noticed major improvements in my students' writing skills, compared to where they were at this time last year," Murphy said.

Likewise, a survey of kindergarten parents in Title 1 schools found that 96 percent of OKEEP parents believed the program provided excellent or good value for their children.

OKEEP is an optional, fee-based enrichment program, although eligible families may receive a fee waiver. Learn more about the Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program at www.tinyurl.com/okeep1617.



Grove Children's Preschool enhances curriculum

Preschool qualifies for gold rating on state audit

District 58's Grove Children's Preschool serves more than 200 children at its Henry Puffer and Indian Trail school locations. The preschool team recently made several key improvements to its curriculum, including an increased emphasis on center-based learning, social-emotional learning, handwriting, phonemic awareness and science-based learning activities.

The preschool team also improved its parent communication by adding the parent password-protected app, Seesaw, into their classrooms. Seesaw provides a digital portfolio highlighting each student's interactions and achievements. Teachers snap photos of students engaged in learning and post the photos to the app.

"Seesaw pulls the parents into the classroom, and they are able to witness what their child is doing on a daily basis," said Preschool Teacher Nancy Hildreth. "This allows the parents to watch their child's progress visually."

In addition, Seesaw shows which state standards the children are working on in a user-friendly format. For example, a photo of a child counting blocks and creating patterns might be accompanied by the standards, "Math-Counts" or "Math-Demonstrates knowledge of patterns."

"The preschool Creative Curriculum is aligned with the state standards so the parents have a clear, concise reporting system that is easy for them to access," said Preschool Coordinator Jackelyn Cadard.

Grove Children's Preschool improvement efforts have paid off—on this year's Preschool for All state audit report, the program scored so well that it qualifies for a gold rating, the highest score possible for a preschool program.

Learn more about Grove Children's Preschool at www.dg58.org/preschool. This webpage also offers registration materials and a brief virtual tour video.

Social-emotional learning prepares students for success

District 58 aims to educate all students in a safe, nurturing and child-centered environment. To this end, social-emotional learning is a critical component of daily instruction. District 58 uses the research-based Responsive Classroom model for elementary students and the research-based Second Step curriculum for children in grades PreK-8. These efforts are aided by the District's partnership with CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) and the DuPage Regional Office of Education.

The Responsive Classroom framework offers techniques to promote academic, social and emotional growth.

One technique used in all District 58 elementary classrooms is the Morning Meeting. This routine activity sets the tone for respectful learning and establishes a climate of trust. The Morning Meeting has four main components:

- 1. Morning Message:** As students enter the classroom, they read a happy message describing their learning objectives for the day.
- 2. Greetings:** The teacher invites students to greet each other. This greeting sets a positive tone and gives students a sense of belonging.
- 3. Sharing:** The teacher asks a thoughtful question, and students share their opinions and experiences. Students learn to listen and respect others' opinions, while practicing their own communication skills.

Social & Emotional Learning Core Competencies



Source: Casel.org

- 4. Group Activity:** The classroom engages in a simple daily activity—a class song, chant or poem, for example—that builds community culture and encourages inclusion.

Pre-K-8 teachers use Second Step materials to prepare regular social-emotional learning lessons for students. While District 58's elementary schools have used Second Step for several years, this curriculum was introduced at the middle school level in fall 2015. To prepare, the District offered middle school staff professional development in August 2015, with preview lesson presentations, structure and content.

Middle school teachers presented monthly social-emotional learning lessons to students. Through these lessons, students learned about bullying prevention, empathy, communication, negotiating/compromising and emotion management skills. In addition, seventh graders learned about substance abuse prevention, and eighth graders practiced goal setting.

During a November 2015 Board of Education presentation on social-emotional learning, O'Neill math teacher Dawn Magliola said she believes that O'Neill's SEL efforts are making an impact on students. "I've heard students say, 'That's not very SEL of you,' and I believe that's an endorsement of this program," Magliola said.

District's new RISE Program serves students with autism

The District 58 Special Services Department opened a new in-district program in fall 2015 designed to better instruct young students affected by autism spectrum disorders.

The Reaching Independence through Structured Education, or RISE, Program comprised one combined preschool/kindergarten classroom at Indian Trail School this past year. District 58 intends to roll out the program grade-by-grade in the coming years.

The RISE Program offers an education experience customized for students affected by autism spectrum disorders. For example, the program:

- employs staff with strong experience teaching students with autism to meet their individual needs and promote their independence.

- supports students through a team approach to teach the whole child.
- meets each student's social, sensory, academic and communication needs.
- collaborates with families and outside services to better support each child.
- uses organized, research-based strategies, as well as a data-driven environment that supports decision-making.

The RISE Program complements two of District 58's other in-district Special Services programs, the Developmental Learning Program and the Behavioral Emotional and Social Training Program. To learn more about the RISE Program, please call the Special Services Department at 630-719-5824.

58 INNOVATES

Genius Hour fosters classroom ingenuity

What interests or inspires you? Some District 58 teachers kicked off their Genius Hour units by asking their students this question. They received a tremendous response, as students eagerly shared their passions with one another.

Genius Hour is an innovative concept that a few District 58 teachers have added to their classrooms. Genius Hour gives students a set time each week to explore their personal interests and pursue creative projects in the classroom. Research shows that by giving students choice, they feel empowered to learn, which increases productivity and engagement.

"Genius Hour is beneficial to the students because it puts the power of what they are learning in their hands," said Henry Puffer Third Grade Teacher Katie Hurckes. "A lot of students rise to the occasion by reading more than they would otherwise or writing or speaking more than usual. When they are able to learn about something they are passionate about, different aspects of the child come through!"

Genius Hour involves four simple steps: Students...

1. identify a topic of interest,
2. thoughtfully create complex questions about the topic,
3. research the questions using traditional and innovative methods, and
4. share their learning with teachers and peers.

Here are three case studies:

Katie Hurckes

Third grade teacher at Henry Puffer

Genius Hour in Mrs. Hurckes' classroom is usually loud and unstructured, yet productive. Students work hard on their projects, and in the end produce really interesting results.



During Genius Hour, students:

- interviewed Mayor Martin Tully (pictured above) to learn about village sustainability
- Skyped with a Wrigley employee to learn how gum is made,
- tweeted with zoologists to learn about animals, and
- surveyed people worldwide using Google forms and social media to learn about favorite foods.

Dr. Meg Van Dyke and Kit Hamilton

Eighth grade science teachers at O'Neill

Students conduct Genius Hour research during Monday science periods. After each unit, they submit a Genius Hour research paper and bibliography (using APA style) and give a presentation to their peers. They conclude with a Genius Hour Award ceremony, pictured below.



Creative project examples:

- What are the effects of prosocial behavior?
- How do dreams affect us?
- What are black holes in space?

Christine Balagtas

Fifth grade teacher at Pierce Downer

Students form groups based on common interests. Each group selects a topic, conducts research and writes a formal essay.

A closer look:

Mrs. Balagtas' class united for one giant Genius Hour project! While studying the value of rainforests, they converted a classroom wall into a rainforest mural, pictured below.

Learn more information about Genius Hour at www.geniushour.com.



iPads transform classroom learning



This school year marked a milestone for District 58, as every student received an iPad Mini. These devices offer teachers countless ways to enhance their classroom instruction, and they let students continue their learning at home.

“iPads as individual learning devices have been an essential part of learning experiences in our District,” said Director of Innovative Technology and Learning James Eichmiller. “It gives access to curricular resources across grade levels, allowing our teachers and students to differentiate their learning in ways that would not be possible with physical resources.”

A closer look at the elementary level:

“The first grade classes at Kingsley have used their iPads to enhance their learning in so many ways!” said Cathy Seiden, a Kingsley first grade teacher. “We use apps to help us in all curricular areas, but it’s most special when we can do something with our iPads that we couldn’t do before we had them.”

Here are some examples of how Mrs. Seiden and her students use iPads to enrich learning.

- **Calendar Activities:** Students use blank **Showbie** templates to show time on a clock and mercury on a thermometer. They use **Numbers Basic** to show how many days they’ve been in school using place value blocks. They count coins and write amounts in an **Explain Everything** template.
- **Sharing:** Students take photos of their hobbies and favorite objects at home and share them with classmates.
- **Journals:** The class takes photos of a tree each month and charts its progress. They photograph caterpillars and plants to show growth over time. They proudly label and describe their learning in their **Book Creator** journals.
- **Blogging.** Students write in blogs and quickly share stories with classmates, who can easily read and make comments. Editing and writing interesting details becomes a top priority when students have an authentic audience.
- **Fluency.** Students record their voices to practice fluency and expression. They chart their progress over time.

- **Problem-solving:** Mrs. Seiden will sometimes introduce a new iPad app and ask students to explore it all together as a class. The students enjoy using problem-solving skills to discover what each app can do.

Using iPads to give students choices in middle school:

Middle school teachers also find innovative ways to incorporate iPads into the classroom. For example, Sarah Brost, an O’Neill eighth grade social studies teacher, uses iPad apps to give her students more ownership in their projects and activities. For example, students can choose from **Google Slides, Keynote, Pages, Explain Everything, iMovie, Chatter Pix, iMotion** and **Book Creator**. This allows the students to creatively show their knowledge on a specific topic. Mrs. Brost also uses the Google Classroom app in her classes.

“Google Classroom is an excellent way for me to share resources, such as links to websites for research or links to videos,” she said.

“I can also have students complete activities through the app. Google Classroom allows me to insert comments directly into the student’s document, assign a grade, and then hand the assignment back electronically. This provides instant and valuable feedback for my students without using any paper.”



Instructional coaches take instruction to the next level

When athletes need guidance on the court, their coach is there to help. Likewise, when District 58 teachers desire extra inspiration, they often turn to their instructional coach.

District 58 has four instructional coaches—Tim Frederickson, Nicole Ring, Megan Ryder and Kristen Ward—as well as one behavioral specialist coach—Patti Cepeda. Together, they provide teachers with individualized professional development. The coaching team works as colleagues with classroom teachers to support student learning and growth, as well as effective planning, instruction and assessment for learning.

A portrait of an instructional coach:

How do instructional coaches help teachers?

- **Co-planning and co-teaching.** Coaches work directly with teachers to develop tools that take the teacher’s instruction to the next level. For example, they helped one teacher develop an argumentative writing unit and another teacher create a public speaking unit based on TED talks. These are just two of many examples! The classroom teacher and instructional coach collaborate to co-teach the new material to students. These partnerships have led to enhanced learning for all students.
- **Ongoing planning and instruction support.** Coaches can create individualized planning templates that streamline a teacher’s planning process. This helps teachers better manage their time and better prepare for upcoming units.
- **New instruction implementation:** Coaches help teachers properly design and implement new types of instruction. For example, one teacher wanted to introduce the ‘flipped teaching’ concept into her classroom, and a coach guided her through the entire process.

- **Professional reflection and planning:** Coaches can videotape a lesson and share it with the teacher to identify strengths and areas for improvement. From there, the coach can support these improvements. For example, the video may reveal a need to improve a teacher’s questioning techniques. The coach can work side-by-side with the teacher to set goals related to improving her questioning practices.

- **Analyze data to guide instructional decisions.** Coaches help teachers review MAP data to determine how small groups can be formed, as well as the resources required to meet the students’ needs.

- **Behavioral specialist.** The District’s behavioral specialist coach Patti Cepeda helps individual teachers build cognitive and thoughtful techniques to help students take responsibility of their behavior. She also works with large groups of students and staff to promote problem-solving and self-sufficiency.



Instructional Coach Kristen Ward, center, leads a professional development class.



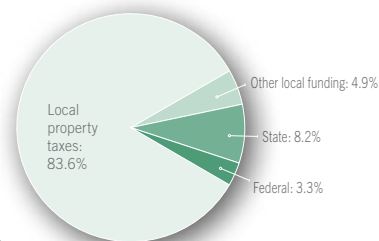
Pictured above, instructional coach Megan Ryder creates a Scratch Jr. coding challenge for Fairmount first graders. The first grade teacher and Mrs. Ryder worked together to guide the students and promote their problem solving and teamwork with coding.

Looking ahead in District 58: New website

District 58 plans to launch a new website in early 2017. The new website will serve as an effective communications tool between District 58 and the community. It will offer a responsive design easy to use on a variety of devices. Please look for more information later this upcoming school year!

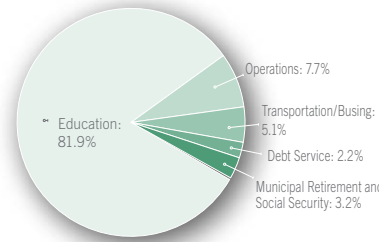
Where the money comes from:

Revenues by source



Where the money goes:

Expenditures



District 58 money facts:

District 58 provides a **high-quality education while being fiscally responsible.**

- District 58 spends **\$12,287 per student.*** The average Illinois school district spends **\$12,521 per student.****
- Over the past 10 years, state funding to District 58 has decreased from **\$7.4 million to \$4.2 million.****
- District 58 is **tax capped.** This means that the District **cannot increase local revenues when faced with state or federal cuts.** District 58 uses strategic and creative budgeting to ensure students' needs are met while maintaining a balanced budget.

*Data source: 2014-15 District 58 State Audit Reflects operational expenditures for the 2014-15 school year.

**Data source: Illinoisreportcard.com. Reflects operational expenditures for the 2014-15 school year.

58 ALLOCATES

District 58 maintains balanced budget

District 58 aims to provide all students a high-quality education in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. Three years ago, District administrators predicted that the 2015-16 fiscal year would be financially difficult, due to fewer employee retirements and continuing state budget cuts. The District responded with strategic budget changes and collaborative contract negotiations, which resulted in a balanced 2015-16 budget.

This financial responsibility has earned District 58 the state's "Financial Recognition," the highest fiscal category obtainable, for 15 consecutive years. In addition, Moody's Investors Service awarded the District an Aa1 rating and called the District's credit "excellent."

District 58 presented the tentative 2016-17 budget to the Board of Education during the April 2016 Budget Workshop. This tentative budget includes approximately \$64.8 million in normal aggregate revenues and \$65.0 million in normal expenditures, not including the Medical Reserve Fund.

The tentative 2016-17 budget factors in state budget uncertainty. The state recently passed a stop gap budget that should help District 58 retain steady funding for the 2016-17 school year, provided that state payments are paid as projected. However, school funding formula and pension cost shift conversations continue in Springfield. It's very possible that District 58 could see significant cuts to state funding or increases in local costs in future years. As District 58 is tax capped, a funding loss of the size projected by these changes would have a significant and immediate impact on the District's services.

"Any loss of state revenue will directly impact programs," said Controller Dr. Jim Popernik. "District 58 cannot make up these losses with local funding because Downers Grove is tax capped. District 58 will continue monitoring the state budget while prioritizing services and analyzing every major expense for efficiencies."

The Board of Education reviewed and approved the tentative 2016-17 budget during its Monday, Aug. 8 meeting. The tentative budget is posted online at www.dg58.org and at the Administrative Service Center.

District 58 will hold a Budget Hearing regarding the tentative 2016-17 budget on Monday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Longfellow Center, 1435 Prairie Ave. The Board of Education is expected to approve the 2016-17 budget at their regular Sept. 12 meeting, following the budget hearing.

District carefully plans maintenance projects

Summertime marks the prime time to schedule large and necessary maintenance projects to keep District 58 properties in top shape. After all, interference is at a minimum with students and teachers gone for summer vacation.

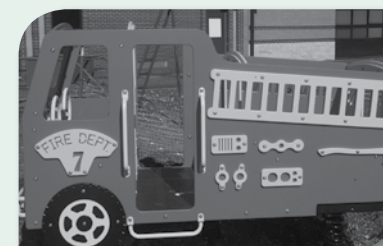
District 58 very carefully determines its summer projects each year. The District's Buildings and Grounds Department keeps a running list of necessary school projects and their priority in the official District 58 Five and Ten Year Maintenance Plans. Beyond that, District 58 conducts regular building and facility inspections. If a potential safety risk is identified, it becomes a top priority to fix.

"Buildings and sites are always inspected as to their condition," said Director of Buildings and Grounds Richard Bubula. "Relying on the professional knowledge of architects and engineers, but especially on the experience of our own mechanics, custodians and administrators, necessary repairs and their estimated costs are scheduled for future years based on their need and at a time that is most cost effective."

District 58 accomplished important facility improvements over the last five summers. Here's a brief overview:

2016 work in progress:

- **Asphalt:** Repave part of Herrick's parking lot and replace part of the Administrative Service Center's parking lot.
- **Playgrounds:** Replace swingsets at Belle Aire, Indian Trail and Pierce Downer. Excavate pea gravel and install wood chips in Fairmount's main playground area, Lester's east swings and Indian Trail's south swings. Install a fire engine playground piece at Indian Trail's preschool playground, and add a tunnel playground piece and pole game at Lester.
- **Painting:** Paint various areas of all schools.
- **Mechanicals:** Repair a boiler tube at Hillcrest and piping at Henry Puffer. Install drinking water bottle fillers at Fairmount, Henry Puffer, Highland, Indian Trail, O'Neill and Whittier. Repair a sewer line at Herrick.
- **Miscellaneous:** Install new battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors. Build and install shelving at Indian Trail and Highland. Replace a section of floor tile at O'Neill. Move a room wall divider at Pierce Downer.



Looking back:

2015

- New carpet in classroom areas at Belle Aire and El Sierra
- Reconstructed parking lot at O'Neill
- New replacement swings at Highland and Lester

2014

- Upgraded fire alarm systems at nine schools
- New flooring at Highland, Herrick and Whittier
- New rooftop HVAC units at Belle Aire and El Sierra
- Replaced boilers at Henry Puffer
- Replaced fire separation doors at O'Neill and Herrick
- Replaced the gym heating and ventilation unit at Whittier
- Reconstructed asphalt at El Sierra's playground and Indian Trail's north circle drive complete with improved storm sewers
- Replaced Whittier's parking lot

2013

- Security upgrades made to all main entrances at 13 schools and one office building
- New flooring at Fairmount, Hillcrest, Kingsley, Lester and Pierce Downer
- A three classroom addition built onto Pierce Downer
- Waterproof concrete panel construction at Administrative Service Center
- Major asphalt reconstruction at Belle Aire's playground; El Sierra's front parking lot and driveways; Fairmount's parking lots complete with new storm sewers; a major portion of Henry Puffer's front parking lot; Highland's front circle drive; Lester's front parking lots; and O'Neill's access road.

2012

- Boiler replacement at Fairmount
- Complete playground reconstruction, including new storm sewers, at Henry Puffer
- New windows, tuck pointing and steel lintel reconstruction at Herrick and O'Neill
- New gym floor and ceiling at Lester
- New second floor restroom at O'Neill
- Complete plumbing replacement at O'Neill and Pierce Downer
- Multi-purpose room doors replaced for security at Highland and Henry Puffer



58 CELEBRATES

District 58 schools, students and staff accomplished a lot during the 2015-16 school year! Here's a sample of their many achievements.

The Education Foundation awarded Distinguished Service Awards to **Kit Hamilton, O'Neill**; **Nancy Mueller, El Sierra**; and **Gail Pistello, Herrick**. The award winners and 32 award nominees were recognized during a ceremony in May 2016.

The District 58 teacher's union named **O'Neill Science Teacher Janette Syverson** the 2016 Teacher of the Year, pictured to the right.



District 58 received the Illinois State Board of Education's **highest level of financial recognition** for the 15th consecutive year.

Herrick won the conference tournament championship **at all four levels** for both **cross country and volleyball** this school year, an incredible feat! Herrick's **eighth grade girls' basketball team** also won the conference tournament championship this year!



District 58 hosted its third annual **The Reading Games** (pictured left) on March 12. Eighty-seven teams played in this friendly reading competition. Congratulations to the top-scoring teams, The Last Minute Readers

from **Hillcrest** and R is for Reading from **Indian Trail**!

Hundreds of students participated in District 58's **Science Fair** on Jan. 23. Congratulations to **Herrick** seventh graders **Lucas Marra** and **Grace Sweeney**, whose project advanced to the regional level.

The Illinois PTA Reflections art competition selected a story by **Kingsley student Abigail Culcasi** to represent Illinois at the national PTA Reflections level. The state competition also awarded nine Honorable Mentions to District 58 students from **Belle Aire, Henry Puffer, Herrick, Kingsley, O'Neill, Pierce Downer** and **Whittier** schools.

The Education Foundation's Select 58 awards banquet (pictured right) on April 6 celebrated eighth graders from **Herrick** and **O'Neill** who provide exemplary service to their school and community.



Herrick's robotics team won the state's 4-H Robotics Competition.

Four teams from **Whittier** and **Pierce Downer** were selected to compete among 1,400 teams worldwide in the **Destination Imagination Global Finals** tournament in May 2016 in Knoxville, Tenn.



O'Neill's Scholastic Bowl won the regional competition and advanced to sectionals.

Whittier fifth grader Kate Cesario earned an Honorable Mention in the 2016 National Celebrate America Creative Writing Contest. She also presented her poem, "The Everything Country," at a recent TEDxIIT Conference.

Kingsley won a new outdoor classroom and improved outdoor amenities in September 2015, thanks to a grant from Newell Rubbermaid and HandsOn Suburban Chicago, pictured right.



O'Neill Engineers finished in second place at the Argonne racecar competition.

Kingsley first grade teacher Cathy Seiden won the 2016 Outstanding Teacher Award from the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club.

Herrick students **Carissa Blumka, Julia Latocha, Conner Ryan** and **Aine Schuh**, as well as **O'Neill** student **Kira Matheson**, won awards in the Junior High Art Contest, hosted by the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club.

For the fourth consecutive year, **O'Neill seventh grader Matt Leinart** won the Illinois/Minnesota Braille Readers are Leaders Contest for Kids for reading 3,400 pages in Braille over seven weeks.

The Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) selected 35 **District 58** students to perform in its inaugural All-State Elementary Chorus in January 2016. ILMEA also selected 26 **Herrick and O'Neill students** to perform in its District 1 Music Festival, and **Herrick eighth grader Miles Teague** to perform in its Jazz Festival, in November 2015.

District 58's Community Relations Office earned four state-level awards for exceptional writing, communication and video production from the Illinois chapter of the National School Public Relations Association in September 2015.



The Grove Foundation recognized **25 fifth graders** with "Helping Children Grow" awards for their strong character and extra effort. Pictured left, the Grove Foundation poses with Henry Puffer's fifth grade award winners.

Hillcrest mom Peg Chaidez spearheaded an effort to build a new universally-accessible playground at Hillcrest. Thanks to her efforts and generous community donations, the new playground broke ground in June 2016 and will open in time for the 2016-17 school year.

Lester organized a special **Blue Balloon Day** celebration in September 2015 to honor Downers Grove police. During a school visit, Lester surprised the police with blue balloons and treats!

The **Board of Education** welcomed U.S. Congressman Peter Roskam, Sen. Christine Radogno, Rep. Patti Bellock and Rep. Ron Sandack to its annual **Legislative Breakfast** on Jan. 29. The legislators participated in a panel discussion regarding educational issues affecting District 58.

El Sierra received two 3D printers—one from the Education Foundation and other from the PTA—to enhance classroom learning and discovery.

Henry Puffer third graders used their initiative to interview Mayor Martin Tully on government and the environment for their Genius Hour project.

Several District 58 schools held successful One Book One School programs. For example, **Fairmount** united to read the children's book, "Frindle," and **Belle Aire** read "MVP: Magellan Voyage Project."

Highland raised its largest amount ever for the **American Heart Association**—nearly \$7,000—during its Jump Rope for Life fundraiser.

Indian Trail added pet therapy in fall 2015. Pet therapy enhanced instruction for small groups of students who need extra help with behavioral and communication skills.

Belle Aire won a state grant to build a **butterfly garden**. Thanks to the grant and support from parent volunteers the school held a ribbon-cutting in June 2016 to open its new garden!



58 COLLABORATES

Education Foundation gives back to the community

The Education Foundation of Downers Grove District 58 continued to support classroom innovation and reward excellence during the 2015-16 school year.

The Foundation opened the year with **Sneak Preview**, a program that introduces incoming seventh graders to middle school. The Foundation also hosted a **welcome luncheon** for District 58's new teachers and presented a **Reaching New Heights** gift of \$500 to each District 58 school.

In the fall, the Foundation awarded **teacher grants** totaling \$22,350 to 22 teachers and groups of teachers. These grants supported classroom libraries, innovative technology and other tools that enhance instruction. New this year, District 58 launched a video series, called **"A Glance at our Grants,"** that showed the teacher grants in action. View these two-minute videos at www.dg58.org/grants.

In the spring, the Education Foundation sponsored **Select 58** and the **Distinguished Service Awards** and supported **The Reading Games**. Select 58 recognized eighth graders who provide excellent service to their school and community. The Distinguished Service Awards honored District 58 teachers and staff who go above and beyond.

The Education Foundation receives support through a variety of fundraisers, sponsors and individual donations. This year, the Foundation held two major fundraisers—**Oktoberfest** in the fall and the **Spring Concert** featuring Sixteen Candles in the spring. In addition, many families made donations to the Foundation's **Green Apple Teacher/Staff Recognition Program**. The Education Foundation sincerely thanks the community for their continued support!

Save the date: the Education Foundation is expanding its popular Oktoberfest! The third annual Oktoberfest will take place Sept. 17-18 in downtown Downers Grove. The Foundation is currently seeking sponsors to help support the festival. Learn more about Oktoberfest and the Education Foundation at www.58foundation.org.



Congratulations, District 58 retirees!

District 58 thanks its 2015-16 retirees for their service and wishes them the very best with all their future endeavors!

- Alan Hartigan, Longfellow Center maintenance mechanic, 40 years
- Beverly Burnett, Herrick food service manager, 37 years
- Jeff Urbas, O'Neill maintenance mechanic, 34 years
- Larry Sweeney, Longfellow Center maintenance mechanic, 34 years
- Richard Bubula, District director of buildings and grounds, 32 years
- Gail Pistello, Herrick physical education teacher, 30 years
- Frank Krezel, Lester head custodian, 30 years
- Sharon Wozney, Indian Trail instructional assistant, 29 years
- Michael Paserillo, Herrick night custodian, 26 years
- Bridget Rooney, Lester and Fairmount speech therapist, 25 years
- Jean Esler, Fairmount secretary/clerk, 25 years
- Janette Syverson, O'Neill science and physical education teacher, 25 years

- Diana McIlvane, Kingsley resource teacher, 22 years
- David Bolton, Herrick social studies teacher, 22 years
- Eileen Perell, Herrick instructional assistant, 21 years
- Richard Holmgren, Indian Trail head custodian, 21 years
- Kathleen Schmitt, El Sierra instructional assistant, 20 years
- Sharon Kuruzar, Lester fifth grade teacher, 20 years
- Phyllis Mihalko, Fairmount instructional assistant, 18 years
- Hope Chada, Indian Trail instructional assistant, 16 years
- Taffy Sanger, Indian Trail learning resource center teacher, 15 years
- Janice Nelson, Henry Puffer first grade teacher, 15 years
- Carol Tokarski, Henry Puffer resource teacher, 12 years
- Joann Bushman, Highland learning resource center teacher, 11 years
- Dee Anne Remington, Herrick instructional assistant, 10 years

District 58 also thanks **Jim Popernik**, District controller, for nine years of dedicated service.

The District 58 Board of Education

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View detailed information about the Board of Education, including meeting agendas, committee descriptions, policies, meeting minutes and member biographies online by visiting www.dg58.org and selecting "School Board."

Call the Board of Education, via Board Secretary Pam Osika, at 630-719-5803.

New administrators

District 58 welcomes its new administrators for the 2016-17 school year!

- **David Bein**, District assistant superintendent for business and chief school business official (CSBO)
- **Kenneth Young**, District director of buildings and grounds
- **Geoff Neustadt**, District assistant director of buildings and grounds
- **Katie Novosel**, Lester assistant principal

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 located at Henry Puffer and Indian Trail.
630-968-0454

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

Administrative Service Center (general administration)

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

- Dr. Kari Cremascoli**, superintendent
- Dr. Jayne Yudzentis**, assistant superintendent for personnel
- Jessica Stewart**, assistant superintendent for special services
- David Bein**, assistant superintendent for business/CSBO
- Lorie Pilster**, director of business services
- Megan Hewitt**, community relations coordinator

Longfellow Center (technology, buildings and grounds)

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

- Dr. Matt Rich**, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction
- James Eichmiller**, director of innovative technology and learning
- Ken Young**, director of buildings and grounds
- Geoff Neustadt**, assistant director of buildings and grounds



1860 63rd Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516
www.dg58.org | 630.719.5800

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Downers Grove Grade School District 58 2016-17 School Calendar

August 25-26	Teacher Inservice Days–No School	January 3, 2017	Classes Resume
August 29	First Day of Classes–Full Day	January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day–No School
September 5	Labor Day–No School	January 20	End of Second Reporting Period (Grades K-8)
September 22	School Improvement Day–Half Day	February 8-9	Regular School Attendance Days Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (Grades K-8)
October 10	Columbus Day–No School	February 20	Presidents Day–No School
October 11	Teachers' Workday–No School	March 3	Teacher Inservice Day–No School
October 28	End of First Reporting Period (Grades K-8)	March 24	End of Third Reporting Period (Grades K-8)
November 10	Teacher Inservice Day–No School	March 27-31	Spring Break–No School
November 11	Veterans Day–No School	April 3	Classes Resume
November 16-17	Regular School Attendance Days Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (Grades K-8)	April 14	No School
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break–No School	May 29	Memorial Day–No School
Dec. 19-Jan. 2	Winter Break–No School	June 16*	Last Day of School



*June 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 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 9, 2017.

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 publication, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt at mhewitt@dg58.org or 630-719-5805.