

2017

Annual Report to the Community



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



WHAT'S INSIDE

Fast Facts: Pages 2, 15

Superintendent's Greeting: Page 3

Board of Education: Page 3

Curriculum: Pages 4-6

Technology: Page 7

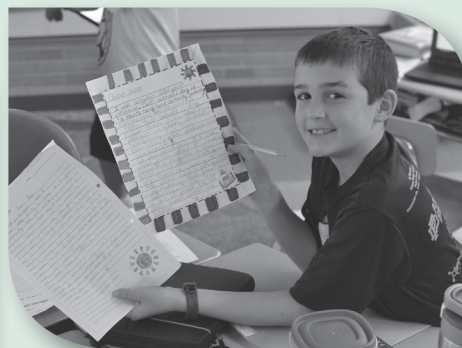
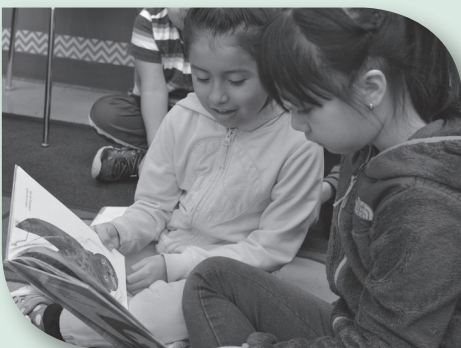
Special Programs: Page 8

Service Spotlight: Page 9

Finance and Facilities: Pages 10-11

School Celebrations: Pages 12-13

Community Partnerships: Page 14



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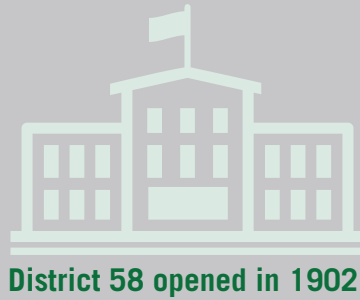
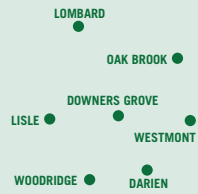
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DISTRICT 58 AT A GLANCE



5,122 STUDENTS

From Downers Grove, Woodridge, Westmont, Oak Brook, Darien, Lisle and Lombard



District 58 opened in 1902.

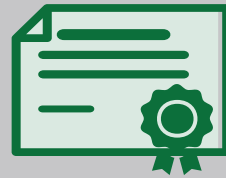
640 STAFF



4TH LOWEST PROPERTY TAX RATES among DuPage County's 30 elementary school districts



Received ISBE's highest financial recognition for 16 STRAIGHT YEARS



96 PERCENT STUDENT ATTENDANCE



Spends \$12,287 Per Student



LOWER THAN STATE AVERAGE

The median District 58 student performs at the 76TH PERCENTILE in Reading



AND

at the 69TH PERCENTILE in Math. The national median is the 50th percentile.



Source: 2016-17 MAP assessment

89 PERCENT TEACHER RETENTION



Low operational costs + High student achievement = Fantastic value!

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.

Dear District 58 Community Member,



It's been a busy year in District 58! We set several challenging, yet actionable, goals for 2016-17. These goals involved curriculum improvements, community engagement, social-emotional learning, technology, finances, facility planning and more. As you will see in this Annual Report, we have made terrific progress, and we are proud of our accomplishments as well as those of our students. Visit pages 4-6 to learn how District 58 has enhanced the rigor and alignment of its curricula and achieved some of its highest assessment scores on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Check out pages 9 and 12-13 to see some of the many celebrations realized through our students' hard work, extra effort, special projects and philanthropic endeavors. View pages 10-11 to learn how District 58 is responsibly managing its budget despite fiscal challenges.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff in 2016-17 as well as of our partnerships and increased engagement with families and our community. We have made significant progress relative to the Board's Strategic Plan, and we look forward to embarking on a new Strategic Planning process in the 2017-18 school year to help guide and inform our work for the future. Our children are our community's most precious and valuable investment. Their future is in our collective hands, and we look forward to envisioning and planning for that future together.

Thank you for your continued support of District 58 and the wonderful community we serve.

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

Meet the District 58 Board of Education

The District 58 Board of Education comprises seven elected members who serve four-year, overlapping terms of office. The Board sets and monitors the District's budget, reviews and amends District policies, and hires the superintendent, among other responsibilities.



The District 58 Board of Education.

- Doug Purcell, President**
dpurcell@dg58.org
- Elizabeth Sigale, Vice President**
esigale@dg58.org
- Greg Harris**
gharris@dg58.org

- Darren Hughes**
dhughes@dg58.org
- John Miller**
jmiller@dg58.org
- Jill Samonte**
jsamonte@dg58.org
- Beth Taylor**
bethtaylor@dg58.org

The Board holds monthly public business meetings, typically held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at a District or Village facility. Learn more about the Board's meeting agendas, committees, policies, meeting minutes and more by visiting www.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.

Board announces strategic planning effort

The Board established the Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee in fall 2016 to review governance topics related to the District's existing Strategic Plan, which was approved in 2011. The committee meets monthly and comprises broad representation from Board members, teachers, administrators, support staff and parents.

Through thoughtful discussion, the committee addressed the need to update the Strategic Plan, noting that District 58 has already achieved the plan's overarching goals. With the full Board of Education's support, the committee plans to initiate a thorough strategic planning effort during the 2017-18 school year.

As strategic planning gets underway, District 58 will announce opportunities for community members to contribute to the process, via surveys, workshops and more. Please be on the lookout for more information later this school year.

Learn more about the current Strategic Plan at www.dg58.org/StrategicPlan and view it at www.tinyurl.com/58StrategicPlan. Learn more about the Meet & Confer Strategic Plan Committee at <http://dg58.org/meet-confer-strategic-plan-committee/>.

District 58 enriches ELA curriculum with new resources

To enhance student learning, District 58's English-Language Arts Committee piloted potential new English-Language Arts, or ELA, curriculum resources in several classrooms this spring.

As the school year concluded, the ELA Committee reviewed their pilot experiences and collaboratively recommended two new primary ELA resources: Benchmark Advance for grades K-5 and McGraw Hill StudySync for grades 6-8.

The ELA Committee, which comprises staff from every District 58 school and grade level, reported that both resources challenge students, offer Common Core Standards-focused assessments, and provide teachers with differentiation opportunities to meet the needs of all learners, including those above and below grade level.

The committee also noted that no single resource will fully complete District 58's ELA curriculum. The committee will work this summer and next school year to continue building its ELA curriculum blueprint using the new primary ELA resources, along with supplementary ELA resources to provide teachers with a comprehensive curriculum guide.

The District plans to launch phase 1 of ELA resource implementation in fall 2017 in at least two grade levels at each elementary school, as well as within middle school classrooms. Phase 1 teachers will use the new resources as their primary source of ELA instruction for the 2017-18 school year. Throughout the school year, the ELA Committee will use these experiences to refine the ELA curriculum blueprint. Meanwhile, the District will provide ELA professional development to all staff.

The District plans to launch phase 2 of ELA implementation in fall 2018. During phase 2, all District 58 teachers will use the new ELA resources and follow the refined ELA curriculum blueprint. During the 2018-19 school year, phase 2 teachers will benefit from the experiences of their phase 1 teaching colleagues, as well as the refined ELA curriculum blueprint.



The new ELA resources will offer teachers better differentiation opportunities to meet the individual needs of all students.

Teachers take math to the next level

The District 58 Math Committee completed work on a new math blueprint in fall 2016. This blueprint helps teachers prepare their lesson plans and guide their instruction. For example, it organizes each topic sequentially and offers aligned discussion questions, supplemental materials and related textbook page numbers for each lesson. It also includes links to related material covered in other grade levels to help teachers meet the needs of all students, including those above and below grade level.

"The blueprint offers continuity across all schools and provides a flexible timeline for teachers," said Tracy Moriarty, a Math Committee member and Pierce Downer resource teacher. "The blueprint will ensure students are getting the instruction to meet their needs."

To help teachers master the blueprint and enhance their math instruction, the Math Committee organized professional development days led by the Metro Chicago Math Initiative last school year. During these opportunities, teachers spent the morning with the initiative specialists exploring advanced teaching techniques in mathematics. In the afternoon, they collaborated with grade-level colleagues to put their new skills into action.

"We received some really positive feedback from those days from our teachers," said Katie Hurckes, a Math Committee member and Henry Puffer first grade teacher. "They appreciated having an outside group come in to give a consistent training across the board to our kindergarten through eighth grade teachers."

The Math Committee finished the school year by selecting an assessment bank to ensure teachers across all District 58 schools have access to consistent testing materials. The committee has linked these new assessments into its math blueprint, which will continue to enhance math instruction going forward.



Kindergarten teachers practice new math teaching techniques learned during a professional development day.

Students demonstrate high achievement in reading, math and language usage

District 58 students take the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP, assessment each fall, winter and spring. The electronic assessment evaluates students in math, reading and language usage.

Last school year, most District 58 grade levels achieved their highest MAP scores ever! In addition, most grade levels exhibited higher than expected academic growth. Academic growth is determined by measuring achievement scores between two points in time and analyzing the gains made as compared to other students with similar MAP scores.

"Not only are District 58 students achieving very high scores on MAP, they are also exceeding their growth expectations," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Matt Rich. "It is challenging for a high-achieving district to also experience high-growth, but this is exactly what we've accomplished."

Key achievements include:

- In the fall, **eight of nine grade levels achieved their highest median MAP scores ever in both reading and math.**
- For the first time ever, District 58's median reading **MAP scores exceeded the 70th percentile at every grade level** on the winter assessment and **met or exceeded the 73rd percentile** in the spring. The national median percentile is 50. Median scores above the 70th percentile indicate that not only are many District 58 students exceeding national norms, more than half of all students in District 58 are scoring above the 70th percentile nationally.

- Also, **for the first time ever**, District 58's winter median Math MAP scores reached the **60th percentile or higher at every grade level**, with more than half of grade levels also **exceeding the 70th percentile**. By spring, students' math scores continued to improve, with all grade levels **meeting or exceeding the 63rd percentile**.
- In spring, District 58 exceeded **national growth norms in 18 out of 18 indicators in Reading and 16 out of 18 indicators in Math**. Nationally, only half of students are expected to reach their growth goals.
- District 58's language usage scores continue to greatly exceed national norms, with the **median sixth grader in District 58 achieving the same score as a median 11th grader nationally**.



District creates video series on kindergarten prep

Video highlights typical day of kindergarten, kindergarten readiness

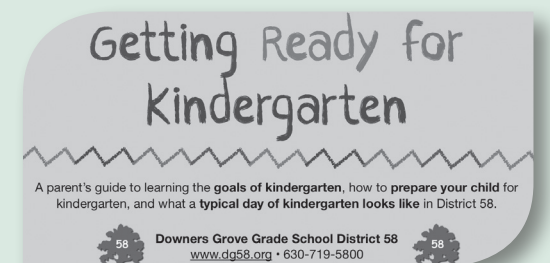
District 58 launched a three-part video series on kindergarten readiness in winter 2017. The series serves as a helpful parent guide to learning the goals of kindergarten, how to prepare a child for kindergarten, and what a typical day of kindergarten looks like in District 58.

Parents can choose to watch the entire 8-minute video series at www.dg58.org/KindergartenPrep. This Web page also features each video segment individually:

- Part 1: Kindergarten Goals
- Part 2: How to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten
- Part 3: A Typical Day of Kindergarten in District 58

Part 3 may be of particular interest to parents considering District 58's new Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program, or OKEEP.

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 and continue to OKEEP enrichment in the afternoon. Learn more about OKEEP at www.tinyurl.com/okeep1718.



View the District's "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" video at www.dg58.org/KindergartenPrep.

Curriculum roundup

Highlights from science, preschool, LRC and PE

Beyond ELA and math (which this report featured on page 4), District 58 made several enhancements to its other core curricular areas. Here are a few highlights:

Middle school science: Herrick and O'Neill middle schools use the State's new Next Generation Science Standards in their science classrooms. These standards, when put into practice, teach students real-world science applications and encourage them to analyze and explain natural phenomena.



"We gain much more depth in scientific literacy when we motivate students to think like actual scientists," said Jill Henry, a Herrick eighth grade science teacher.

For example, seventh graders recently developed 3D models that show photosynthesis. This real-life application gave students a deeper, more visual understanding of the photosynthesis process.

Preschool social-emotional learning:

Over the past two years, Grove Children's Preschool has incorporated the Second Step Curriculum to teach students age appropriate social-emotional skills, such as how to listen, show respect and share feelings. Second Step provides teachers with a clear scope and sequence for instructing these skills and building the students' social-emotional vocabulary.



"Grove Children's Preschool has always included a strong social-emotional component, but using the Second Step Curriculum has helped us to consistently cover the same concepts and show the same visuals to all preschoolers across all classrooms," said Preschool Teacher Alecia Probst.

Learning resource center (LRC) curriculum: LRC teachers and administrators created an LRC curriculum blueprint with common instructional objectives for each grade level to ensure instructional continuity across all schools. This curriculum blueprint is based on the Illinois Standards-Aligned Instruction for Libraries, or I-SAIL. These standards align with the Common Core State Standards and other best practices for school LRC teachers. The LRC teachers and administrators also worked to better define the role of the LRC teacher and develop more consistency in the position's responsibilities.



Physical education: In alignment with the Common Core State Standards, PE teachers have increased movement skills, physical fitness and team-building skills in their instruction. This enhanced instruction aims to increase each student's daily physical activity and to motivate them to enjoy exercise. To reach all students, the District also provides adapted PE programs for learners with disabilities.



District report cards improve clarity in home-school communication

Over the past two school years, the District's Report Card Committee has reviewed the ways District 58 communicates student progress to parents. The committee considered best practices, parent survey input, a research-based book on student reporting, and sample report cards from local schools, among other resources.

Beginning this fall, all students in preschool through 8th grade will be assessed using a standards-based reporting system, with the addition of traditional letter grades assigned in core content areas beginning in fourth grade. All report cards will continue to assess a student's proficiency toward each learning standard, using a 3-point scale (3- proficient; 2- progressing; 1- area of concern).

The committee also developed a resource document that will be available to parents and teachers on the District website this fall. The resource document serves to provide parents with more specific information regarding each learning standard listed on the report card. The document will also support teachers as they plan for instruction and assessment. In addition, the committee recognized the importance of assessing and sharing information on non-academic skills, such as demonstrating respect and a commitment to learning. These learner behaviors will also be included on the revised report card.

District 58 will offer parent education workshops on the updated report cards in fall 2017. Information regarding the workshops will be posted at www.dg58.org.

District launches new responsive website

District 58 launched a new website in January 2017. The new site offers an easy-to-use, easy-to-search responsive design, accessible from any mobile device. The site also features a dynamic Google search bar to help visitors find information immediately.

District 58 staff built the entire website in-house using the free, open-source WordPress platform. The District also independently maintains the website and securely hosts it on its servers. Hosting the website internally will provide taxpayers with a cost savings now and in the future.

Launching the new website also fulfills one of the District's 2016-17 strategic goals: "Launch a new website that will serve as a communications tool with our community."

Visit District 58's new website at www.dg58.org.



District 58 uses technology creatively

Osmos. Makerspaces. Ollies. Spheros. Many of these terms may sound funny, but to District 58 teachers, they offer students a valuable opportunity to explore modern technology and learn skills that will prepare them for possible future careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Using school funding, PTA donations and outside grants, District 58 schools have acquired a variety of resources to promote STEM learning in the classroom and beyond. Here are just a few of many examples:

Ollies and Spheros: Through PTA donations and Education Foundation grants, several schools procured Ollies and Spheros, which are small robots that students can control using code they have created with their iPads.

"The Ollies provide students opportunities to deepen their understanding of 21st century skills," said Henry Puffer Fifth/Sixth Grade Teacher Julie Batkiewicz. "They are responsible for completing many challenges and working through obstacles by coding the Ollies to accomplish different tasks. Students have been highly engaged and motivated to work with the new devices!"

Makerspaces: The Education Foundation awarded grants for makerspaces to teachers at several elementary schools. A makerspace is a designated spot (often a learning resource center, or LRC) where students can tinker with creative tools. Makerspaces often comprise tools with catchy names like Osmos, Bloxels, Little Bits, Ozobots, Picoboards and Makey-makeys. These items feel like games to young children, yet impart important coding, problem-solving and creativity skills.

3D printers: 3D printers add an extra dimension to student learning at several schools. The printers give students the ability to design their own creation using advanced STEM skills.

"I cannot begin to explain how this tool has increased engagement, critical thinking skills, creativity and collaboration," said Fairmount LRC Teacher Liz Stroud.

"We worked together to learn Tinkercad software and then each student created their own unique basic design," said Lester Principal Carin Novak. "The students took turns, each utilizing the 3D printer independently to print their own design. They were so excited to watch the design actually come to life!"

Thermal imaging: Using an Education Foundation grant, Herrick Middle School science classrooms used six FLIR One thermal imaging iPad camera attachments to enhance a unit on thermal energy transfers. Students used the cameras to apply abstract scientific concepts to real-life applications. For example, the cameras helped students identify areas of Herrick that experience the greatest heat loss. They used that data to help design a device that either minimized or maximized thermal energy transfer. A post-unit assessment found that 95 percent of students believed the cameras helped them improve their analytical skills.



School makerspaces, like the one pictured above, include educational tools that help children learn STEM and problem-solving skills.

School Families Program promotes social-emotional learning

When asked for her favorite memory of Highland School, retiring Principal Dr. Judy Kmak didn't hesitate in her response.

"Highland Families," she said. "Over the past five years, this program has really taken off. I've loved watching the students' families grow over the years."

The Highland Families Program teaches children important social-emotional learning skills. Students are assigned to different groups -- or "families" -- of six-to-eight children, representing all grade levels. The families meet throughout the year, giving the students time to connect with children in other grade levels. Year after year, students remain in the same families, bidding farewell to departing sixth grade family members and welcoming new kindergarteners.

In addition to Highland, many other elementary schools have implemented the School Families Program in recent years. Although each school sets up its program a little differently, in general School Families meet monthly and are led by a school staff member. Each meeting has a positive theme that promotes respect, kindness,

friendship or empathy, all key social-emotional concepts. The School Families Program complements the research-based Responsive Classroom model for elementary students and the research-based Second Step curriculum for children in grades preschool through 8. Both models are used district-wide to teach students daily social-emotional learning skills.



El Sierra students enjoy bonding with classmates during El Sierra Families.

District's Biliteracy Program continues to grow

The District's Biliteracy Program opened in fall 2014 with an enrollment of 19 kindergarten and first grade students. Since then, the program has grown one grade level each year and is expected to start the 2017-18 school year with about 50 students from grades K-4. The program is housed at Kingsley School, but it accepts native Spanish-speaking students district-wide.

"More than 5 percent of District 58's student population is an English language learner, and this number continues to grow," said Kingsley Principal Mark Stange. "The Biliteracy Program provides an excellent opportunity for native Spanish speakers to develop language and content knowledge in both English and Spanish, preparing them for success in high school, college and careers."

The program aims to make students biliterate and bicultural. Over the course of the program, students learn to read, write, speak and listen in all content areas in English and Spanish. Students do not exit the program, but rather, continue to learn and develop their fluency in content and language. In kindergarten, students learn 80 percent in Spanish and 20 percent in English. By the end of third grade, instruction is evenly split between English and Spanish.

Learn more about the Biliteracy Program and District 58's English Language Learner services at <http://dg58.org/english-language-learners/>.

Special programs keep more students in-district

During the past five years, District 58 made several efforts to enhance and expand its special services to support more students with significant needs within its in-district special education programs, rather than outplacement programs. All students benefit when given the opportunity to be educated together, demonstrating growth in social awareness, social cognition and self-esteem, among other factors.

District 58's primary special programs include the:

- **Developmental Learning Program**, serving students with more complex disabilities including known or suspected intellectual disabilities.
- **Behavioral, Emotional and Social Training (BEST) Program**, serving students with intensive social, emotional and behavioral needs.
- **Reaching Independence through Structured Education (RISE) Program**, serving students affected by characteristics associated with autism spectrum disorders.

Learn more about these and all of District 58's special services at www.dg58.org/specialprograms.



Service spotlight: 58 Doing Good

District 58 students and staff recognize the importance of giving back to the community. Throughout the school year, the District highlights its schools' many charitable efforts through the 58 Doing Good spotlight. Read a few (of many!) highlights below, and learn more by visiting www.dg58.org, scrolling to the "Community" tab and selecting "58 Doing Good."

O'Neill led District 58's annual St. Baldrick's fundraiser to support childhood cancer research. Their efforts raised an incredible \$14,192 for the organization and culminated in a school-wide St. Baldrick's-themed assembly.

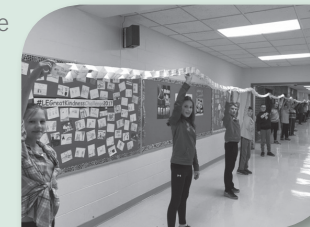


Herrick students raised \$1,650 in one week to support the Ride Janie Ride Foundation, a local non-profit that annually helps cancer patients pay for critical life-saving cancer treatments. Its founder, Janie Bawel, is a Downers Grove resident, Herrick alumna and cancer survivor.



Henry Puffer's "I Stand by Addie" walk/run not only showed support for third grade student Addie, who has Spina Bifida, they also raised \$1,500 for the Illinois Spina Bifida Association.

Belle Aire and Lester committed to the Great Kindness Challenge in January. During a one-week period, students tracked their acts of kindness, aiming to reach 50. When the challenge completed, students linked all of the kind acts together, creating an incredibly visual chain of kindness!



Several **El Sierra** fifth and sixth graders volunteered to give up their recess once or twice per week to spend time with younger students, through the school's new Recess Leaders program. The younger students appreciated having positive role models, and the older students enjoyed making a difference at their school.

The **Pierce Downer** Student Council collected fleece and made comforting blankets to donate to critically-ill children through the Project Linus Project. The school's PTA also created a Service Learning Committee, which led monthly service projects.



Kingsley hosted its annual fundraiser walk to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation this spring. Students had fun raising money and getting exercise for a good cause!



Highland collected hundreds of toys and winter weather accessories during their annual Highland Giving Tree campaign. Their donations supported local families in need.

Indian Trail students designed their own greeting cards to bring cheer to veterans and children who were hospitalized during the holiday season. In addition, the Indian Trail PTA sponsored 28 local families in need with Thanksgiving meals.

Several schools, including **Fairmount**, volunteered at and donated money to the non-profit Feed My Starving Children. To reward Fairmount students for exceeding their fundraising goal, the school hosted a "Pie in the Face" assembly, during which students "pied" teachers and staff, including Principal Tony Coglianese!



Hillcrest started a new Service Club that engaged in weekly outreach projects, led by students. For example, the club cleaned their school, raked leaves at a nearby church, read stories at an adult day center and raised more than \$1,600 for Operation Care Package.

Whittier and the local nonprofit Mothers Against Violence in Schools installed two Buddy Benches at the school in November. The benches encourage inclusion and kindness during a child's formative years. Students who feel they don't have anyone to play with or would like to make a new friend can simply sit on the bench, which signals others to ask the student to join them in play.



Local parents teamed up to bring the **Blessings in a Backpack** program to District 58's 11 elementary schools. The program is a national nonprofit that provides low-income children with food to eat over the weekend. **Several schools and local businesses** supported the program through donations and packing events.

District continues to budget responsibly

District 58 carefully manages its finances to provide the best education for students while respecting taxpayers. Despite state budget cuts, increased expenditures and relatively flat revenues, District 58 has managed its money responsibly. This fiscal accountability has earned District 58 a “Financial Recognition” rating from the Illinois State Board of Education. Financial Recognition is the highest financial strength rating that the state awards, and this year marks the 16th consecutive year District 58 achieved this status. In addition, Moody’s Investors Services awarded the District an Aa1 rating and called its credit “excellent.”

The District 58 Board of Education approved the tentative 2017-2018 budget during its Monday, July 10 meeting. This tentative budget includes approximately \$66.34 million in revenues and approximately \$66.56 in expenditures. The Board will hold a Budget Hearing regarding the tentative budget on Monday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at Downers Grove Village Hall. The Board is expected to approve the budget at their regular monthly meeting, immediately following the budget hearing. The public may view the 2017-2018 tentative budget online at www.dg58.org or in person at the District’s Administrative Service Center and the Downers Grove Public Library.

District carefully plans maintenance projects

If District 58’s walls could talk, they could certainly share a lot! Downers Grove opened its first school in 1846 and formed District 58 in 1902. Over the years, District 58 has remained a cornerstone of Downers Grove history, with more schools opening as the village’s population surged.

District 58 currently comprises 11 small neighborhood elementary schools and two middle schools. The District recognizes the value its schools bring to the community. District 58 is known for its high achieving students, caring teachers and staff, and its deep-rooted, yet well-maintained, schools. These factors each attract families to the area, which improves local property values.

The District’s Business and Buildings & Grounds offices used the 2012 District 58 comprehensive facility assessment report, life safety studies and local knowledge to project its facility needs from present day through 2040. They presented their findings during the Board of Education’s spring 2017 budget workshop. Their analysis indicated that when delaying maintenance to the latest recommended date, the District will need \$75 million to fund necessary maintenance needs during this 23-year timeframe. Primary maintenance needs will include roof replacements (\$30 million), HVAC/plumbing (\$15 million) and electrical service (\$6 million).

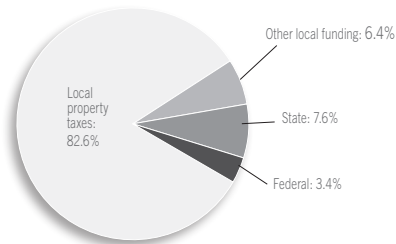
However, maintaining the District’s schools come with unique challenges. Studies* show that carefully-constructed and well-maintained schools can normally last 50-60 years. By comparison, District 58’s newest schools, Belle Aire and El Sierra, are each 48 years old. Its other schools range from 50-90 years of age, and continue to function due to careful upkeep. Maintenance costs, however, are expensive due to the number and ages of the schools.

To fund these facility projects, the District may explore non-referendum debt and referendum debt in the future. As the process unfolds, the District will seek community input. Strong schools make strong communities – The District welcomes all local taxpayers to participate as we work to make District 58 and our local community the best possible!

*Source: “Educational Facilities: Planning, Modernization, and Management” by Basil Castaldi, 1994

The above factors, combined with the fact that District 58 has the fourth lowest tax rate among DuPage County’s 30 elementary school districts, creates facility budgeting challenges.

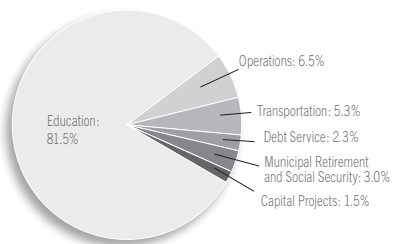
Where the money comes from: Revenues by source



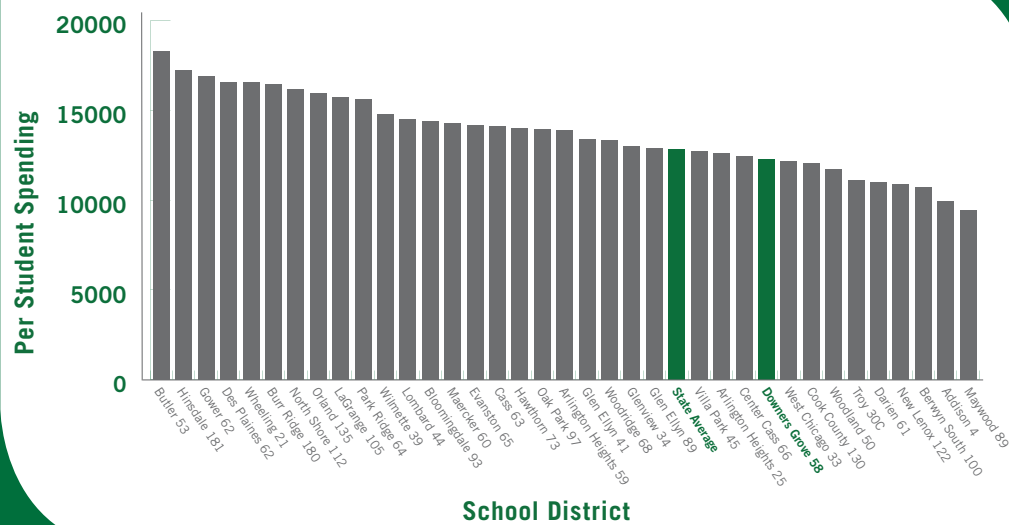
District 58 money facts:

- District 58 provides a high-quality education while being fiscally responsible.
- District 58 spends \$12,287 per student. The average Illinois school district spends \$12,821 per student. (Source: Illinois Report Card)
- District 58 has the fourth lowest property tax rates among DuPage County’s 30 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. District 58 works hard to maintain a balanced budget while ensuring students’ needs are met.

Where the money goes: Expenditures



Source: 2016-17 District 58 budget



This bar graph compares District 58 to nearby elementary school districts, as well as to similarly-sized elementary school districts from across Chicagoland. Source: Illinois Board of Education, www.illinoisreportcard.com



Whittier School was built in 1927 and continues to function due to careful maintenance. These photos depict Whittier in 1960 and today. The 1960 photo is courtesy of the Downers Grove Historical Society and the Downers Grove Museum.

District 58 celebrates successes

District 58 achieved several goals, awards and activities during the 2016-17 school year! Here are a few highlights:

The Illinois State Board of Education awarded **Grove Children's Preschool** with a gold rating, its highest rating, for achieving exemplary quality standards.

The District 58 teacher's union named **Indian Trail** Sixth Grade Teacher Janice Conboy the 2017 Teacher of the Year.

The Education Foundation awarded Distinguished Service Awards to **Henry Puffer** First Grade Teacher Katie Hurckes and **Highland** Principal Dr. Judy Kmak.

District 58 received the Illinois State Board of Education's highest level of financial recognition for the 16th consecutive year.

Herrick seventh graders Sydney Fleming and Natalie Mall excelled at the local and regional Science Fairs, earning an invitation to the elite State Science Expo.

In August, **Hillcrest** opened Owen's Playground, the first all-accessible public school playground in DuPage County.

Henry Puffer's fourth grade Girl Scouts won a \$3,000 grant from Annie's Foods to build an organic edible garden at their school.

The Education Foundation's Select 58 awards banquet celebrated **Herrick** and **O'Neill** eighth graders who provide exceptional service to their school and community.

In the fall, **Belle Aire** revealed a breathtaking new LRC mural that seamlessly depicts 18 fairy tales.

Kingsley Sixth Grade Teacher Deanna Jacobs was nominated for the prestigious state-wide Golden Apple Award.

The DuPage County Farm Bureau awarded teachers Ron Bowers (**Kingsley**), Brittany Sanfillippo (**Highland**) and Melissa Swallows (**Fairmount**) with Ag in the Classroom grants to support agricultural education.

Six teams of students from **Pierce Downer** and **Whittier** advanced to the Destination Imagination state competition this spring.

Lester won first place – and \$8,000 – in the Yorktown Center School Bucks program! In addition, **Henry Puffer** won \$2,000 for taking third place, and **Herrick** and **Belle Aire** each earned \$1,000 for coming in fourth and fifth places, respectively. The schools will use the prize money for new resources.

The Children of the American Revolution awarded Alan Kwak (**Fairmount**), Diana Kwak (**O'Neill**), Frank Kwak (**Fairmount**), Cooper LamBeau (**O'Neill**) and Kellar LamBeau (**El Sierra**) for their citizenship during the society's state and national conventions this spring.

The Grove Foundation recognized 26 fifth graders with "Helping Children Grow" awards for their strong character and extra effort.

Kingsley opened a "Little Free Library" this spring.

Families and community groups united in April for District 58's annual **Fit Fair**, an evening dedicated to fun and healthy fitness activities.

The **Board of Education** welcomed Rep. David Olsen, Rep. Patti Bellock and 11th District Chief of Staff Carole Cheney to its annual Legislative Breakfast in March.

Seven **Herrick** students received awards from the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club Junior High Art Contest, including Gillian Piencak, who won the "Best in Show" award.

Lester students partnered with the national One American Voice organization to learn real-life lessons in civic engagement and local governance to improve their community.

The Meredith Williams Foundation awarded a \$500 grant to **Pierce Downer** PE Teacher Mary French. Mrs. French used the funding to purchase new school soccer nets.

O'Neill Secretary Regina Houlihan McCutcheon authored and published "A Cricket's Good Night," a children's book, in fall 2016.

Jaclyn Duellman (**Herrick**), Linnea Peckenpaugh (**Lester**) and Jacob Valadez (**Fairmount**) advanced to the national PTA Reflections art competition in May.

The Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club honored **Whittier** Kindergarten Teacher Lisa Czeszewski with an Outstanding Teacher Award.

Forty-six **District 58** students were selected to perform in the ILMEA All-State Elementary Chorus. ILMEA also chose 19 District 58 students to perform in its Junior High Music Festival and two District 58 students to participate in its Jazz Band Festival.

The Bonfield Express Foundation, a local charity, donated \$1,000 to each of **District 58's** 13 schools last fall to celebrate student achievement and citizenship.

The state and national chapters of the School Public Relations Association presented District 58's **Community Relations Office** with seven state communication awards and one national honorable mention for excellence in communications and writing.

This spring, the Puffer-Hefty PTA awarded **Henry Puffer** with nearly \$20,000 in educational gifts to enhance students' learning experiences next school year.

Downers Grove South biology students spent an afternoon teaching **Indian Trail** kindergarteners about science through fun and interactive experiments.

El Sierra students enjoyed an opportunity to perform with the Senior Suburban Orchestra in May.

Downers Grove North selected **Hillcrest** third grader Audrey Graves' artwork to be featured during the school's annual Community Outreach Concert in March.

Fairmount added makerspace carts, coding activities and a 3D printer to its LRC, enhancing its STEM instruction.

Highland's Walking Club was a huge success! During lunch recess, students gathered to take walks. During the club's last session this spring, 105 students walked five miles each.

Herrick and **O'Neill's** robotics teams each took home three awards during the University of Illinois Extension's Fifth Annual 4-H Robotics Showcase in March.

The **Whittier** PTA reached its \$100,000 playground fundraising goal in December and donated the funding to District 58. The District is using the funding to build a new Whittier playground.

Good Call, a data analysis group, named Downers Grove the #12 best U.S. city for teachers.



Community partnerships key to District 58 success

District 58 values its many strong partnerships with community groups. Through these collaborations, the District is able to enhance its students' education and provide additional funding to support programs.

PTAs: District 58 schools are supported by engaged PTAs that lead fundraisers and provide countless educational opportunities for schools, including field trips, assemblies and service projects.

Education Foundation: The Education Foundation of Downers Grove District 58 finished another successful year of fundraising to reward excellence and aid classroom innovation. In the fall, the Foundation hosted Sneak Preview for incoming seventh graders and the Welcome Luncheon for new teachers. Through their Teacher Grants Program, they awarded a record-breaking 31 grants totaling nearly \$23,000! In the spring, the Foundation supported The Reading Games and hosted Select 58 for eighth graders and the Distinguished Service Awards for staff.



The Foundation receives funding through several initiatives, including Oktoberfest, the Harlem Wizards game, the spring concert and the Green Apple Teacher/Staff Recognition Program. Save the date: the 2017 Oktoberfest will take place Sept. 16-17, 2017 in downtown Downers Grove! Learn more at www.58foundation.org.

School and Village Partners: District 58 partners with the Village of Downers Grove, District 99 and other local school districts on several projects. For example, the Police and Fire departments lead classroom lessons on personal and fire safety, and the Downers Grove Public Library collaborates with classrooms on specific curricular topics. The library also leads a successful summer reading program – in 2016, more than 2,100 students participated and read 50,000 books! Several District 58 classes take field trips to Park District-owned properties, such as Lyman Woods and the Downers Grove Museum. District 58 works with District 99 to ensure curriculums are aligned and students experience a seamless transition from grade school to high school. The District also collaborates with area school districts on community and educational projects.



Other Partnerships: District 58 appreciates its strong partnerships with other community groups, such as the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, Downers Grove Lions Club, SCARCE, Meredith Williams Foundation, Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation, as well as many other local groups and businesses. Thank you for your support! These relationships help keep the Downers Grove community thriving!



Congratulations, District 58 retirees!

District 58 congratulates its 27 employees who retired during the 2016-17 school year. Together, this group provided District 58 with 586 years of dedicated service. District 58 thanks its retirees for their numerous contributions and hard work, and wishes them the best in all their future endeavors! View the retiree list at www.dg58.org.



New faces in District 58

Welcome new administrators

- **Jose Anaya**, Highland Assistant Principal and District English Learner Coordinator
- **Bridget Moore**, Highland Principal
- **Lisa Niforatos**, Fairmount Principal
- **Bonnie Osborne**, District Special Programs Coordinator
- **Haley Underwood**, O'Neill Assistant Principal



Administrative team changes

- **Christine Clavenna**, Pierce Downer Principal
- **Melissa Sawisch**, Hillcrest/Pierce Downer Assistant Principal
- **Justin Sisul**, District Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction



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 www.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

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

- Justin Sisul**, 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



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Downers Grove, IL 60516
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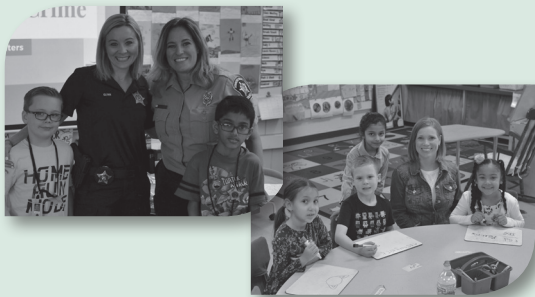
Downers Grove Grade School District 58 2017-18 School Calendar

August 21-22	Teacher Inservice Days*
August 24	First Day of Classes–Full Day
September 4	Labor Day*
September 19	School Improvement Day–Half Day
October 9	Columbus Day*
October 10	Teachers' Workday*
October 27	End of First Reporting Period (Grades K-8)
November 10	Veterans Day Observed–School in session
November 15-16	Regular School Attendance Days Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (Grades K-8)
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break*
November 27	Teacher Inservice Day*
Dec. 23-Jan. 7	Winter Break*

January 8, 2018	Classes Resume
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
January 19	End of Second Reporting Period (Grades K-8)
January 26	School Improvement Day – Half Day
February 7-8	Regular School Attendance Days Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (Grades K-8)
February 19	Presidents Day*
March 2	Teacher Inservice Day*
March 23	End of Third Reporting Period (Grades K-8)
March 26-April 2	Spring Break*
April 3	Classes Resume
April 27	School Improvement Day – Half Day
May 28	Memorial Day*
June 11**	Last Day of School

*No school for students

**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.