



Published by West Northfield School District 31

Inspiring Minds, Building Futures, Together

Winter 2020



Field Middle School Named 2020 National Blue Ribbon School

Field Middle School has been named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education for the progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Learn more on pg. 3.



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WestNorthfieldD31

Pictured: Field students celebrate being named a Blue Ribbon School.

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Letter from the Superintendent

Dear District 31 Community,

What a difficult year this has been for our community. We have all been surrounded by many tough realities as we face national turmoil and a global pandemic. In 2019, none of us would have believed we would all be wearing masks, searching for toilet paper, and teaching our students remotely. Though our world has been turned upside down, we continue to have so much to celebrate and be thankful for at District 31.

District 31 has been able to offer free breakfast and lunch seven days a week to every student via the USDA federally funded program. We are fortunate to be able to extend this offering through the end of the school year.

Field was named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School, which is a testament to our hardworking educators, families, and community.

Through our rigorous safety efforts, the District was able to offer hybrid in person and remote learning options for families for 14 weeks. The safety measures and procedures remain in place to continue to keep our students safe when we return to in-person instruction after the winter holiday.

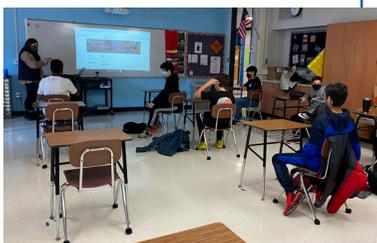
District 31 celebrates our community of parents who have shown patience, kindness, and support as we navigate this ever changing year. We also celebrate the resiliency and adaptability of our talented students who continue to thrive despite the national conditions.

I am so thankful for our dedicated and caring team of educators who have shown such creativity and passion. Our teachers are preparing several lesson plans for each day for multiple learning platforms using a variety of new technology they have recently mastered to better serve our students and families.

We continue to value and welcome your feedback. If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of our team directly. I can be reached at emurphy@district31.net or (847) 313-4418.

- Winkelman Principal Shaton Wolverton - swolverton@district31.net
- Field Principal Dr. April Miller - amiller@district31.net
- Asst. Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Janine Gruhn - jgruhn@district31.net
- Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Operations Catherine Lauria - clauria@district31.net
- Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Becky Mathison - bmathison@district31.net

Warmly,
Dr. Erin K. Murphy
Superintendent of Schools

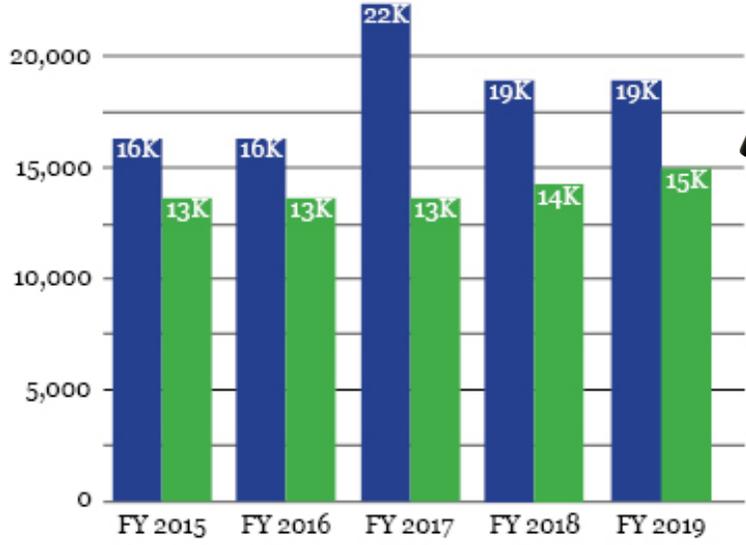


Enriched Learning Program

District 31 is hosting an information event on our Enriched Learning Program Monday, May 24 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Enriched programming covers accelerated and gifted programming in District 31, specifically at Winkelman school. The event, hosted by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Becky Mathison will provide information to upcoming 4th - 8th grade families on what to expect in the coming year.



Total Spending (\$) Per Student
Includes costs for overall operations including instructional spending.
 (Excludes capital expenditures, & long-term debt payments)



Focus on Finance

The District 31 Board of Education, along with a dedicated and professional staff embrace the district's need to provide high-quality education in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner through effective, transparent, and collaborative efforts. Based on the 2019-2020 Annual Financial Reports (FY 2020), the District spends approximately \$18.5k per student to provide exemplary education. District 31 invests more money per student than the average state school, which allows the district to provide better opportunities and a superior education.



The District is also a long-standing recipient of the highest financial profile designation, Recognition, from the Illinois State Board of Education due to the District's strong financial health.

Learn more about School District 31 Finances at www.district31.net.



Curriculum Audit Continued

In March 2020, School District 31 began a curriculum audit to examine learning in a collaborative way and explore possible improvements. After a pause in the audit to focus all resources on the shift to remote learning, the curriculum audit resumed in January 2021. Rather than conducting the planned classroom visits, the independent consultants from Consortium for Educational Change conducted focus group meetings with students, parents, and staff at both Winkelman and Field schools. The results of the audit will be presented to the Board of Education in February and shared on the District 31 website at www.district31.net.

Also, stay tuned for the results of the District's equity audit conducted in fall of 2020.

Substitute Teachers & Monitors Needed

Consider filling an important role at our schools! Our District needs Regular Subs, Permanent Subs, Semi-Permanent Subs, and Monitor Positions.

Sub starting rate \$130/Day (\$140/Day After Subbing 25+ Days in District 31)

Visit www.district31.net/BecomeASub or email tnielsen@district31.net or 847-313-4417 to apply.

School Nurse Opening

Winkelman Elementary School is searching for a school nurse for the 2021-2022 school year. Requirements and more information are available at www.district31.net/nurseneeded.



Winkelman News

Showcasing Student Work

Check out what our Winkelman Wildcats have been up to this fall!

The Journey of a Lifetime - Chapter 1 - My Little Secret

by Mira Shah, 2nd grade

Hi I'm Winglet and the most exciting thing just happened to me! MY DAD JUST LET ME HUNT WOLVES with him! Okay, you clearly don't get it. My village is threatened by Wolves, and he wants to protect me. But, a few days ago he said I could hunt wolves with him. Anyways, I am going to be late. A few minutes later, we were in the forest. Then I tripped over a puddle. My dad walked over me, not even noticing me. I was alone in the woods. I got up and I looked at myself in the puddle. AND SCREAMED!! I WAS A WOLF!! In fact, I was a PURPLE WOLF!! I just stood there looking at myself. All of a sudden, another wolf came. This Wolf was Pink and had blue swirls. "Hi", she exclaimed. I shot back in surprise, bumped into a tree and came tumbling back. "The queen will like you", she said. I just fainted in return.



Samantha Frentzos, 2nd Grade

Student Art Work

Winkelman art work is pictured to the right. The students took the pictures of the work themselves.



Naya Patel, 3rd Grade

Tea Time with Principal Wolverton

Principal Wolverton invites Winkelman parents to virtual Tea Time from 7 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Jan 26 Kindergarten Parents
- Jan 28 First Grade Parents
- Feb 2 Second Grade Parents
- Feb 4 Third Grade Parents
- Feb 9 Fourth Grade Parents
- Feb 11 Fifth Grade Parents



Learn more at www.district31.net.



Zarangez Aloviddinova, 4th Grade

District 31 Student Services

Student services works diligently to provide students with the highest level of needs with in-person opportunities during the COVID pandemic. Families with students with other needs are provided opportunities for check ins, homework help, and other assistance with D31 service providers.



Julian Jozwiak, 5th Grade

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

In August, Dr. Doug Bolton presented on Collaborative Problem Solving, which focused on building relationships with students, and understanding behavior, and trauma. His presentation, Cultivating Resilience, provided strategies for managing stress, taking care of our own children, and planning. This presentation is available to watch at

www.district31.net/ParentEducation.

The SEL task force builds SEL into the daily routines of students and staff by providing roadmaps, daily lessons, and support. If your child needs additional support please contact your school psychologist or social worker.

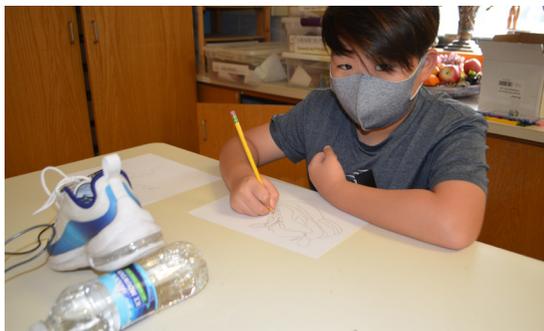


Showcasing Student Work

Check out what our Field Tigers have been up to this fall! Students have been submitting art both in person and digitally.



Neel Gandhi, 8th Grade



Bryan Rim, 7th Grade



Troy Kaneshiro, 8th Grade

Field Named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School

Field Middle School has been named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education for our progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The National Blue Ribbon School honor is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.



District 31 uses many strategies to encourage and challenge students. A key strategy adopted by Field provides all staff members and administrators with training that provides a research-based foundation for building key executive functioning strategies and skills necessary for life-long success. The school purchases, distributes, and teaches students to use adopted materials, which include an innovative all-in-one binder/backpack/computer bag, specifically colored plastic folders that correspond to specific classes, a Chromebook, and a paper agenda. All students receive the same materials, and teachers utilize and reinforce these materials. Students who have graduated from District 31 report that they have adapted this system to their high school experiences. In addition, advisory classes specifically teach best practice strategies and skills for organizing, study, goal setting, and more.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of our educators, families, and community in creating a safe and welcoming school where our students can grow and learn.



Keeping Music Alive in District 31

In lieu of the traditional school musical, Field Middle School music students have the opportunity to participate in digital musical table reads after school. During the table reads, students are assigned a character with lines and perform a show. Even digitally the students are able to tell great stories with great performances!

English Learners (EL)

The EL department recently conducted an EL audit. An EL audit consists of staff and parent interviews, data review, and file reviews. Results will be shared at www.district31.net.

Questions? Contact Dr. Janine Gruhn, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, at jgruhn@district31.net or 847-313-4411.



Community News

Ed Foundation News

The Education Foundation wishes all of our families a happy and healthy 2021! We are excited to start a New Year and continue the initiatives we began in fall.

Fundraising

The Ed Foundation's Virtual Holiday Boutique raised over \$1,400 via participation donations from our 22 featured sellers, which will be used towards the purchase of new furniture needed at both schools. Thank you to our shoppers and local sellers!



Students will enjoy outdoor breaks in tents provided by Ed Foundation.

Learn More About Our Ongoing Fundraising Efforts!

- Ed Foundation and PTO Teacher Appreciation Fundraiser
The Ed Foundation and PTO continue to team up to offer gifts of appreciation to all teachers and staff.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Fundraiser
The Ed Foundation seeks monetary and in-kind donations for necessary PPE to support the safety of in-person students and staff. Recently, the Ed Foundation donated two large tents to allow for mask-free breaks outside.
- Furniture Fund Initiative
The Ed Foundation's goal is to fundraise \$40k over the course of two school years for needed new furniture for both schools. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

The Annual Winter Benefit has been postponed to the 2021/2022 school year when we hope to be safe to gather in person. Stay tuned for the Ed Foundation's spring fundraising plans. Brainstorming is in the works and we welcome YOUR ideas! Find a meeting schedule and learn more at d31edfoundation.org.

PTO News

What We Have Been Up to

This school year, the PTO has funded school supplies for all students, provided welcome back snack bags to all staff, created outdoor photo scenes for families to capture memories, and arranged two spirit weeks for Winkelman including costume ideas, fun crafts, and contests. Halloween and holiday parties coordinated by room parents provided fun and creativity for both in-person and remote students. Much more to come!

Fundraising

The PTO organized a virtual book fair with a local book store, and collaborated with the Ed Foundation to raise funds to provide ongoing appreciation gifts for staff. This school year, regular restaurant fundraisers have greatly benefited both our district and our local restaurants. Thank you to all participating restaurants and supporters! Future fundraisers will be posted at www.district31.net.



Students enjoy the fall photo scene.

Upcoming Spring Events

- Spring Spirit Wear Drive
 - Art to Remember (students submit art to memorialize on various items)
 - Taste of 31 - the PTO is exploring safe options to bring together cultural traditions and culinary delights
- More information on all events will be available at www.district31.net/pto.

Join the PTO!

If you would like to join or support the PTO and all its programming or attend a PTO meeting, please visit www.district31.net/pto.





2021-2022 Registration

Welcome!

Welcome to our District #31 new and returning families! We look forward to providing another year of exciting educational opportunities and adventures as we inspire minds and build futures together.

Student Registration

Complete Infosnap online using the instructions mailed to your home or given to you by the District office upon completion of proof of residency.

PreK and K Students - complete Infosnap online (30 - 45 minutes) beginning **February 3, 2021**.
1st - 8th Students - complete Infosnap online (30 - 45 minutes) beginning **March 15, 2021**.

If you have any registration questions, you may stop by the District Office between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday. If you cannot come during the scheduled times, please call 847-313-4416 to schedule an appointment.

Fees

Pay fees online at the time of registration or submit cash or check payment to the District Office.

To apply for financial assistance when registering online, please select "Financial Aid" on the "Payment and Submit" page. Submit completed financial aid application along with all supporting documentation to the District Office within 30 days of registering your child.

Health Forms

Submit Health Forms to your respective school office. Refer to grade level required health forms listed on the Winkelman and Field websites under the Our School menu Health Office tab.

Proof of Residency

If you have moved or are new to the school, please prove residency at the District Office.



Little Wildcats Preschool Transition

Little Wildcats is a high-quality preschool program that is designed to foster pre-academic, social, language, and motor development in children within the Northfield Township. This year, Little Wildcats will be operated by District 31, but will still utilize Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED) services. The program continues to serve all preschoolers including those who have delays in their development. Registration for the Little Wildcat Program will begin February 3, 2021. Find both additional information, eligibility requirements, and tuition rates at www.district31.net/littlewildcat or contact Meghan Swift at mswift@distrit31.com with questions.



District 31 Schools



Winkelman School

Preschool - Grade 5
1919 Landwehr Road
Glenview, IL 60026
847.729.5650



Field Middle School

Grades 6 - 8
2055 Landwehr Road
Northbrook, IL 60062
847.272.6884

Board of Education

- Melissa Choo Valentinas - *President*
- Laura Greenberg - *Vice President*
- Daphne Frank - *Secretary*
- Robert Resis
- Nancy Hammer
- Jeffrey Steres
- Dr. Maria J. Vasilopoulos

Administration

- Dr. Erin Murphy - *Superintendent*
- Mrs. Catherine Lauria - *Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations*
- Dr. Janine Gruhn - *Assistant Superintendent for Student Services*
- Ms. Becky Mathison - *Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction*
- Dr. April Miller - *Field Principal*
- Mr. Justin Cooper - *Field Assistant Principal*
- Ms. Shaton Wolverton - *Winkelman Principal*
- Mr. Nino Alvarez - *Winkelman Assistant Principal*

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Northfield School District 31

Connect 31-Parent Education Opportunities

Join us for the virtual Parent Education Spring Series featuring presentations on a variety of topics to help our families thrive. Learn more about the education series and find other helpful parent resources at www.district31.net/ParentEducation.

Fostering Independence at Home:

Executive Functioning

Monday, April 26, 2021 - 7 p.m.

Virtual Presentation for the SD31 Community

Executive Function skills impact student performance across all subject areas in school. What can parents do to help their children develop executive function skills? Dr. Bozeday presents an overview of current research describing the impact of the 21st Century influences on students today. Zoom Link will be available at www.district31.net on April 26.



Presenter
Georgia Bozeday,
Ed.D.

District Calendar

- February 8 & 10..... Field Spring Conferences
- February 11..... Remote Learning Planning Day/ Half Day Student Attendance
- February 12 & 15.... District Holiday & Presidents Day - No School
- February 18 & 22... Winkelman Spring Conferences
- February 25..... Board of Education Meeting
- March 9..... Student Services Update Meeting
- March 18..... Board of Education Meeting
- March 19..... Remote Learning Planning Day/ Half Day Student Attendance
- March 22-26..... Spring Break

*All dates and times subject to change.

Questions? Contact Superintendent Dr. Murphy at emurphy@district31.net or call 847.272.6880.

