



Connect 31

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Inspiring Minds, Building Futures, Together

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Fall 2020

Educating During a Global Pandemic

Fall Reopening

Winkelman and Field Schools reopened for the 2020 - 2021 school year on August 24 with both in-person and remote learning options. Learn more on pg. 3.



Pictured above: Winkelman students enjoy a socially distanced lunch.

What's Inside...



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Letter from the Superintendent

Dear District 31 Community,

I am honored to work with the most caring and talented teachers, staff, Board of Education members, and families to provide an inclusive environment where we live our mission of “inspiring minds and building futures - together.” Our faculty and staff are here to serve our students and families as we navigate through these challenging times.

Even during a global pandemic, our students benefit from small class sizes; individualized attention; opportunities for collaboration; a curriculum that includes age appropriate education and discussion about diversity, inclusion, and belonging; and access to state-of-the-art technology to facilitate learning. Our commitment to educating each of our students, supporting each of our staff, and building community with our families is the center of our school district--no matter the conditions of the world around us.

District 31 celebrates the diversity of our school and community and strives to foster an environment where all students and their families are partners in their education. We as leaders and educators are committed to listening, learning, and ensuring that we as a community come together to create a truly equitable, inclusive community that embraces our diversity.

Throughout the year, we invite you to connect and be involved in your child’s education. We value and welcome your direct communication with our teachers, support staff, administrative team, and Board of Education members. 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 - @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



Remote Learning

District 31 Remote learners follow a daily schedule just like in-person learners. Teachers use Google Meets, Google Classroom or SeeSaw to teach students. Through the different platforms available, students are able to connect with their teacher and peers.





Educating During a Global Pandemic

The 2020 - 2021 school year is unlike any we have had before! The district has made a number of changes to help keep students and staff safe.

Health and Safety Precautions

- Stringent cleaning routines in buildings
- Cleaning Supplies available in all classrooms
- Masks worn by students and staff
- Social distancing procedures maintained
- No large groups, visitors, or volunteers allowed in the schools
- All students and staff self-certify their health each day
- Continued education on prevention including hygiene and preventative care

Three Types of Learning Offered

- In-School Instruction
- Concurrent Remote Learning
- eLearning in the event schools must close for in-school instruction

Learn more about how District 31 is working to keep students safe at www.district31.net.

Meet Becky Mathison!

Ms. Becky Mathison joined the District for the 2020 - 2021 school year as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and will provide leadership in strategic planning, curriculum development, research and evaluation and more for our District.

What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

I love birds and birdwatching. I have binoculars and an IL bird book sitting by my kitchen window and tab pages when I spot a new species!

What makes a 'good day' at school?

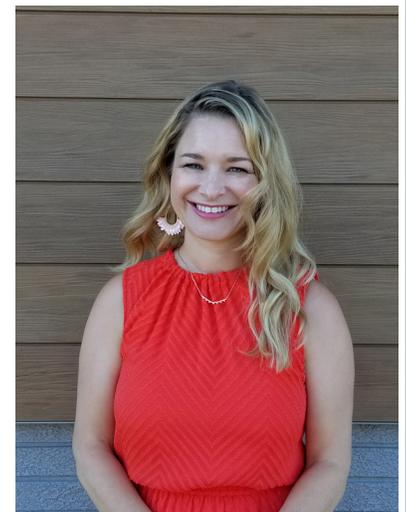
It's a good day when the teachers and students are authentically engaged in working together on developing student skills and interests.

Do you have any pets?

I have a boxer shepherd mix dog named Cheddar.

What is your first memory from school?

My first memory of school is playing with a wooden kitchen set and stepping in paint to make foot prints in preschool.



Substitutes Needed

District 31 is still in need of substitute teachers for the 2020 - 2021 school year. If you are interested in learning more, please contact **Tina Nielsen** at tneilsen@district31.net.





Meet Principal Wolverton

"I began my 28th year in education as the principal of Winkelman Elementary School. I previously taught 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades as a classroom teacher and spent five years as an assistant principal all for Kalamazoo Public Schools. After returning to Illinois, I accepted a principalship and have been working as a school principal for the past 16 years. I love what I do! I believe wholeheartedly in providing the most amazing school experience that we can provide for children.



I have a 16 year old son, Tristan, who is a junior at Warren Township High School. He's an amazing student and plays varsity football for Warren. We also have a dog named Bruno who is nine years old.

I am honored to join the West Northfield School District 31 family. Through servant leadership, I am committed to helping meet the needs of our students, teachers, and community."

Principal Shaton Wolverton

First Day of School

Winkelman welcomed students back to school on August 24 for both in-person and remote learning.



Student Services Update

As District 31 prepared to reopen schools amid the Coronavirus pandemic, we ensured students with disabilities, 504 plans, and multilingual learners were fully integrated into every aspect of reopening plans. It is essential to ensure the needs of all students are addressed and decisions benefit all students, staff, and families.

A number of items were identified as overarching areas of concern and were addressed in reopening planning. These areas include health and safety personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, instructional programs, and communication. All areas are covered in detail in the Student Handbook Reopening Guide located on the District website at www.district31.net/handbook.

McKinney- Vento Services

Those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or share the housing of oth-

er persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship are eligible for McKinney-Vento services. Services include the right to stay in the school the student was last enrolled or immediately enroll in school without documents normally required, receive free school meals and fee waivers for school fees, transporta-





Meet Assistant Principal Cooper

Assistant Principal Justin Cooper joined Field for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

What is one of your hidden talents?

I am really good at tetris and this has translated into being really good at packing cars for road trips or moving vans. I can fit a lot of stuff into a small trunk!

Is there a quote or something you live your life by?

“Just living the dream” I feel very fortunate for everything I have. Life will always have ups and downs but I do feel like I’m “Just living the dream” each day.

What are your trapped on a desert island books and movies?

I loved reading the Harry Potter series when I was little. Some movies I would definitely want to have with me are “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” and all the Marvel movies made since 2008. I love movies and someday I want to build a movie theater in my basement!



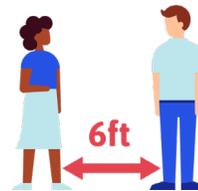
First Day of School

Field welcomed students back to school on August 24 for both in-person and remote learning.

District Fast Facts



42%
of Students
Participating in
Remote Learning



Approximately **700**
Self Certifications
Per Day



12 - 16
Students
Per Class
at Winkelman



100+ Webcams & **600+** Student
and Teacher Dividers Purchased
for the 2020-2021 School Year



ZERO
Large
Group
Activities



Over **400** Meals
Provided to Remote
Students in
Need
Weekly



Nearly **30**
Languages
Spoken at
home



Over **1000** Per
iPads, Chromebooks,
and Computers in the
Hands of Students
and Staff

tion to and from school, access to tu-
toring and more.

Learn more about McKinney-Vento
by contacting Dr. Janine Gruhn ,
Assistant Superintendent for Stu-
dent Services, at jgruhn@district31.net
or call 847-313-4411.

100% of our Community in this Together



Community News



Message from the District 31 Ed Foundation and PTO

Welcome back to school! It looks a little different this year, yet two parent organizations remain constant - the Education Foundation (Ed Foundation) and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Both serve the D31 community, both are here to support the schools and the people within, and both would love you to be a part of the work they do. Read on to learn more!

Ed Foundation

PTO

Funds initiatives which provide engaging, enriching, inclusive, and safe environments for our students in order to support and promote our district's high educational standards.

Mission

Supports District 31 by bringing our community together to build relationships, enhance education and benefit students, parents, teachers, administration, and all community members.

Parent Volunteers

Run By

Parent Volunteers

Any parent, guardian, teacher, administrator, or community member in D31.

Members

Any parent, guardian, teacher, or administrator in D31.

Winkelman Bi-annual Fall Fun Run/Spirit Week and Annual Benefit for families, staff, and adult community.

Support Provided

Programs, resources, and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child and benefit the school, including organization and support of room parents, creation and management of the D31 family contacts resource Director Spot, family recreation nights, school supply kits, Bingo Night, Annual Art Fair, STEM Expo, Taste of D31, Art Enrichment Program, restaurant fundraisers, Farewell to 5th, 8th grade graduation reception, Teacher Appreciation Week, Wildcat Times newspaper, and Project Reach .

Past completed funding initiatives have included iPads and Chromebooks for every student (1:1 technology), Wi-Fi and Internet infrastructure updates, STEAM initiatives and makerspace labs, installation of new safe and inclusive playground equipment at Winkelman, outdoor improvements at Field (the "Quad"), and the Teacher Grant Program.

The present initiative is funding for and donations of PPE supplies for staff and students.

This year, there will be several new and traditional programs that are COVID-friendly.

Ed Foundation events, direct donations from families and community members, and corporate and private sponsorships. The Ed Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Funded Through

Membership fee (waived for 2020-2021), fundraising from select events, and contributions from D31 community members. The PTO is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

d31edfoundation.org

Learn More

district31.net/pto

edfoundation@district31.net

Contact

d31pto@gmail.com



School District 31 Community Calendar

**Thursday
September 24**



Board of Education Meeting
7 p.m.

Blended Remote Learning Planning Days
No Student Attendance



**Friday
September 25**

**Monday
September 28**



Recognition of Yom Kippur
School Offices Closed

Columbus Day
School Offices Closed



**Monday
October 12**

**October 15
October 19**



Winkelman and Field
Fall Conferences

Blended Remote Learning Planning Days
No Student Attendance



**Monday
October 19**

**Thursday
October 22**



Board of Education Meeting
7 p.m.

Election Day
School Offices Closed



**Tuesday
November 3**

**Thursday
November 19**



Board of Education Meeting
7 p.m.

*All dates and times subject to change. Please visit the District website for more information.



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 Fall Series featuring presentations on topics such as resiliency, equity, and technology designed to help our families thrive. Learn more about the education series and find other helpful resources at

Technology 101 in a Remote Learning World

Wednesday, October 7 - 7 p.m.

Virtual Presentation for District 31 Families



District 31 administrative staff will present on technology usage during eLearning using feedback and experience from the first weeks of school. The administrative team will select topics to help families support their students with learning in the current remote learning environment.

The session will be recorded for those unable to attend.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social and emotional learning is an important part of child development. As such, District 31 works closely with families to provide SEL supports, especially during the COVID pandemic. Resources are available for students, staff, and families. Learn more on the district website at www.district31.net/selresources.

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

