



LEARNERS

A Newsletter for the Winnetka Community of Learners



2022 DOWNSIZED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: REFERENDUM

As a member of The Winnetka Public School community, we want to ensure you remain informed about the improvements to all five schools as part of the 2022 Downsized Capital Improvement Plan: Referendum, which was adopted as a resolution by the School Board on August 16th and will be on the ballot November 8th. Please visit our website at www.winnetka36.org for information including costs, details on projects that would be addressed as part of the plan, and renderings of proposed improvements at our schools.



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PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOX for a recent mailing with further information.



CLICK HERE TO VIEW the screencast of the District's Informational Session.

Visit our website at www.winnetka36.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

We're just getting started with our year, and already have a significant amount of positive news to share!

A MESSAGE FROM DR. KELLY TESS, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Winnetka Community,

It has been just over 100 days since beginning in the role of Superintendent of Schools on July 1. This school year marks my 10th year in the District, and I have never been more excited about where we are heading as a school community. It has been a pleasure getting to know our new families, observing our students thriving in our classrooms and outdoor spaces, and connecting with our staff and community. We are extremely fortunate to serve a Village that has seen the immense value in investing in high-quality education for over 100 years. Our School Board, administrators, and staff are dedicated to continuing our legacy of excellence with innovative experiential learning opportunities and a focus on building the social and emotional skills that our students need in order to flourish in high school and beyond. With the students at the center of our daily work, we continue to strive toward the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan 2021-2025, balanced with a commitment to making instructional decisions that enhance the plan as well. The Strategic Plan includes the following goal areas:

CLICK
HERE
TO
VIEW



The Strategic Plan

**Intellectual Engagement
and Motivation to Learn**

Positive Culture and Well-Being

**Local and National Leader in Progressive
Education and Talent Development**

**Financial Stewardship and Facility
Improvements**

We continue to place a high value on the partnership we enjoy between our families and staff, and know that your investment in our schools makes a tremendous impact. I wish each of you and your families a lovely autumn and coming holiday season.

Most Sincerely,
Dr. Kelly Tess



THANK YOU, WINNETKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION!

Due to the generosity of the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation, Hubbard Woods welcomed renowned artist Basho Mosko to spend a day with students as an artist-in-residence.

INCORPORATING RULER IN OUR SCHOOLS

In alignment with our Strategic Plan Goal focused on Positive Culture and Well-Being, we strive to support connection and belonging in The Winnetka Public Schools as a catalyst for continual growth. This includes the District adoption of @RULER, a research-based approach to social and emotional learning (SEL) conceived at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. RULER is intended to foster the following values in school communities:

- Understanding the importance of emotions
- Increasing the skills of emotional intelligence
- Developing and maintaining a positive school climate

RULER emphasizes four anchor strategies as a means to proactively or reactively respond to social or emotional needs, which we are in the process of implementing in our schools. We look forward to parent learning opportunities on RULER this fall so that parents also have the chance to share in these approaches and vocabulary where it makes sense at home.

BUTTERFLY MIGRATION AT CROW ISLAND, GREELEY AND HUBBARD WOODS SCHOOLS

Our Kindergarten students participated in their annual butterfly migration to Mexico. Over the course of the first two months of school, students learned about the life cycle of butterflies, culminating in this beloved Winnetka tradition.





FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



RECORD-SETTING RUNATAHON

Crow Island's annual Runathon in support of Misericordia was a huge success, thanks to the support of the PTO. Over 600 parents cheered on our K-4 students as they ran a collective 329 miles.

INTRODUCING A NEW SONG AT THE SKOKIE SCHOOL

At our September School Board Meeting, Skokie School students debuted their new school song, the result of a student-led creative process. We look forward to welcoming students from all of our schools to share what they are learning at our monthly meetings!



NEW MURAL UNVEILED AT GREELEY SCHOOL

The result of a collaboration between artist David Csicsko and former Greeley students (now sixth graders), a beautiful new work of art was unveiled in October at Greeley School.

WAY TO GO, WASHBURNE!

Washburne's annual Autumnfest Event raised over \$3,000 to benefit Henry's Heroes, a foundation started by a former Washburne student to support epilepsy research.



CRITICAL FACILITY WORK CONTINUES

Our schools all underwent regular maintenance related to Health/Life Safety facility needs this summer as part of our Educational Master Facility Plan. Highlights included:

Carleton Washburne School

- Roof work
- Piping replacement
- Floors
- HVAC and electrical improvements
- Paving
- Other miscellaneous Health/Life Safety work

Greeley School

- Fan coil unit addition
- Completion of domestic piping

Hubbard Woods School

- Railings added
- Univent replaced
- Fencing installed
- Exterior doors replaced

The Skokie School

- Cornice repairs
- Paving

Crow Island School

- ADA-compliant classroom exit added

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- The District has received a top rating of 'AAA' from Standard & Poor's Rating Services and 'Aaa' from Moody's Investors Service in consideration of the District's stable financial outlook, strong fund balances, household buying income, overall net debt as percent of market value, and debt per capita. These ratings allow the District to receive better interest rates on bonds.
- The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. This was the sixth year the District received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded such a distinction, a governmental unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to the program's standards. The report must satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, as well as applicable legal requirements.
- Components of the Financial Philosophy include; expectations that District revenues will not increase by more than 3% each year, and will cover expenses; establishing long-term fund balance targets of 50% to 60% for operating funds; targeting growth in operating fund expenses per pupil at 3% annually, with the exception of identified program enhancements with multi-year cost implication estimates; proposing staffing targets for certified and classified staff; and implementation of changes to some internal financial reporting practices.



To access the District's 2021 Financial Report, please visit our District website at www.winnetka36.org.



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OUR NEWSLETTER**



PARTNERING ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY

Commemorating our Intergovernmental Stormwater Agreement

The Village is partnering with School District 36, New Trier High School, the Winnetka Park District and the Cook County Forest Preserve to address flooding concerns in the Village by building storage tanks behind Crow Island School, underneath Duke Childs Field, and under the Park District's golf course. These tanks will gradually release water captured during rain events into the Skokie Lagoons. Intergovernmental agreements were signed between the Village and District 36 in 2019.

We appreciate our Village partnerships regarding safety initiatives, including increasing security in our schools and community, and helping enhance our bike and pedestrian safety practices.

