

NewsBits



April 2020

District 62: Working Together

Dear District 62 Community,

As we thought about what we wanted to highlight in anticipation of our April edition of our NewsBits e-newsletter, we realized that we are not operating under normal circumstances. While we have been greeted daily with difficult news and uncertain updates, I have been very moved by the good that I have seen within our District 62 Learning Community.

The month of March marked the beginning of our “new normal”. Within days, we mobilized as a district and made sure that our students had access to a device so they could be engaged during our new platform of remote learning. I’m very proud of our technology department for working so quickly to support children. At the same time, our instructional services department and student services department collaborated with their teams to make sure that a learning plan was in place for students, both from a curricular level as well as social emotional level--knowing full well that we had

no manual to follow as we navigated through this worldwide crisis for the very first time in our lives.

I was also very touched to see the volunteers that have come into place as we focused on food distribution for our families that began in mid-March. It definitely takes a village, and with that, I thank our Board members, staff and community members who have given their time to distribute food to our families with the support of Arbor Management. In addition, I thank Maine Township High School District 207 for partnering with us to ensure that families had access to food every day of the week.

We’ve also been fortunate to receive support from the Rosemont Public

Safety Department as we focus on feeding our Orchard Place families at the Barry Recreational Center. We have been in constant communication with our neighboring school districts, local police and fire departments, offering support and assistance to one another when we have needed it most.

Our staff miss our students deeply. I have seen our staff jump in their cars and drive through neighborhoods to wish our students and families well which has lifted the spirits of so many in our community. Videos have been created and shared with families filled with

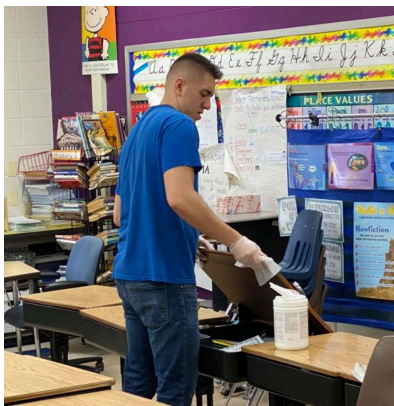
Did you know?

On average, District 62 has been distributing about **1,200** meals to families each day.



messages of hope, care and compassion. Our teachers are connecting with students virtually and our principals are working very hard to make sure that the needs of our staff and students have been addressed. Our operations and maintenance team have been diligent about keeping our schools, classrooms and buildings clean while also supporting food distribution efforts.

I also would like to acknowledge the fact that while our Strategic Plan may look a bit different today in terms of our focus six



weeks ago, everything we are doing centers around our five goals. From our focus on student learning with the supports we are providing through remote learning (**Goal 1**) to ensuring that our students have the resources they need (**Goal 2**) to supporting staff during these uncertain times (**Goal 3**) to helping families by providing meals and necessities--with a little help from our friends

in the community (**Goal 4**) to making sure that the district has what it needs to operate and function even during these uncertain times (**Goal 5**).

While this is a temporary situation, this is our reality today. I've realized that during these uncertain times, it is easy to focus on the negative, which is why we wanted to intentionally share the good we have seen across our extraordinary school district. I will continue to promote the good that is happening in District 62 because I believe that positive energy is contagious. We are here today and always, working together to support the students we serve. It is our honor and our privilege to do so and we will continue to be a constant in our community. I look forward to the day when I can thank everyone in person for all their efforts. I know that day will come. But for now, I thank everyone, near and far, for working together for the children and families of District 62.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Paul Hertel'.

Paul E. Hertel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
#62workingtogether



Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1: **Student Growth and Achievement**

Engage all students in learning that leads to academic growth, achievement, and readiness for high school, college, career, and life.

Goal 2: **Learning Environment**

Provide personal support to each student to develop the skills and confidence to be self-sufficient learners.

Goal 3: **Work Environment**

Provide personal support to each staff member to develop the skills and confidence to be innovative, exemplary, and visionary leaders of the district and their profession.

Goal 4: **Family and Community Connections**

Engage families and the community as partners to support student success.

Goal 5: **Resources**

Effectively, efficiently, and equitably manage the district's facilities and financial resources.

Stay informed

Visit our website at www.d62.org to stay up-to-date on communications, news on remote learning and resources for families.

Working Together: D62 Stories

- Three cheers for Shannon Olander who works in the district's before and after school care program known as SPARK. She has been busy sewing masks for healthcare workers.



- After one day of food distribution at the Barry Recreational Center, Orchard Place families and community joined together.

In mid-March, volunteers

from Algonquin Middle School and Orchard Place helped give out approximately 200 meals.

The movement grew and the week following spring break, Orchard Place staff and families coordinated pick-up for 60 meals to bring back to Rosemont for families without access to transportation. With support from the Rosemont Public Safety Department, meal pick-up for approximately 200 meals has continued throughout April.



- South Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization donated 120 safety glasses to healthcare workers.

Did you know?

Every District 62 student received a device to support learning in anticipation of Governor Pritzker's Stay at Home Executive Order. Remote learning materials with grade level learning standards are mailed home every week for those students without Wi-Fi access. Teachers make daily phone calls to support families.

District 62 has set up Wi-Fi in every school parking lot and provided hot spots for every home in need.

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

Thank you District 62 Community Members. The Board members of the District 62 Foundation would like to thank our supporters and patrons that attended our annual Fundraiser on March 6. This year's theme was 'March Madness'. The sports theme produced a variety of spiritwear worn by attendees paying homage to various colleges and universities across the nation. Attendees participated in an evening of trivia and other games designed to raise money for the District 62 Foundation. The event was held at Café la Cave, known for its delicious food and impeccable service. A silent auction completed the evening with items that were donated by community members and businesses as well as District 62 staff and Parent Teacher Organizations.

A big thanks to our sponsors: Village Bank and Trust, Franczek P.C., R.C. Wahl Jewelers, Maxine Hubbard, and Burke & Sue Oehrlein. The Foundation continues to be buoyed by the enthusiastic support and generosity of the community. Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for grants and educational programs to support District 62 staff and students.

Thank you for supporting the important work of the District 62 Foundation. We look forward to continuing to support the educators of District 62, thus enhancing the lives of the students they teach. For more information about the Foundation, please visit our website at www.d62foundation.com

