

# NewsBits



Summer 2023

## District 62 launches its new website

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website, [www.d62.org](http://www.d62.org).

“Thank you to our staff, parents and community members that provided feedback on what you wanted to see in our new website,” said Director of Community Relations Jennifer Tempest Bova. “You will see the District 62 website includes helpful resources, engaging photographs and captivating videos that help tell our District 62 story.”

District 62 extends its sincere gratitude to the Des Plaines History Center which provided the district with archived photos of its schools.

“There is an added benefit to being able to tell our story when we know where we’ve come from and how our district has evolved,” said Bova. “Our community partners are truly instrumental in so many ways.”

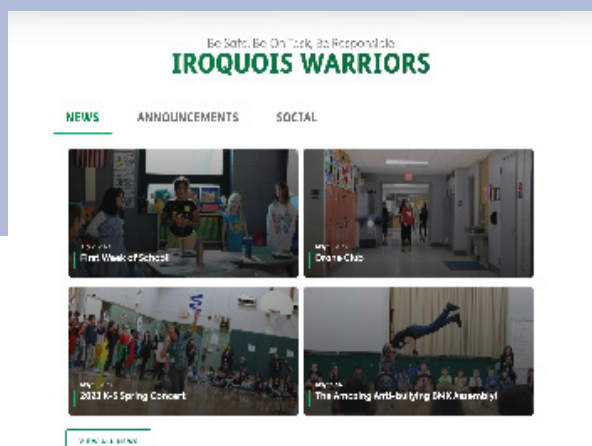
We look forward to your feedback.

Let us know what you think! Your feedback is important to us as we work to refine our website to better support our community.

E-mail: [bovaj@d62.org](mailto:bovaj@d62.org)



Be on the lookout! Stories about our students and staff will be featured each Friday under each school site’s homepage news section. We invite you to check out our stories so you can learn more about the engaging activities happening in the schools, hallways and classrooms.



## District 62 welcomes new administrators to the team



### Director of Social Emotional Learning

**Colin Baer** joins the team as the Director of Social Emotional Learning. The Director for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is responsible for helping create a positive learning community by integrating social emotional learning with instructional learning. Baer has most recently served as a Student Services Coordinator in Park Ridge-Niles District 64. Prior to this, Baer served as a Special Education teacher, Special Education Department Chair, and Assistant Director of Student Services in the Grossmont Union High School District in San Diego County,

California.

### Assistant Principal

A familiar face here in District 62, **Xrisovalantou “Valia” Garbis** was named the Jane L. Westerhold Early Learning Center assistant principal. For the last two years, Garbis has served as a Student Services Coordinator in District 62. Prior to being a Student Services Coordinator, Garbis spent nearly eight years as an early childhood teacher and teacher facilitator serving students and families at the Early Learning Center. Before joining District 62, Garbis served for seven years in Chicago Public Schools as a kindergarten, 1st and 6th grade teacher.



### Assistant Principal

North Elementary School welcomes **Ashley Patterson** as assistant principal. Patterson began her career in Chicago Public Schools as an educator. After 10 years of teaching, she became an assistant principal in 2022.



### Assistant Principal

**Lorence Reid** joins Chippewa Middle School as an assistant principal. Reid has 14 years of experience in education. He was the Principal of the Directions Program and the Title I Coordinator for Glenbard District 87. Prior to that, he was the Student Interventionist at Urbana High School (UHS) and the Summer Transition Coordinator for both the Middle and High School at Urbana School District 116. He taught Social Studies and English in several school districts, including Urbana School District 116 and Decatur Public Schools

District 61.

### Assistant Principal

Forest Elementary School welcomes **Traci Reiner**. Reiner comes to the district most recently as a 1st grade teacher in Schaumburg School District 54. Having been there for nine years. Reiner taught 1st grade, 5th grade, 4th grade, and was a reading and math interventionist. In Reiner’s nearly decade-long experience in education, she has worked with a diverse population of students. She is passionate about building relationships with students and families to ensure the best educational experience.





### Student Services Coordinator

In this role, **Margaret Sarti** is responsible for administering and supervising special education programs and services in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations. Sarti joins the

Student Services department with over five years servicing students as an early childhood special education teacher and MTSS coordinator, as well as administrative experience at the district level as an Early Childhood Special Education Administrator with Chicago Public Schools. Most recently Sarti served as the Manager of Instructional Quality, overseeing a team of special education administrators who provided instructional support throughout the district.

## FinanceBits

Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) concluded at the end of June. The district posted a healthy surplus based on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding from the federal government and elevated Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax revenues received from the state.

While it was helpful to receive this extra revenue, this added funding is not expected to continue in the long-term. Looking ahead to Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), the usual state and federal funding is expected to be consistent with FY23, and tax levy revenue will be higher than average due to the large increase in the Consumer Price Index brought on by high inflation. Expenses will be up due to the overall inflationary environment, which will consume many of the added revenue dollars.

The district is still feeling some of the effects of the supply chain issues when ordering new equipment and supplies. Hiring new staff is also still proving to be difficult. All-in-all, District 62 remains in a strong financial position and it should remain so in the coming years.

## District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

It may be back to school for the staff and students of District 62, but for the [District 62 Education Foundation](#) it is back to business. We stand behind our teachers and administrators, and look to support them through what are still challenging times for educators and students. The Foundation Board would like to wish the District 62 staff, administrators, Board of Education, and students a successful and productive school year, as well as offer our support for District 62 and its goals.

The business at hand for the District 62 Education Foundation is to gain community support and awareness for our teachers and to promote a positive educational environment within the schools and throughout the community. We support the staff and students of District 62 by funding grants and wishes for certified staff members. Each year, an average of \$25,000 in grants are awarded. Enhanced opportunities for students make a positive impact on the health and well-being of students and staff. The board plans to increase business partnerships, fundraising, and community awareness to increase support for District 62.

Please join us in our mission to enhance the educational experiences and environment of District 62 students and educators. We have posted our upcoming activities, meeting dates, fundraising opportunities, and Board member information on our website at [d62foundation.com](https://d62foundation.com).

## District 62 recognizes its Difference Makers

In 2020, District 62 began a formal recognition program to honor those staff members considered “Difference Makers” who are a defining example for the learning community of District 62. This recognition program aligns directly with Goal 3 (Work Environment) of the district’s five-year [strategic plan](#). Those recognized as a Difference Maker receive a coin to commemorate this honor. We thank our Difference Makers for doing a great deal for others without seeking recognition or acknowledgment. They make this learning community a better place through their dedication, commitment and support of public education.

Congratulations to our summer **District 62 Difference Makers:**

**Francesca Liberti, Megan Benjamin, Gianna Hansen, Nancy Pawelek and Laura Hayek:** This



Orchard Place 5th grade team demonstrates a student solution focused collaboration at Professional Learning Community (PLC), as well as clear and consistent implementation of cooperative learning strategies. In addition, they utilize positive structures to create and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment. Such structures include class pets, positive action pictures of student learning posted and visible for students around the learning environment, as well as active use of social-

emotional learning curriculum and extension.

**Samantha Gawel, Melissa Kahn, Joanna Lily Wei, Danielle Cerami, and specials team:** This team has practiced strong positive learning strategies such and providing clear and consistent behavior expectations, as well as explicit instruction to supplement the second step curriculum. They have also supported individualized learning needs and have observed significant impact on individual student social-emotional functioning.

**Laura Rosland, Jennifer Pellemounter, Nancy Llanos, Margaret Klemundt, Lucy Felix:** This team makes a difference by providing a responsive learning environment to support drastically different needs in our primary grade level. They demonstrate reflective and responsive practice by implementing and modifying individualized, as well as whole class needs, in order to motivate student success. This team has powered through and continued to maintain a student focus even during the most challenging times of the year.

**Colleen Bezuidenhout, Michael Santopalo:** Colleen often goes above and beyond to form strong positive student relationships and steps up to support our crisis team. Mike also brings strong knowledge of differentiated supports for learning and behavior and is willing to jump in and try something new when needed.

**Orchard Place Front Office Team: Rosa Oveido, Cora Caffey, and Allison Trujillo:** Our front office team has stepped up in so many ways this year to respond to student, staff, and family needs. They are deeply positive and always willing to bring meaning to the term “all hands on deck.” Our school team simply is stronger, warmer, and more welcoming with them here.

**Angela Bogusz:** Angela has gone above and beyond in her first year as speech language pathologist at Orchard Place. She stepped in to help the crisis team to support students. She also volunteered her time as a mentor and took on the enormous task of planning and implementing the talent show.

**Samantha Howe:** Sam provides a warm and welcoming face for Orchard Place's youngest learners. She is always willing to reach out to her students and make sure they know they are wanted and cared for in her classroom. She has also transformed kindergarten and incorporated developmentally appropriate learning into the academic setting, which has required time and resources above and beyond what is expected.

**Amber Phalen:** Amber's art program has been visible to students all year. She has put in many hours of time to ensure that student artwork is visible in all available spaces. It puts a smile on so many staff, student, and family members' faces.

# WE ARE HIRING

## Paraeducators

Fantastic opportunity to work school days Monday - Friday

Hours:

Elementary 8:40 am - 3:40 pm

Middle 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pay per hour:

High school diploma: \$15.98

Four-year degree: \$17.40

Includes 100% paid Blue Cross Blue Shield  
PPO or HMO for employee can purchase for family

## RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE

- Supporting students in a variety of environments throughout the day with academic instruction, behavior support, and functional skills( ie. Feeding, self-help)
- Helping teachers with different tasks (ie. making copies, laminating, preparing materials)
- Being flexible with your assignment based on the needs of the building
- Ensure the safety and security of students throughout the day
- Supervising children while teacher is remotely teaching
- Maintaining confidentiality of student information

[Click here to start!](#)

