

Winter 2024

Ramona DeCristofaro named Assistant Superintendent for Student Services



Ramona “Romy” DeCristofaro was named the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services at the December 18 Board of Education Meeting.

DeCristofaro comes to the district with two decades of experience in special education, having most recently served as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services in Evanston/Skokie School District 65 for the last five years. In that role she oversees special education, multilingual programs, health services, early childhood programs and services for students experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

“I am honored and excited to join the District 62 team and community. The vision and values of District 62 are very much aligned with my personal values of equity, collaboration and continuous improvement,” said DeCristofaro. “I have been impressed and felt so welcomed by everyone I have met so far. I can’t wait to start partnering with the educators, leaders and families to build on the good things that are already happening to support student empowerment and success.”

The Assistant Superintendent for Student Services is responsible for leading, managing and overseeing all aspects of the Student Services department. The Assistant Superintendent for Student Services directs the planning, development, organization, management, direction, and implementation of all aspects of Student Services for the district which include, but are not limited to, special education, student discipline, interventions, early childhood programs, social emotional learning, student safety, Section 504 and serve as a complaint manager and Title IX coordinator.

“I can’t wait to start partnering with the educators, leaders and families to build on the good things that are already happening to support student empowerment and success.”

Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro

DeCristofaro received her Bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University and holds Master’s degrees in Educational Leadership and in Special Education Advanced Practices from Northern Illinois University. DeCristofaro received her Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

DeCristofaro is set to begin July 1, 2024.

FinanceBits

The Board of Education adopted the 2023 tax levy in the amount of \$87,541,000. This is a 2.91% increase over the prior year's tax extension. While the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2022 was 6.5%, and the district could have levied 5.0% based on a statutory cap, the Board of Education decided to levy 2.91%. With the levy increase of 5.0% and new construction and an expired TIF district in Rosemont, the district asked for approximately \$3 million less than it was eligible to receive. A public hearing was held on December 18, 2023 prior to the Board voting on the adopted levy.

Online registration now open

Students entering kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to register for the 2024-2025 school year via the district's online registration system. Parents can register from the Campus Parent (Infinite Campus) [website](#) or use the [Campus Parent app](#) on their smartphone.

In addition to any students new to District 62, Kindergarten students will begin their registration process online. Families must register via the district's web-based parent portal before making an appointment to visit their home school and provide necessary documents that include proof of residency, birth certificate and health forms. More information can be found on the district website, www.d62.org

District 62 will host a series of events to support families with the registration process at Algonquin Middle School, 767 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines.

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., February 22

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., March 13

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., April 16

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., May 18

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., June 6

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., August 1

District 62 asks that students be registered by April 4, 2024.

Additional information about District 62's online registration process including frequently asked questions can be found here: <https://www.d62.org/enrollment/new-student-enrollment>.



D62 2024-2025 REGISTRATION ENROLLMENT

EVENTS

62

ALGONQUIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 22 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

MARCH 13

APRIL 16 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

MAY 18

JUNE 6 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

AUGUST 1

Visit our website for more information: WWW.D62.ORG

Our next Strategic Plan

This spring, the Board of Education will receive recommendations on behalf of the Strategic Plan Team that includes a draft mission, vision, core values, goals and strategies that will help set the course for the future direction of the district. We invite you to stay informed by visiting our Strategic Plan link on our website, [Developing our Strategic Plan](#). Thank you to the members of the Strategic Plan Team that gave their time to support this critical process to benefit the students of Community Consolidated School District 62.



Did you know?

Our [website](#) continues to tell the stories of District 62. Every other week, a brand new story is featured on each school's website highlighting a class, activity or an event that has taken place. These stories are in addition to the [62 Stories](#) (videos) and the news stories that are featured on the district home page. We invite you to visit our website so you can get a first look into District 62.

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

The [District 62 Education Foundation](#) Board is very thankful for its continuing partnerships within the greater Des Plaines community. We received strong support from Village Bank and Trust of Des Plaines as well as Imagine Learning and Arbor Management, long time partners of District 62. Small business owners in Des Plaines rallied around teachers by granting classroom wishes, ultimately strengthening the classroom experience for students. All these partners and stakeholders, through their generosity, have made a difference in students' lives.

We continued our grant program that has been our mainstay since the Foundation's inception in 2001. In 2024, we are excited to share that we are approaching the half million-dollar mark in school funding. Those funds, raised by the Foundation Board and supporters, have been invested in the students of District 62 in the form of programs, clubs, musical performances, and extracurricular activities. They are experiences that have made lifelong memories and secondary opportunities for the students of Community Consolidated School District 62.

We look forward to 2024 with high hopes and expectations. We hope to expand our Board and look forward to partnering in an even bigger way with generational organizations with deep roots in the community. Board members and volunteers are needed, as well as donations. If you are interested in helping the District 62 Foundation attain its goals and/or impact the lives of students, we would love to hear from you. Please visit our [District 62 Education Foundation](#) website or email us at d62foundation@gmail.com.

Rivers Casino awards \$65,000 grant to District 62

Community Consolidated School District 62 was the recipient of a \$65,000 grant from Rivers Casino.

The grant will go toward the implementation of a U.S. Drone Soccer program at each of the three middle schools: Algonquin Middle School, Chippewa Middle School and Iroquois Community School. Each school will support multiple co-ed teams of students in grades 6-8. Each building will host ongoing programs that include instruction/background information on drone construction and piloting, teambuilding, gameplay/rules, practice/mastery opportunities as well as career readiness skillbuilding.

The grant was submitted by Iroquois Community School Library Media Specialist Cathy Borge.

"I'm very excited to bring this grant to life," said Borge. "This grant will allow our students to participate in a competitive e-sport while embracing new skills as they learn how to build and fly drones. These skills will provide opportunities for them as they learn about future career options in the aviation and robotics fields."

The drone soccer program will be implemented over the next school year as coaches are trained and begin working with students on the drone construction.

"I am very proud of our success in securing this grant," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. "This funding represents a significant investment in technology that will benefit our students as we push the boundaries of innovation."



WE ARE HIRING

[Click here to start!](#)



Paraeducators

Fantastic opportunity to work school days Monday - Friday

Hours:
Elementary 8:40 am - 3:40 pm
Middle 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Salaries start at \$17.00 an hour

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

