

June 2024

Amy Cengel named Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services



Amy Cengel was formally approved at the May 14 Board of Education Meeting as the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services.

“As a long time employee, a parent of District 62 graduates, and a member of this community, I am fully invested in the success of our students,” said Cengel. “I look forward to working alongside Dr. Amadei and our dedicated educators to help ensure that every child has the supports, resources, and tools they need to thrive in today’s world.”

The Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services is responsible for overseeing curriculum and instruction and the second language programs department as well as overseeing state and local assessments, developing the district calendar and overseeing materials adoption and management.

Cengel has served as Principal of Forest Elementary School for the last three years. Prior to that, she was Principal at Oak Terrace Elementary School in Highland Park and was named Lake County Principal of the Year in 2019. Prior to that she was principal at South Elementary School in District 62 for three years and had also served as an instructional coach and middle school teacher in District 62.

“We are incredibly excited for Mrs. Cengel to join our administrative team as our Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “Mrs. Cengel possesses a strong commitment to student achievement and collaborative leadership style. Knowing her passion for supporting all children, I am confident she will be an asset to our team as we focus on our new strategic plan and moving our district forward to provide all children with opportunities for success.”

“I look forward to working alongside Dr. Amadei and our dedicated educators to help ensure that every child has the supports, resources, and tools they need to thrive in today’s world.”

Amy Cengel
Incoming Assistant Superintendent for
Instructional Services

Cengel and her husband, Andy, live in Des Plaines with their three children, Noah, Anna and Carys.

Board of Education adopts new strategic plan

The Community Consolidated School District 62 Board of Education adopted a five-year strategic plan at the April 15 meeting. Developed through a collaborative effort that involved District 62 students, District 207 students, staff, Board of Education members, families and community, the newly adopted strategic plan focuses on five key goals:

Goal 1 Best Student Achievement: Engage all students in learning that leads to academic growth, achievement, and readiness for high school and beyond.

Goal 2 Best Learning Environment: Cultivate a safe, inclusive, and engaging culture of learning that supports the academic, social, and emotional growth of each student.

Goal 3 Best Workforce: Invest in our diverse workforce to encourage innovation, collaboration, communication, responsibility and accountability.

Goal 4 Best Family/Community: Cultivate partnerships with families and the community to support and expand learning opportunities for each student.

Goal 5 Best Use of Resources: Make effective and efficient use of resources to maximize educational success for each student, every school and the district.

“Being transparent and engaging with our staff, families and stakeholders was a priority throughout this process,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Amadei. “Our website was constantly updated to feature the roster, schedule, agendas and accompanying documents as it related to the work of the Strategic Plan Team. Updates about the strategic plan were also shared in the district’s NewsBits e-newsletter to staff, families and community.”

Giving stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback outside of the Strategic Plan Team was a critical part of the process. Surveys and focus groups were administered in October, November, December and January to seek feedback regarding the district Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT), the Preferred Future Statement, the three Portraits (Learner, Educator and System) and the draft strategic plan.

The fundamentals of the newly adopted strategic plan are noted below:

Mission: Cultivate an inclusive, innovative learning environment that inspires students to explore robust academics, advance their potential and to be compassionate lifelong learners.

Vision: Educate resilient, lifelong learners who think critically and solve problems collaboratively as they prepare for their future.

Motto: Curiosity • Compassion • Courage



“I extend my sincere appreciation to the nearly 60 people who contributed their time to this process, including the 19 middle school and high school students. This groundbreaking strategic plan represents our district’s vision for the future and it is an honor to see this district focus on providing children with the best public education experience here in District 62.”

Ronald Burton
President, District 62 Board of Education

Core Values:

- Safety and Well-being
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
- Curiosity and Innovation
- Collaboration and Communication
- Empathy and Trusting Relationships
- Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Learner Portrait: Learners possess the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and mindsets to thrive in high school and beyond.

- Creative, Curious and Critical Scholar
- Collaborative Communicator
- Problem-Solver and Innovator
- Dependable and Reliable Friend
- Flexible and Agile Thinker
- Well-Being Advocate
- Social Skilled, Responsible and Accountable Citizen

Educator Portrait: Educators continuously develop these attributes to assist learners to grow and be successful.

- Knowledgeable, Innovative and Skillful Instructor
- Student-Centered Lifelong Learner
- Collaborative Communicator
- Trusting and Respectful Colleague/Team Member
- Continuous Improvement Champion
- Decision Maker and Problem Solver
- Empathetic and Perseverant Advocate

System Portrait: District 62 supports all employees as members of its school community.

- Clear Purpose and Direction
- Sense of Belonging and Community
- High Expectations and Standards
- Trusting and Respectful Relationships with Students, Families and Staff
- Consistent Communication and Collaboration
- Health, Safety, and Well-being of Students, Families and Staff
- Consistent Practices, Policies and Procedures

District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

As the school year comes to a close, and we look back at all the accomplishments the students of District 62 achieved through hard work and dedication, the District 62 Education Foundation Board is proud to have been a part of that.

The Foundation awarded \$41,000 in grants to teachers in District 62. The funds facilitated many extra learning opportunities for students such as field trips to places like the Museum of Science and Industry, the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Shedd Aquarium, and a Wendella architectural tour. Relationships were strengthened in the community through musical tours to local nursing homes, community outings for ELS students, and visits to the Des Plaines Public Library.

Learning opportunities in the areas of STEM, astronomy, and hands-on science were funded as well as music workshops and conferences. Families were invited in for literacy nights and students were able to stay after school for clubs and activities based on special interests.

The District 62 Foundation Board wishes all the students and staff of District 62 a safe and healthy summer. We appreciate all the support we have received from within the district as well as the community at large. Our strategic partners, Wahl Jewelers and Village Bank and Trust, were invaluable in our pursuit for enhanced educational opportunities for the students.

For more information about the District 62 Education Foundation, to make a donation, or to inquire about joining the Board visit the [District 62 Education Foundation](#) website or email us at d62foundation@gmail.com.

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.

Music instrument donations sought

D62 is launching a districtwide instrument donation drive. Your contribution, big or small, can make a world of difference.

Perhaps you have a gently used instrument gathering dust in your attic or basement. Has your child outgrown their first violin or clarinet? Donating that instrument could unlock a plethora of possibilities for another student in our district.

Here's what we are looking for:

- Gently used band and orchestra instruments (brass, string, woodwind)
- Percussion instruments (cymbals, drums, etc.)
- Any instrument in good working condition

How to donate:

- Please contact Dominique Radtke at radtked@d62.org.

Your generosity will go toward providing children in our district with the opportunity to discover the joy of music. Thank you for your support!



Congratulations to our newest Difference Makers

Orchard Place Social Worker **Jessica Becker** makes a difference by collaborating with teachers and staff to learn what supports they need and she meets with students daily to help them reach their full potential. She is always available to support staff, communicates regularly with parents and makes a difference by just being her wonderful self. Thank you, Ms. Becker for making a difference in D62!

Orchard Place Psychologist **Garrick Montesinos** brings hard work and dedication to his job daily. In his role he continually builds positive relationships among staff and students. Thank you, Mr. Montesinos, for making a difference in District 62!