



April 21, 2025

Presentations/Recognitions

Infinitec Award

Cumberland student Aidan Marshall was among those students selected from more than 80 school districts to receive the Infinitec Technology Achievement Award this month.

The fifth grader will be honored on April 24 for his use of assistive technology. The annual banquet will be held at The Cotillion in Palatine.

Optimist Club Poster Contest

District 62 recognized three North Elementary School students who all placed in the Des Plaines Optimist Club Poster Contest: “Exercise for Life: Be Healthier.”

First Place: Guadalupe Gomez-Zepeda

Second Place: Sienna Chapman

Third Place: Riley Anderson

Recognition of Gallery 62

The Gallery 62 Art Exhibit was introduced as a way to recognize works of art created by District 62 students under the guidance of district art teachers. The Board of Education presents the original art to the parents or guardians during eighth grade promotion ceremonies.



District 62 Board of Education

Ronald Burton
President

Elizabeth Massa
Vice President

Stephanie Duckmann
Member

Tina Garrett
Member

Gene Haring
Member

Beth Morley
Member

Jeanette Weller
Member

Margaret Goodchild
Secretary to the Board of Education

The district recognized those students whose artwork was selected to be featured as part of [Gallery 62](#):

- Giselle Gonzalez, Algonquin Middle School
- Clarissa Ong Yiu, Central Elementary School
- Pavlos Efthymiadis, Chippewa Middle School
- Zacharias Vinoya, Cumberland Elementary School
- Maria Pulido, Forest Elementary School
- Emma Jacks, Iroquois Community School
- Aubrey Yanez, Iroquois Community School
- Srilakshmi Saravanan, North Elementary School
- Sarah Santiago, Orchard Place Elementary School
- Julia Orozco, Plainfield Elementary School
- Maiya Tedeschi, South Elementary School
- Annabel Drozdek, Terrace Elementary School

Click [here](#) to watch the Gallery 62 video.

Student Learning and Support Services Update

Strategic Goal Monitoring: Forest and South Elementary Schools

Principal Kristin Jares shared an [update](#) on behalf of South Elementary School while Amber Soike and Assistant Principal Traci Reiner shared an [update](#) on behalf of Forest Elementary School. Their presentations centered on how their schools are focused on all five goals of the District 62 Strategic Plan.

Demolition Bids for the Building on 1717 Rand Road

The Board of Education approved the bid to demolish the property on 1717 Rand Road by National Wrecking Company in the amount of \$134,000. Pepper Construction, at the direction of Administration, created a bid package for the demolition of the building located on the 1717 Rand Road property. The bid notice was placed in the Des Plaines Journal Topics as required. A pre-bid walk through for the project was held April 2, 2025. All bids for the project were due at 11:00 a.m. April 10, 2025, with the bid opening held at the district maintenance building. A total of seven bids were received, which ranged from \$134,000 to \$488,000. The low bidder was National Wrecking Company. The project would be completed by June 30, 2025.

District 62 Administration

Dr. Michael Amadei

Superintendent of Schools

Mark Bertolozzi, Assistant

Superintendent of Business Services

Kathleen Kelly Colgan, Assistant

Superintendent for Human Resources

Amy Cengel, Assistant

Superintendent for Instructional Services

Dr. Ramona DeCristofaro

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Adam Denenberg,

Chief Technology Officer

Jennifer Tempest Bova, Director

of Community Relations

Colin Baer, Director of Social

Emotional Learning

Dr. Julie Fogarty,

Director of Curriculum

Elizabeth Juskiewicz, Director of

Multilingual Programs

Heidi Rudy, Director of Student

Services

Michael Vilendrer, Director

of Operations, Maintenance and Transportation

Christina Bowman,

Curriculum Coordinator and Data Specialist

Anel Escamilla, Multilingual Coordinator

Electra Giannakopoulos,

Multilingual Coordinator

Karina Paul, Multilingual

Coordinator

Erica Tae, Multilingual Coordinator

Jill Dzik, Student Services

Coordinator

Benjamin Keele, Student Services

Coordinator

Angela Riggio, Student Services

Coordinator

Brandon Schaefer, Student

Services Coordinator

Katerina Vaselopoulos, Student

Services Coordinator

Annual Monitoring of District Technology Report

Chief Technology Officer Adam Denenberg provided an overview of the department projects from the year that focused on enhancing and expanding the usage of systems implemented over the past few years. The presentation reviewed recent advances to these programs, the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in District 62, ongoing infrastructure maintenance, and technology budget projections. A copy of the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Communications

Board of Education

Board Vice President Liz Massa attended ED-RED Advocacy Day in Springfield which she noted was a wonderful and well-organized experience. Mrs. Massa extended her appreciation to ED-RED for their support. As part of Advocacy Day, those in attendance had the opportunity to engage and thank their local legislators. Member Beth Morley announced that the District 62 Education Foundation will meet in May. The Foundation seeks new members. Please reach out to Mrs. Morley if interested in joining the Foundation Board.

Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amadei provided an update regarding the playground work taking place at Cumberland and Forest Elementary Schools. The intent is to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of these playgrounds. Dr. Amadei noted that through a conversation with a Senator, there may be funding available to our district for additional projects related to accessibility. Special Olympics is coming up on May 10 at Prospect High School that will include 28 participants from District 62. Dr. Amadei also shared that he wrapped up a podcast with Des Plaines Fire Chief Matt Matzl that will be out soon. National Night Out is coming up on August 5. We are in the process of finalizing the Intergovernmental Agreement. Dr. Amadei also announced that Marielle Metoyer will be replacing the Board Secretary position as Margaret Goodchild will be retiring on June 30. In closing, Dr. Amadei thanked and acknowledged Jeanette Weller for her years of service to the Board of Education.



Dashboard: District Staff Development Activities 2024-2025

Professional learning and grant funds allowed District 62 staff to receive training affecting school improvement and student achievement, including: curriculum articulation and collaboration among teachers, assessment results analysis and next steps planning based on students' learning needs, mathematics learning, literacy learning, learning for English Learners and students with disabilities, improved pedagogical practices, leadership skills, social-emotional learning and much more. A copy of the dashboard report can be accessed [here](#).