

Inspiring Minds, Building Futures, Together

Spring/ Summer 2021

## A Year to Remember

While we are not back to “normal” as we once knew it, we started to see glimpses of a new normal with spring track meets, a spring celebration, and in-person 8th grade graduation. We are not back to “normal”, but we continue to thrive and prosper as the District 31 Community. Learn more about planning for the 2021 - 2022 school year on page on pg. 3.



Like us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/  
WestNorthfieldD31

*Pictured: Field students Jonathan Valentinas and Trey Ryno participate in the School District 31 vaccine clinic that took place May 21 at Field Middle School.*

## What's Inside...



Graduation Photos... Page 5



Message from Ed Foundation and PTO... Page 6



Meet the New District 31 Board Members... Page 7



# District 31's Response to COVID-19

## Surviving the 2020 - 2021 School Year

From the beginning, we knew the 2020 - 2021 school year would be a year like no other for our students, teachers, staff, and parents. We experienced new degrees of fear and helplessness. We had to pioneer a way to make schools safe again, to use technology in ways we were not familiar with, and to be flexible to maneuver the ever changing restrictions and guidelines from various organizations, such as the CCDPH, IDPH, and ISBE. Somehow we came together and made it through this unprecedented year.

Though the year was challenging, there were many wonderful things to highlight. We were able to offer in-person and remote instruction for nearly the entire year. Many different community partnerships were formed that will continue to lead to the sharing of new ideas, resources, and opportunities for our families. We were also able to provide a variety of support to District 31 families including technology support, educational support, and free breakfast and lunch for all students. Most recently, we partnered with Glenbrook Hospital to provide vaccine clinics for the community at both Field and Winkelman schools. This pandemic has made us a stronger, tighter community that District 31 is proud to serve.

## Planning for the 2021 - 2022 School Year

The District is currently planning for full, daily in-person programming for all students based on guidelines from the CCDPH and ISBE that advocate that, by following safety guidelines, schools should fully reopen for in-person programming in the fall. Per ISBE guidance, a full return to in-person instruction is expected with limited exceptions for remote instruction for qualified students. Visit the ISBE website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) for more information.

If you have not already, remember to register for the 2021 - 2022 school year as soon as possible. Registration fees can be paid at a later date if needed. Bus registration must be done by July 1. Learn more at [www.district31.net/registration](http://www.district31.net/registration).

The latest District 31 Coronavirus updates are available on the District website at [www.district31.net/corona](http://www.district31.net/corona).



# Letter from the Superintendent

Dear District 31 Community,

As I write this letter I am fighting many emotions. I am beyond proud of our community for coming together, supporting each other, and making the best out of an incredibly difficult year. I am hopeful for what this next school year will usher in a greater sense of normalcy. I am also excited to work with a multitude of community stakeholders as we begin our strategic planning process and turn our eyes to the future (learn more on page 8).

The crisis we endured has given our schools the opportunity to emerge stronger and make lasting changes to the way we support, teach and connect with our students. While this year has served to remind us of the flexibility and resilience of our students and families, our administrative and teacher teams are planning for next year with an eye on addressing possible impacts caused by the “unconventional” environment, whether it be emotional, academic or social. When we return for the 2021 - 2022 school year, we plan to meet students where they are and understand things will be different upon their return after their varying experiences during these uncertain times. Despite the challenges, we have watched students continue to learn, grow, and adapt.

“The lessons learned over the past year, both formally and informally, will shape the remainder of their lives, and the generation of students that has survived the pandemic will be different as a result. Just as generations before that have survived wars, economic challenges, or natural disasters, today’s group of students will think differently because of the experience they have had — and the results will change the future of the world. Students have not lost learning through the pandemic — they have learned differently.” (ISBE Lessons Learned from the Pandemic).

I look forward to welcoming back students and staff to a “more normal” learning atmosphere on August 19!

Dr. Erin Murphy  
District 31 Superintendent



## Equity Audit

During school year 2020-21, District 31 engaged in an equity audit to clearly identify areas of strength and recognize needed improvement to advance equity within the District. Educational equity is a continual pursuit to enable all students to have equitable access and opportunity. The audit serves as a way for the District to gain an authentic reflection and continue to take action toward equity for all students.

The next step for District 31 is formulating a plan based on the results of the equity audit. The plan will allow the District to address concerns and establish systemic improvements.

View the Equity Audit results at [www.district31.net/EquityAudit](http://www.district31.net/EquityAudit).







## Meet Kate Ipsen!

Ms. Kate Ipsen joins the District for the 2021 - 2022 school year as the Director of Early Childhood Education and Specialized Services. Most recently, Kate served as the Student Services Coordinator and District Case Manager for Itasca School District 10. Prior to that, she served as a speech-language pathologist for District 214, 25, 34, and 220. Kate holds a Masters in Communication Sciences and Disorder and a Bachelors in Speech-Language Pathology from Saint Xavier University and an Educational Specialist degree from National Louis University. She will provide leadership for the Little Wildcat Preschool, which is now operated by District 31. Learn more about Little Wildcat Preschool at [www.district31.net/littlewildcat](http://www.district31.net/littlewildcat) or contact Kate Ipsen at [kipsen@district31.com](mailto:kipsen@district31.com).



## Farewell to Fifth

Congratulations to our 5th Grade Graduates!



## District 31 Student Services

District 31 celebrated Exceptional Children's Week in May. Inclusive schools ensure all students are welcomed and provided necessary supports to be successful.

### *Little Wildcat Preschool*

District 31 is running the Little Wildcats Program with the continued supports from TrueNorth/NSSSED cooperative. Students within the Township with various learning needs are welcomed.

Kate Ipsen serves as the new Director of Early Childhood and Specialized Services. Also joining the program are two new teachers, Suzy Cho and Kimberly Miller, and two returning teachers, now District 31 staff, Ashley Zolt and Kate List.

### *ACCESS Testing*

The EL Department celebrates achieving 100%

EL student participation for ACCESS Testing. The EL Department is working with teams to improve our EL programming based on our EL audit. The last BPAC meeting was May 19 where information about vaccines was shared.

### *Supported Learning Environment*

The special education department is starting a supported learning environment class for grades 3-5. This classroom supports students who need more intensive supports that focus on daily living skills, academics, social emotional supports and other related areas. Meghan Gallup is joining the staff as our newest SLE teacher.

### *SEL Task Force*

The SEL task force continues social and emotional learning. Field and Winkelman provide lessons to students in Second Step curriculum.





## 8th Grade Graduation

Congratulations to our Class of 2021 Graduates!



## Spring Sports: Track and Field

Co-Ed Track and Field returned this spring at Field School. The District was excited to see student athletes get a chance to once again compete against other schools.

Next year, Field plans to resume fall sports including girls' volleyball and co-ed soccer (pending no changes to the current IDPH guidelines).

District support staff have surveyed students as a regular check in process to determine if extra support is needed. This is an excellent way for students to reach out and seek help. SEL continues to be a valued focus for students and staff.

For more information, contact Dr. Janine Gruhn, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, at [jgruhn@district31.net](mailto:jgruhn@district31.net) or 847-313-4411.





# Community News

## Ed Foundation News

We cannot thank our teachers, administration, staff, Board of Ed, kids, and families enough for their efforts through this challenging year. A year to remember! So let's remember ...

### *School Year Major Funding Initiative through 2022*

Field Middle School Science Lab and Winkelman Art Room furniture and equipment upgrades. We are half way there and we still have all next year! Fundraising Goal = \$40,000.

### *1st Annual Walk the School Day*

An opportunity for families to enjoy walking the outside of the school with their students. Total funds raised = \$2,736

### *Ed Foundation and PTO Teacher/ Staff Appreciation*

Teacher Appreciation continued all year long with treats such as ice cream, donuts, and coffee. Total funds raised = \$1,164

### *Safety 1st*

PPE supplied all year long as needed. Total funds raised = \$5,000

### *Virtual Holiday Boutique*

A holiday shopping opportunity for shoppers, mostly local sellers, and our schools! Total funds raised = Over \$ 1,400

We NEED new members to keep our efforts alive! Learn how to join at **d31edfoundation.org**. We are excited to meet YOU!

Thanks to all for supporting the Education Foundation!



## PTO News

### *What We Have Been Up to...*

This winter and spring the PTO coordinated semi-monthly restaurant fundraisers, which supported many local restaurants as well as the D31 PTO. We also hosted a spirit wear drive that offered several new designs and styles. Teachers and staff were showered with gifts of appreciation (smoothies, personalized notepads, mints, and chocolates) during Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO supported graduation gifts and activities for Field's class of 2021 as well as activities for Winkelman's Farewell to Fifth. The year's events closed out with the Spring Fling, a community-wide celebration complete with chalk art, photo ops, book signing by teacher/author Alyssa Chlebek, book fair, spirit wear sales, and a raffle to throw a pie at select teachers and staff - including Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy!

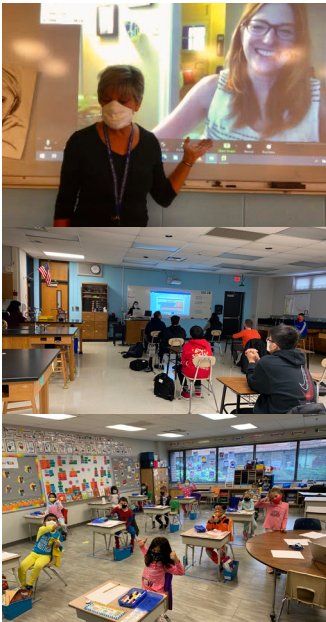
### *What's to Come...*

As the world opens up and restrictions are loosening, we're creating new and exciting events for the coming year. A few favorites that will return are a summer spirit wear drive, school supply kits, and fall book fair. Be on the lookout for information on other upcoming opportunities.

### *Get Involved...*

Join or support the PTO and all its programming or attend a PTO meeting! Visit **www.district31.net/pto** or email **d31pto@gmail.com** to learn more. We are always looking for volunteers. Have a wonderful summer!





## District 31 Curriculum

The District 31 Curriculum is now available at [www.district31.net/curriculum](http://www.district31.net/curriculum). Each curriculum is aligned with national or state learning standards and ensures every student learns and grows through challenging and engaging experiences in the classroom. The curriculum website page allows for teachers, students, and parents to have a clear understanding of learning expectations. Standards are organized into units of study. Information about co-curriculars and SEL will be added in the near future.

Visit [www.district31.net/curriculum](http://www.district31.net/curriculum) to access an overview of what students learn at each grade level. Contact Becky Mathison, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, at [bmathison@district31.com](mailto:bmathison@district31.com) with questions regarding student curriculum.

## Meet the Board of Education

Meet the new District 31 Board of Education Members Meredith Estes and Dr. Allison Slade Rothstein! Estes and Slade joined former Board of Education members Melissa Choo Valentinas, Laura Sanchez-Greenberg, Jeffrey Steres, Daphne Frank, and Dr. Maria Vasilopoulos.



### Meredith Estes

Meredith Estes, a Glenview resident, is currently serving her first term on the Board. Mrs. Estes earned her BA in English and French at Lake Forest College and her MS in Public Administration from DePaul University. She serves on the Spiritual Council Board at Glenview Community Church and as the Board Chair for the Glenview Community Church Nursery School. Mrs. Estes has a daughter rising to 7th grade at Field and twins rising to 3rd grade at Winkelman. Contact Ms. Estes at [mestes@district31.net](mailto:mestes@district31.net).



### Dr. Allison Slade Rothstein, School Board President

Over the past 25 years, Allison Slade Rothstein, Ed.D, has served as a teacher, professional developer, school leader and coach and curriculum designer in urban and suburban settings, including being the founder of Namaste Charter School in Chicago. Dr. Slade is currently the Director of Instructional Leadership & Strategic Initiatives for Roosevelt University, and a consultant and strategic advisor to many education organizations. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies from Washington University in St. Louis, her master's degree in Education Policy from the University of Chicago as a McCormick Tribune Fellow and her principal & superintendent certification and Doctor of Education degree from National Louis University. She has two daughters, one a rising 6th grader and one rising to 4th grade at Winkelman Elementary. Contact Dr. Slade at [aslade@district31.net](mailto:aslade@district31.net).



## Summer Free Meal Program

Free meals continue to be provided throughout the summer for children ages 18 and younger. Learn more at [www.district31.net](http://www.district31.net).





## District 31 Schools



### Winkelman School

Preschool - Grade 5  
1919 Landwehr Road  
Glenview, IL 60026  
847.729.5650



### Field Middle School

Grades 6 - 8  
2055 Landwehr Road  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847.272.6884

### Board of Education

Dr. Allison Slade Rothstein, *President*

Laura Greenberg, *Vice President*

Daphne Frank, *Secretary*

Meredith Estes

Jeffrey Steres

Melissa Choo Valentinas

Dr. Maria J. Vasilopoulos

### Administration

Dr. Erin Murphy, *Superintendent*

Catherine Lauria, *CSBO Finance & Operations*

Dr. Janine Gruhn, *Student Services*

Becky Mathison, *Curriculum & Instruction*

Dr. April Miller, *Field Principal*

Justin Cooper, *Field Assistant Principal*

Shaton Wolverton, *Winkelman Principal*

Nino Alvarez, *Winkelman Assistant Principal*

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



## Northfield School District 31

### Strategic Planning



In the spring of 2021, District 31 began the strategic planning process. Strategic planning touches all of our community by establishing a clear direction for the District, improving our self-awareness, and bringing a sense of focus on how to reach our goals. For the strategic planning process, the District must be well-represented by our community, which is why the District thanks the following members of the strategic planning team.

### Strategic Planning Team

Families & Community	Staff	Administration & Board
Caitlin Bergan, Terah Bozarth, Kelly Durov, Erum Kabani, Megan Kivaris, Sehr Lakhani, Margo Schwartz-Newton, Lorin Ottlinger, Nick Parfitt, Darrin Stern.	Allison Burns, Krisitie Cerniglia, Lisa Cumblad, Alexis Ellis, Nisha Gandhi, Allison Gebbert, Melissa Kulbeda, Jacqueline Le-Mon, Kelli Levy, Kate List, Gabrielle List, Tina Nielsen, Claire Rixie, Anne Smoczynski, Julie Stone.	Janine Gruhn, Cathy Lauria, Becky Mathison, April Miller, Erin Murphy, Allison Slade, Maria Vasilopoulos, Shaton Wolverton.

The Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) has been selected to facilitate the strategic planning process. CEC has a wealth of experience in strategic planning and has assisted several of our neighboring communities in the process. Follow the strategic planning progress at [www.district31.net/strategicplan](http://www.district31.net/strategicplan).

## District Calendar

June 17..... Board of Education Meeting  
August 16 - 18..... Teacher Institute Days  
August 19 ..... First Day of School for Students

\*All dates and times subject to change.

Questions? Contact Superintendent Dr. Murphy at [emurphy@district31.net](mailto:emurphy@district31.net) or call 847.272.6880.

