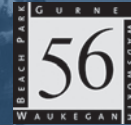


Keeping Posted+

GURNEE
COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITY



Volume XLVIII, No. 3 (Special Issue)

Back-to-School 2021

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District Reports



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Keeping Posted(+)

The Village has once again partnered with our three school districts (50, 56 and 121) and the Gurnee Park District to bring you Keeping Posted+! This special edition of the Village's newsletter brings you information about the community that you might not otherwise see. We hope you enjoy the combined format and the opportunity to see the work our various organizations perform to make Gurnee an excellent place to live, work and play!

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

I have liked seeing my neighbors and local businesses enjoying all that Gurnee has to offer this summer. The Village is experiencing a strong comeback from the difficulties of this past year. This is a true testimony to the resiliency of residents and businesses. Thank you for reaching out to your neighbors and shopping local as together we overcome this past year's adversities.



This special edition of Keeping Posted focuses on our community partners. I have the pleasure of working regularly with our community leaders and we make a point of getting together for dinner several times a year. The dinners reinforce our strong working relationships and we often, through conversations, find many ways to solve issues together and ultimately save money for the taxpayers. Gurnee has excellent schools, great library services, an award winning park district, a wide array of businesses to meet all of your needs, spiritual and civic groups to provide support to residents and exceptional Village services that are second to none.

Along with the Village Board, I am proud of the community we serve and the people we represent. Our residents have a reputation for a strong commitment to volunteerism that shows itself daily in the Village.

The Village employees and Boards work hard year-round to make Gurnee a community you can be proud to live and work in. I welcome your feedback. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail the Mayor's office.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood

THE VILLAGE OF GURNEE

325 N. O'Plaine Road • (847) 599-7500 • www.gurnee.il.us

Village News

Village Meetings

Village Board

August

16

7:00 p.m.

August

23

7:00 p.m.

Sept.

13

7:00 p.m.

Sept.

20

7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

August

18

7:30 p.m.

Sept.

15

7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

August

24

7:00 p.m.

Sept.

28

7:00 p.m.

All Village meetings are held at Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road) unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change. Meetings in red and outlined in black are Committee of the Whole meetings where no formal action is taken. Meetings in purple are Civil Service Meetings.

Beer with the Mayor

Join Mayor Tom Hood for a Beer with the Mayor! The next event will be on Friday, September 17th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Timothy O'Toole's Pub Gurnee (5572 Grand Avenue). This is an opportunity to meet with Mayor Tom Hood and discuss Village projects or ask questions in an informal setting.

Coffee with the Mayor

Are coffee and breakfast more your style? Join Mayor Tom Hood for Coffee with the Mayor! The next event will be on Saturday, August 21st from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Riverside Cafe & Coffee Shop (401 N. Riverside Drive, Unit 7). This is an opportunity to meet with Mayor Tom Hood and discuss Village projects or ask questions in an informal setting.

48th Annual Gurnee Days

www.gurneedays.com

August 7th & 8th
"The Great Outdoors"

Come celebrate Gurnee Days weekend August 7 – August 8 at Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.)

August 7, 2021

5K RUN & 2 MILE Walk

Hunt Club Park (920 N. Hunt Club Rd.) | 7:30am

Pre-register at gurneeparkdistrict.com or register the day of at Hunt Club Community Center. Day of registration opens at 6:30am.

Gurnee Days Golf Outing

HeatherRidge Golf Course (5900 HeatherRidge Dr.) | 10am shotgun start. To sign up contact Operations Manager, Sean Boban at HeatherRidge Golf Course by calling (847) 367-6010.

Mother Rudd Open House

Mother Rudd Home (4690 Old Grand Ave.) | 1 – 4pm

Bounce House Village

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 3 – 7pm

Food Booths

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 3 – 10pm

Ax & The Hatchetmen

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 5:15 – 7:15pm

Bella Cain

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 7:30 – 10:30pm

Fireworks

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 9pm

Sunday, August 8, 2021

Car Show

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 10am – 3pm

Bounce House Village

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 11am – 3pm

Food Booths

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 11am – 3pm

Petting Zoo

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.) | 11:30am – 2:30pm

Parade

begins at N. Greenleaf Street, continues west on Old Grand Avenue, and ends at Emerald Avenue.) | 12pm

Mother Rudd Open House

Mother Rudd Home (4690 Old Grand Ave.) | 1 – 4pm

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JUDY K. MALDONADO

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WANT MORE INFO?

www.gurneedays.com

Woodland District 50

Return to School Plans for Fall 2021

Woodland D50 is excited to welcome students for the return to full in-person learning in the fall for the 2021-2022 school year. Woodland leaders are meeting regularly to develop and fine-tune return to school plans, and the district continues to follow the guidance coming from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Woodland is committed to building back stronger than ever, not just academically, but also mentally and socially. Students and staff will need extra support this year as we transition from a disrupted pandemic school year and slowly work back to a new normal. The master schedule at each school next year includes at least one 30-minute block of uninterrupted Social Emotional Learning time each day. Woodland will also be launching a Wildcat Wellness Program to take a holistic approach towards wellness for Woodland staff. We want to make sure our staff is at their best in order to support all students in the fall.

Investing in Infrastructure

Woodland D50 completed two big infrastructure projects in the 2020-2021 school year, and the roof at Woodland Middle School is currently being replaced. The infrastructure projects were identified in the five-year facilities plan which allowed the district to prioritize needed infrastructure improvements while also maintaining long term fiscal health.



- Construction is complete on the new Transportation Office behind Woodland Elementary, and the old office was demolished in front of Woodland Primary.
- The roof-mounted solar project at Woodland Intermediate and the ground mounted solar project at Woodland Elementary are now complete. In addition to energy savings, these projects are expected to save \$2,026,100 over the next 20 years.

On the horizon for Woodland are capital improvements including the second half of a district-wide HVAC project, technology infrastructure updates, roofing replacements at south campus and parking lot repairs/replacements district-wide.

Connect with Woodland District 50!

Website:
www.dist50.net

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WoodlandDistrict50/

Twitter:
twitter.com/Woodland50News

#Lifein theW



District Info

About District 50

Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50 is an elementary school district covering early childhood through Grade 8. As one of the largest school districts in the State of Illinois, it has approximately 5,400 students enrolled from all of unincorporated Gages Lake and Wildwood and parts of Gurnee, Grayslake, Park City, Third Lake, Old Mill Creek, Wadsworth, Lindenhurst and Waukegan.

Officials

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

DR. CARLA LITTLE, PRESIDENT
MR. JOSEPH DE ROSA, VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. LIZZY HELGREN, SECRETARY
MRS. RENEA AMEN, JD - BOARD MEMBER
MR. COREY HOLMER - BOARD MEMBER
MRS. ANNA CHANG-YEN - BOARD MEMBER
MRS. BRIANNA POWVENS - BOARD MEMBER

SUPERINTENDENT:

DR. LORI CASEY

Schools

WOODLAND PRIMARY:

17366 W. Gages Lake Road
(847) 984-8700

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY EAST:

17261 W. Gages Lake Road
(847) 984-8800

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY WEST:

17371 W. Gages Lake Road
(847) 984-8900

WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

1115 N. Hunt Club Road
(847) 596-5900

WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL:

7000 Washington Street
(847) 856-3400

District Finances

Budget & Reporting Documents

Copies of Woodland District 50's budget, teachers' contract and required compensation disclosures are all available on the District's website. Go to www.dist50.net, select "About Us", and then select "Public Records."

Residents with questions can contact the District's Administrative Offices at (847) 596-5600.

D50 Financial Recognition

Bond Rating: Woodland District 50 recently had its credit rating reaffirmed by two credit agencies. In 2016 the district refinanced its current debt to reduce its tax rate to area residents.

Credit Ratings History

Moody's and Standard & Poor (S&P):

2020	AA+	S & P
2019	AA+	S & P
2018	AA+	S & P
2017	AA+	S & P
2016	AA+	S & P
2015	AA+	S & P
2015-2020	Aa2	Moody's

The ratings from Moody's indicate high quality, and the Standard & Poor's ratings indicate a strong capacity to meet financial obligations.

Financial Recognition

Illinois State Board of Education:

2020	Recognition
2019	Review
2018	Recognition
2017	Recognition
2016	Recognition
2015	Recognition
2014	Review
2013	Recognition

District 50 has maintained the highest level of "Financial Recognition Status" for its financial profile for six of the last eight school years.

Woodland District 50

New Faces at Woodland

A #LifeintheW welcome to Risa Cohen, Woodland's new Assistant Director of Educational Support and Innovation! Ms. Cohen most recently served as the District Curriculum Coordinator for CCSD15 in Palatine, and is working towards completing a Doctoral Program through Western Illinois University. She has experience with curriculum development and evaluation, supporting Dual Language programs, and she played an integral role in developing a Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) for literacy and math in her previous district. Risa is passionate about meeting the needs of staff so they can support the needs of their students and families.



Timothy Sheldon joins the #LifeintheW team as the new Principal of Woodland Intermediate. Mr. Sheldon is an experienced elementary principal with more than 8 years of principal experience. He is skilled in building relationships with students, staff, and families, and he has a strong reputation for advancing student academic growth.

Woodland Intermediate is excited to welcome Michelle Mallari into the role of Assistant Principal. Ms. Mallari joins the team with more than 20 years of education experience in various roles at River Trails School District 26. She has an extensive background with Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) programs, strategic planning and equity work. She will be a strong advocate for members of the Woodland learning community at Intermediate.

Elsie Tucker joins the Woodland Elementary team as the new Assistant Principal. She most recently served as the Principal of 21st Century Preparatory School in Racine, WI (along with other administrative roles) and also has experience as a classroom teacher working in Zion and North Chicago. She is committed to helping students succeed and brings an inclusive and collaborative approach to supporting students.

Woodland D50 and CLC Partner to Support Families

The Woodland D50 Board of Education approved a partnership with the College of Lake County (CLC) to provide adult education classes to parents of English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Through this partnership, the District will offer three programs to the parents of our ESL families beginning in September 2021:

- English as a Second Language
- GED High School Equivalency Preparation
- Technology Skills

The District began discussions with CLC to develop this partnership because 23% of Woodland students are classified as English Language Learners (ELLs), and 55 different languages are spoken by our families at home. These classes will assist parents in becoming more active participants in their children's education and will be held at Woodland Intermediate. The program costs will be split between CLC and Woodland D50 and will be entirely funded with state and federal grants. The classes will be offered at no cost to program participants. Woodland D50 will also be working with local students to provide childcare for program participants.

Woodland District 50

Middle School Teacher Named Woodland's Gurnee Teacher of the Year

Eighth grade social studies teacher Joy Barbknecht has been named Woodland's Village of Gurnee Teacher of the Year for 2021.

Joy Barbknecht has been working at Woodland Middle School since 2002 as an 8th grade Social Studies teacher. She has a BA from the University of New Mexico and an MAT from National Louis University.

Mrs. Barbknecht enjoys teaching 8th graders because they are at a crossroads in their lives, and she understands how important this year is on their educational journey. This is where they start to make choices for their future, and Mrs. Barbknecht tries to guide them while also teaching her students to work hard and be kind to others.

More than 500 staff, students, families and community members submitted nominations for teachers and certified staff that go above and beyond to support Woodland's learning community and who truly embrace the #LifeintheW spirit.

Woodland selects a school winner from each of the five schools in the district. From the list of five finalists, an overall winner is selected for recognition as the Village of Gurnee's Teacher of the Year. This year's other four school finalists were:

- Amber Beutel, Woodland Primary
- Katie Howell, Woodland Elementary East
- Jeb Fleming, Woodland Elementary West
- Jane Weiland, Woodland Intermediate

Dr. Lori Casey, Woodland D50 Superintendent stated, "This is one of our favorite celebrations each year, but it takes on an extra special significance this year. Woodland teachers had to pivot and learn a whole new way of delivering instruction and figure out how to make connections remotely in the face of a global health crisis. If ever there was a year to celebrate the accomplishments of teachers and recognize their amazing contributions to our learning community, this is that year."



Hiring in the W!

We want you to join the Woodland team! We are currently hiring for Bus Drivers and Substitute/Guest Teachers. These are very important positions for opening to full in-person school in the fall. You can make a difference and contribute to #LifeintheW. View current postings at www.dist50.net by visiting the "Careers" tab, and follow @WoodlandCareers on Twitter.



District News

Woodland Hires Equity Leaders

Woodland made a commitment to ensure equity and inclusion for all students as part of the Strategic Plan created and adopted in 2018. The most recent action taken on the District's equity journey is the development and hiring of nine Equity School Improvement Leaders. These Equity Leaders will focus on curriculum and instructional needs at the school and classroom level, provide staff professional development and act as a collective resource for the community as we broaden our work with equity. The members of this team were selected to create a holistic approach to the equity work with many different qualifications and viewpoints. For example, one leader is a dual language teacher from Peru who will advocate for district families to assist with overcoming language obstacles; one leader is the hearing itinerant for the district who advocates for deaf students and students with other abilities; and one leader has expertise as a school psychologist in supporting the mental and emotional health of students. The Equity Leaders are committed to creating and fostering a community of inclusivity where all students feel safe and respected.

Woodland PTA

Woodland PTA is looking for parents, teachers, friends, neighbors and grandparents who will work together to support the Woodland learning community. Connect with the Woodland PTA on Facebook (facebook.com/WoodlandPTA50) or visit their website www.woodlandpta.com to learn more about the organization and how to get involved.



District Info

About District 56

Gurnee School District 56 is an elementary school district covering early childhood through Grade 8.

It services portions of Gurnee, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Beach Park.

Officials

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

DR. JIM BLOCKINGER, PRESIDENT
LYNN SCHROETTER, VICE PRESIDENT
BRIAN WEIR, TREASURER
MARK POS, SECRETARY
BECKY KOTSINIS
ODIE PAHL
MANDI FLORIP

SUPERINTENDENT:

DR. COLLEEN PACATTE

Schools

SPAULDING SCHOOL:

2000 Belle Plaine Road
(847) 662-3701

PRAIRIE TRAIL SCHOOL:

13600 W. Wadsworth Road
Wadsworth
(847) 623-4333

RIVER TRAIL SCHOOL:

333 N. O'Plaine Road
(847) 249-6253

VIKING MIDDLE SCHOOL:

4460 Old Grand Avenue
(847) 336-2108

Gurnee District 56

District 56 Strategic Plan

District 56 will begin work on a five-year strategic plan during the 2021-22 school year. The work, postponed a year due to the pandemic, will review all facets of the school district including: finances, demographics, curriculum, instruction, student achievement and staffing. The foundation for the strategic planning process will be the District's work on a Portrait of a Graduate as well as that of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

In regards to the topics noted above, the following questions will drive our process:

- What student needs are not currently being met by the district?
- What do the long term projections related to enrollment and finances allow for relative to continued operations and improvement of the district?
- Do our current facilities and structure serve our students and community?
- Where do we want Gurnee School District 56 to be in five years?

If you are interested in participating in the Strategic Planning Process, please reach out to the District at (847) 336-0800.

Learning Recovery Program

District 56 is moving forward with a comprehensive approach to providing support and services for students as a result of remote learning over the course of the past 14 months. We refer to our program as the Learning Recovery Program. We are working to put in place a six-tiered program that is planned to run through the 2022-2023 school year. These services are possible as a result of the federal relief funds that have been provided to public schools (ESSER Funds - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief).

The Learning Recovery Program plan includes:

- 1-1 tutoring during (Summer of 2021)
- Jump Start Program prior to the start of the next school year
- In-school small group support sessions during the school day
- After school small group support sessions
- Summer school during the summer of 2022
- An online platform that will be made available to all students

In efforts to mitigate any type of learning loss due to the pandemic, all students will be assessed throughout the course of the upcoming school year to determine if they qualify for any additional support. Should the availability of the ESSER funds be extended beyond the 2022-23 school year, we will look to extend our services as well.

Gurnee District 56

Gurnee Teachers of the Year: Mr. Len Wojciechowicz and Mr. Erik Sator

Each spring the Village of Gurnee recognizes area teachers with the Gurnee Teacher of the Year Award. This award, sponsored by the Henderson Family Foundation, provides the much valued recognition of great work and provides a monetary award for the teacher. This year, Gurnee District 56 is honoring a pair of teachers that, as everyone knows, come as a set; Mr. Len Wojciechowicz and Mr. Erik Sator, Physical Education Teachers at Spaulding School. Students, staff and parents who have been a part of Spaulding School recognize the special experience provided by Len Wojciechowicz and Erik Sator. Pre-K through second grade students are treated to PE classes that are some of the most creative and content supportive experiences found in schools. The collaboration between these two long-time teachers is an exemplar for any teacher, at any grade level, seeking to partner or collaborate with a colleague.



The integration of reading skills and math skills is commonplace in their physical education lessons and has been described as “masterful” by their principal, Dr. Mauer. Even on days when the gym is set up for special programming (like a week of concerts), the audience chairs are integrated into the physical education lessons and the students are not sitting on them, they are moving around the gym finding word cards attached to the chairs! When D56 first rolled out the one-to-one iPad program to students in our primary classes at Spaulding School, this team quickly discovered ways to integrate the use of the devices as students were soon helping each other by taking a picture of their form and position during tumbling exercises and evaluating their own growth.

Beyond traditional events such as Jump Rope for Heart and Field Day, Mr. Wojciechowicz and Mr. Sator hold a Turkey Trot, Mile Run, Bowling Night and an event so well attended that it requires the use of the gym at Warren Township High School, Dance Night. Dance Night has literally hundreds of students and eventually their parents out on the floor line dancing together and is the highlight of the year for Spaulding students.

In addition to participating on building and district committees, they have shared their ideas and instructional strategies through presentations at statewide conferences for physical education teachers. As colleagues, they are always there to support the staff at Spaulding School in any way possible. With over 55 years of service for the students of District 56, Len Wojciechowicz and Erik Sator are special people and teachers. The District is so proud to have them as members of our team.

District Finances

Budgeting & Reporting

Copies of Gurnee District 56's budget, teacher's contract and required compensation disclosures are all available on the District's website. Go to www.d56.org, select “Our District,” then select “District Overview.”

Residents with questions can contact the District's Administrative Offices at 847-336-0800.

District Finances

Bond Rating: Gurnee District 56 recently had its credit rating reaffirmed by S & P in 2020.

Credit Ratings History
Moody's and Standard & Poor's (S&P)

2020	AA+	S & P
2015	AA+	S & P
2014	AA+	S & P
2013	AA+	S & P
2013-2017	Aa2	Moody's

The ratings from Moody's indicate a robust financial position and a solid tax base. The ratings from Standard & Poor's indicate strong financial practices, performances and moderate debt.

Gurnee District 56 has developed a five-year Capital Improvement Plan for maintenance of our buildings. The five-year plan includes roof replacement, carpet replacement, an upgrade to the software that controls our energy usage, solar field and other maintenance items to achieve the most efficient use of energy. The district plans on including the costs for these projects in its annual budget over the next five years.

Student Programs

Bookmobile 2021

This past school year each Gurnee D56 school had a bookmobile that made weekly visits near our students' homes to deliver books, STEM kits and prizes.



Gurnee District 56

Solar Energy

Over the summer, Gurnee School District 56 expects to complete construction on a large solar energy installation at Prairie Trail School in Wadsworth. The solar array is comprised of 1,118 solar panels and is expected to fully offset the annual electricity needs of the school building. The District was able to secure incentives from the state of Illinois for the project before the incentive program ran out of funds in 2020.

The new solar field has been installed on the western portion of the property and is visible for all students and visitors to learn about renewable energy through firsthand experience. A web-based user interface will be available to any interested party that tracks live energy production and environmental benefits. In addition, the District intends to work with its program provider to capitalize on learning resources that tie solar energy into the classroom for our students.



An aerial view of the new solar installation at Prairie Trail School in Wadsworth.

Technology Update

For the 21-22 school year, we have refreshed all our iPads with 8th gen iPads and staff laptops with new MacBook Airs. This refresh is very exciting because we were able to get keyboard cases for all 3rd - 8th grade students as well as for our staff. This will be the first time our students will have a keyboard with their iPads. This refresh came at a perfect time because our current iPads were already three years old and we were starting to see plenty of battery issues due to the constant use during remote learning.

Warren Township High School District 121

Referendum Planning Efforts Continue

For the past eighteen months, District 121 has been actively working to engage our community in the ongoing reduction in programming and services due to cuts related to low funding. The District has been communicating our status as having the lowest local and overall revenue compared to other Lake County high school districts, and the efforts the District has made over the last several years to cut costs. The District had placed a 35-cent operating rate increase question on the April 6, 2021 ballot, which failed with 3,753 yes votes and 4,700 no votes.

As a result of the failed referendum, the District is anticipating needing to cut an approximate 13 more positions in March of 2022, which is in addition to the 66 positions that have been eliminated over the last several years. In addition to these staff reductions, the District is also planning the elimination of the entry-level athletic team for all sports beginning in the fall of 2022. Sports with four levels of participation will be reduced to three, sports with three levels of participation will be reduced to two, and sports with two levels of participation will be reduced to one, with the entry-level team being eliminated in each case. These reductions will most likely reduce student participation opportunities for all sports and across all grade levels as programs will need to make cuts based on ability.

Increased funding will be necessary for the District to offer the same level of academics, activities and athletics that the District has been proud to provide to our community over the years.

At the June 22, 2021 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the placing of a referendum question on the next available election ballot, which will most likely be at the 2022 primary election. The amount of the referendum question itself is yet to be finalized, as is the formal confirmation of the election date.

The Board is allowing the District to restore these teams, as well as preserving current band staffing (which is a tentative staffing reduction for March 2022), and programming, if a successful referendum occurs at the next available election. This allowance would be to the extent possible based on the time available prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.



Revenue Per Pupil 2020

Lake County High School Districts	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Lake Forest District 115	\$31,419	\$886	\$390	\$32,695
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$28,619	\$1,162	\$670	\$30,351
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$28,345	\$1,351	\$248	\$29,945
Adlai Stevenson District 125	\$26,278	1,369	\$404	\$28,051
Grayslake District 127	\$19,845	\$7,344	\$280	\$27,469
Zion-Benton District 126	\$15,499	\$8,373	\$1,152	\$25,024
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$18,261	\$4,736	\$261	\$23,258
Mundelein District 120	\$19,874	\$1,903	\$376	\$22,154
Grant Township District 124	\$13,520	\$3,865	\$406	\$17,790
Warren Township High School District 121	\$13,293	\$2,940	\$400	\$16,633

Illinois State Board of Education, Annual Financial Report (AFR) 2020

Finance Committee Meeting, July 14, 2021, V2

4

District Info

About District 121

Warren Township High School District 121 is a comprehensive four-year high school with an enrollment of approximately 3,850 students. Warren is one of the largest high schools in Lake County, Illinois. District 121 covers over 50 square miles and includes all or part of Beach Park, Gages Lake, Grandwood Park, Grayslake, Gurnee, Millburn, Old Mill Creek, Park City, Third Lake, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Wildwood.

Officials

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PAUL SCHULZ, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. ANDERSON, VICE-PRESIDENT

BENCY BEALS, SECRETARY

KATHERINE BLAIR

TONY DeMONTE

THOMAS DRAKE

NATALIA ALVAREZ MARTINEZ

SUPERINTENDENT

DR. JOHN P. AHLGRIM

Schools & Facilities

Warren is one high school district with two campuses. Each campus houses two grade levels. The O'Plaine Campus generally houses 9th and 10th grades, and the Almond Campus generally houses 11th and 12th grades.

ALMOND CAMPUS

34090 Almond Road

(847) 662-1400

O'PLAINE CAMPUS

500 N. O'Plaine Road

(847) 662-1400

TRANSPORTATION CENTER

3801 Swanson Court

(847) 662-1400

Student Recognition

Academics - Class of 2021

By the Numbers:

Graduates: 990 students
Illinois State Scholars: 129
National Merit Finalist: 5
National Merit Commended students: 21
Perfect ACT Scores: 2
Seal of Bilingual: 84
Commendation towards Biliteracy: 84
Academic Honors: 220

Blue Devil Champions

Notable individual (senior)/team athletic achievements:

- 2020-21 Football Team Undefeated Season, NSC Champions
- 2020-21 Boys Soccer Team Undefeated Season, NSC Champions Finished Ranked #1 in the State
- 2020-21 Boys Lacrosse NSC Champions
- 2020-21 Girls Soccer NSC Champions, IHSA Regional Champions
- 2020-21 Softball NSC Champions, IHSA Regional Champions
- 2020-21 Boys Track & Field NSC Champions
- 2020-21 Boys Volleyball NSC Champions
- 2020-21 Varsity Devilettes IHSA 3A State Qualifier in Competitive Dance
- 2020-21 Varsity Competitive Cheerleading IHSA 3A State Qualifier
- Tommy Matheson - Football IHSA All-State Academic Team 2020-21, All-State
- Annie Stingle - Girls Swimming & Diving state qualifier 2020-21
- Max Floriani - Soccer IHSSCA All-State 2019-20 and 2020-21, All-American 2020-21, IHSSCA Player of the Year, Gatorade Player of the Year (Illinois)
- Annika Bynum - Girls Track & Field State Champion high jump, All-State
- Alyla Ditiangkin - Girls Track & Field, 11th place hurdles
- Kayleigh Glickley earned All-Academic honors in three sports
- Sebastian Rodriguez - Soccer IHSSCA All-State
- Nic Diana - Soccer IHSSCA All-State
- Ishaan Shah - Soccer IHSSCA All-State, Academic All-American
- Malachi McNeal - Football Honorable Mention All-State
- Ellen Corr - Girls Badminton State qualifier
- Griffin Pasha - Boys Track & Field, 5th Place 1600 meter, All-State

Notable individual (senior) or competitive activity achievements:

- The Science Olympiad Team qualified for State and placed 23rd out of 59 teams.
- Nidhi Shanmugam - Speech Team Regional Champion in Impromptu Speaking
- Rachel McCulloch - Drama All Sectional Honors in Group Interpretation

Warren Township High School District 121

Robyn Kubik Named Warren Township High School's Gurnee Teacher of the Year

Social Studies teacher Robyn Kubik has been voted by her colleagues as Warren Township High School's 2020-2021 Gurnee Teacher of the Year.

Each school year, the Village of Gurnee recognizes three Gurnee teachers, including one from Warren Township High School District 121, Gurnee School District 56, and Woodland School District 50. The Gurnee Teacher of the Year receives a \$1,000 honorarium.



Robyn Kubik

Kubik has served in education for 16 years, teaching at Warren Township High School for the last 14 years. She loves teaching because the classroom offers a unique work environment.

"I have been fortunate to spend the majority of my time at Warren teaching Psychology," said Kubik. "It is a course that I believe every student who takes it will benefit from. Psychology allows students to learn about themselves, how their brain works and how and why they act certain ways. The everyday connections that students can make to our course is infinite."

Kubik says some of her best teaching moments have happened after students leave both the classroom and the walls of Warren. Students will reach out and express what they remember learning in class and how it has impacted them in everyday life. Kubik believes there is no greater gift as an educator than to experience those full-circle moments.

"For 14 years, Robyn Kubik has been an incredibly powerful social studies teacher for Warren Township High School. She commits endless hours of preparation to ensure her students always have the tools they need for success in her psychology classes," said Dr. John Ahlgrim, Warren Township High School District 121 Superintendent. "Students benefit greatly from Robyn's positive outlook, energy and enthusiasm in the classroom. Robyn's commitment to continuous improvement for her courses and instructional practices are exemplary for our WTHS community. We are so proud to help recognize her as our Gurnee Teacher of the Year."

"I also really enjoy sharing the concept of Positive Psychology with students, helping them focusing on what is going RIGHT in their lives," Kubik said. "When we change our thought pattern, we can change so much else. The mind is our most powerful tool and resource."

Kubik holds a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and has two master's degrees: one from Roosevelt University in Teaching for Secondary Education and one from Concordia University in Psychology.

Proud of Our Blue Devil Olympians

Competing at the Tokyo Olympics are:

Nefeli Papadakis Class of 2017
Competing in Judo

Keegan Knott Class of 2023
Competing on the U. S. Paralympic Swim Team

Warren Township High School District 121

The Warren Way

For two years, WTHS has been working on a strategic plan goal of the development of a comprehensive portrait of a successful graduate and the corresponding qualities and skills we hope students develop while at WTHS.

This summer, the project entitled "The Warren Way" has been completed with general tenets as well as area-specific matrices to help students identify specific behaviors and mindsets that may help them experience success and satisfaction while at WTHS and beyond. Helping students identify strategies to be respectful, resilient and engaged individuals is paramount to this project. WTHS will begin to introduce several aspects of the plan to staff and students as we return for a much more normal 2021-22 school year.

Thank you to the District 121 Board of Education, staff, students and entire school community for your input and contributions as we are proud to unveil "The Warren Way."

THE WARREN WAY

At Warren Township High School, we believe that we can make a difference in our lives, in our community, and in the world by being **Respectful, Resilient and Engaged.**

WE ARE

R RESPECTFUL

- We value diversity and learn about other cultures and experiences.
- We show empathy and kindness to others.
- We communicate and collaborate in an effective and positive way.
- We establish healthy relationships.

R RESILIENT

- We work hard and give our best effort.
- We reflect, learn, and adapt based on our experiences and challenges.
- We make courageous and responsible decisions.
- We lead healthy and balanced lifestyles.

E ENGAGED

- We own our learning and are accountable for our actions.
- We explore our interests, set meaningful goals, and prepare to excel after high school.
- We participate in our school, local, and global community.
- We think critically and develop creative problem-solving skills.

NOW & ALWAYS #WeAreWarren

District Updates

Graduation Requirements

The Board of Education approved a recommendation for a reduction of the required graduation credits from 22.5 to 18.5, effective for the class of 2022 and beyond. The reduction is solely in the general electives requirement, which is reduced from 5.5 to 1.5 credits. Graduation requirements in all other disciplines are not impacted by this change. The new requirement of 18.5 credits is still higher than the 16 credits required by the state of Illinois. This reduction is based on several factors, including an analysis of struggling students over the last few years. The decreased overall credit requirements will support students in their diploma acquisition.

Most students have traditionally earned credits well above our requirement. These students will have the same opportunity to do so at least for the next two years. The 18.5 credit threshold is also the target anticipated reduction that would occur as early as the 2023-24 school year if indeed the district needs to move to a seven-period school day (rather than our current eight-period day) due to financial challenges related to low funding.

WTHS: U.S. News Best High Schools

Warren Township High School was notified in May that we again qualified as one of U.S. News' Best High Schools in the United States. The schools on this list are ranked based on college readiness of graduating seniors, math and reading proficiency, student performance in specific demographic subgroups, advanced coursework offerings and 4-year graduation rate. This recognition is unique as it measures how schools challenge their students academically rather than measuring solely on student test scores.

District Info

About Gurnee Park District

Gurnee Park District, a municipal governing agency, provides parks, recreation facilities and programs for its residents including aquatics, art, crafts, before and after school programs, day camps, fitness, martial arts, music, performing arts, preschool, sports and much more.

Officials

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

JIM GOSHORN, PRESIDENT
VICKI PADDOCK, VICE PRESIDENT
MICHELLE KLEMEZ
GERALD CREWS
AARON DALZOT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

SUSIE KURUVILLA, CPA, CPRP

Facilities

VIKING PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:

Administrative Office
4374 Old Grand Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-7788

HUNT CLUB PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:

920 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-7788

HUNT CLUB PARK AQUATIC CENTER:

900 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 599-3780

FITNATION:

1655 Nations Drive
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-4506

Park District

Thankful for Fall

There is something about fall that always brings forth a sense of peace and tranquility, whether it be the autumn palette that brightens the horizon, or the refreshing cool, crisp air that rustles fallen leaves, or even the smells of bon fires and s'mores with friends after dark. Fall reminds us to pause, enjoy our surroundings and take time to give thanks. And as we move closer and closer to the "normal" we knew before the Covid-19 pandemic, I am so grateful for the opportunities that Gurnee Park District is able to provide for its members and community this fall.



Over the past several months, we have been pleased to be operating without capacity limitations. The summer included the return of more of our many summer camps, as well as the re-opening of our Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center at full capacity. It was a pleasure to once again hear the bustling sounds of campers enjoying numerous outdoor activities, as well as see our many patrons splashing and wading about the pool.

FitNation also saw a lift on pandemic related limitations. Our members have been enjoying the re-opening of amenities such as KidNation, sauna/spa rooms, Jacuzzi/hot tub and more that had been closed due to the pandemic. With this said, there is no better time than now to get back into the gym! We offer a variety of group exercise classes, two convenient locations, pickleball and basketball courts, an indoor track and so much more to make it easy to stay active and achieve your fitness goals.

Another way to stay active this fall is by taking time to visit one of our many parks. Gurnee Park District hosts a variety of playgrounds and walking trails where you can enjoy all the sights, sounds and smells of fall all season long. Additionally, we are excited to offer our FREE GO Gurnee Walking Club. With weekly meetings every Saturday throughout the year, our Walking Club provides an opportunity to enjoy the autumn surroundings while also meeting new friends along the way!

Speaking of new friends, I am eager to welcome back our Preschool and Before and After School CARE students. Our staff has been working hard all summer to come up with unique ways to provide meaningful lessons and activities, and I know this will be one of the best years yet! Along with the start of our school programs, we are also pleased to kick off our fall youth soccer league, indoor Swim School, youth dance and many other programs.

In addition to our facilities and program offerings, we will also be hosting one of our favorite fall traditions—the "Trick-or-Treat Path." This event is one that brings smiles to the faces of young and old, and one that we look forward to providing for you and your family once again.

Finally, in a time where there is so much to be thankful for, I would like to say, to all of our staff, volunteers, members and community: "thank you." Thank you for all the work you do on a daily basis, thank you for your time and contributions to programs and events and thank you for choosing Gurnee Park District.

Sincerely,

Susie Kuruvilla
Executive Director, Gurnee Park District

Park District

Timberwoods Playground

Timberwoods Park located at Old Walnut Circle and Cascade Way in Gurnee will have a new playground this fall. The new playground will include large climbing structures, tall tube slide and circular monkey bars.

The Timberwoods Tot Lot for 2 to 5 year olds and swings were updated 3 years ago and will remain in place.



We're Open! Here For You!

FitNation memberships and day passes can be purchased in-person, or online at fitnategurnee.com.

FitNation inside Hunt Club Community Center (920 Hunt Club Road)

- Members have access to indoor walking track, strength and cardio equipment. The gymnasium at Hunt Club remains CLOSED at this time.
- FitNation Gurnee offers full memberships, student memberships, day passes as well as short term pass options.

FitNation Gurnee (1655 Nations Drive)

- With over 75,000 square feet, members are provided access to two large strength floors, women's only fitness studio, basketball court and performance turf.
- FitNation Gurnee offers full memberships, student memberships, day passes as well as short term pass options.

The Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center also offers season passes and day passes. Both can be purchased in-person or online at gurneeparkdistrict.com

Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center (900 N. Hunt Club Road)

- All pool amenities are open, including our concession stand, water slides, locker rooms, sand feature and volleyball courts.
- Please note that end of season hours (listed below) will start August 16, 2021
 - Monday to Friday - CLOSED (starting August 16, 2021)
 - Saturday to Sunday - OPEN 11am - 7pm (starting August 21, 2021)
- Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center will be OPEN Labor Day weekend:
 - Saturday, September 4 - OPEN 11am - 7pm
 - Sunday, September 5 - OPEN 11am - 7pm
 - Labor Day Monday, September 6 - OPEN 11am - 7pm

CommunityEvents

Fall/Winter Events

Pre-registration is required for all upcoming events. Sign up and view additional information at gurneeparkdistrict.com.

Trick or Treat Path

Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave.)

1 - 3:45pm

- \$7 R/\$10 NR

Halloween Drive-In

Hunt Club Park (920 N. Hunt Club Rd.)

7:30 - 9:15pm

- \$20 per car

Breakfast with Santa

Viking Park Dance Hall (4374 Old Grand Ave.)

8:30am or 10:15am

- \$8 R/\$10 NR



Park District News

Swim School

Swim School is back at FitNation Gurnee's indoor pool this fall. From our youngest swimmers (6 months) to our oldest (18+) there is always time to learn to swim!

Features of Swim School include:

- \$70 per month autopay. No contract. Start at any time.
- Chill-free 87 degree, kid-friendly pool
- Smaller class sizes than traditional swim lessons
- Flexibility to make up missed swim lessons
- FREE open swim for students and their immediate family members
- Students progress at their own pace
- Comfortable viewing area with WiFi



Park District

Financial Updates

It is a priority of Gurnee Park District to sustain long term financial strength while providing the many parks and activities residents have come to enjoy. Like many businesses, Gurnee Park District had seen a great deal of impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. The District is heavily reliant on program fees which usually make up 55% of the budget. As we have entered into the new fiscal year (2021/2022), we continue to look to the future and modify as needed to best serve the Gurnee community.

Gurnee Park District Budget

	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET
Annual Total Budget	17.2 Million	11.9 Million	13.4 Million
Capital Projects	3 Million	1.2 Million	1.4 Million

Revenues:

- Fees and Charges - \$5,928,264 (generally this is approximately \$7.3 million)
- Property Taxes - \$6,108,182
- Interest, reimbursements and miscellaneous income - \$140,350

Expenditures:

Gurnee Park District strives to deliver excellent customer service while seeking operational efficiencies to assist with savings.

- Operating - \$9,950,207
- Capital Projects - \$1,365,100
- Debt Payments - \$2,110,247

Successful operations would not be possible without Gurnee Park District's many employees. Unfortunately, staffing has decreased due to most recreation programs and facilities being cancelled or closed. The grid below demonstrates changes in staffing from 2019 to 2021.

	2019	2020	2021 BUDGET
Total Employees	479	187	330
Seasonal	130	42	164
Part Time	305	101	125
Full Time	44	44	41

The District is an annual recipient of the GFOA award for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports as well as its annual budget and we are confident that we will continue to receive these awards even during these challenging times. The District also maintains an AA+ bond rating.

Cricket Pitch

On June 12, a NEW athletic field opened at Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Avenue), Cricket! Field is available for teams and rentals and is located at the west end of the park, near Emerald Avenue and to the left of Viking School and the skate park. Call our customer service team to rent at 847-623-7788.



Village of Gurnee

Local Business Spotlight

Gurnee's local businesses are the heart and soul of our community! We enjoy discovering and sharing with you the foods they are dishing up, the unique finds and gifts they are selling, and the top notch services they provide. Learn more about our local businesses by:

- **Watching Tom's Tours:** This popular video tour features Mayor Tom Hood as he visits local businesses, interviews staff, and learns their stories. Find these videos at Gurnee's Got It on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GurneesGotIt.
- **Tuning in to 102.3XLC:** Every Thursday morning at 7:30am, Gurnee's Got It joins Wes & Leah on 102.3XLC to spotlight local businesses or one of Gurnee's special events. Don't worry if you can't listen to the live show – recordings of each segment are posted to the Village site at www.gurnee.il.us/ggi-xlc.
- **Having Coffee (or Beer) with the Mayor:** Throughout the year, Mayor Hood invites residents to join him for an informal beverage at a local establishment where residents can get to know him better, ask questions and explore the host business's venue and offerings. Dates are posted to the Village website and social media.
- **Visiting Gurnee's Got It's Facebook Page:** This page is updated frequently with business promos, news and community events. Check out www.facebook.com/GurneesGotIt for ideas on where to shop and dine locally to keep our local business community thriving!

The best way to stay informed on all of these items and more is by subscribing to the Village's weekly Friday e-newsletter at www.gurnee.il.us/listserve.

Gurnee Fire Station 3 Update



The Gurnee Fire Department is excited to see progress at Fire Station 3, located at 5330 Manchester Drive off Route 21. Around mid-August, the Fire Department will get the keys from Camosy Construction, the construction project management company, and fire personnel will have a few months to outfit the station. Stay tuned to the Village Facebook page and website for more information regarding a grand opening and ribbon cutting of Fire Station 3 anticipated in October.

Village News

Youth Leadership Food Truck Event

The Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative will be hosting its very first Back-To-School Drive on Tuesday, August 17th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Avenue).

There will be food trucks, entertainment, games and prizes! The entire community is invited! They are asking that you bring new back-to-school donations to help students in our districts with the most need.

On behalf of the Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative, we look forward to seeing you there!

Follow the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative on Instagram @gurnee_youthleaders to stay updated on their future activities!

Road Construction Updates

Looking for the latest updates on road construction in Gurnee? Follow along with our "Road Construction Updates" to find out about the latest projects or closures in your area. You can sign-up for regular email updates at www.gurnee.il.us/subscribe, or visit our Road Construction Updates page at www.gurnee.il.us/construction-updates.

Follow the Village on Social Media

Keep up-to-date with the latest from the Village of Gurnee on Social Media! You can follow us at the following locations:

Facebook: @VillageofGurnee and @GurneePD

Twitter: @VillageofGurnee

Instagram: @VillageofGurnee

YouTube: youtube.com/user/VillageofGurnee

NextDoor: nextdoor.com/agency-detail/il/gurnee/village-of-gurnee/

Keeping Posted

THOMAS B. HOOD, MAYOR
Andy Harris, Clerk

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

JEANNE BALMES CHERYL ROSS
GREG GARNER KAREN THORSTENSON
QUIN O'BRIEN KEVIN WOODSIDE

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
PATRICK MUETZ

VILLAGE DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies: 9-1-1

Police Non-Emergency: (847) 599-7000

Fire Non-Emergency: (847) 599-6600

Village Hall: (847) 599-7500

Utility Billing: (847) 599-7525

Community Development: (847) 599-7550

Public Works: (847) 599-6800

Visit us online at www.gurnee.il.us.

Keeping Posted

325 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
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Gurnee, IL
Permit No. 45

Postal Patron

Don't Live in Gurnee?

If you are in any of the Gurnee school districts but don't live in the Village, find all the information for your community on these websites:

- Beach Park: villageofbeachpark.com
- Green Oaks: greenoaks.org
- Grayslake: villageofgrayslake.com
- Lake County: lakecountyil.gov
- Lindenhurst: lindenhurstil.org
- Park City: parkcityil.org
- Old Mill Creek: historicmillburn.org
- Warren Township: warrentownship.net
- Wadsworth: villageofwadsworth.org
- Waukegan: waukeganil.gov

For the Village of Gurnee, visit our website: gurnee.il.us.

Village Update

For each issue of *Keeping Posted*, the Village will call out one or two exceptional projects, events or employees that epitomize the Village's strategic goals of engaging the public, preserving our community and quality of life or advancing our services in response to public needs.



Gurnee Farmers Market on Riverside Plaza

The Gurnee Farmers Market on Riverside Plaza is a new market that has taken the place of the East Grand Farmers & Artisans Market. The Market has a variety of vendors, sweet treats, live music and more! The market will continue every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through September, with the exception of September 5th for the Labor Day holiday.

For more information, follow Gurnee Farmers Market on Riverside Plaza on Facebook, email at GurneeFM@gmail.com or give the Village a call at (847) 599-7500.

Be in the Know

Curious about new businesses, projects or events in the Village? Be in the know with this listing of new or upcoming ventures!

What's New:

- Bee Cool (1810 N. Delany) - event space/party supplies
- Custom World (Gurnee Mills) - apparel/accessories
- Dairy Queen (401 N. Rt. 21/relocation) - ice cream
- Happy 8 Collectibles (Gurnee Mills) - collectibles
- My Sister's Cottage (401 N. Riverside/relocation) - women's apparel
- Top Shelf Ice Arena (Gurnee Mills) - ice rink & hockey training
- WoodSpring Suites Hotel (5742 Northridge) - extended stay hotel

Coming Soon:

- 2nd & Charles (Gurnee Mills) - games/music/collectibles
- Anthony Buick GMC (5589 Northridge/relocation) - auto dealer
- AZ Polymers (5675 Centerpoint) - polycarbonate sheet production
- Books a Million (Gurnee Mills/relocation) - bookstore
- Bubblelicious (Gurnee Mills) - homemade bubble teas, lattes
- College of Lake County Advanced Technology Center (7735 Grand) - post-secondary instruction, advanced mfg.
- Gurnee Fire Station #3 (5330 Manchester)
- Hobby Lobby (6136 Grand) - retailer
- Illinois Gastroenterology Group (35 Tower Ct) - gastroenterology & endoscopy
- Ogilvie, Robert, CPA (223 N. Rt. 21/relocation) - CPA offices
- Painted Mountain Arts (505 N. Rt. 21) - psychology practice
- Papo's Express (6498 Washington) - car wash
- Popeye's (6593 Grand) - restaurant
- Positive Impact Advertising (4249 Lee) - promotional products
- Raeco Rents (4340 Grove) - environmental monitoring kits
- Raising Cane's (6415 Grand) - restaurant
- Soiree (3563 Grand) - event space
- Spirit Halloween (6961 Grand) - temporary retail
- TFW Surveying & Mapping (1741-61 Dilleys) - professional land surveying
- US Bank (6593 Grand) - financial services
- UXO Elite Training (900 Tri-State Pkwy/relocation) - crossfit gym

For updates on developments, visit www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress