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INSPIRING
EDUCATION
AND
INNOVATION

Update:68

YOUR GUIDE TO WOODRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 NEWS AND INFORMATION

Welcome to the New Year 2022-23

Schools earn top designations

ISBE releases annual State Report Card

Woodridge 68 continues to show academic progress, recognize student success, and outperform the state in both growth and proficiency.

The Illinois State Board of Education released the annual State, District, and School report cards on October 27 (<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com>).

Annual summative designations have been calculated for 2022 for the first time since 2019, as required by the U.S. Department of Education. A school's annual summative designation describes how well an individual school is meeting the needs of all its students.

The purpose of issuing annual summative designations is to recognize those schools with strong overall performance across a range of academic and student success indicators and to identify schools to be placed in differentiated school improvement status. Illinois has four annual summative designations: Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, and Comprehensive.

Woodridge 68 schools received the following designations for 2021-22:

Exemplary: John L. Siple Elementary, Meadowview Elementary and William F. Murphy Elementary

- Performance in the top 10% of all schools
- No underperforming student groups at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools

Commendable: Edgewood Elementary, Goodrich Elementary, Willow Creek Elementary, and Thomas Jefferson Junior High School

- Performance not in the top 10% of all schools
- No underperforming student groups at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools

Student groups used in the calculations include major racial and ethnic identities, students with Individual Education Plans (special education), English language learners, and students from low-income families.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Steven Gustis, President | Thomas Ruggio, Vice President | Joshua Christ |
Scott Coley | Cricel Molina De Mesa | Michael Toohey | Stuart Vanorny



Preschool Screening

Do you have a child between the ages of 3-5?

Is your young child ready for preschool or do you have concerns about your child's development? Contact the district to make an appointment to have your child screened.

Woodridge 68 offers a free preschool program for 3-5 year olds living in the school district. This program offers a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum and is supported by certified teachers, teaching assistants, and other specialists. Families must complete the preschool screening process in order to be considered for a classroom space, and students with the greatest risk are prioritized following guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education.

or pre-academic skills and to identify children who are eligible for our preschool program. If you have concerns about your child's development, contact the district to make an appointment to have your child screened by a team of specialists.



For additional information about the program, including frequently asked questions and information on how to enroll, go to woodridge68.org/preschool. If you would like

to make an appointment or have any questions, please contact the Student Services office at studentservices@woodridge68.org or 630-795-6830.

Free developmental screenings are available throughout the school year to assess any child who may have delays in communication, motor skills,

2022-23 Budget Adopted

A public hearing regarding the annual budget was held at the Board of Education meeting on September 19, 2022 with no comments from the public. The Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 (FY23). The budget is available for review on the district website under >Departments >Business & Finance >Financial Reporting and in paper form at the district office.

Annual State Report Card

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A number of changes have been made to the annual summative designation calculation rules to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on schools. More information about the changes, Illinois Accountability System and how annual summative designations are calculated can be found on ISBE's website at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Support-Accountability.aspx>

No single data point or designation can define a school's whole story. We will use the information in the report card to guide decisions as we continue to move forward with our Academic Transformation Plan. Woodridge 68 continues to further develop our comprehensive plan to ensure that all students achieve their social, emotional, and academic potential. Some of this year's action items include:

- Continue to implement Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards
- Implement prioritized areas of the special education audit
- Commence the gifted audit
- Explore K-8 Spanish language program



Gold Circle of Quality

WOODRIDGE 68
PRESCHOOL FOR ALL



PRESCHOOL EARNS TOP DESIGNATION

The Woodridge School District 68 Preschool for All program has once again been awarded the Gold Circle of Quality through ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development programs. All three school locations, Edgewood, Goodrich and Siple, received this designation. The Gold Circle of Quality, the highest rating a program can achieve, recognizes programs as determined by our most recent Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-3) scores and Compliance Checklist results.

Be prepared for inclement weather

Woodridge68 students learn at home when school buildings are closed for weather or other emergencies. No more "snow days"

During the school year, our school buildings face the possibility of being closed due to an emergency, heating failure, or severe storm. Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56) allows for the use of e-learning days in lieu of emergency days. As a reminder, in Woodridge 68 e-learning days have replaced traditional "snow days." This means no more tacking on days at the end of the school year!

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with school closing procedures in the event of inclement weather. The decision about whether to close school in inclement weather is based on the availability of buses, school building conditions, cur-

rent temperature (actual & wind chill), road conditions, weather predictions, storm severity, and associated winds. This is done in consultation with the superintendents from Community High School District 99 and other surrounding districts. Information will be communicated as soon as an open/close decision has been made.

Do not call the school for closing information. School closing information will be available through

phone, email, district website, district app, social media, Emergency Closing Center, television and radio. Families are encouraged to make sure your phone and email contact information is up to date in Skyward Family Access.

More details about school closing:
woodridge68.org/schoolclosing

More details about e-learning, including a sample schedule:
woodridge68.org/elearning





Join the W68 team

Would you like to...

...make a difference in the community by contributing to student growth and development?

...work with collaborative and supportive colleagues?

...enjoy a healthy work-life balance?

Join the Woodridge 68 team! Certified and non-certified positions available. Learn more online about all the benefits of working in our school district at woodridge68.org/humanresources

New Dean of Students

School Board appointed Alisa Zawodny as new Dean of Students at Thomas Jefferson Junior High

Alisa Zawodny has been with Woodridge 68 since 2018 as an instructional coach at Willow Creek Elementary School. She has also served as a principal intern and special education extended school year administrator. Prior to joining Woodridge 68, Alisa was a fourth grade teacher at ACERO Charter School Network in Chicago and began her career at Cartwright School District 83 in Phoenix, Arizona.

"We are so excited to welcome Alisa to our Jefferson family. Alisa is a relationship-focused educator who believes in holding students to high academic and behavioral expectations. The experience that she has acquired during her teaching and coaching career has shaped her as a professional

and will ensure her success as a Dean," said Justin Warnke, principal at Thomas Jefferson Junior High.

Ms. Zawodny earned a Master of Arts in School Leadership from Concordia University Chicago, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership K-12 from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-5 from Eastern Michigan University.



"I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to continue working

as a school leader within the Woodridge community," says Zawodny. "I am most looking forward to creating new relationships among families, students, and staff members at Jefferson Junior High."



Jefferson student athletes shine

Cross Country

Congratulations to the Jefferson Junior High cross country teams who were well-represented at the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) state meet! Macy Ermitage placed 9th individually, the girls team placed 11th overall and boys placed 8th.

Softball

The Jefferson girls' softball team celebrated a successful season as Southeast Dupage Elementary Athletic Association (SDEAA) conference tournament champions and IESA regional and sectional champs.



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE WOODRIDGE 68 TEAM

We asked new teachers to share a bit about themselves and let us know what they are most looking forward to in the new year. Hear what they had to say by watching them on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/Woodridge68). Learn something interesting about each of our newest team members!

Welcome New Teachers

Eighteen new teachers and certified staff were introduced to Woodridge 68 during a week-long orientation program in August and are additionally supported through the district's two-year mentoring program.

During orientation, new teachers learn about all aspects of the Academic Transformation Plan, get a bus tour of the district and community, meet with mentors, work in the classroom, and are treated to lunches by the Woodridge Education Association and Administration.

Allison Amesquita, Speech Language Pathologist, Meadowview

Alyssa Buena, Learning Behavior Specialist, Goodrich

Vesna Bumbarovska Zaharieva, Music, Murphy

Kara Collins, Learning Behavior Specialist, Edgewood

Shadequia Davis, Early Childhood Psychologist, Edgewood/Goodrich/Sipley

Jason Hamann, Leave of Absence teacher (LBS), District-wide

Kaitlyn Hilb, LOA teacher (Early Childhood), Goodrich

Michele Krefft, LOA teacher, District-wide

Anna Main, 1st grade, Meadowview

Justin McElwee, Learning Resource Specialist, Meadowview

Victoria O'Brien, Psychologist, Murphy/Sipley

Chrissy Pesoli, Instructional Coach, Sipley

Emma Ririe, 6th grade, Meadowview

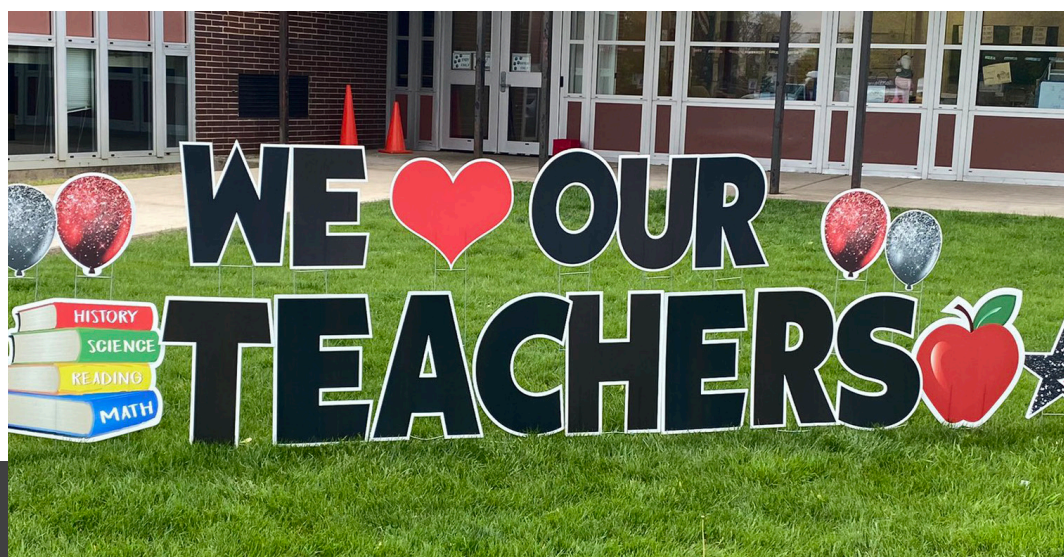
Samantha Thompson, Learning Resource Specialist, Goodrich

Hannah Tyler, 4th grade, Meadowview

Robby Joe Underwood, math, Jefferson

Christopher Weinman, Behavior Intervention Specialist, District-wide

Amanda Williams, Social Worker, Jefferson





Community Support

Bonfield Express Foundation: Once again generously donated \$7,000 (\$1,000 per school) to Woodridge 68 schools. The funds will be used for recognizing students who have demonstrated love of learning, extra effort, and/or good citizenship.

St. Scholastica Parish: Donated school supplies at the start of the school year

Crafting for a Cause: This Woodridge Park District group hand knit hats and scarves for students

We appreciate our community partners!



Facility Master Planning

Current 5-year plan includes total spending of about \$11.6 million on 40 different projects

Looking ahead to the next three years, plans are to complete projects totaling just over \$6 million in 2023, about \$1 million in 2024, and \$600,000 in 2025 and can be viewed online at woodridge68.org/facilities.

New lightning detectors

For everyone's safety and protection, new lightning detectors have been installed at the Jefferson Junior High track & athletic fields. If lightning is in the area, a 10-second alarm with a verbal warning will sound and a strobe light will activate. When all is clear, the system will then sound three 5-second alarms.



Solar energy

The proposed solar projects at John L. Spley, William F. Murphy, Willow Creek and Jefferson Junior High were approved by the School Board at the August 22, 2022 meeting. Completion of this work is expected in the summer and fall of 2023.

Total cost for the solar arrays and installation is \$3,271,302 (initial estimate \$3,500,000).

Renovations to the roofing at each of the four schools is required as part of this project. Total cost \$2,325,035 (initial estimate \$3,300,000).

Any costs not covered by grants or rebates will be paid from the capital projects fund.

Consolidated Election

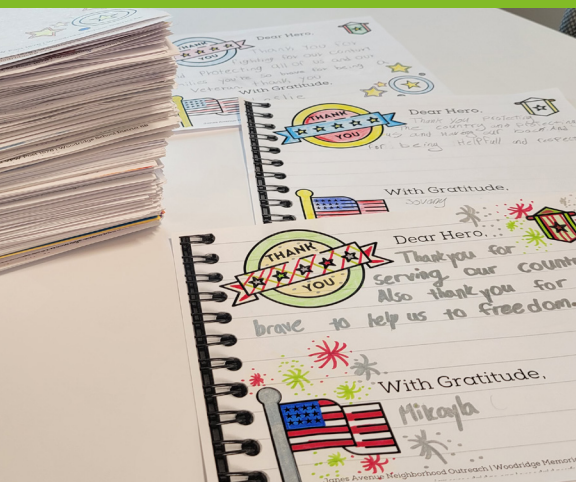
The Woodridge 68 school board consists of seven members elected to serve four-year terms. Elections are held during the Consolidated Election on the first Tuesday in April of each odd-numbered year. Terms are staggered so there are three or four seats contested at each biennial election. School Board candidates run at-large. This means members of the board can live anywhere within the district and a voter can cast his or her ballot for any candidate(s).

Woodridge School District 68 will have four (4) four-year terms contested at the April 2023 Consolidated Election.

Candidate information and school board prospective candidate petition packets for the April 2023 Consolidated Election are now available on the DuPage County Election Commission's website (dupageco.org/election).

Some key dates:

- Monday, December 12, 2022: Candidate filing period begins
- Monday, December 19, 2022: Candidate filing period ends
- Tuesday, April 4, 2023: Consolidated election



STUDENTS THANK VETERANS & SOLDIERS

Students across the district wrote over 1,300 letters to soldiers and veterans thanking them for their service. These letters will be distributed to local veterans and sent to active military overseas during the holidays. This was a joint project between Woodridge 68, Janes Avenue Neighborhood Outreach and Woodridge VFW Post 1578.

School Board Reminders & Updates

In-person and livestream

All Woodridge School District 68 Board of Education meetings begin at 7:30pm and are held at the District Administrative Center, 7925 Janes Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Beginning September 2022, all regular Board meetings are now also streamed live on the Zoom platform. Links to the livestream are posted on the district web calendar. A recording of the meeting is made available for viewing until the next Board meeting. The link to the recording will be posted on the district website under >Board of Education >Board meetings.

Meeting information

A schedule of upcoming meetings, notices and agendas are posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/). Official minutes are posted in BoardBook. These can be viewed in BoardBook and on the district website under >Board of Education >Board meetings.

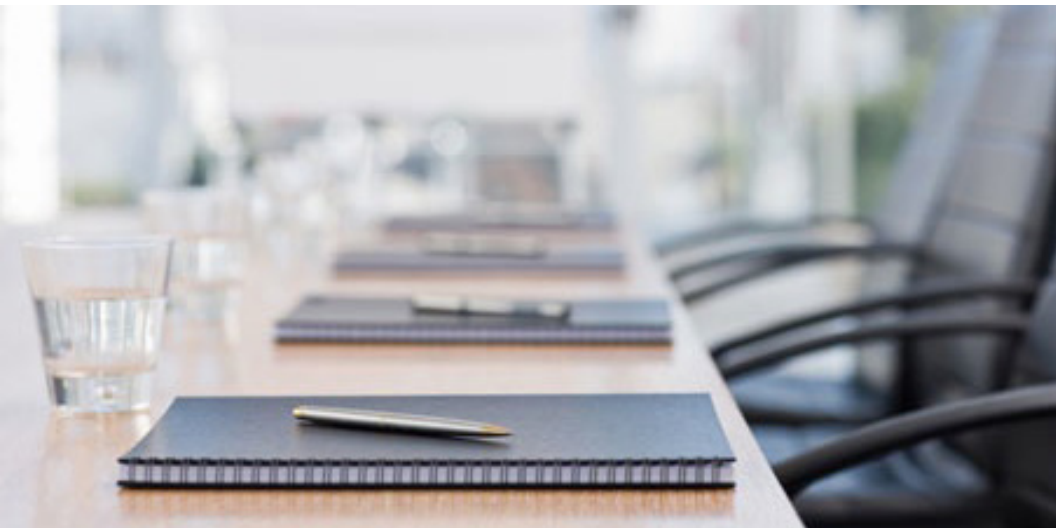
Public comment

Persons who attend a Board meeting in person and wish to speak during the public comment section of the agenda are requested to complete a "Public Comment Request" card. Cards will be accepted until the first speaker begins speaking. Individuals interested in making public comment, but who are unable to attend the meeting in person, may use an online form to provide comments. Submissions will be shared with all Board members and will be made part of the official record. This form will open the morning of the Board meeting and close right before public comment begins.

Expectations and guidelines for addressing the Board, as well as the online form, can be found on the district website under >Board of Education >Board meetings.

Board Briefs

Families, staff and community members are also encouraged to read *Board Briefs*, an e-newsletter with highlights from Board of Education meetings. Past editions are posted on the district website under >Departments >Community Engagement >ICYMI. Click the button at the bottom of the page to subscribe.





Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Patrick J. Broncato

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
Gregory Wolcott

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Dr. William Schmidt

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Curtis Saindon

Woodridge 68 launches new website

Woodridge 68 launched a new website over the summer, which includes a complete re-design and reorganization with the addition of the latest technology tools. Thank you to the families who provided feedback in our website survey this spring, which helped form our decisions in structuring the new site.

We also recently further improved the web experience with enhanced accessibility tools including but not limited to: language translation, alternate format, high contrast, screen reader and keyboard navigation.

Woodridge 68 is committed and works diligently to ensure that all material on its website is accessible to students, staff and the general public, including vendor selection and following guidelines and best practices. More information about website accessibility and how best to use these tools can be found on the district website at woodridge68.org/accessibility.



INSPIRING EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

7925 Janes Avenue
Woodridge, Illinois 60517

630-795-6800
woodridge68.org