

# 39EXPRESS

WINTER 2022

## Meet Our New Administrators



**Jacqueline Brennan**  
Assistant Principal,  
Harper Elementary



**Holly Harper-Kelly**  
Assistant Principal,  
Central Elementary

## A Message from the Superintendent



As we prepare for the second half of the academic year, I find myself reflecting on all of the things for which I am thankful. Last year was one of unprecedented twists and turns. Together, we overcame a myriad of challenges and celebrated our resilience and accomplishments. I am grateful for the hard work of our teachers, staff and students as well as for the partnership of our parents and community.

When we opened our doors this fall and welcomed all of our students back to their school buildings, we did so in an environment filled with tremendous care, hope and optimism. Despite the uncertainty of the obstacles that may lay ahead of us, we have a renewed sense of purpose, connection and appreciation for the vibrant communities within our schools. The resilience and strength of our community should be lauded and appreciated. Together, we are continuing to provide our students with a first-class education that engages, empowers, and inspires them to reach new heights and achieve their goals! For that, I am incredibly grateful.

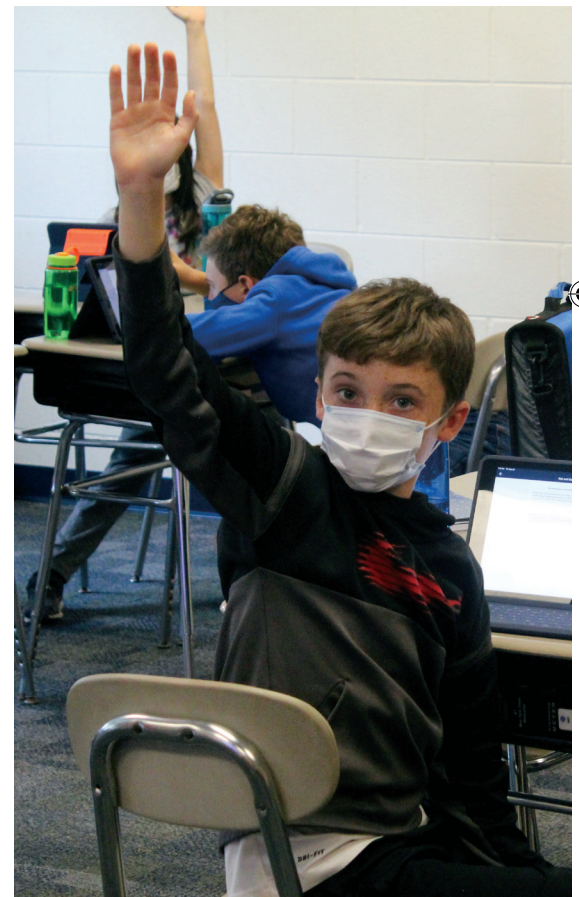
My visits to our school buildings this fall have been remarkably uplifting. The excitement of our students is visible and seeing them so engaged in the learning process always brings a smile to my face. Our faculty and staff continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our students, building connections and working toward growth while ensuring the rigor of a District 39 education paired with positive, supportive social-emotional experiences.

In addition, this fall the Board of Education approved a new, multi-year strategic plan that outlines a road map for continued success. I am grateful to all of our stakeholders who engaged throughout this important process, with a special note of gratitude toward our student participants. Their insightful commentary and feedback were important elements of our final strategic plan and served as a reminder that their growth, development and well-being is our top priority.

Although there is still recovery work to be done in the weeks and months ahead, we are eager to continue working toward accomplishing our goals and embracing new opportunities. Helping each and every student flourish is our collective focus. By continuing to work together supporting one another, we know that we will succeed.

From our District 39 family to yours, we hope you had a wonderful, celebratory, and safe winter break and we look forward to continuing to guide and support our students in the new year!

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Wilmette Public Schools District 39



## Stay Connected



**Social Media:** Follow us @Wilmette39 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Neighborhood Lists:** Visit [www.wilmette39.org/neighbor](http://www.wilmette39.org/neighbor) to subscribe to our local neighbor email lists in order to keep up with the D39 school news going on in your community.

**Email:** Email us at [communications@wilmette39.org](mailto:communications@wilmette39.org) with your questions, feedback and suggestions.

Graphic design by: Patrick Falso, Allegro Design Inc.

# D39 Approves FY22 Budget

The Wilmette Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved the Wilmette Public Schools Fiscal Year 2021–22 budget during the Board’s September meeting. The budget reflects the District’s commitment to fiscal responsibility while financing educational projects that support the academic, social-emotional, and physical well-being of each student.

## What to know about the budget

- In order to maintain fiscal stability, the Wilmette Board of Education has a long-term goal of sustaining the overall end-of-fiscal-year operating fund balance at a level equivalent to 40% or more of operating expenditures. This ratio is projected to be 45.4% at the end of the fiscal year.
- The budget figures below do not include \$16 million for the Teacher Pension Flow-Through, which is the payment made by the state toward D39’s pension obligation.



## FY22 Budget at a Glance

<b>Total Operating Revenues.....</b>	<b>\$67,207,054</b>
Educational (78.7%) .....	\$52,901,396
Operations and Maintenance (15.2%).....	\$10,239,435
Transportation (2.6%).....	\$1,761,103
IMRF/Social Security (2.5%).....	\$1,685,308
Tort (0.9%) .....	\$531,724
Working Cash (0.1%).....	\$88,088

<b>Total Operating Expenditures.....</b>	<b>\$65,147,705</b>
Educational (85.4%) .....	\$55,641,505
Operations and Maintenance (8.1%).....	\$5,261,889
Transportation (3%) .....	\$1,944,846
IMRF/Social Security (2.6%).....	\$1,710,177
Tort (0.9%) .....	\$589,288
Working Cash (0%) .....	\$0

**Non-Operating Funds ..... \$1,605,458**

**Construction Projects ..... \$7,027,145**  
**Non-Operating Funds ..... \$2,356,653**

**Total Revenues and Other Sources of Funding**

**\$68,812,512\***

**Total Expenditures and Other Uses of Funding**

**\$74,531,503\***

\* Excludes transfers between funds and the Teacher Pension Flow-Through revenues/expenses described above



**Budget Deficit \$5,718,991**

The FY22 budget reflects a planned deficit of \$5,718,991 due to one-time construction projects for building additions at Romona Elementary and McKenzie Elementary, second floor air conditioning at Wilmette Junior High School, as well as building improvements necessary for the Kindergarten Enrichment Program.

# District 39 Strategic Plan

## Engage, Empower, Inspire

Wilmette Public Schools are committed to nurturing, guiding, and challenging students to become creative thinkers, collaborators, and productive citizens of a global society. Last year, District 39 launched an effort to develop a new multi-year strategic plan for the district. The Board of Education unanimously approved a five-year plan during its September 2021 meeting that gives the district a roadmap that focuses on the most essential, key initiatives while accomplishing collective excellence for our students.

### Strategic Plan Goals, 2021-26



#### *Student Achievement and Growth*

District 39 will ensure a differentiated education that provides a strong foundation of rigorous academic learning.



#### *Supportive Community*

District 39 will cultivate a supportive and inclusive learning community that is responsive to the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of each student.



#### *Professional Community*

District 39 will foster a professional community that values, supports, develops, and retains highly effective staff.



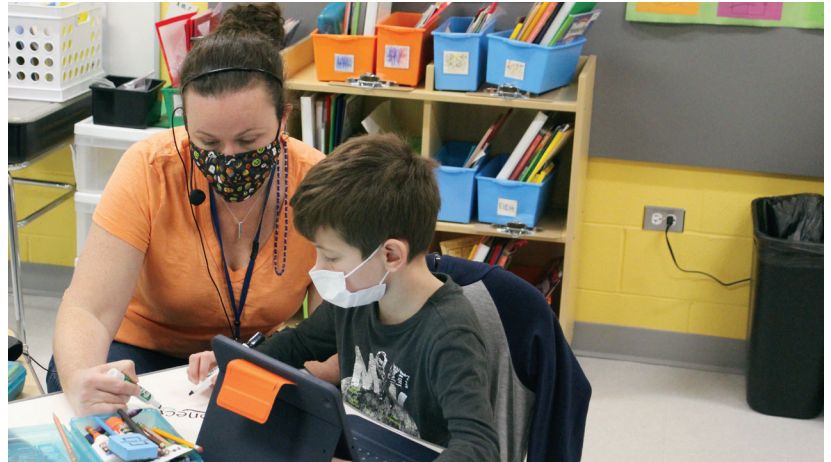
#### *Family Partnerships*

District 39 will strengthen partnerships by connecting, collaborating, and communicating with families and communities to advance teaching and learning.



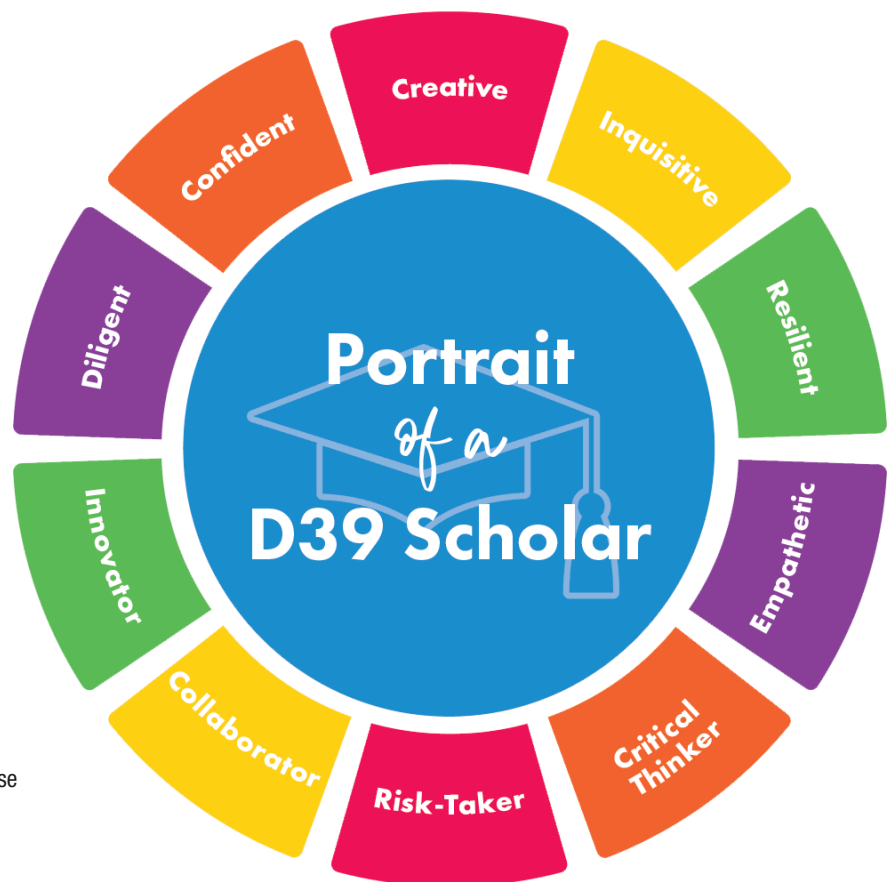
#### *Stewardship of Resources*

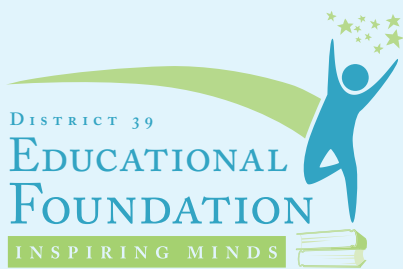
District 39 will ensure the effective use of resources to sustain practices that promote growth.



### For More Information

To learn more about the strategies and the 2021–22 action steps for the strategic plan, please visit [www.wilmette39.org](http://www.wilmette39.org) and click on “Strategic Plan” in the About Us section.



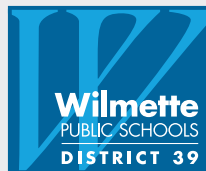


The District 39 Educational Foundation, a 501c(3) non-profit organization, raises funds for projects that expand, enrich, and complement educational opportunities for the students, staff, and community in District 39. Visit us online at [d39foundation.org](http://d39foundation.org) for more information.

### Gripp Grants

The District 39 Educational Foundation grants funds for **innovative educational programs, experiences, and technologies that expand, enrich, and complement the schools' curricula.** Grant applications are welcome from anyone—teachers, staff, parents and students in District 39—or any organization that makes a proposal consistent with the mission of the Foundation. Our grant program is named in memory of D39 teacher and founding Foundation Board Trustee Phyllis Gripp.

Grant applications are reviewed two times a year by the Recommendations Gripp Grant Committee (RGGC), which includes District 39 teachers (representing each school building as well as various grade levels and areas of curriculum), Foundation trustees, and community members. Please reach out to the Gripp Grant Chair at [grippgrant@d39foundation.org](mailto:grippgrant@d39foundation.org) prior to submitting an application to get more information and to discuss your Gripp Grant idea. **The next deadline for submission is March 4, 2022.**



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