



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

745,154

Meals served in D158 cafeterias



2ND



District 158 is the 2nd largest employer in McHenry County



\$400,000

Amount of bond and interest costs saved by the community in 2014 through District debt restructuring

-25%

District 158's expenditure-per-pupil rate remains more than 25% lower than the state average

\$469,371.16

Annual estimated energy savings from two ongoing retrofit projects



3

Consecutive years District 158 has been named to the AP Honor Roll



1,274

Number of employees (not including substitutes)



30

HHS Medical Academy students who will participate in the nation's first High School Residency Program, announced in partnership with Centegra in June 2015



2,500+

Volunteers who served in our schools



1/3+

More than a third of HHS students enrolled in at least one blended class.

23.0

HHS students achieved their highest-ever average composite ACT score



55,800

Square footage of the new HHS Fieldhouse

A message from President Drzal and Superintendent Burkey

The past year has been a very bright one for District 158. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of our staff and the support of our community, we continue to reach new heights in academic achievement, operational efficiency, and innovation.

We strongly believe in having clear goals and staying focused on them. To that end, we updated our strategic plan, something we last did in 2011. In the spring more than 50 people—teachers, parents, students, and community members—spent over 30 hours reviewing and updating our plan. The result was a strong visionary road map for the future. As part of this process, our motto was changed to a simple phrase that helps focus every decision we make on our students: “All Students Always.”

That process also led to a change in our District’s official name. Although for years we popularly have been known as “Huntley School District,” the word *Huntley* was never a part of our official name. To enhance our brand and align our image with the communities we serve, we are now known as Huntley Community School District 158.

Those changes were far from the only exciting accomplishments of 2014-2015. The past year saw us reach our highest-ever levels of enrollment, AP exam success, ACT scores, technological innovation, and blended and online course offerings. We also enjoyed great successes on many of our athletic teams and in our fine arts programs. Near the end of the school year, we announced a partnership with Centegra Health System to provide a one-of-a-kind medical residency program for Huntley High School students. No such program exists anywhere else in the nation.

In addition to our academic and extracurricular achievements, significant progress has been made to the construction work ongoing at HHS. Students started the school year with a new field house, cafeteria, commons, and what the media has termed the “Library of the Future.”

While we are focused on providing our students a first-class education in first-class facilities, we are equally mindful of our responsibility to our taxpayers. We continue to operate with one of the lowest expenditure rates in our region—the lowest among all K-12 districts in McHenry County as well as the lowest among large unit districts in Northern Illinois. Annually, we spend \$3,000 less per student than the state average, yet we outperform our benchmark districts on a variety of academic and operational measures. The value that our taxpayers get per dollar in quality of output is unsurpassed in the State of Illinois.

However, while the programmatic innovations and conservative fiscal planning we have undertaken keep the future of our District looking strong, we must continue to be vigilant in advocating for state funding. Various recent state bills—from a pension cost shift to funding redistribution—threaten the strong financial bedrock we have worked hard to build. We vow to monitor developments at the state level and to keep you informed of the threats that stand to cause major financial harm to our district and community.

We have had a great year. However, one of our core principles is that we are never comfortable with the status quo. Over the next year, we will be setting our sights on even loftier heights. We will continue to enhance, improve, and innovate, and with the continued support of the community, we are confident we will reach them.

Donald Drzal

Don Drzal
President, Board of Education

John D. Burkey

John Burkey, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Introduction

A Guide to Our Strategic Plan Indicators and Measures

For the past four years, Huntley Community School District 158 has been guided by goals and indicators outlined in a strategic plan created with the input of more than 50 community volunteers in 2011.

In the winter of 2014-2015, the District again called on more than 50 volunteers drawn from all areas of our community—teachers, students, staff, parents, residents, business and civic leaders, and Board of Education members—to create a new plan and vision to carry us through 2020.

The strategic planning process is vital to our operations. Not only is it a strong way to gather input from all facets of the community, but our approach yields layers of mission, vision, broad goals, and specific indicators that our leadership team then translates into specific action steps. Our progress toward these indicators is measured and reported back to the community annually.

This annual report serves as an accounting of what we achieved for our students, staff, and community. It's also how we hold ourselves accountable as District employees. Compensation for District staff is tied directly to the achievement of these measures.

The following pages provide snapshots of how much we achieved in five key areas of success as outlined in the strategic plan that carried us through 2015. Next year, you can look forward to a report on what we accomplished in the first year of our new strategic plan.

While we can only fit an overview in this document, full reports on our progress in each of the past several years, as well as a copy of our new strategic plan, are available at www.district158.org/strategic-plan.

GOAL #1: Continuously improve student achievement and growth

As a school district, the academic achievement and growth of our students is a top priority. We strive to both encourage our students and measure our success in meeting this goal. Among our clearest measures are performance on standardized tests, progress toward growth targets, achievement of special populations, and curricular enhancements. The District met 11 of the 14 academic evidence measures outlined in the strategic plan.

EVIDENCE

1. The District set and met an aggressive goal to see the percentage of special education students meeting academic growth targets outpace that of the student body as a whole. The subgroup's growth in reading was a full 5% higher than the whole.
2. The District sought to increase access to and participation in AP classes at Huntley High School. From 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, the number of students taking AP classes increased by a full 3%, and the number of students taking multiple AP classes increased as well.
3. The District aimed to increase participation in its innovative Blended Learning program by 20%. This goal was long surpassed, with an increase of 67% in Blended Learning enrollments. More than 1/3 of the HHS student body enrolled in at least one Blended course in 2014-2015.
4. As important as enrollments in Blended learning is the performance of students in the program. Classroom assessments indicated that students in Blended courses performed at or above the level of their peers in traditional classes.
5. An important growth step for the District is the development of fully online courses. While the District set a goal of developing one online course, two courses were successfully developed and offered to students in Summer School 2015.



GOAL #2: Provide safe, healthy, and nurturing environments conducive to learning and wellness.

We value not only the academic performance of the District, but also the physical and social well-being of our students and employees. The District met all three of its evidence measures.

EVIDENCE

1. The percentage of students achieving the “outstanding” and “healthy and fit” designation in PE assessments increased by 5.46% District-wide from the fall to spring semesters, exceeding the District’s goal of a 2% increase.
2. The District sought a 2% decrease in the most serious behavioral issues as measured in its behavioral intervention system. The identified behaviors decreased by 7.1% year-to-year.

GOAL #3: Attract, support, develop, and retain the best and brightest staff.

The District has implemented many initiatives to recruit and retain highly qualified staff and to provide professional development, meeting all five of its evidence measures in this area.

EVIDENCE

1. The District met its goal of enrolling 10 staff members in its English Language Learners cohort partnership with National-Louis University, with 11 staff members completing the ELL endorsement.
2. To ensure the successful rollout of 1:1 devices at Mackeben and Chesak Elementary Schools, the District sought to increase targeted staff development time by 10 hours. Exceeding the goal, the schools each had 12 hours of 1:1 professional development during the year.
3. To retain and provide advancement opportunities for high-quality staff, the District sought to enroll at least five staff members in its in-house mentorship program, with a focus on Special Education leadership. Seven certified staff participated in the Leadership Academy.

GOAL #4: Foster ownership through trusting and engaged partnerships with families and the community.

The District strives to ensure that parents and the community are involved in collaboration and/or decision-making, school improvement efforts, volunteerism, and training. The District met five of its six evidence measures.

EVIDENCE

1. The District set a goal to complete a new strategic plan in 2014-2015, one year ahead of its previously scheduled target. A new plan was developed with the assistance of more than 50 volunteers including parents, students, local business leaders, residents, civic groups, and Board of Education members.
2. As part of the ongoing growth of the 1:1 technology initiative at our middle and elementary schools, the District met its goal of having at least 95% of parents participate in 1:1 technology training.
3. To better align its identity with the communities it serves, the District formally adopted a name change to Huntley Community School District 158 as well as a new logo.

GOAL #5: Prioritize and allocate resources effectively and equitably and operate with increased efficiency.

The District continues to operate with the highest level of fiscal responsibility, again maintaining the lowest per-pupil spending rate of all K-12 districts in the western suburbs. Despite numerous economic challenges, the District met seven of the eight fiscal measures outlined in its strategic plan.

EVIDENCE

1. The District met all of its targeted financial measures, including maintaining a fund balance of more than 25% of operating budget, keeping operational expenditure rates at least 20% lower than the average of benchmark districts, and again achieving state financial recognition status and a AA bond rating.
2. The District completed an update to its five-year financial plan with three scenarios, preparing for likely, favorable, and worst-case possibilities related to state funding.
3. The state grant-funded construction and renovation project at Huntley High School continued on time and under budget.

Financials

Operating Revenues:

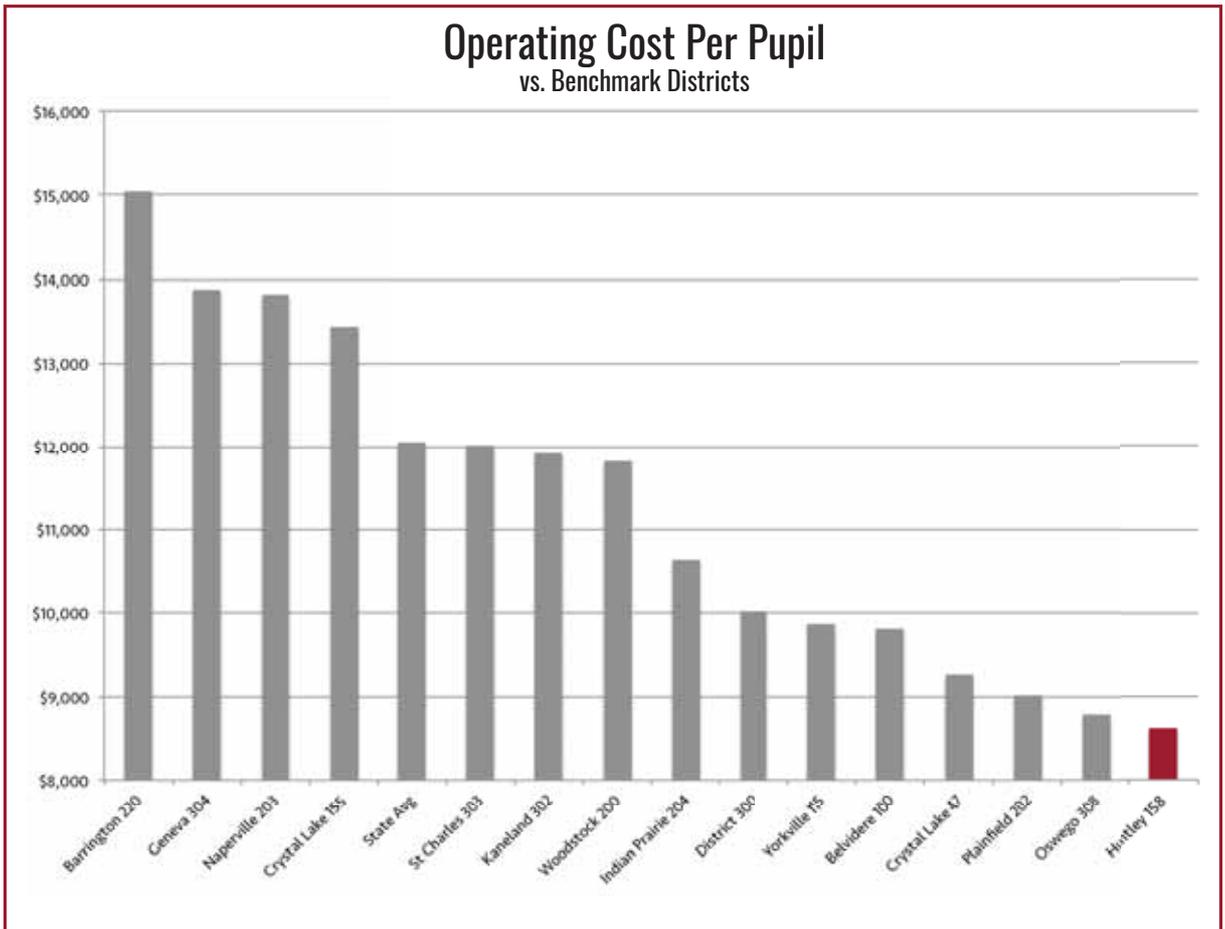
FY 14 Budget: \$83,783,566

FY 15 Budget: \$88,733,501

Operating Expenditures:

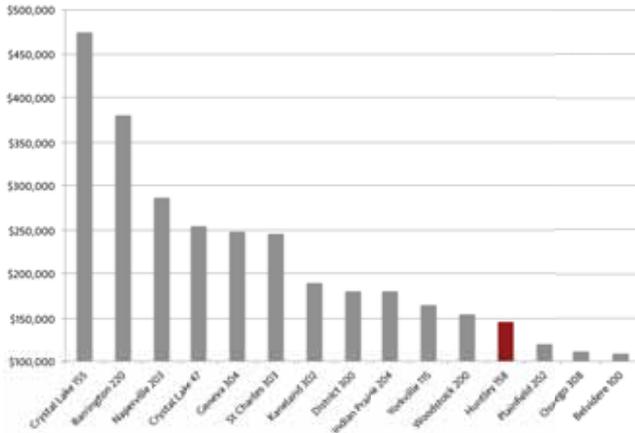
FY 14 Budget: \$83,778,798

FY 15 Budget: \$88,570,602



Huntley Community School District 158 has been at the forefront of academic achievement and innovation within Illinois while maintaining a per-student spending rate 26% below the state average. District 158 also ranks as the lowest-spending K-12 district in McHenry and Kane Counties and the lowest-spending large unit district in all of northern Illinois.

EAV Per Student (Tax Base) vs. Benchmark Districts

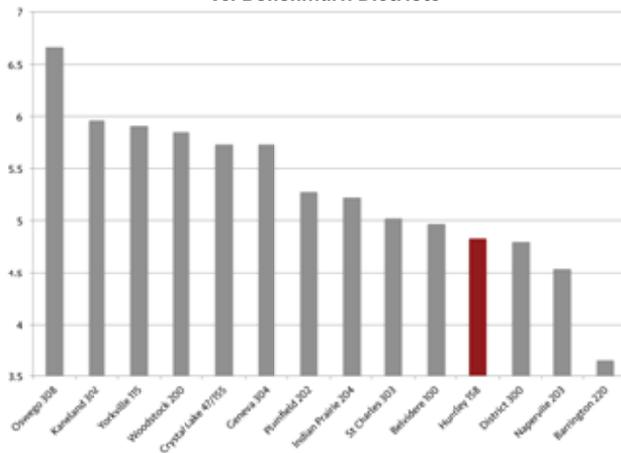


Despite the perception that Huntley 158 is a “wealthy” district, our local tax base is relatively low compared to other area districts.

The District’s Equalized Assessed Value per student rate (a measure of property tax base) ranks in the bottom third among benchmark districts.

Generally, a district with a low tax base must have a relatively high tax rate to generate revenue for operations.

Tax Rate/\$100 vs. Benchmark Districts

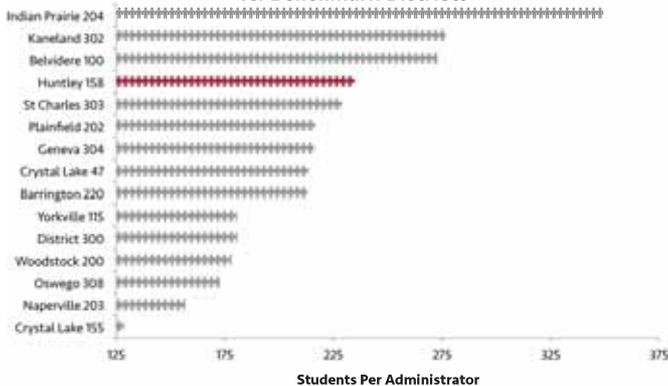


Despite its relatively low tax base, Huntley 158 has managed to keep its tax rate relatively low, also ranking at the bottom third among benchmark districts.

Huntley 158 is the only district among its peers to maintain this combination of relatively low tax base and tax rate.

Achieving this measure demonstrates a high degree of operational efficiency.

Student-to-Administrator Ratio vs. Benchmark Districts



One way District 158 demonstrates operational efficiency is its low administrator-to-student ratio, which ranks in the bottom third of benchmark districts. The District continues to achieve excellence in all areas of operation with fewer administrators per student than many of our peers.

All data from Operating Year 2014 (most recent available)
Source: Illinois Interactive Report Card

Highlights

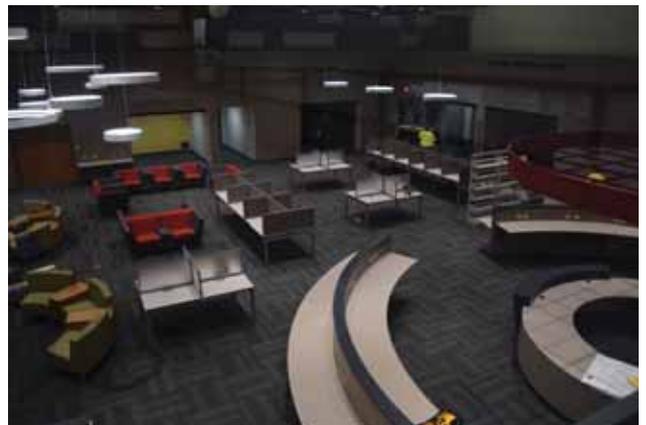


HHS Construction Progressing On Time, Under Budget

The ongoing new construction and renovation project at Huntley High School continues to progress on time and under budget.

The \$39 million project is being funded completely through a construction grant from the State of Illinois. The District was awarded the funds to help it keep up with the rapid population growth it experienced in the 2000's without burdening local taxpayers.

- New front entrance complete, improving security and aesthetic appearance
- Raider Way, the new high school entrance/exit drive opened in the fall and contributed to an immediate improvement in traffic flow
- Upgrades to athletic areas, including stadium lighting and a new scoreboard
- Construction of new 55,000 sq. ft. field house
- Renovation of old West Gym into 21st-Century Learning Resource Center
- Overhaul of cafeteria and servery
- Conversion of old library to passive commons





New Identity

In May 2015, the Board of Education approved changing the District's official name to Huntley Community School District 158, as well as adopting a new logo.

The change is intended to better reflect the District's identity in the local area and at state and national levels.

The rebranding was prompted after the District's strategic planning process revealed the need for a stronger identity with key audiences, including families served by the District, the local community, prospective employees and funders, and state and national lawmakers and media.

"This change puts us on the map for people outside of our area while strengthening our ties with the communities we serve," said Superintendent John Burkey.

The District's historical roots lie in Huntley, while its boundaries also include several other parts of the surrounding area.

To people outside the local area, including lawmakers and education officials, the District was often colloquially referred to as Huntley School District.

This change leverages both that popular recognition and the positive reputation the local community holds as a great place for families and businesses.

The name change is accompanied by a redesigned logo reflecting the new identity. District collateral will be updated gradually to reflect the changes. Items such as stationary will be updated as current stock runs out, to control costs.

Added benefits include a clean, modern logo that better embodies the District's forward-thinking reputation and is easier to use across all types of print and web-based publications, as well as a name that distinguishes Huntley 158 from another school district 158 in Illinois.

District 158 Climbing in National Rankings

Huntley Community School District 158 schools continue to receive high marks from both the local community and, increasingly, state and national-level publications.

In 2014-2015, Huntley High School was named by the *Washington Post* among its Most Challenging High Schools, a designation that is largely based on the number of college-level examinations given by a school in relation to its student population.

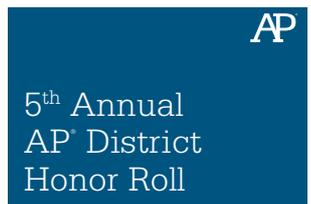
The Washington Post

Huntley is one of just two schools in McHenry County to receive the designation.

In addition, the website Niche, which provides rankings on a variety of community institutions, listed District 158 at #30 among best overall districts in the state. On its “Best Academics” list, Niche ranked the District at #18, for excellence in teaching and learning.

District 158 Makes AP Honor Roll for Third Consecutive Year

Huntley Community School District 158 was among 547 school districts in the United States and Canada named to the 5th Annual AP® District Honor Roll, marking the third consecutive year District 158 has been honored on the list.



The honor is bestowed to districts for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. The score of 3 is generally the minimum required to receive college credit.

“Being included on this list for three consecutive years is a validation of our commitment to providing students with a rigorous curriculum,” said District 158 Superintendent John Burkey. “This list shows not only that we are providing more access to AP classes, but also that our students are scoring considerably higher than many of our peers.”

District 158 is one of only two in McHenry County to receive the honor for the past three years.

Inclusion on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2012 to 2014, looking across 34 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 6 percent for “medium” districts
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students
- Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2014 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2012, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

Last year, Huntley High School had 637 AP students, up 21% year-to-year. Those students took 1,081 AP tests, an increase of 14%. On 74% of those tests, students scored 3 or higher, compared to the state average of 66%.

Read more about the award at <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/awards/ap-district-honor-roll>.

HHS, Centegra Announce One-of-a-Kind Residency Program

Beginning in fall 2016, students in the Huntley High School Medical Academy will have a first-of-its-kind opportunity to serve a residency in Centegra Health System facilities. The residency program, believed to be the only of its kind in the country, will offer up to 30 students the chance to receive intensive job shadowing and mentorship with health care professionals at the new Centegra Hospital-Huntley and other clinical locations.

The students will receive a minimum of 2.5 hours of experience per week for the duration of the program. The hours will be accommodated outside the traditional school day, and the academic component of the class, including reflections and discussions on students' hands-on experiences, will be delivered in a blended format. Additional opportunities for volunteering or shadowing also will be offered, if available.

"Usually the only time you hear about medical residency programs is in relation to medical school. We are going to have a medical residency program for high school seniors," said Superintendent John Burkey. "This doesn't exist anywhere else. This will be a first in the state of Illinois, and there are only a few programs that even loosely look like this in other parts of the country. This will be absolutely unique to Huntley."



Centegra President and Chief Operating Officer Jason Sciarro said the partnership supports the system's goal to educate, recruit and retain exceptional doctors, nurses and other clinicians.

"The partnership between District 158 and Centegra will provide students an inside look into state-of-the-art medical care," Sciarro said. "Our goal is to prepare students for advanced education and to help them make a difference in the community. Centegra's mentors will guide them as they explore career options and learn more about the training they'll need to advance within the health care field."

Burkey said the innovative partnership with Centegra will provide an unrivaled experience for students who are considering future careers in health care.

"If you are a kid in the State of Illinois and you want to go into medicine, you ought to move to Huntley," Burkey said.

The HHS Medical Academy, launched in 2011, offers specialized courses for juniors and seniors planning careers in the medical field. Students can apply as sophomores or juniors to gain acceptance to the Medical Academy.

HHS Blended Learning Program Receives National Recognition

According to a case study published in *eLearn Magazine*, a refereed journal of the Association for Computing Machinery, District 158's Blended Learning Program is unique in its scope and scale, popular among students and teachers, and effective in educating 21st-Century students.

The case study, published online in the December issue, was written by academic researchers after a multi-day visit to Huntley High School in fall 2013, during which time they observed classes and interviewed students, teachers, and administrators. According to the researchers, the Blended Program at HHS is distinctive among technology-enriched programs nationwide, many of which opt for fully online options or are housed in strictly blended-environment schools.

At HHS, the blended program grew out of a desire to create an innovative, technology-enhanced learning environment that maintains the integrity of the student-teacher relationship. Huntley High now offers more than 25 blended courses, encompassing subject areas across the curriculum. Teachers of blended courses also continue to teach traditional courses and cover the same material in both settings.

The difference comes in how lessons are presented, how assignments are created and collected, and how students manage their schedules. Blended courses generally meet face-to-face two or three times a week, and on other days, students have the class period as "flex time." During that time they may study independently or visit the teacher individually or in small groups for increased close instruction. Lesson plans, assignments, lectures, videos, syllabi, and other learning and assessment materials are provided online through course websites.

"We made a decision at the beginning that we didn't want to buy online courses to facilitate, that we kind of wanted to build them [in a] more collaborative type experience," Superintendent John Burkey told the researchers. "We're not really teaching different things. We're teaching things differently."

In 2014-2015, more than one-third of HHS students were enrolled in at least one blended course, a substantial increase from the roughly 100 students that took part in the program's first year.

Among the authors' key findings were:

- Students seeking increased individual attention generally have more access to one-on-one time with teachers in blended courses
- Teachers, students, and parents agree Blended helps prepare students for college and careers
- 92% of students surveyed said they were satisfied with their blended learning experiences
- No teachers reported a negative experience with the blended program
- Schools looking to HHS as a model for blended learning programs may do well to mirror its gradual approach, starting small and building the program over several years.

The case study was authored by researchers from the University of Tampa and University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Read the full study at <http://bit.ly/hhscasestudy>. You can also watch Blended video profiles at www.youtube.com/c/District158.



Read a CNN.com feature on the HHS Blended Learning program at www.cnn.com/2015/04/07/living/blended-learning-education/

Bond and Interest Abatement

In an effort to reduce property taxes being charged to the community, as with prior year, the Board of Education voted to abate \$400,000 of bond and interest. The dollars to abate the debt will come from proceeds of the Capital Development Award. In addition, the community saw an annual debt abatement of \$165,518.75 associated with the refunding of the Marlowe 2006a Bonds, which were refunded and are now the Series 2009 Bonds.



1:1 Initiative Fully Implemented K-7

With the addition of 1,500 tablets in elementary schools and 1,500 Chromebooks in middle schools, the District's 1:1 technology initiative was fully implemented for students in kindergarten through seventh grade. Already one of the largest technology initiatives of its kind in Illinois, the rollout has served as a statewide model, with the District regularly hosting visits by other school officials looking to replicate the program's success.

State Championship Caps Strong Year in Sports and Activities

The Marlowe Mustangs 7th-grade boys track team claimed the school's first athletic state championship, finishing with 46 total points for a decisive 14-point victory in the IESA state finals, held May 22-23 at the Eastside Centre in East Peoria.

In addition, Huntley High School senior Parth Patel took first place in the Impromptu Speaking category at the IHSA state speech contest, along with a second-place finish in the Extemporaneous Speaking category.

District 158 schools boasted several more team conference, regional, and sectional championships as well as numerous team and individual state qualifiers and medalists in both athletics and extracurricular activities.



Volunteers Make a Mark

Through the combined efforts of parents, grandparents, community members, and local business members, the District experienced an amazing year. More than 2,500 volunteers participated in opportunities at our schools in 2014-2015.

HHS Teams Receive IHSA Athletic Achievement Award

Huntley High School's Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Bowling, Competitive Cheerleading, Boys Swimming, Softball, Girls Track, Boys Tennis, and Girls Soccer teams all received the award for earning a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.





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Huntley Community School District 158

Reed Road Campus

Chesak Elementary School
10910 Reed Road
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

Early Childhood Center
(Chesak Elementary, Door 4)
10910 Reed Road
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

Martin Elementary School
10920 Reed Road
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

Marlowe Middle School
9625 Haligus Road
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

Square Barn Road Campus

Conley Elementary School
750 Academic Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102

Mackeben Elementary School
800 Academic Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102

Heineman Middle School
725 Academic Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102

Administration and Transportation
Building
650 Academic Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102

Harmony Road Campus

Huntley High School
13719 Harmony Road
Huntley, IL 60142

Leggee Elementary School
13723 Harmony Road
Huntley, IL 60142

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