

NORTHBROOK UPDATE

A Newsletter from the Northbrook School District 28 Board of Education

DISTRICT 28

**EMPOWER
EVERY
LEARNER**



Young Explorers celebrate 'graduation' to kindergarten, wearing the colors of their home school: Greenbriar, Meadowbrook or Westmoor.

CELEBRATIONS OF ACHIEVEMENT

June is time to recognize student accomplishments

There is a lot to celebrate around schools in June! From our youngest learners in the Young Explorers Early Childhood Program to our eighth-graders setting sights on high school, District 28 is proud of our students as well as the teachers and programs that support them.

The Young Explorers program is housed at Westmoor School, and is open to all district residents. Children may be enrolled throughout the year as soon as they turn 3 years old. Young Explorers celebrated their 'graduation' to kindergarten at a mini ceremony where each student wore the green-, blue- or red-colored hats of their home schools (above). Visit our Young Explorers webpage to learn more: northbrook28.net/YE or call 847-504-3809.

Our Northbrook Junior High eighth-grade students walked across the stage at Glenbrook North High School on June 4, received their diplomas and began the next phase in their life as high school students.

Before diplomas were handed out, four students were recognized for their leadership when the Rotary Volunteer Service Award and American Legion Awards were presented.

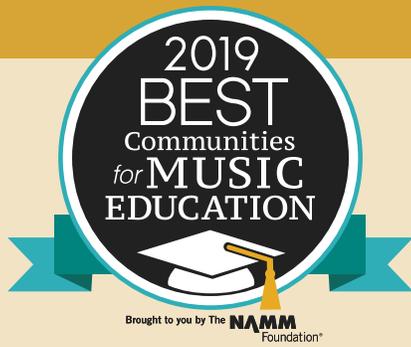
Four students were chosen by the teaching staff for the American Legion Citizenship Award as best representing the character qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. A total of 16 students were nominated.



American Legion Citizenship Awards were chosen by teachers. From left, Carly Fernitz and Jack Gaffney received honorable mention and Zoey Kenny and David Gichner received Distinguished Achievement awards. David Gichner also received the Rotary Volunteer Service Award.

Zoey Kenny and David Gichner received Distinguished Achievement awards, and Carly Fernitz and Jack Gaffney received honorable mention.

Also, David Gichner received the Northbrook Rotary Volunteer Service Award from Superintendent Dr. Larry Hewitt for extraordinary work in the spirit of volunteerism and the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."



District Receives National Award

Northbrook District 28 has been honored for the fourth time in five years with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

Now in its 20th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the district compiled answers for detailed questions about funding, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music programs.

“This designation is a tribute to a community that places a great deal of value on the importance of music education in their schools,” said Band Director Greg Scapillato, who applied for the award. “This is embedded in the culture of the District 28 schools, and is made possible by an exemplary level of support from students, parents, teachers, administration, the Board of Education, and the extended District 28 community.”

District 28 is one of just 13 districts in Illinois to receive this designation.

“We all have same big-picture philosophy, namely that music is good for our children’s brains and good for their souls,” said Dr. Larry Hewitt, Superintendent of Schools.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Larry Hewitt, Ed.D.

Strategic Plan Guides Continuous Improvement Through 2018-19

When strategic planning is done well, it is a catalyst to update, improve, and enhance an organization’s work. Navigate 28 is our comprehensive plan that helps us focus on what matters most. Our mission statement reads, “Empower every learner to be an engaged, confident, caring, and inspired citizen.” Coupled with the vision, values, and five goal areas, our continuous improvement efforts are shaped. You can review the plan at northbrook28.net/navigate28.

We have now completed year one under the guidance of our strategic plan, Navigate 28, and it’s been a busy and productive year. I’m very proud of our staff for all of their hard work and efforts in leading and adopting our improvement initiatives. This edition of Update 28 lists only part of our work, so I hope you take the time to review the full strategic plan end-of-year report on the navigate28 web page.

This year was also a year of change in assessments as the state affirmed its direction of PARCC-like assessments in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and the high school switched to the PSAT8/9 for 8th-grade placement. We have responded by stepping up our efforts to ensure all units of instruction are aligned to Common Core Standards in language arts and math. We also implemented standards-based learning at the junior high to engage students more deeply in their learning and ensure instruction is tied to those standards.

We initiated our math program review, which included providing additional instruction for some of our eighth-grade students this past spring. We also identified improvement initiatives that will occur at the start of the new school year, including revising assessments, hiring a math instructional specialist, updating our instructional pacing guides and adjusting some homework practices.

Finally, learning doesn’t end for our staff when school lets out. The district has several summer professional development sessions, focusing on math, technology, literacy, English Learners, social studies, and assessment. Our schools were filled with students throughout June as they participated in summer enrichment classes or extended school year classes.

I wish all of our families and community members a fun-filled summer!

NAVIGATE 28 UPDATE

2018-19 PROJECTS REFLECT CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Navigate 28 Strategic Plan adopted by the Board of Education in April 2018 outlines a refreshed Mission, Vision and five Goals to lead the district for the next three to five years. Below are notable projects and accomplishments made during the first year of the plan. More information on our strategic plan is available on our website, www.northbrook28.net/navigate28.

Mission

Empower every learner to be an engaged, confident, caring and inspired citizen.

Vision

Learners are empowered when they:

- Engage in meaningful learning experiences
- Experience personal growth
- Become global and digital thinkers, and
- Feel supported by staff, families and the community.

GOAL #1 Student Growth & Achievement



👤 A Math Program Review plan was developed with short and long-term projects, including:

- Secured a math consultant to work with teachers.
- Created Math Instructional Specialist position.
- Established K-5 Homework Task Force to develop uniform practices across the district.
- 👤 Learning First, a one-to-one iPad initiative for grades K, 3, and 6 was implemented to improve access to technology learning tools. The program expands to all grades over the next two years.
- 👤 Completed a two-year review of the social studies curriculum K-8, with updated resources and revised units of study.

Goal #2 Learning Environment



✎ Launched a pre-K through 8th grade Foundational Program. This program provides special needs students increased participation with typical peers and access to coordinated services including social work, occupational and speech-language therapists.

- ✎ Piloted options for flexible learning environments, including reconfiguring NBJH Library and common areas
- ✎ Enhanced safety through cooperative township-wide crisis response plans and modified school procedures to reflect best practices.

GOAL #3 Work Environment



👤 Designed 50 summer professional learning sessions for staff, focusing on the following topics: math, technology, literacy, English Language Learners, social studies, and assessment.

👤 Established structure for all teachers to become Apple Certified Educators within three years (103 certified during 2018-19).

Goal #4 Family & Community Connections



🏠 Offered two showings of the movie, "Screenagers," attended by 170 parents and students to learn strategies and coping skills for navigating their child's digital life.

🏠 Jackie Rhew, a behavioral counselor, presented: "Understanding Stress and Anxiety: How to Raise a Healthy, Confident, and Successful Adult." (60 attendees)

🏠 Utilized Parent Advisory Task Force and two surveys for parents, students, and staff to identify improvements and adaptations to standards-based grading at NBJH.

🏠 Collected parent feedback in surveys and forums to refine elementary homework practices district-wide.

Goal #5 Resources



🏠 An interior renovation at Meadowbrook School will be completed this summer, including new carpet, cabinetry and security enhancements.

🏠 Life-Safety improvements were completed throughout the district's schools last summer.

🏠 Enhanced cybersecurity for student and financial databases and upgraded internet filtering for students.

🏠 Identified short- and long-term capital improvement projects and updated the 4-year Capital Improvement Plan budget.

INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

TEACHING | LEARNING | CARING



7th-Graders Hear Firsthand of Holocaust Hardships

Seventh-grade students heard the firsthand account of Steen Metz, now 84, who at 8 years old was sent with his parents to a Czech concentration camp. Mr. Metz shared his story with seventh-grade students as part of the language arts study of the Holocaust.

Mr. Metz asked one thing of the students after his presentation: "It is more important than ever to spread the word of the Holocaust," he said. "You are the last generation who will hear firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors." Mr. Metz has visited Northbrook Junior High seven years in a row and has spoken to nearly 75,000 students throughout the area.



Nora Project Builds Friendships, Empathy

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Meadowbrook School experienced the true meaning of friendship as they developed empathy and understanding for students with disabilities through a year of activities. Following the model established by the national organization The Nora Project, typically developing students were introduced to students with disabilities from other classrooms. The classroom students spent time with their 'Nora' friends, learning about their disability, planning activities together, interviewing the students' parents then making a video. The project culminated with a Nora Night World Premiere, when the students shared their videos with families and celebrated with their 'Nora' friends.



Junior Achievement Teaches Financial Literacy

Profit, loss, revenue, risk, supply, demand and most of all, customer service! A team of volunteers for Junior Achievement of Chicago visited Greenbriar School for a morning to teach students about the world of business. The students learned about different industries, what's needed to start a business and the many ups and downs of running a hot dog stand in a tabletop game. Many thanks to the Allstate volunteers and to the Junior Achievement of Chicago organization!



Westmoor Garden Taking Root

The Westmoor Organic Garden provides science and nutrition lessons to both Westmoor and Greenbriar students. First-graders visited in May to learn how to plant flowers, learn about different herbs and taste freshly picked spinach.

Meadowbrook students visit the garden classroom at Northbrook Junior High, which is also home to summer school classes about gardening and healthy eating.

NOTABLES

NBJH Science Students Shine at State

When it comes to science fairs, Northbrook Junior High School students have the right stuff to win. Four NBJH students' projects presented at the 2019 Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Exposition captured top honors in their category, and a majority of the 25 NBJH students who participated received gold medals, according to Mark Frye, one of the sponsoring teachers of the event.



Students who received top honors at the 2019 Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Exposition were, from left, Natalie Hong, Colin Rowan, Paul Bae and Shon Ginzburg. Northbrook Junior High received the Best in Show trophy for the most students who received gold medals for a school of its size.

The school received a first-place trophy for having the most gold awards among schools of similar size at the competition, which was held at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale April 27.

"All of the students, regardless of their score, work really hard," said Mrs. Pam Mendelson, who teaches the independent study class along with Mr. Frye and Amber Paull. Every student who participates in the class walks away with lifelong skills in researching, writing and presenting information," she said. See full details and a list of all the winners on our website under the news section.

New Board Member Joins Incumbents for 4 Years

Mara Silver-Schack took her seat on the Board of Education, along with returning Board Members Tracy Katz-Muhl and Michelle Kohler at the April 23 Board meeting. The three were uncontested in the April 2 election for four-year terms.



From left: Mara Silver-Schack, Tracy Katz Muhl and Michelle Kohler were sworn in for 4-year terms April 23.

Board Member Carol Currie, who did not seek re-election, was recognized for eight years of service as a board member.

Following the swearing-in of the new board members, Tracy-Katz Muhl was elected President and Michelle Kohler was elected Vice President by board members. Both will serve in those positions for two years.

ABOUT D28

SCHOOLS

Northbrook Junior High

1475 Maple Avenue, Northbrook
Dr. Scott Meek, Principal

Greenbriar School

1225 Greenbriar Lane, Northbrook
Dr. Ginny Hiltz, Principal

Meadowbrook School

1600 Walters Avenue, Northbrook
Pat Thome, Principal

Westmoor School

2500 Cherry Lane, Northbrook
Mary Sturgill, Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tracy Katz Muhl

President

Michelle Kohler

Vice President

Mara Silver-Schack

Louis Gross

Jennifer Gallinson

Tony Forchetti

Michael Gilmore

To contact board members, please email: 1boardmembers@northbrook28.net.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Larry Hewitt, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Kris Raitzer, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Kelly Sculles, Ed.D.

Director of Student Services

Jessica Donato, CSBO

Chief School Business Official

Michelle Jackson

Director of Learning

Terry Ryan, APR

Communications Director

Please call (847) 498-7900 to reach any member of the administrative team. Update 28 is published two times a year by the Board of Education for citizens residing in Northbrook School District 28 at a cost of about 32 cents per issue.

Terry Ryan, Editor
Volume 31, Number 2
July 2019

INSIDE This Issue...

- **District Receives National Music Award Page 2**
- **Inside Our Schools . Page 3**
- **Science Fair Page 4**
- **New Board Page 4**
- **Navigate 28 Page 5**

ECRWSS

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
NORTHBROOK ILLINOIS 60062

NORTHBROOK
DISTRICT



UPDATE 28

HOH Scholarships Help 12 Grads

Twelve Glenbrook North High School graduates were awarded a Homer O. Harvey Scholarship in 2019.

The winners will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward second semester college

tuition. Scholarships are awarded to graduates of District 28. Dr. Homer O. Harvey was a longtime superintendent of District 28 and dedicated his professional career to providing high standards of excellence and learning for our children. The annual HOH5K is the top-fundraiser for the event and is held on the first Saturday in May. This year, the event raised nearly \$10,000. Since 1989, \$318,500 has been awarded to 354 Northbrook Junior High and Glenbrook High School graduates.



Homer O. Harvey scholarship recipients were recognized at the NBJH graduation ceremony: Madeline Guest, Erin Rosenfeld, Gemma Abbott, Samantha Stoneburner, Lucas Deutsch, Nora Smith, Madeline Bayzaee; back row from left, Ryan Cohen, Ilana Silver, Joseph Gertner and Nicole Helinski. Not pictured is John Karteczka.

Early Childhood Screenings

Northbrook School District 28 conducts early childhood screening for children 3 to 5 years of age who live within district boundaries.

Children will participate in a play-based screening in the areas of cognition, language, fine and gross motor skills, social-emotional functioning, and adaptive skills. Screenings are held monthly by appointment only. To schedule a screening, please contact Helene Josephson, Administrative Assistant for Early Childhood at 847-504-3809.

Important Dates

- First Day of School - Aug. 21
- Labor Day (no school) - Sept. 2
- Teacher Institute, (no school) - Oct. 18
- Rosh Hashanah (no school) - Sept 30
- Yom Kippur (no school) - Oct. 9
- Thanksgiving Recess - Nov. 25-20