



# THE DISTRICT IN REVIEW

A Newsletter to the Northbrook School District 27 Community

Spring 2019

## From the Superintendent



As we come to the last two months of the school year, we are pleased to report that we have had a great year with many accomplishments. We experienced many successes and much progress on new innovations from our strategic plan. These successes enhanced the learning opportunities for our students as well as improved the effectiveness and health of the District. We would like to share some of these highlights.

### Highest State Recognition of Our Schools

In November the State Report Card for our schools and District reported that all schools received an "Exemplary" designation as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). There are four possible designations and each one of our schools received the highest rating by the State.

### Construction of New Wood Oaks STEAM/Applied Technology Lab

We completed our designs and bidding process for the new Wood Oaks STEAM/Applied Technology Lab. Work will commence in June and be completed by fall. The new space will house the school's Applied Technology program, STEAM electives, and the Broadcast studio. Please be sure to review the architectural renderings of our new space on Page 2. This will be a great space for our students.

### Collective Bargaining Agreement With Our Faculty Association

The Board of Education and the Northbrook 27 Faculty Association agreed on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The 2019-2024 Agreement follows a long-standing tradition in District 27 of collaboratively securing multi-year contracts with its teachers.

The Board is appreciative of the collaborative and professional relationship we hold with our Faculty Association. This contract is the result of an interest-based bargaining process that focuses on the needs of our children, our parent community, taxpayers, teachers, and the District's long-term financial health.

### Strategic Plan 2019-2024

The Board of Education is in the process of updating the District's Strategic Plan. This plan focuses on our five Key Success Factors (KSF's) that include: Outstanding Student Performance; Rigorous and Coherent Programs and Services; Highly Qualified Staff; Safe, Caring, and Supportive Learning Environment; and Healthy Financial Position.

For information on how we have developed action plans for these KSF's, please read the article on Page 2.

We would like to thank all of you for the continued support of our District. Our parents and residents have an incredible commitment to a high-quality education and to our District. You provide the resources to offer an outstanding environment for student learning that prepares our students for an excellent future. On behalf of the Board of Education, Administration, and Staff, we THANK YOU!

Thank you, again, for your support and encouragement as we educate the next generation of leaders.

Respectfully,

David J. Kroeze, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Inside This Issue

From the Superintendent  
Wood Oaks STEAM Lab  
Strategic Plan  
Collective Bargaining Agreement  
Around the District  
Staff Focus on SEL  
Students Give Back Love

## Administration

Dr. David J. Kroeze  
Superintendent  
Dr. Theresa Fournier  
Asst. Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services  
Dr. Katharine Olson  
Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Dr. Kimberly Arakelian  
Asst. Superintendent for Finance & Operations

## Board of Education

Mrs. Helen Melnick  
President  
Mrs. Laurie Garber-Amram  
Vice President  
Mr. Frank Andreou  
Mrs. Melissa Copeland  
Mr. Ed Feld  
Mr. Alex Frum  
Mr. Brian S. Paich

| Our Schools | Hickory Point  | Shabonee  | Wood Oaks Jr. High   |
|-------------|--|---|--|
|             | Grades K-2<br>500 Laburnum Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062<br>(847) 498-3830<br>Mrs. Maureen Deely, Principal<br>Mrs. Meggan Buchanan, Asst. Principal | Grades 3-5<br>1000 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062<br>(847) 498-4970<br>Mr. John Panozzo, Principal<br>Mrs. Meggan Buchanan, Asst. Principal | Grades 6-8<br>1250 Sanders Road, Northbrook, IL 60062<br>(847) 272-1900<br>Mr. Rob McElligott, Principal<br>Mrs. Cari Beake, Asst. Principal |

## New Wood Oaks STEAM Lab

Construction will begin this summer on an innovative STEAM/ Applied Technology Lab at Wood Oaks Junior High School.

The Lab will house the school's Applied Technology program, STEAM electives, and the Broadcast studio. The lab will include flexible seating for students, ample counter space for 3D printers, a "brainstorming hub," equipment storage, projection systems, and robotics game tables.

The new lab, which replaces the home economics room and a classroom, will meet the future needs for students living in the constantly-changing world of technology.

The new lab will be utilized by all Wood Oaks students since technology classes are part of the school's Unified Arts program.



Wood Oaks students take technology classes as part of their Unified Arts program so "We are excited about the opportunities available to all of our students in the new STEAM/ Applied Technology Lab," Dr. Kroeze said. "It will provide a place for our students to learn, create, and innovate."

*The photos above and to the left are the architect's renderings of the new STEAM/ Applied Technology Lab at Wood Oaks.*

## 2019-2020 Strategic Plan

Each year, the Board reviews the Strategic Plan and conducts an Environmental Scan of the District. The purpose of the Scan is to identify influences that could impact the District's future success. The Board then develops action plans to ensure the District continues to perform at a high level. The chart below outlines some of these action plans as they pertain to the District's five Key Success Factors:

| Key Success Factors                                  | District Action Plans   |
|--|---|
| <b>Outstanding Student Performance</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and respond to the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in these key areas: emerging format, performance results, and student growth implications</li> <li>Continue to make revisions to the current Assessment System</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Coherent and Rigorous Programs and Services</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise the science curriculum to include the <i>Next Generation Science Standards</i>, with full implementation by 2021-2022</li> <li>Continue to develop, implement and refine the Wood Oaks STEAM and Applied Tech programs over the next three years</li> <li>Implement program recommendations resulting from the Special Education Study 2019</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Highly Qualified Staff</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address growing needs in the subpopulation areas of English Learners and Special Education through our annual staffing plan</li> <li>Continue to develop and implement professional learning of staff to respond to social-emotional needs of students</li> <li>Implement staffing recommendations resulting from the Special Education Study 2019</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Safe, Caring, Supportive Learning Environment</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement and revise the Emergency Preparedness Plan, along with safety and security procedures for the District and Township</li> <li>Conduct satisfaction surveys to determine student, staff, parent, and community perceptions of our District</li> <li>Open the new Wood Oaks STEAM/Applied Technology lab in the fall of 2019</li> <li>Implement facility recommendations resulting from the Special Education Study 2019</li> </ul> |
| <b>Healthy Financial Position</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a balanced budget annually to ensure a healthy financial position</li> <li>Implement cost containment measures annually and explore new revenue sources</li> <li>Monitor and respond to State legislation to ensure the District's fiscal solvency</li> </ul>  |

## Bargaining Agreement Approved

The Board of Education and the Northbrook 27 Faculty Association approved a five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The 2019-2024 Agreement follows a long-standing tradition in District 27 of collaboratively securing multi-year contracts with its teachers. The Board of Education desires to be an Employer of Choice to attract and retain high quality educators who are able to deliver our rigorous curriculum within a safe and caring learning environment.

The Board of Education is appreciative of the collaborative and professional relationship we hold with our Faculty Association.

The contract is the result of an interest-based bargaining process that focuses on the needs of our children, our parent community, taxpayers, teachers, and the District's long-term financial health and well-being.

"We are so grateful for this long-standing productive relationships with the Faculty Association," said District 27 Board President Helen Melnick. "The process really allows us to focus on what's important, and that's our children."

## Around the District

### Wood Oaks

If you were a member of the Wood Oaks Choir between 1993 and 2018, you are invited to join current students and faculty in performing a song on May 15th to celebrate the final choral performance conducted by music teacher Tammy Gould before her retirement in June.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. May 15 at Wood Oaks. Please contact Ms. Gould at [gould.t@nb27.org](mailto:gould.t@nb27.org) to receive music to practice.

### Hickory Point

Hickory Point students were treated to a dance party on March 8 as a reward for their good behavior.

The students are given BARK dollars when they display respectful and kind behavior. (The school's mascot is a Bulldog!) They earned the dance party after filling buckets with BARK dollars.



### Shabonee

Shabonee fourth and fifth graders competed in a Book Match competition in March. The competition focused on the students' knowledge of the many books they had read.

The students were provided a list of 50 books and encouraged to read at least 10. The 56 students who participated in the Book Match met once a week during lunch and recess since October.



## Staff Focusing Professional Learning on Social-Emotional Learning Topics

Members of the District 27 staff have been involved all year in professional learning related to the topics of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL.)



SEL is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

District 27 staff is in the second year of extensive professional learning in the area of SEL. Last year, staff attended sessions on mindfulness. This year, staff was involved in one of five strands of study, including growth mindset, mental health and wellness of students, mindfulness, executive function, and learning differences for boys and girls. Additionally, all three schools have devoted after-school time to SEL topics.



The staff will continue their studies during the 2019-2020 school year.



**1250 Sanders Road  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
Gail Kahover, Editor**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 48  
Northbrook, IL

## Shabonee Students Give Back Love

Valentine's Day is supposed to be a day of love and giving. So it was appropriate that Shabonee students gave a little love back to the community during their parties on February 14.

In addition to the party games and heart-making, students made gifts for three organizations. Third graders made Valentine's Day cards for sick children at Lutheran General Hospital, fourth grades knotted together fleece blankets for pets at Orphans of the Storm, and fifth graders filled socks with rice to make heating pads for patients at the Kellogg Cancer Center in Evanston.

The project, called "Give Back Love," was created and sponsored by the Shabonee PTA.

