



Office of the Superintendent
John Deiter, Ph.D.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Board of Education
From: John Deiter
Re: Fall 2021 Enrollment Report
Date: September 9, 2021

In this report I have provided you with a summary and analysis of our grade level enrollment data. I have also provided future enrollment projections through the 2025-26 school year.

Fall Enrollment Data for 2021

- The enrollment for the fall of 2021 is 1,336. This number is slightly higher than our enrollment projection which was 1,322.
- Each grade level enrollment takes into consideration the within-grade-growth over last school year. We are exactly where we anticipated we would be in all the schools with just some minor aberrations by grade level (ranging from -7 to 5 students higher or lower at any grade level with the exception of kindergarten which was up by 17 students). This is not surprising in that a number of parents who un-enrolled due to concerns over the COVID-19. Overall, our enrollment is slightly higher than projected by 14 students.
- At kindergarten we have 17 more students than expected with a total enrollment of 139. The average enrollment over the past five years is 124.6 and the past two years of enrollments have been 133 and 139 respectively. Here are some longitudinal data points of note. In the past 30 years, kindergarten enrollment:
 - Greater than or equal to 130 – 5 times
 - Greater than or equal to 125 – 8 times
 - Greater than or equal to 120 – 13 times
 - Greater than or equal to 115 – 17 times

This longitudinal data combined with the past five year's average of 124.6 suggests that 125 would be a solid number to use as a target number for incoming kindergarten students. We will continue to monitor the trend line each year.

- As you know, the two key factors that have the greatest impact on our enrollment from year-to-year are:
 1. Graduating 8th grade classes that are typically larger than the incoming kindergarten classes (due to growth over the nine years of the class).
 2. Within-grade-growth from year-to-year in grades 1-8.

- Comparing our enrollments by building from last fall:
 - Hickory Point increased by 8 students.
 - Shabonee increased by 3 students
 - Wood Oaks increased by 4 students.
- All in all, the enrollment is strong and stable with our projection being on target. (within one percentage point.)
- Class sizes reflect our preferred student-teacher ratios.
- When we look at the gender of our student population, we continue to have more boys than girls. We have 643 females and 693 males in our regular and out-of-district programs. We have 50 more boys than girls in the District, comparable to last year which was 45 more boys.

Figure 1: Fall Enrollment Data by School for 2021				
School	Grade	2021-2022 Fall Enrollment (Number of Sections)	Class Size	New Students in Fall 2021
Hickory Point	Kdgn	139 (7)	19-20	*78
	First	139 (7)	19-20	15
	Second	132 (7)	18-19	8
	Total	410		101
Shabonee	Third	147 (7)	20-21	13
	Fourth	134 (7)	19	10
	Fifth	150 (7)	21-22	11
	Total	431		34
Wood Oaks	Sixth	164	NA	14
	Seventh	156	NA	8
	Eighth	153	NA	5
	Total	473		27

Other Special Placements				
ECP (PreK)	K-8	12	NA	NA
NSA		} 10		
ELS				
Out-of-District				
Private School				
Private Residential				
	Total	22		NA
District Totals		1,336		162

* We define new kindergarten children as those students who did not have a sibling attend school on the last day of school last year.

New Student Move-Ins

- We continue to have new students move into the District as indicated in Figure 2. This year we enrolled 162 new students - 38 students higher than last year. This number of new students is higher than the trend we averaged over the past five years which was 130 new students. While the number of new students fluctuates each year, we are seeing a trend toward more students moving into the District. We will continue to monitor this data point as well.
- It is noteworthy that a majority of our new students are entering kindergarten through second grade (consistent with our past). This high number of new students in the lower grades should have a positive long-term impact on the District’s enrollment provided the students remain in the District, and we continue to see typical “within-grade-growth”.

Figure 2: Number of New Students to District 27 over the Past Five School Years				
Year	K-2	3-5	6-8	Total
2017-18	80	29	21	130
2018-19	78	19	20	117
2019-20	85	17	14	116
2020-21	92	17	15	124
2021-22	101	34	27	162

Revised Enrollment Projections

- We revise our enrollment projections annually. This revision includes a re-calculation of all “within-grade-growth” factors incorporating this year’s enrollment data. We then use these new factors, a kindergarten projection of 125, and any other idiosyncratic factors to develop our overall projections. For example, graduating a particularly large or small class in any given year can affect the next year’s total enrollment. Enrollment projections are found in Figure 3 below.
- You will note that we are projected to increase in both of the next two years, increasing by 16 in the 2022-2023 school year and an additional increase of 13 in 2023-2024. We will then see a slight decrease of 1 in 2024-2025 due to a large graduating 8th grade class. In 2025-2026 we will experience a slight increase of 2 students- the result of graduating a smaller 8th grade class in June of 2025 and consistent within-grade-growth from our larger incoming classes). All in all, we see very stable numbers over the next four years.
- The current kindergarten class of 139 will grow over the next several years and we should plan for 8 sections beginning next year if we want to maintain a class of 20 or less. The good news is that no other class will necessitate 8 sections during the next four years at either Hickory Point or Shabonee.
- Overall Shabonee will see increased enrollment beginning in 2023-2024 for three years as larger classes matriculate through the grades. It is projected to reach 466 during the 2025-2026 school year. Wood Oaks will have a slight increase of 17 students next year and then decrease slightly over the next three years by 9 students.
- Our enrollment will reach 1,365 students in the 2023-24 school year (as shown in Figures 3 and 4). Then it will hold steady for the next two years with minor variance. Obviously, all of these projections are contingent on typical factors playing out as they have in the past.
- We will still be within our preferred class size range with 7 sections per grade level (K-5), but will be on the higher end of it in some grade levels. As mentioned we may need 8 sections to accommodate the current kindergarten class as it matriculates through the years. We will monitor the enrollment carefully over the next several years.

Figure 3: Enrollment Projections for 2022-2023 through 2025-2026											
Projected Enrollment 2022-23											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other	Totals
HP	125	149	140								414
SH				138	151	137					426
WO							158	172	160		490
Other										22	22
Totals	125	149	140	138	151	137	158	172	160	22	1,352
Projected Enrollment 2023-2024											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other	Totals
HP	125	135	151								411
SH				148	143	156					447
WO							145	164	176		485
Other										22	22
Totals	125	135	151	147	143	155	143	162	176	22	1,365
Projected Enrollment 2024-2025											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other	Totals
HP	125	135	137								397
SH				160	153	148					461
WO							165	151	168		484
Other										22	22
Totals	125	135	136	159	152	147	162	149	166	22	1,364
Projected Enrollment 2025-2026											
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other	Totals
HP	125	135	137								397
SH				143	165	158					466
WO							156	171	154		481
Other										22	22
Totals	125	135	136	143	164	157	154	169	152	22	1,366

Figure 4: Summary K-8 Enrollment Projections by School – Year Totals					
School Year	Hickory Point	Shabonee	Wood Oaks	Other	Total
2021-22	410	431	473	22	1336
2022-23	414	426	490	22	1352
2023-24	411	447	485	22	1365
2024-25	397	461	484	22	1364
2025-26	397	466	481	22	1366

Summary

- Our enrollment this fall is 1,336 students. This number is slightly higher than our projected enrollment. With our current projections, we anticipate the enrollment to grow over the next four years. We would project the overall enrollment range to be between 1,350 and 1,366.
- Current kindergarten enrollment patterns suggest that 125 is a good number to use for projections. We will monitor the numbers for this grade and refine our projections in the future.

- We typically experience an influx of new students in the District. This year we had 162 new students join the District. We see this trend as a positive sign that our houses are turning over.
- All grades have great class sizes that are within our preferred range. We project to maintain a consistent staffing pattern level over the next four years with a possible adjustment to an 8th section for the current kindergarten class as it matriculates through the grades.

Northbrook School District 27

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