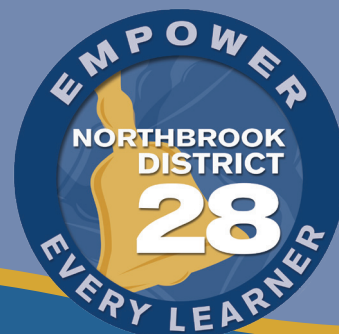


# UPDATE

A Newsletter from the Northbrook School District 28 Board of Education  
JUNE 2023



Students in the Young Explorers program celebrate their year of learning and that they are now ready to move up to kindergarten!

## Young Explorers Blaze Trail to Kindergarten Readiness

Young Explorers, District 28's Early Childhood Program, celebrated its 7th class of students rising to kindergarten this year.

Young Explorers is available to District 28 typical, at-risk and special education students ages 3 through 5, who are not age-eligible for Kindergarten. The program encourages exploration and skill development through child-centered experiences that build self-confidence and connections between learning and natural environments.

A staff of early childhood and special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, and a school psychologist provide support to all students with an integrated and inclusive instructional approach.

Students can enroll by participating in an early childhood screening or through early intervention. Please contact Helene Josephson 847-504-3809 or visit [northbrook28.net/YE](http://northbrook28.net/YE) for more information.

## 'Adventure Awaits' NBJH Graduates

Northbrook Junior High's Class of 2023 began their middle school experience in the midst of the pandemic. As the 192 graduates stood onstage in front of family members dressed in royal blue gowns, they reflected the resiliency and optimism that have helped prepare them for high school.

Student speaker Erin Clarke recalled what it was like to enter middle school during COVID when it was difficult to get to know each other wearing face masks and staying 6 feet apart.

"While trying to adapt to the new normal, we learned patience, flexibility, and resilience. We gave each other elbow high fives, and we had virtual assemblies, but most importantly, we learned the true meaning of gratitude," she said.

See GRADS on Page 6



Erin Clarke addresses the Class of 2023 during Northbrook Junior High graduation.

# SNAPSHOT

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 2022-23

Total Enrollment

**1,830**

**625 – Northbrook Junior High**

**339 – Greenbriar**

**444 – Meadowbrook**

**422 – Westmoor (including  
Young Explorers Early  
Childhood)**

**88%**

**Teacher Retention**

**82%**

**Teachers with master's degree  
or higher**

**12:1**

**Pupil/teacher ratio**

**2%**

**Student mobility**

**4%**

**Low Income Students**

**6%**

**Multi-Lingual Learners**

**14%**

**Students with Disabilities**

**21.4%**

**Students identified as Gifted**

**17.9**

**Average Class Size**

### Student Diversity

**76% White**

**14% Asian**

**5% Two or More**

**4% Hispanic**

**1% Black**

Data from the 2022 Illinois School  
Report Card.



## REFLECTIONS

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Jason Pearson, Ed.D.

### Strong Community Spirit Is The Foundation Of District 28

When I arrived in Northbrook 28 a little less than a year ago, I knew this was a special place. The district's reputation was of dedicated educators, involved parents and a community invested in education. I have observed, listened, visited classrooms and met with parent groups. Time and again I have heard from parents who attended our schools and return to raise their children here. Teachers and other staff members are often parents in the district as well. This community loyalty provides us with a solid foundation from which the district can continue to grow and improve.



In this edition of Update 28, information about the Master Facilities Planning process with DLA Architects is highlighted. This collaborative work with a variety of stakeholders will help us identify current needs and plan for the future. You'll also learn about some of our accomplishments, including two awards the district received this spring, one for the district's music program and the other for the junior high health education program. In addition, our Independent Science Research students continue to earn medals at the state science fair. We introduce two new members who were elected to the Board of Education, new board officers, and a new principal for Westmoor School.

After attending my first District 28 junior high graduation, I was impressed with the wisdom our student speakers shared with classmates as well as those students recognized with citizenship awards. The following week we invited our former D28 students graduating from high school to return to their elementary schools to recognize their accomplishments. Dressed in their caps and gowns – and a t-shirt representing their post-graduate plans – they inspired our students and sparked joy in our educators to see them all grown up as they walked the halls 'Where It All Began.' It helped demonstrate how important our schools are to our community and the lasting impact and legacy of District 28 that empowers every learner not just for today, but for their future.



# INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

## MASTER FACILITIES PLANNING, SCIENCE AWARDS

### Students, Parents, Staff Help Map Future Building Plan

A Long-Range Facilities Master Plan is being developed for District 28 by DLA Architects. All parents and staff were invited to complete a survey in May. Then workshops for were held with students, parents and staff at each school to identify priorities and review examples of learning spaces.

The Long-Range Facilities Master Plan will include:

- Review of all four existing buildings;
- Evaluation and analysis of roofs, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems;
- Safety and security assessment;
- Capacity studies of all schools, including room utilization, programs and services;
- Demographic study to forecast student enrollment;
- Short-term and long-term priorities;
- Project cost estimates for recommended improvements and maintenance items; and
- Overview diagrams and preliminary cost estimates for possible remodeling or additions.

DLA will utilize various engineers, a demographer and a school safety and security specialist to provide their expertise. The report is due in December.



Meadowbrook Principal Ericka Garza, right, joins parents and staff members in a facilities planning workshop held in June by DLA Architects.

### NBJH Brings Home 3rd at State Science Fair

NBJH student scientists made their mark at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Fair at SIU-Carbondale, bringing home a third-place team trophy along with 12 gold, four silver and one bronze individual award.

Students developed their projects during a semester-long Independent Science Research class mentored by teachers Lauren Johnson, Amber Paull or Fredrick Yoon. Special awards included:

- ◆ Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Award: Zack Schwarcz, Aaria Mehta, Lily Smolik, and Lily Musslewhite
- ◆ SIU STEM Education Award: Lily Smolik
- ◆ SIU School of Medicine Award: Lauren Yoon
- ◆ Naval Science Award: Henry Gartz

"Each student did an amazing job at this competition! They have worked hard all year and we are so proud of them," said Ms. Johnson.



Seventeen NBJH students competed at SIU-Carbondale April 28-29 in the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Fair accompanied by teachers Lauren Johnson and Fredrick Yoon.

# FACES OF DISTRICT 28

## BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION



The new Board of Education took office April 24, with front row, from left, Beth Bazer, Jennifer Gallinson, Mara Silver-Schack and back row, from left, Matt Cassidy, Adam Weinstock, DeShawn Arms and Christine Beeftink.

### Board Seats New Members, Elects Officers

There are two new faces on the District 28 Board of Education following the March general election. Christine Beeftink and Adam Weinstock were sworn into office along with incumbent Mara Silver-Schack for four-year terms at the board's April 24th meeting. Beth Bazer was elected to the unexpired 2-year term. She was appointed to fill a seat vacated by Shweta Jinkala in 2022 and was elected to finish out that term.

The board elected officers for two-year terms: President: Jennifer Gallinson, who has been a member since 2017; Vice President: Mara Silver-Schack, a member since 2019; and Secretary: Beth Bazer, a member since 2022.

Incumbents Board President Tracy Katz Muhl and Vice President Michelle Kohler, did not seek re-election after serving eight years on the board.

### New Westmoor Principal Has Wealth of Experience

Maria Eck, an educational leader who has 12 years of experience as a principal of elementary, middle and high schools, will be the new principal of Westmoor School beginning July 1.



Maria Eck

Ms. Eck developed her leadership skills in Fairfax County Schools,

Virginia, and was selected after a comprehensive search process.

"Ms. Eck comes to Northbrook 28 with extensive experience as a school leader and her skills and background are a perfect match for Westmoor School," Superintendent Dr. Jason Pearson said.

"I promise to continue the great work that is happening at Westmoor and build strong relationships with students, staff and the community," Ms. Eck said in a video address to parents in April.

## ABOUT D28

### SCHOOLS

#### Northbrook Junior High

1475 Maple Avenue, Northbrook  
Scott Meek, Ed.D., Principal

#### Greenbriar School

2195 Cherry Lane, Northbrook  
Ginny Hiltz, Ph.D., Principal

#### Meadowbrook School

1600 Walters Avenue, Northbrook  
Ericka Garza, Principal

#### Westmoor School

2500 Cherry Lane, Northbrook  
Maria Eck, Principal

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Jennifer Gallinson**  
President

**Mara Silver-Schack**  
Vice President

**Beth Bazer**  
Secretary

**DeShawn Arms**

**Matt Cassidy**

**Christine Beeftink**

**Adam Weinstock**

To contact board members, please email: [BoardofEducation@northbrook28.net](mailto:BoardofEducation@northbrook28.net).

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Jason Pearson, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

**Kris Raitzer, Ed.D.**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Kelly Sculles, Ed.D.**  
Director of Student Services

**Jessica Donato, CSBO**  
Chief School Business Official

**Edward Brophy**  
Director of HR and Admin. Services

**Michelle Jackson**  
Director of Learning

**Terry Ryan, APR**  
Communications Director

**Joel Gallegos**  
Director of Buildings & Grounds

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  
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June 2023 | [www.northbrook28.net](http://www.northbrook28.net)



# HONORS AND RECOGNITION

## NBJH Receives Health Education Blue Ribbon

Northbrook Junior High received a state Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Health Education for its curriculum and school programs that support student health and well-being.

The Illinois School Health Association and Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance made the award after a detailed application and interviews with teachers, administration, students and parents. Wendy Concklin is the health teacher who has designed and continually updates the health curriculum for all students in grades 6-8. Every student participates in nine weeks of health education each year.

"Northbrook Junior High continues to exemplify how a school community works together to reach today's youth in health education," said Ben Leven of ISHA/IAHPERD.



**NBJH Health Teacher Wendy Concklin designed and continues to update the health curriculum, which received a state Blue Ribbon Award.**

## Music Program Recognized

Northbrook District 28 received the Best Communities for Music Education designation for the seventh time by The NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation. District 28 is one of 25 districts in Illinois to receive this award in 2023. "The consistency of receiving this recognition year after year is a testament to the core belief in the essential nature of music education in District 28," said Band Director Greg Scapillato.



## Homer O. Harvey Scholarship Winners

Ten Glenbrook North seniors who had graduated from Northbrook Junior High were awarded the District 28 Homer O. Harvey Scholarship.

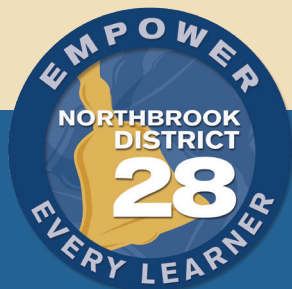
All of the recipients will receive a \$1,500 scholarship toward second semester of college next school year. Above, from left are Ellie Pavletich, Addison Cha, Natalie Hong, Ryan Shanahan, Zoey Godnik, Kathryn Leverenz, Jessica Luna, Elizabeth Alcorn, Michael Bilous, and Michael Dimoff along with Philip Harvey,

Homer's son, who presented the awards at the Glenbrook North ceremony.

The scholarship was established in 1989 to recognize the contributions of longtime superintendent Homer O. Harvey. There has been \$367,500 awarded to 398 Northbrook Junior High and Glenbrook North High School graduates. The primary fundraiser for this scholarship fund is the annual HOH5K and Fun Run, held on the first Saturday of May.

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\*\*\*\*ECRWSS \*\*\*\*

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# UPDATE28

## GRADS: 4 Receive Awards

From Page 1

In closing, Clarke said, "Adventure awaits us. Let us journey into these next four years with curiosity, hope, and courage."

In addressing his 191 classmates, student speaker Connor Chung focused on the future. "Embrace high school's challenges with unwavering determination and you will climb even the tallest of mountains."



Connor Chung addresses his classmates at graduation.

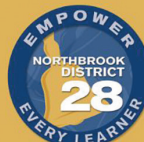
Twelve students were recognized by being nominated for the American Legion Citizenship Award by their teachers. Nominations are based on the character qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Receiving Honorable Mention were: Sami Abrams and Shawn Syed.

Receiving Distinguished Achievement were: Janey Seay and Landon Burton.

## NOW HIRING

### INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS & SUBSTITUTES

Impact a child's life every day by supporting teachers in the classroom.



visit [northbrook28.net/jobs](https://northbrook28.net/jobs) for more info



## Early Childhood Screenings Available

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. Contact Helene Josephson, Admin. Assistant for Early Childhood at 847-504-3809.