



# THE DISTRICT IN REVIEW

A Newsletter for the Northbrook School District 27 Community

SUMMER 2023

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



District 27 just wrapped up a very successful school year. A great sense of pride and community accomplishment was felt throughout the entire district this year as our students, staff, and families enjoyed many treasured school traditions, performances, and special honors, as you will read about in this edition of "In Review."

I would like to extend my gratitude to our District 27 PTAs, who planned endless events to support our staff and students and welcome new families into our school buildings.

We have exciting and historical changes to look forward to this fall, including the launch of our Little Bulldogs Early Childhood Education Program for children ages 3 and 4. This is the first time District 27 has offered an in-house early childhood program, and we look forward to fostering this community connection with our youngest group of learners.

Facilities work underway this summer consists of access control and safety improvements districtwide and accessible equipment additions to the Hickory Point and Shabonee playgrounds. A Ten Year Health Life Safety Study and Space Utilization Study were completed during the 2021-22 school year. The following action items were recommended over the course of the next five years as a result of the studies: Roof and HVAC replacements at Hickory Point and Shabonee and electric service districtwide. The District also plans to address parking lot space, traffic efficiencies, building space, and student enrollment in the next few years.

Most recently, the Board of Education seated its two newest members, approved the district's five-year strategic plan, and ratified a five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Faculty Association. These long-standing and collaborative processes are what make our district top-notch.

Strategic planning items include the continued development and implementation of a districtwide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan, a focus on learning recovery related to the pandemic, social-emotional learning for staff to support themselves and students, and ongoing curriculum initiatives and refinements across several content areas and grade levels.

Thank you for your continued support of District 27. I hope you all have a safe and joyful summer!

Sincerely,

John Deiter, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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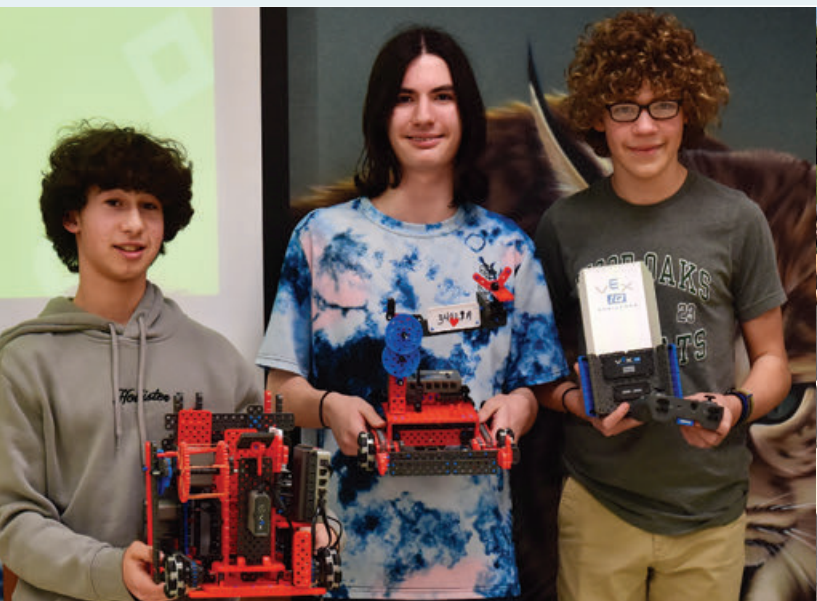




# DISTRICT NEWS

## WOOD OAKS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR ROBOTICS SUCCESS

Students from the Wood Oaks VEX Robotics program were recognized by the District 27 Board of Education on March 16. This year, Wood Oaks hosted more than 20 teams for a regional tournament on January 2. Two of Wood Oaks' teams qualified for the state tournament held on February 18, one of which took home a Design Award. "The entire competition environment is centered around teamwork and sportsmanship," said Coach Amy Varner. *(Photo by Tarah O'Connell)*



## BULLDOGS CELEBRATE A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Hickory Point students wrote letters to their school mascot, Champ, this year. One question they kept asking – "When is Champ's birthday?" It was time to plan a party. Students earned "Champ Birthday Bucks" for showing respectful, responsible and kind behavior. They cashed in for an official end-of-year birthday party at each grade level on May 26. There were interactive games and a goody bag for each student. Happy birthday, Champ! *(Photo Provided)*



## WILDCATS PARTNER WITH PARK DISTRICT FOR TREE PLANTING

The Northbrook Park District assisted Mrs. Long's sixth grade science students in planting a new Heritage Oak tree at Wood Oaks Green Park on April 26 in honor of Arbor Day.

The students learned all about planting and caring for a young tree. They even received a White Oak sapling to take home! *(Photo Provided)*

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## WOOD OAKS' SUPERSTATE HONOR BAND

The Wood Oaks Wind Ensemble, directed by Mr. Wayne Gordon, performed as the Honor Band at the University of Illinois SuperState Concert Band Festival on May 5. Eight junior high school bands from throughout the state were selected to attend the festival this year. Through blind judging, Wood Oaks has been selected to perform at SuperState 13 times in total and twice as the festival's Honor Band. *(Photo Provided)*



## DOLPHINS OPT OUTSIDE FOR EARTH DAY

About 50 students, parents, and teachers volunteered their time at Shabonee School to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

The crew helped cut down Buckthorn, an invasive species that threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitats.

Shabonee students at large completed more than 250 hours of Earth-centered activities in honor of Earth Day by doing things such as turning off electronics, gardening, eating more vegetables, and opting to play outside. Way to go, Dolphins!

*(Photo Provided)*



## NEW FACES AT DISTRICT 27

### Mrs. Erin Claydon, Assistant Principal of Shabonee School



Mrs. Erin Claydon will assume the role as assistant principal at Shabonee School on August 8. Claydon has spent the past 10 years working for the TrueNorth Educational Cooperative (formerly known as NSSD) in Highland Park as a psychologist, social-emotional learning specialist, and principal at North Shore Academy Elementary.

This past year, Claydon has spent a significant amount of time at Shabonee School working with the special education team to create and implement behavior plans for students. Claydon comes strongly endorsed by those who have worked with her.

### Mr. Opi Akuffo, Board of Education Member



Mr. Opi Akuffo was sworn in to serve the District 27 Board of Education on May 4. He was elected to serve a four-year term. Akuffo said he was inspired to run for the Board seat as an opportunity to give back.

"I get to share my business experience and life experience to benefit my community," he said. "I look forward to partnering with other District 27 Board members, students, parents, and educational leaders to create a shared vision for high academic achievement."

### Mr. Jack Waddle, Board of Education Member



Mr. Jack Waddle was also sworn in this spring to serve a four-year term on the District 27 Board of Education. Waddle is a former District 27 student himself, having lived in Northbrook up until the age of 18 and for the past 11 years.

"A major part of why I came back to Northbrook with my family is the quality of the schools," Waddle said. "Beyond that, I have always appreciated the community of Northbrook. The young families throughout District 27 create a warm and welcoming place for each other."

**1250 Sanders Road  
 Northbrook, IL 60062**

Tarah O'Connell, Editor

## OUR SCHOOLS

### HICKORY POINT

Grades PK-2

Dr. Maureen Deely, *Principal*

Mrs. Lauren Weingarten, *Asst. Principal*

HickoryPoint.nb27.org

### SHABONEE

Grades 3-5

Dr. John Panozzo, *Principal*

Mrs. Erin Claydon, *Asst. Principal*

Shabonee.nb27.org

### WOOD OAKS JR. HIGH

Grades 6-8

Ms. Cari Beake, *Principal*

Mr. Paul Suminski, *Asst. Principal*

WoodOaks.nb27.org

## HICKORY POINT PTA EARNS BRONZE STAR

The Hickory Point Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) was recognized with a Bronze Star award from the Illinois PTA this past school year.

To earn this award, the Hickory Point PTA successfully grew its membership by at least 10 percent for the past three consecutive years.

Congratulations to the Hickory Point PTA's current and past leaders for continuing to build upon their success year after year!

Interested in joining the PTA? Visit [nb27.org/pta](http://nb27.org/pta) for information.

Pictured from left to right: Hickory Point PTA Executive Board members Afsha Gillani, Stephanie Tasman, Dana Schneider, Kate Riggs, Caroline Kang, and Maryann Czarnot

(Photo Provided)

## OUR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. John Deiter  
*Superintendent*

Dr. Katharine Olson  
*Asst. Superintendent for  
 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

Dr. Kimberly Rio  
*Asst. Superintendent for  
 Finance and Operations*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*President*

Matthew Basinger  
*Vice President*

Opi Akuffo

Martha Carlos

Dr. Gali Oren-Amit

Daniel Terrien

Jack Waddle

