



THE DISTRICT IN REVIEW

A Newsletter for the Northbrook School District 27 Community

FALL 2023

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



We have had a terrific start to the school year in Northbrook District 27! Our students have grown so much in these first few months as they acclimate to their schedules and school expectations. This growth comes from not only the dedicated efforts of our talented staff but also our valued partnership with families and the hard work put in at home.

It has been wonderful to see our students regularly coming together for all-school events and assemblies at all grade levels. Our staff has been working tirelessly to ensure that our schools are places where all students and families can feel seen, heard, and have a sense of belonging. We also launched our Little Bulldogs early childhood program this fall at Hickory Point. This program serves children ages 3-5 in a blended classroom setting. We are thrilled to be able to offer the program five days per week and plan to open registration for the 2024-2025 school year this winter. It has been a joy to foster this community connection and Hickory Point school spirit with our youngest learners.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to our community partners, especially the Northbrook Police Department and our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), who continue to prioritize student safety and wellness. Police officers generously donated their time this past month to talk with our students about important safety topics such as situational awareness and trusted adults. As you will read on pages 2 and 4, the PTA has been proactively distributing tangible coping kits to students to help them practice the skills necessary to process difficult emotions and benefit their overall well-being. They are also planning to host a communitywide wellness fair this winter.

As we continue into the school year, we remain committed to our strategic planning goals and key success factors, which include achieving outstanding student performance, maintaining coherent and rigorous programs and services, developing highly qualified staff, ensuring social-emotional wellbeing, sustaining a safe learning and working environment, and preserving our healthy financial position.

Thank you to our parents, staff, volunteers, and extended community for your unwavering support and dedication to our schools.

Sincerely,

John B. Deiter, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

WHAT'S INSIDE...

2 – HICKORY POINT SENDS MESSAGE OF BELONGING

2 – CHICAGO BEARS VISIT SHABONEE STUDENTS

2 – COPING KITS SUPPORT STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

3 – DISTRICT CELEBRATES 14 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF HIGH FINANCIAL HONORS

3 – BASKETBALL OPEN GYM AVAILABLE THROUGH SPRING

4 – ANNUAL RACE FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FORMER STUDENTS

Follow our schools on
Instagram!



@WoodOaksSchool

@ShaboneeSchool

@HickoryPointSchool



SCHOOL NEWS

HICKORY POINT SENDS MESSAGE OF BELONGING

Hickory Point has set a theme for the school year centered around inclusion and growth. The following message is embedded in daily lessons - "You belong here. We can do hard things together. Everyone is growing!"

"At Hickory Point, we believe everyone is under construction as we learn and grow each and every day," said Mrs. Lauren Weingarten, Assistant Principal. "We build upon what we already know and are able to do so while also building new skills."



CHICAGO BEARS VISIT SHABONEE STUDENTS

Students in grades 3-5 were in for quite the surprise on September 26 when Chicago Bears players and offensive linemen Lucas Patrick (right) and Dan Feeney visited Shabonee. During an all-school assembly, they talked about the importance of working hard to achieve your goals. They also reinforced the school's student behavior expectations of respectfulness, responsibility, and kindness.

(Photos by Tarah O'Connell)



COPING KITS SUPPORT STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Volunteers from the local organization, CATCH (Community Action Together for Children's Health) and the District 27 PTA, recently distributed coping kits to students at Wood Oaks and Shabonee.

Coping kits offer students tangible items and written strategies to use when facing difficult emotions. The kits include sensory tools, grounding tools, and exercises for regulated breathing, relaxation, and mindfulness. They can help children learn to cope with feelings of anger, fear, and anxiety.

Research has shown that when we teach coping skills to children they are better able to pay attention in school, get along with peers, maintain friendships, and manage their emotions in difficult situations. These skills become more accessible the more they are practiced.

This is the second year that the PTA has partnered with CATCH to provide these helpful resources for our students. We are grateful for this community effort.

(Photo provided)



DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT CELEBRATES 14 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF HIGH FINANCIAL HONORS

District 27 has received the Certificate of Excellence Awards in Financial Reporting from both the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials International for the 14th consecutive year. The Board of Education recently recognized Dr. Kimberly Rio Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, for these significant, long-running honors.

"I am proud to continue the legacy of transparency, high-quality financial reporting, and fiscal responsibility," Rio said.

Both awards recognize districts that have met each of the organization's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The District has earned the awards for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal years ending 2009 through 2022.

WE ARE HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- \$150/day
- Training provided
- Minimum of a bachelor's degree

Apply at [NB27.org](https://nb27.org)

BASKETBALL OPEN GYM AVAILABLE THROUGH SPRING

Shabonee and Wood Oaks will be open for basketball for students and community members from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following Saturdays: 12/2, 12/9, 1/20, 2/3, 2/24, 3/2, and 3/16.

The gyms are for basketball only. All students in grades K-5 must be accompanied by an adult. Students in grades K-5 and their parents should use the gym at Shabonee. Students in grades 6-8 should use the large gym at Wood Oaks located on the west side of the building. High school students and adult community members should use the small gym at Wood Oaks located on the north side of the building. All participants must be picked up by 12 p.m. Those attending must sign in and out.

The District has found this program to be very successful. We look forward to seeing you there!

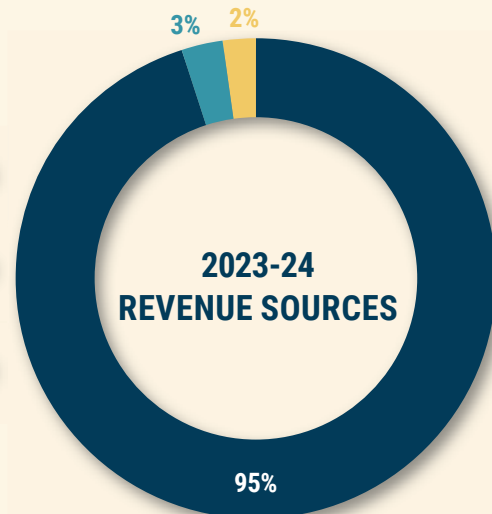
BUDGET SET FOR FY2024, REFLECTS STABILITY

The District 27 budget remains stable with the Board of Education approving a \$33 million budget for FY2024 at its meeting on September 21. The District has allocated \$300,000 toward contingencies. The District ended the 2022-2023 school year with a 56% cumulative fund balance reserve.

LOCAL: 95%

STATE: 3%

FEDERAL: 2%



SALARIES: 66.73%

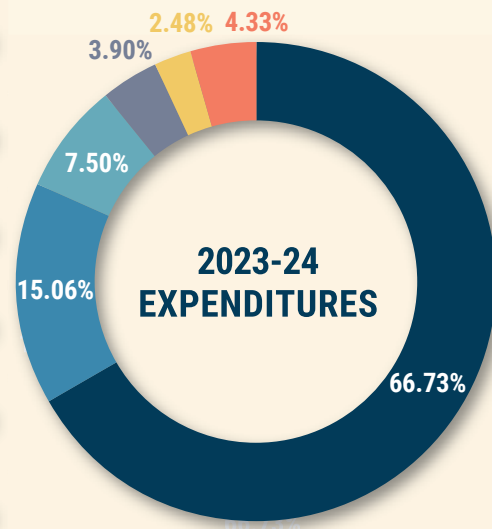
CAPITAL: 15.06%

BENEFITS: 7.50%

TECHNOLOGY: 3.90%

PENSION FUND: 2.48%

TRANSPORTATION: 4.33%



**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

Mrs. Cari Beake, *Principal*

Mr. Paul Suminski, *Asst. Principal*

WoodOaks.nb27.org

ANNUAL RACE FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FORMER STUDENTS

The District 27 Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) hosted its 12th annual 5K Run/Walk, 1-Mile Run and Kids' Dash on September 23. This fun-filled community event promotes fitness for all age groups. Both the 5K and 1-Mile courses are USATF-certified.

Each year, event proceeds are donated to the Rohrabach Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to Glenbrook North High School seniors who are outstanding graduates of Wood Oaks Junior High. There were 12 scholarships awarded this past year.

(Photo by Rob McElligott)

SAVE THE DATE: HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

The PTA will be hosting a free community Health and Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 20 at Shabonee School. Visit NB27.org/PTA for more information.

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*

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