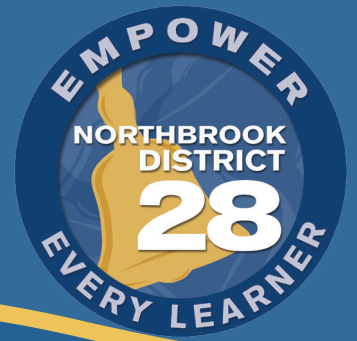


# UPDATE

A Newsletter from the Northbrook School District 28 Board of Education



## Where It All Began

Graduating Glenbrook North Seniors participated in a walk through their elementary schools and then gathered at Northbrook Junior High on May 28. The new tradition, now in its second year, gives students and a chance to go back to "Where It All Began" and visit with teachers and staff and provide some inspiration for our young students.

## Empowering Students To Change The World

The Board of Education approved a new strategic plan on May 28 that was developed by a team of 54 residents, staff members, parents, and students.

The team created a Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Portraits that define the characteristics of a learner, staff member, family, and system. Superintendent Dr. Jason Pearson said the team also identified four broad goals and 10 strategies that will set the direction for district and school improvement for the next 3 to 5 years.

The plan is the product of three daylong strategic planning team retreats, a community-wide survey, two community

engagement forums, and community feedback at each phase of development over the past five months.

Board President Jennifer Gallinson thanked the committee members and everyone who participated in providing feedback on the plan when it was presented to the Board in May.

Now that the framework is complete, district and school teams will develop action plans and timelines for each of the goals, which will be presented to the board in the fall, Superintendent Dr. Jason Pearson said.



## Greenbriar Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Greenbriar opened its doors in 1949 when Northbrook's population was under 3,000 people. The original building contained five classrooms, a gym, and an office and was built for \$222,612. In 1952, eight additional classrooms were built to serve 350 students. In 1961, another addition enlarged Greenbriar to 22 total classrooms. In 2012, District 28 and the Park District joined together to build the large gym. At the same time, additional classrooms, office spaces, and a new front office were added to the building. Greenbriar had 342 students enrolled in 2023-24.

Greenbriar's first mascot was the Greenbriar Gremlin. The Greenbriar Gremlin was a happy creature resembling an elf. In 1984, the movie "Gremlins" hit the box office and Greenbriar decided to update the school's mascot. The mascot was changed to the Greyhound around 1993.

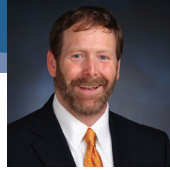
Greenbriar School is planning a yearlong 75th anniversary community open house from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m.  
on May 17,  
2025.

Stay in the know  
by following the  
Greenbriar 75th  
Anniversary  
Facebook page.



SCAN ME



# REFLECTIONS

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Jason Pearson, Ed.D.

## Strategic & Facilities Plans Help Focus Resources, Chart Goals

Last year, we embarked on a journey to evaluate and enhance our schools. With invaluable input from parents, residents and staff, we crafted a strategic plan that envisions a future where every student thrives. A dedicated Strategic Planning Team of community members, parents, staff, and students collaborated to shape our mission, vision, and core values over four months. The perspective of the greater community was collected through an Environmental Scan survey and feedback surveys of the team's work along the way. Simultaneously, we hired an architecture firm to assess our facilities to evaluate what our schools need to meet the needs of our students today and in the future.

This work reflects the values our community places on public education. We plan to continue with more community conversations this fall. We are recruiting a Facilities Planning Community Committee that will provide perspective and set priorities based on the 10-year Facilities Master Plan. We will also host community forums to discuss the Facilities Master Plan and the committee's recommendations.

If you are interested in participating in our Facilities Planning Community Committee, please complete the form linked to this QR code. [QR code]

On behalf of the Board of Education, I extend my thanks for your input and involvement and look forward to continuing our partnership as we map the future for our schools.



### Strategic Planning Team

Members of the Strategic Planning Team fill a staircase at Techny Prairie Center, where three daylong retreats were held to research and develop the strategic plan. The effort was facilitated by Crystal Conley (front row right) of Catalyst for Educational Change.



# FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

## Aging Schools Need Funds To Meet Future Needs

The Board of Education is reviewing options for addressing \$80 million in repairs, additions, renovations and remodeling to the district's aging schools identified in the Facilities Master Plan.

Earlier this year, the Building and Grounds Committee identified the highest priorities. Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato projected the district could fund \$19.7 million over the next 10 years for projects including roofs, windows, tuckpointing, plumbing and electrical repairs, HVAC units, parking lots/sidewalks, and other crucial items through the operating budget.

The Facilities Master Plan identified about \$60 million in projects that remain unfunded. Due to limitations under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), District 28 does not have the ability to borrow money to make major building repairs or improvements without voter approval.

The district could do small projects when funding became available, but that would result in a piecemeal approach and end up more costly.

The 528-page plan was compiled by DLA Architects with input from specialists in mechanical, plumbing, and electrical engineering, civil engineering, demographics, roofing, and building security. In spring 2023, the firm collected input from parents, students, and staff through focus groups on learning environments and priorities for improvements.

The board will seek community input this fall to identify priorities and seek feedback on the plan.

Greenbriar School



Meadowbrook School



Westmoor School



Northbrook Jr. High



The 528-page plan was compiled by DLA Architects with input from specialists in mechanical, plumbing, and electrical engineering, civil engineering, demographics, roofing, and building security.

### Why can't the district sell bonds (borrow money) to make school improvements?

In the 1990s the state enacted the Property Tax Extension Limit Law (PTELL) that restricts a school district from increasing the amount of property tax it can collect each year by 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. In addition, PTELL restricted a district's bonding power – the ability to borrow money – to the rate that was in place when the law was passed. District 28 had no debt – or bonding power – at the time the law was passed. The only way the district can borrow money for a building project now is to ask the voters for approval by referendum.

[visit northbrook28.net/facilitiesmasterplan](https://www.northbrook28.net/facilitiesmasterplan) to learn more.

## Proposed Improvements & Additions



### Safety & Security

- Secure school entrances & office security
- Replace doors & wired glasswork
- Update emergency system, fire alarm & sprinkler systems



### Maintenance of Aging Schools

- Renovate all washrooms and add washrooms where needed
- Repair and replace old plumbing
- Roofing replacement & tuckpointing
- HVAC & Electrical upgrades & repairs



### Learning Spaces/Building Capacity

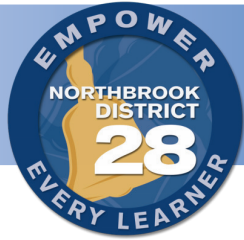
- Add gymnasium and classrooms, expand library and remodel existing space at Meadowbrook
- Replace classroom cabinetry, remodel auditorium & expand multipurpose room at Greenbriar
- Create new learning spaces in old cafeteria, add new cafeteria & remodel lobby at Northbrook Jr. High
- Add classrooms and renovate existing space for washrooms and storage at Westmoor



### Playgrounds & Traffic

- Update playgrounds & improve accessibility at all schools
- Add parking at Greenbriar & Meadowbrook
- Improve/expand drop-off & pickup lanes at Northbrook Jr. High.





# FUTURE FOCUS Strategic Plan

**MISSION** Empower every learner to grow and change the world.

## VISION

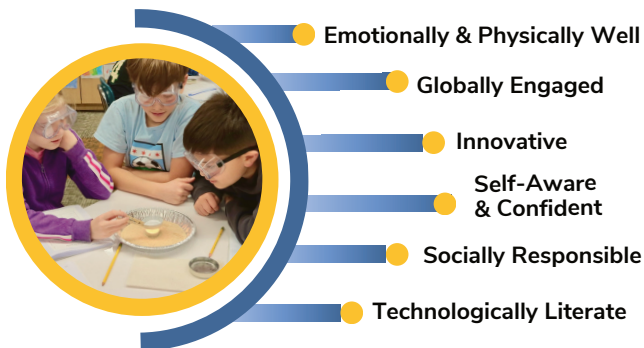
Our vision is to cultivate a community that celebrates every learner's uniqueness, ignites a passion for learning, and equips them to make a positive impact on the world.

## CORE VALUES

Curiosity & Creativity  
Communication & Collaboration  
Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving  
Responsibility & Accountability  
Trust & Respect  
Empathy

## PORTTRAITS

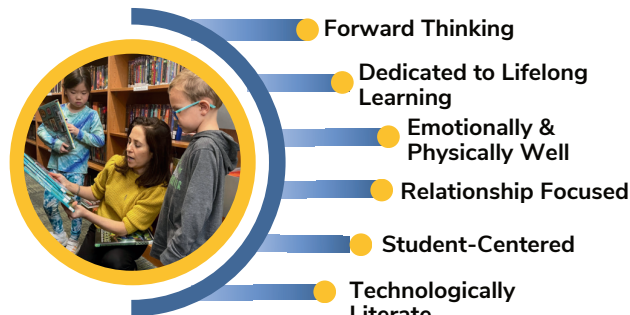
### A NORTHBROOK 28 LEARNER IS ...



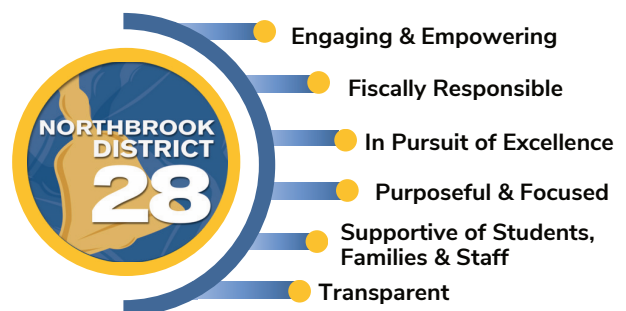
### A NORTHBROOK 28 FAMILY MEMBER IS ...



### A NORTHBROOK 28 STAFF MEMBER IS ...



### NORTHBROOK DISTRICT 28 IS ...



## GOALS

### LEARNING CULTURE

Cultivate a supportive and innovative learning environment to foster growth, development, and achievement for all learners.

### STAFF SUPPORT & SATISFACTION

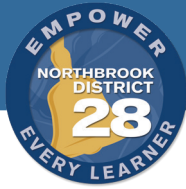
Nurture an inclusive culture where staff are equitably valued, connected, and supported in meaningful continuous growth.

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Create a supportive ecosystem for families and the larger community that contributes to learner success.

### SYSTEMS & RESOURCES

Optimize resources to accomplish equitable, data-informed priorities within a balanced budget.



# UPDATE28

Northbrook School District 28  
1475 Maple Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062

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## 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**

**Christine Beeftink**

**Matt Cassidy**

**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**  
Dir. of HR and Admin. Services

**Michelle Jackson**  
Director of Learning

**Terry Ryan, APR**  
Communications Director

**Maria Stavropoulos**  
Director of Technology

**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.



Front row (seated) from left, Anthony Arcangeletti, Mia Chachko, Brecken Carsello, and Ania Gebicz. Middle row from left, Sarah Denk, Olivia Zhao, Alice Smagorinsky, and Andrew Burke. Back row from left, Madeline Noll, Nathan Phadnis, son of Homer O. Harvey Phil Harvey, and Max Gutfraynd.

## NBJH Grads Win Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2024 Homer O. Harvey Scholarship winners, all of whom are members of the NBJH Class of 2020. Named in honor of the longtime superintendent, each recipient receives \$1,500 as a graduating senior from Glenbrook North High School.

They were recognized at the Glenbrook North Awards Ceremony on May 24.

Since 1989, \$384,000 has been awarded to 409 Northbrook Junior High and Glenbrook High School graduates. The primary fundraiser for the scholarships is the HOH5K, held on the first Saturday in May. This year, the race raised \$16,000.