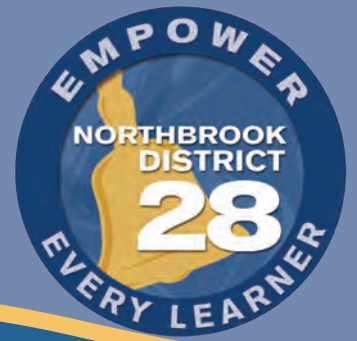


UPDATE

A Newsletter from the Northbrook School District 28 Board of Education



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

The 210 members of the Northbrook Junior High Class of 2025 graduated June 2 at the Glenbrook North auditorium.

Four students were selected by their teachers for the American Legion Citizenship Awards. Students were nominated based on the character qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. This is one of the highest honors awarded to American youth by the American Legion organization.

Madeline Feeney and Greta Wahlstrom were recognized for Distinguished Achievement. Madeline Junkmann and Reese Mueller received Honorable Mention.

Also at the ceremony, student speeches reflected their experiences in District 28.

Student Greta Wahlstrom said, "As we move forward into high school - into a world that is larger, faster, and sometimes harder— don't just race toward the next achievement. Walk slowly enough to notice. Laugh loudly enough to remember. Love deeply enough to make a mark."

Students Madeline Feeney and Maeve Zale teamed up for the second speech. "Keep writing your story. Keep striving for the person you have fought so hard to become. Keep reaching—past comfort, past fear, past everything you've



Madeline Feeney and Greta Wahlstrom were presented with the American Legion Citizenship Award of Distinguished Achievement by Assistant Director of Student Services Dr. Heather Schultz and Assistant Principal Christine Lake.

ever known. The future isn't written yet—and now is the time to begin," they said.

Northbrook Junior High Principal Dr. Scott Meek shared his encouragement with the class, who will attend Glenbrook North next year.

"You've overcome obstacles in your life already. Some minor, and perhaps some much more significant. Yet you've always come out on the other side. Stronger. Better. More resilient." Dr. Meek said.

Tracking Continuous Improvement



GOAL ONE LEARNING CULTURE

Our first strategic goal is to cultivate a supportive and innovative learning environment to foster growth, development and achievement for all learners.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR ALL

(1) Over the past two years, a committee of educators representing all grades and content areas has been laying the groundwork to strengthen Social Emotional Learning in our schools. One practice that will be fully implemented next year at all schools is called “Packs” or “Crews,” which are small, multi-age groups that meet periodically with adults. “Watching the relationships grow among the students in each pack, year after year, is amazing,” said Meghan Dames, a social worker.



INDEPENDENT SCIENCE RESEARCH STATE FAIR GOLD

(2) Twenty-three Northbrook Junior High Independent Science Research students brought home 22 gold awards and one silver award at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Fair, continuing a long tradition of top honors at the event. Students pursue their own interests in a research project using the scientific method. “I always thought this research was just something that was unattainable at my age. But by being able to do this and having the support system of (my teachers) helping me throughout the process really showed me that this is something you can definitely achieve,” said Talia Nayman, recipient of Exceptional Project in Category Award, and the Innovators Challenge Award, representing the top 10% of projects at the fair.



NEW LITERACY CURRICULUM FOR K-5

(3) A new elementary literacy curriculum is being adopted for kindergarten through 5th grade. The “Into Reading” English Language Arts resource was selected from 11 different programs that a committee reviewed as part of its three-year research and development process. “Into Reading” offers systematic phonics instruction, rich texts, and evidence-based reading and writing experiences. It includes tools for embedded assessments to monitor progress and resources to support differentiation.



BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION AWARD

(4) Northbrook District 28 has been recognized for the 10th straight year by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation as one of the Best Communities for Music Education. Northbrook District 28 is one of 29 school districts recognized in the state of Illinois this year, out of a total of 850 school districts across the country.

& Vision Statements



**GOAL THREE
FAMILY & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Our third strategic goal is to create a supportive ecosystem for families and the larger community that contributes to learner success.

GREENBRIAR CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

More than 300 former students, retired teachers, current Greenbriar families and staff celebrated the 75th anniversary of Greenbriar School on Saturday, May 17 at a Community Open House with historical photos, a selfie station, and building tours, where (1) some former students found their kindergarten handprint. Current students performed a new song composed especially for the occasion and the school saluted (2) three staff members who have worked at Greenbriar for over 30 years. Greenbriar students created a time capsule, curated by librarian Colleen Sanchez. And, with the upcoming renovation of the oldest section of the school, we may just find the 50th anniversary time capsule!



BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

The community approved the \$94.9 million bond referendum on April 1. The proposal was developed with community input as part of the district's (3) Building Tomorrow Together community engagement program last fall and was based on needs identified in a Facilities Master Plan.



**GOAL FOUR
SYSTEM & RESOURCES**

Our fourth strategic goal is to optimize resources to accomplish equitable, data-informed priorities within a balanced budget.

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

The \$94.9 million bond referendum was developed after a comprehensive study of facilities needs. The building plan will update safety and security, improve accessibility, and ensure our classrooms are equipped to support today’s best practices in curriculum and instruction. The plan addresses overcrowding and protects the community’s investment in our schools. Replacing Meadowbrook rather than renovating it is a better use of funds and results in minimal maintenance or repairs for years to come. The district will apply \$20 million of reserve funds to the plan in addition to the bond sales.



AAA RATING

The district received an AAA rating (stable outlook) from Standard & Poors for the first round of municipal bonds sold for the school construction and renovation projects approved in the April 1 referendum. The bond sale of \$14,550,000 will be used for the construction of the Meadowbrook School gymnasium (4).

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

ovement By Strategic Goals That Are Grounded in Our Mission



GOAL TWO STAFF SUPPORT & SATISFACTION

Our second strategic goal is to nurture an inclusive culture where staff are equitably valued, connected, and supported in meaningful, continuous growth.

INCLUSIVE CULTURE

At the end of the school year, the district not only celebrates the accomplishments of our students, but we also celebrate our staff members who reach years of service milestones and congratulate those who are retiring. The Class of 2025 collectively has 150 years of service to the district. **(1)** Meg Sullivan, center, is part of three generations of educators. Her mother, Martha Jackson taught math at NBJH. Meg's sister, Kate Garside, (left of Meg) teaches social studies at NBJH and her daughter, Abby Crockford, is a substitute teacher at Westmoor and Meg's stepdaughter, Grace, is an assistant at Meadowbrook.



2) Maggie McElvain, 2nd grade retiring teacher at Meadowbrook School mentored her daughter, Carrie McElvain, who was inspired by her mom to change careers and has been teaching for three years.



(3)Northbrook Village Clerk Derek Gau presented NBJH Administrative Assistant Sharon Gail with the Key to the Village of Northbrook—a rare and meaningful tribute for someone who has truly shaped the heart of our community with 41 years of service at NBJH.

Retiring staff also included: David Carr, 28 years as head custodian at Northbrook Junior High; Hanna Saad, 26 years as custodian at Greenbriar School, and Terry Ryan, 10 years as communications director.

FOCUS ON WELLNESS

The District 28 Wellness Committee was formed from Goal 2. The committee is dedicated to fostering a holistic and supportive environment that prioritizes the well-being of all staff. The primary objectives of the wellness committee will include promoting physical, mental, and emotional health, organizing wellness events and providing resources for stress management and work-life balance. **(4)** During the month of April, staff were encouraged to enjoy some time outside with a colleague.



SUMMERTIME IS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TIME

District 28 offers a professional development program during the summer, often taught by colleagues eager to share and collaborate. This year, 36 sessions are offered in topics ranging from CPR to instructional technology tools, to wellness and instructional practices. The session topics are framed by a staff survey for relevance and interest. "We're very fortunate to have many talented District 28 staff members leading these sessions, sharing their expertise with their peers," said Director of Learning Michelle Jackson.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Building Momentum



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

District 28 enjoyed a transformational year of community support. Thanks to a voter approval rate of 63% on the \$94.9 million bond referendum on April 1, coupled with an additional \$20 million in district funds, the coming three years will bring about significant improvements to our school buildings.

We are sincerely grateful for the community support and are excited to embark on this ambitious plan, which includes building a new Meadowbrook School, adding a classroom wing and renovating the oldest wing at Greenbriar School; adding a cafetorium and renovating the core hallway at Northbrook Junior High and adding washrooms and a cafetorium at Westmoor School.

These additions will bring hot lunch service to our elementary students, make room for growing enrollment and enhance learning spaces for all.

While the facilities have been a significant area of focus, our dedicated team has also devoted time and resources to all of the goals in our strategic plan: learning culture, staff support and satisfaction, family and community engagement, and systems and resources. Please take a moment to review our accomplishments on the inside pages.

Strong schools make a strong community. We are grateful for your support that will benefit our children and community for generations to come.



Young Explorers Has Rolling Enrollment

Northbrook School District 28 serves our youngest learners with an innovative early childhood program that encourages exploration and skill development through child-centered experiences, building self confidence and connections between learning and natural environments. The program serves at-risk students, special needs students and typically developing students in a blended classroom model five days a week. All 3- to 5-year-olds living within district boundaries are eligible for our program and can enroll at any time. Screenings are held monthly by appointment. Contact Helen Josephson, Admin. Assistant for Early Childhood at 847-498-7960.

Greenbriar Principal Moves To Meadowbrook

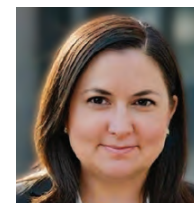
Dr. Ginny Hiltz, a nine-year principal of Greenbriar School with more than 20 years of experience as an educator, has been appointed the new principal at Meadowbrook School for the 2025-26 school year. Dr. Hiltz brings to Meadowbrook a history of strong school leadership and a focus on developing a culture where students feel supported and experience success. As a resident of Northbrook, Dr. Hiltz said she is fully invested in District 28 as a staff member, parent and community member.



"I look forward to getting acquainted with the staff and families at Meadowbrook and continuing to build on their success," Dr. Hiltz said.

New Greenbriar Principal Appointed

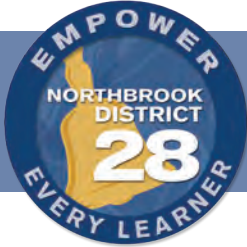
Danielle Moran, Ed.D., is the new principal of Greenbriar School, effective July 1. A dedicated educator with 24 years of experience, Dr. Moran brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for fostering excellence, equity, and inclusivity. A lifelong learner, she has received multiple degrees and endorsements in higher education while working in leadership roles at the school and district levels.



"Dr. Moran comes to Greenbriar School with a broad background in curriculum and instruction, distinguished experience as a principal, and a deep understanding of supporting and sustaining a positive school climate and culture," Superintendent Dr. Jason Pearson said.

****ECRWSS****

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
NORTHBROOK ILLINOIS 60062



UPDATE 28

SCHOOLS

Northbrook Junior High
1475 Maple Ave., Northbrook

Greenbriar School
2195 Cherry Lane, Northbrook

Meadowbrook School
1600 Walters Ave., Northbrook

Westmoor School
2500 Cherry Lane, Northbrook

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mara Silver-Schack
President
Adam Weinstock
Vice President
Beth Bazer
Secretary
DeShawn Arms
Christine Beeftink
Diana Horwitz
Eve Pfanzelter



The Board of Education is seated, from left, Adam Weinstock, Mara Silver-Schack and Beth Bazer. Back row, from left, Diana Horwitz, Christine Beeftink, DeShawn Arms and Eve Pfanzelter.

Northbrook District 28 Administrative Offices are located at 1475 Maple Ave., Northbrook. (847) 498-7900. Update 28 is published two times a year for residents by the Board of Education. To contact board members, please email: BoardofEducation@northbrook28.net.

New Board Seated, Officers Elected

New Board of Education members took their seats following the April 1 election. New members Diana Horwitz and Eve Pfanzelter, along with incumbents Beth Bazer and DeShawn Arms, were seated for four-year terms. Beth Bazer was first appointed to the board in 2022 to fill a vacant seat and re-elected to a two-year term in 2023. DeShawn Arms was first elected to a four-year term in 2021.

The newly elected members join Mara Silver-Schack, Adam Weinstock, and Christine Beeftink on the board. Mara Silver-Schack was first elected to the board in 2019, and Adam Weinstock and Christine Beeftink were elected to four-year terms in 2023.

Former Board President Jen Gallinson and Board Member Matt Cassidy expressed appreciation for the community, fellow board members and the administrative team before stepping down from the Board of Education. The board elected Mara Silver-Schack as president, Adam Weinstock as vice president and Beth Bazer as secretary. Officers are elected for two-year terms.



HOH Scholarship Winners

Glenbrook North students who received the Homer O. Harvey Scholarship were presented the awards by Phil Harvey, son of the longtime former superintendent, at the senior awards assembly on May 23. From left, front row, is Starr Kalmar, Grace Atkinson, Yesha Mistry, Ann Park, Sasha Arutchev, Olivia LaCerra, Carly Erlich and Delaney Meek. Second row, from left, is Daniel Bilous, Tysen Coyle, Phil Harvey, Christine Cheon, Lindy Winkler, Liam Gillespie, and Lara White. Not pictured, Danielle Yakhnis.