



## Ready for What's Next

After 20 years in District 112, Dr. Monica Schroeder begins her next chapter as superintendent, bringing deep knowledge of our schools, students, and community to the role.

**Q+A With  
Superintendent  
Monica Schroeder**

**Sherwood Reopens  
As Modernization  
Work Continues**

**Celebrating Our  
Students, Staff  
and Schools**

# Sherwood Ready to Open for 2026-2027

The Sherwood project is part of Phase 2 of North Shore School District 112's long-range facilities plan, the referendum-funded modernization effort focused on updating elementary schools across the district.

## A New Front Entrance

Sherwood now has a redesigned main entrance that improves the arrival experience for students, staff, families, and visitors.

## Expanded Learning Spaces

Classrooms and shared spaces have been updated to better support teaching, learning, and collaboration.

## New Gymnasium

The new gym provides more space for physical education, student activities, and school events.

## Updated Library and New Kitchen

The renovated library gives students a refreshed space to read, learn, and explore. A new kitchen also supports improved food service.



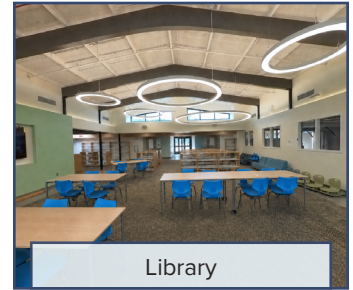
Front Entrance



Classroom



Gymnasium



Library

## Work Continues at Braeside, Begins at Wayne Thomas



Braeside Gym



Braeside Library

At Braeside, construction continues on updated classrooms, improved infrastructure, a refreshed main entrance, and modernized spaces for students and staff. The building is expected to be completed in spring 2027, with move-in soon after. At Wayne Thomas, work is beginning on the final Phase 2 project while students and staff temporarily operate from Elm Place.

## Students Help Design Two New Inclusive Playgrounds

New playgrounds at Sherwood and Oak Terrace will be ready for students at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Students helped shape the designs by sharing ideas about the play spaces they wanted at their schools. Designed with accessibility in mind, the playgrounds will give students more opportunities to play, explore, and connect with classmates. They join the new playgrounds already completed at Braeside and Ravinia.



## Ravinia Mural Celebrates School and Community History



Installed this past spring, Ravinia's new mural celebrates the school's deep roots and its connection to the broader Highland Park community. The colorful installation stretches across several walls and uses historic photos, newspaper clippings, school images, local landmarks and original artwork to tell the story of Ravinia across generations.

The design highlights the original Ravinia School, the lakefront, the arts and the people and places that have helped shape the community. It includes playful details for students to discover, such as the Ravinia raccoon, school spirit messages and references to the neighborhood's history.

Created as part of the renovated building, the history wall gives students a daily connection to the school's past and helps visitors understand the pride behind Ravinia. The installation honors where the school has been while helping today's students see themselves as part of Ravinia's continuing story.



### Ravinia Wins Historic Preservation Award

Ravinia School was recognized by the City of Highland Park's Historic Preservation Commission with a Historic Preservation Award. The honor recognizes the care that went into preserving the character of the historic building while creating updated learning spaces for students and staff. Ravinia reopened for the 2025-2026 school year following its renovation and remains an important example of District 112's work to modernize schools while respecting the history of the communities they serve.

# A Q+A With Superintendent Monica Schroeder



## What does it mean to you to serve as superintendent of District 112?

District 112 has been part of my life for 20 years, so this is both an honor and a responsibility I take seriously. I have served this community in several roles, and each one has helped me understand our schools in a different way.

I know the history of this district, and I know the people who make it strong. Our students bring their own stories to school each day. Our staff bring care and skill to their work. I want every child and every staff member to feel supported and valued.

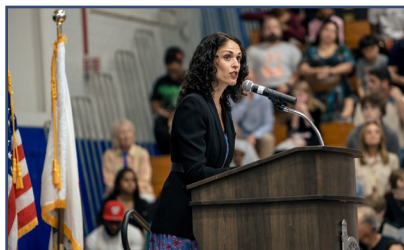
That connects directly to the mission in our Strategic Change Agenda: to be a transformative learning organization where curiosity inspires minds, innovation shapes the future, and students, staff, and families engage to create a kind and connected community that is committed to excellence. My job is to help make sure that mission is reflected in the daily experience of our schools.

## What are you most focused on as you begin the school year?

A strong start matters. I want students to feel safe and ready to learn when they walk into school, and I want our staff to have what they need to do their best work.

We will continue to focus on our “Wildly Important Goal” for literacy because reading is the foundation for so much of a student’s success. This will remain a priority across the district.

We are also adding a goal focused on student agency and leadership. Through the Leader in Me framework, we want students to build confidence, use their voice and see themselves as leaders.



## What should families know about the work happening across the district?

Families will see important work across the district this year, from literacy and student leadership to facilities and program planning. Sherwood is ready to welcome students back after its modernization, Braeside construction continues with move-in expected in spring 2027, and Wayne Thomas will be based at Elm Place as work begins on the final Phase 2 elementary school project.

New playgrounds at Sherwood and Oak Terrace will also open this school year, joining those already completed at Braeside and Ravinia.

We are also preparing to bring our K-5 Dual Language school community together under one roof at Oak Terrace for the 2027-2028 school year while honoring Red Oak’s history. Kindergarten students in the program will attend Oak Terrace this year, and facilities improvements are scheduled for summer 2027 as planning continues.

**“After 20 years in District 112, I know how much this community cares about its schools.”**

## How will students have a voice in this work?

Students need to be part of the conversation. This year, we are adding student representatives to the Board of Education so students have a formal way to share their perspectives and learn more about district leadership.

Their voices will help us stay connected to what school feels like for students each day.

## What message do you want to share with the community?

After 20 years in District 112, I know how much this community cares about its schools. I am grateful to serve as superintendent and committed to leading with a deep responsibility to every child and the staff who support them.

## Lake County Educator of the Year

Eight District 112 staff members were nominated and recognized at this year’s Lake County Educator of the Year Awards. Kathy Anaya, Holly Colin, Amy Cornelius-King, Eunice Paniagua, Andi Simon, Leslie Tangman, Helen Weiss, and Ana Maria Yoss were honored for their exceptional work and lasting impact on students, colleagues, and the broader school community. Their commitment reflects the best of what education can be.



## 2026 Golden Apple Award

Wayne Thomas 4th grade teacher Jon Bogie was named the 2026 Golden Apple Award recipient by the Highland Park Community Foundation. The annual award honors an outstanding teacher in the Highland Park school community. Indian Trail 2nd grade teacher Erin Lichtfuss and Braeside 1st grade teacher Rachel Milner were named semifinalists.



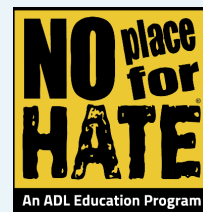
## Student Recognitions

Eighteen D112 students were honored at the 2026 Character Counts Pillar Awards for exemplifying trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In addition, 18 students

received Illinois Principals Association Student Leadership Awards for the example they set through their actions and involvement in their schools. Together, these recognitions reflect the character, service, and student leadership we value across District 112.

## ‘No Place For Hate’

For the second consecutive year, all nine D112 schools earned the Anti-Defamation League’s No Place for Hate designation. The recognition reflects student-led work to build welcoming school communities where students feel they belong and learn to support one another.





INSPIRE. INNOVATE. ENGAGE.

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on district news? Scan  
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community email list!



**Tuesday, July 21**

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
6:30 p.m. at Northwood Middle School

**Wednesday, July 29**

Wayne Thomas Elementary School  
Groundbreaking Ceremony

**August 17 - August 19**

Staff Institute Days  
No Student Attendance

**Thursday, August 20**

First Day of K-8 Attendance (Early Release)  
First Day of Morning Early Childhood

**Friday, August 21**

First Day of Afternoon Early Childhood

**Tuesday, August 25**

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
6:30 p.m. at Northwood Middle School



## Coffee with the Superintendent

Stop by for conversation and questions with Dr. Monica Schroeder

**July 29, 2026**

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Tala Coffee Roasters  
in Highwood



**July 31, 2026**

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Braeside Market  
in Highland Park