

WELCOME TO RAVINIA



The stunning Ravinia library is one of many reimagined spaces that update this historic school for today's learners.

A NEW ERA BEGINS

Set to open in August, a fully modernized Ravinia marks the next step in our community's investment in education.

Inside This Issue

**Celebrating Our Staff and Students
Get to Know the New Board of Education
Unveiling Our Strategic Change Agenda**

Modernized Ravinia Set to Reopen for 2025-2026

Ravinia Elementary School has been a beloved part of the community for more than a century — and now, it's ready for the future. Following a major renovation, this historic building has been transformed into one of the most beautiful and modern public elementary schools around. From state-of-the-art learning spaces to energy-efficient systems, Ravinia now blends timeless character with 21st-century amenities in a way that honors its past and embraces what's next. Check out just a few of the building's features below.



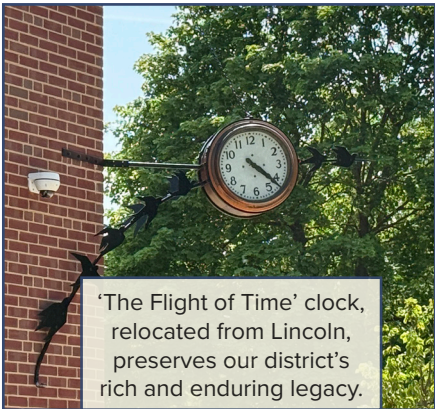
New classrooms are spacious, bright and outfitted with updated furniture and technology.



An added wing blends with the existing building and provides space for more classrooms.



Outdoor spaces, like a new courtyard, enrich the learning environment and support well-being.



'The Flight of Time' clock, relocated from Lincoln, preserves our district's rich and enduring legacy.

First-of-its kind geothermal system



By drilling into the ground, the system uses stable underground conditions to efficiently heat and cool.

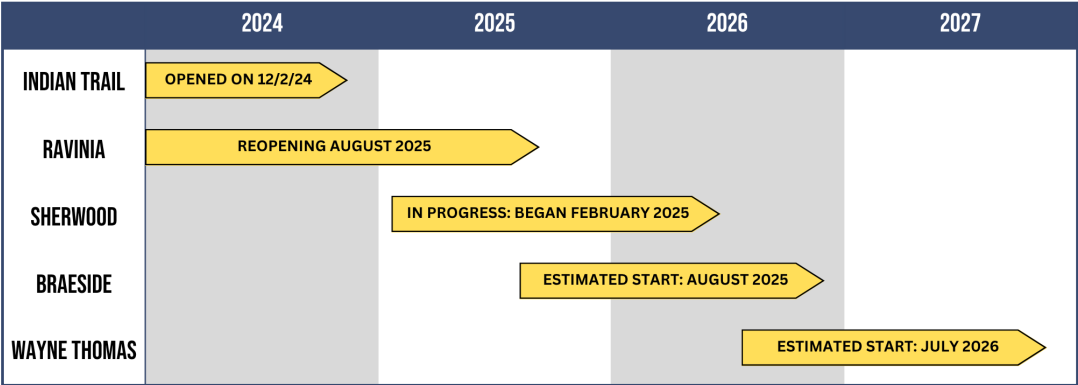
Ravinia will feature an innovative geothermal HVAC system, the **first of its kind in the United States**. It will use a Dynamic Closed Loop (DCL) design to circulate fluid through underground pipes, achieving up to ten times the efficiency of traditional systems. It also protects local water sources and provides consistent, comfortable temperatures year-round.

"I think North Shore D112 is way ahead of the game."
Andy O'Fallon,
Trane Technologies

"This is a milestone for the district," Dr. Lubelfeld said. "It's an example of how we turn our commitment to innovation and sustainability into action."

Ravinia is the first of three schools to receive this advanced technology, with Sherwood and Wayne Thomas to follow.

Updated Timeline for Phase 2 of the Long-Range Facilities Plan



Board Approves Plan to Consolidate Dual Language Program, Close Red Oak

On June 26, the Board of Education voted to consolidate the district's K-5 dual language program at Oak Terrace starting in the 2027-2028 school year, addressing declining enrollment among English learner students. As part of this decision, Red Oak will close following the 2026-2027 school year.

This was an incredibly difficult decision and the Board, along with district administration, recognizes the deep connection many families have to Red Oak. While closing a school is never easy, the Board made this decision to strengthen the dual language program,

create greater equity across the district, and ensure its long-term sustainability. We are committed to supporting students, staff and families through this transition and will spend the next two years working closely with the dual language community to ensure a smooth and thoughtful process. We deeply appreciate the feedback and engagement from families and know we will need their continued partnership in building a strong, unified school community at Oak Terrace.

Learn more at www.nssd112.org/dual-language-transition.

Meet Our Board Of Education

Introducing the newly elected and returning members of the Board



Front row, from left: Jenny Butler (Secretary), Art Kessler (President), Melissa Itkin (Vice President)
Back row, from left: Dr. Michael Lubelfeld (Superintendent), Bennett Lasko, Lisa Hirsh, Jaret Fishman, Lori Fink, Dr. Monica Schroeder (Deputy Superintendent)

In the April election, Lori Fink and Jaret Fishman were elected to the North Shore School District 112 Board of Education, along with returning members Art Kessler and Bennett Lasko.

At the Board's reorganization meeting on April 22, Mr. Kessler was selected as president, Melissa Itkin as vice president, and Jenny Butler as secretary. The meeting also marked the end of service for outgoing members Alex Brunk and Dan Jenks. We thank them for their dedication and warmly welcome our newly elected members!

Learn more about the Board of Education at www.nssd112.org/boe.

SPOTLIGHT ON 112

Celebrating Success Across the District

Character Counts Awards

Eighteen of our students were honored at the 2025 Character Counts Pillar Awards for exemplifying the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Recognized alongside community members from across Highland Park, their actions reflect the spirit of integrity and service that define our schools and inspire all of us to lead with kindness and purpose.

Lake County Educator of the Year



Seven District 112 staff members were nominated and recognized at this year's Lake County Educator of the Year Awards. Amber Udoni, Jackie Jacobson, Kirby Bartelstein, Lexi Robinson, Sara Simons, Shara Lieberman, and Melissa Berkowitz 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.

2025 Golden Apple Award

Northwood Middle School 7th grade teacher Jennifer Sobel was named the 2025 recipient of the Highland Park Community Foundation's Golden Apple Award. A dual language educator, she was honored for her passion, leadership and commitment to equity in education. Jennifer, along with finalists Michael Buss (Edgewood social studies) and Sharon Steckel (Edgewood art), was celebrated at the May 20 NSSD 112 Board meeting.



Students Excel at Competitions



Students Jayme Cohen and Rowan Nye earned top honors at state competitions this spring. Jayme, an Edgewood 8th grader, wrestling for the combined District 112 middle school team, won the IESA

Class AA 100-pound state title. Rowan, a 4th grader at Oak Terrace, placed second in the 2025 Illinois K-8 State Chess Championship. Both were recognized for their outstanding achievements at recent board meetings.

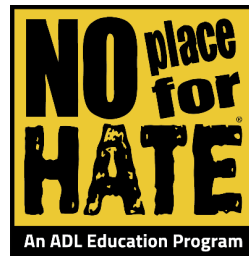
Dr. Lubelfeld Honored at Gala

Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, superintendent of North Shore School District 112, was recognized by the Rotary Club of Highland Park and Highwood for exemplifying the organization's core value of "Service Above Self." The award was presented at the club's annual gala in May, honoring his commitment to leadership, education and community service.

'No Place for Hate'

All nine schools in North Shore School District 112 earned the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate designation this year. The

recognition reflects a districtwide commitment to creating safe, inclusive, and respectful school communities, driven by student-led initiatives and ongoing efforts to prevent bias and bullying.





INSPIRE. INNOVATE. ENGAGE.

Want to stay updated on district news? Scan the QR code to join our community email list!

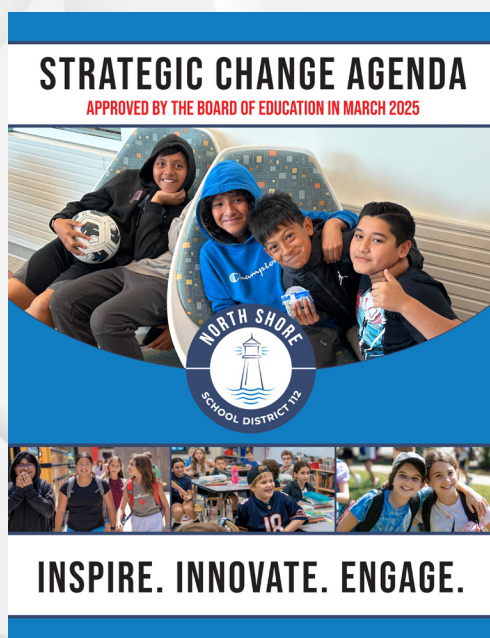


SHAPING WHAT'S NEXT FOR DISTRICT 112

After a months-long process, we've set a new strategic direction for the first time since 2010.

More than 200 community members participated in the process — including students, parents, staff, board members and community partners.

The agenda includes a new mission, vision, core values and goal areas.



Built on months of listening, learning and collaboration, including focus groups, surveys and input sessions in both English and Spanish.

Approved by the Board of Education on March 18, 2025.

Learn more about our strategic change agenda and how we're bringing it to life at www.nssd112.org/strategic-agenda.



**CONGRATS TO
OUR 2025
GRADUATES
AND RETIREES!**

