THE DISTRICT IN REVIEW

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27 COMMUNITY



SAY CHEESE!



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The 2025-2026 school year was an exceptional one for Northbrook School District 27, defined by shared accomplishments, student growth, and meaningful experiences. Together, we cultivated an environment where students thrived academically, socially, and emotionally, reflecting the strong partnership between our schools and families. From service learning and field trips to community events and fundraisers, students created memories that will remain with them well beyond their time in our district.

We celebrated our first full school year with Nico, the District 27 facility dog, and continued implementing the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence's RULER framework across all grade levels. We plan to expand this work in the coming year by providing families with additional strategies to support social-emotional learning at home. The PTA remained an invaluable partner, as always, enhancing the student experience through dedicated teacher support, classroom celebrations, and new community initiatives.

Looking ahead, Wood Oaks Junior High will undergo a leadership transition this summer. We extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Cari Beake on her retirement after 30 years of outstanding service, and we are pleased to welcome Mr. Paul Suminski and Mrs. Cheryl Kinney into their new, well-deserved roles. Together, they will build upon the school's strong foundation (see page 2).

Major, district-wide construction projects kicked off this summer to support future growth and long-term sustainability. These planned improvements include expanded early childhood programming, additional classroom and physical education space, accessible playgrounds, upgraded technology infrastructure, new furniture and flooring, enhanced safety and security measures, and improved parking and traffic flow (see page 3).

In District 27, the best is yet to come. Our community's engagement and shared commitment to student success make all the difference. Please follow our website and social media channels for construction updates throughout the summer.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back this fall!

Sincerely,

John B. Deiter, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

WHAT'S INSIDE



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
STUDENTS CELEBRATE WITH THE DOGS OF DISTRICT 27



ADMIN CHANGES
WOOD OAKS WELCOMES NEW LEADERS, BACKED BY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



BREAKING GROUND
HICKORY POINT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW ADDITION

CAPITAL PROJECTS
FUN & GAMES
CONSTRUCTION
FACILITY DOG

Follow District 27 on Instagram

@WoodOaksSchool | @ShaboneeSchool
@HickoryPointSchool | @D27FacilityDog

Students, staff, and District 27's facility dog, Nico, gathered at Hickory Point just before the end of the school year to celebrate a special birthday. They played games and sang Happy Birthday to Champ, the school mascot. The District also celebrated a full school year of having Nico on campus. Nico, a Pyredoodle, works across all three schools full-time to support the District's social-emotional learning objectives. He is a friend to all, providing companionship, motivation, and a calming presence.

For more information, visit nb27.org/departments/special-education/meet-nico

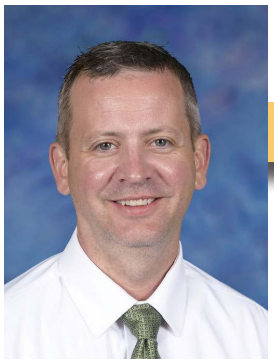
HICKORY POINT CELEBRATES CHAMP'S BIRTHDAY AND ONE YEAR WITH NICO







SCHOOL NEWS



Mr. Paul Suminski, Principal

WOOD OAKS WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATION

District 27 recently congratulated Mrs. Cari Beake on her retirement after 30 years of service to Wood Oaks. Mr. Paul Suminski has been named the school's incoming principal, having served as the school's assistant principal for the past four years. Prior to Wood Oaks, Mr. Suminski served as principal of Lincoln Middle School in Mount Prospect School District 57 for 6 years. He brings 22 years of experience in education.

Mrs. Cheryl Kinney, a Wood Oaks math teacher, will assume the role of assistant principal. She has taught at Wood Oaks for 15 years and has served in a variety of leadership roles, including summer school principal, eighth-grade team leader, and mentor leader for the District's New Teacher Academy. Both Mr. Suminski and Mrs. Kinney are widely respected by colleagues for their leadership and dedication.

SHABONEE STAFF GETS DUNKED

A year-end favorite, the Shabonee dunk tank returned on the last day of school, June 4. Students used reward coupons, known as "Dolphin Dollars," to "dunk" a Shabonee staff member of their choice. Full of Shabonee Dolphin pride, they cheered on every participant!

Mrs. Cheryl Kinney, Asst. Principal



DISTRICT-WIDE CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY



In April 2025, the Northbrook School District 27 community approved a referendum to fund a series of capital improvement projects across the district. These projects are designed to address long-term facility needs, enhance safety across all three schools, and improve learning environments for all students.

District-wide construction is underway this summer and will continue through next summer, with all improvements scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2027–28 school year. Planned work includes roof and HVAC replacements, technology infrastructure upgrades, new furniture and flooring, pavement replacement, safety and security enhancements, and a parking lot expansion at Wood Oaks.

For more information about District 27's capital projects and a construction timeline per school, visit nb27.org/capital-projects.

DISTRICT NEWS

HICKORY POINT BREAKS GROUND ON BUILDING ADDITION

Students, staff, and community members gathered at Hickory Point School on June 2 to celebrate the official groundbreaking of a two-year construction project that will expand and enhance the school's facilities.

Construction is underway on a 15,798-square-foot addition featuring multi-use space, sensory areas, classrooms, and offices. The project will support the expansion of the school's early childhood education program and provide a larger gymnasium. Plans also include a new K-2 playground and a dedicated preschool playground. Both spaces will be designed to be inclusive and accessible for all students.

"Today represents a significant step forward for our schools," said Superintendent Dr. John Deiter. "We are confident these investments will deliver meaningful, lasting value for our students and a strong return for our community."

As part of the celebration, Hickory Point students participated in the ceremonial groundbreaking, taking turns shoveling dirt, while the entire school community came together to sing and mark the occasion.

"Thank you to our community and the District 27 Board of Education for your unwavering commitment to our school, our students, and our staff," said Hickory Point Principal Dr. Maureen Deely. "These new spaces will create even more opportunities for our learners to experience joy, connection, and belonging each and every day."



CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING



School District 27 NORTHBROOK
Educating Students to Succeed in a Changing World

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Northbrook, IL 60062

Tarah O'Connell, Editor

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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*
Mr. Joseph O'Malley, *Asst. Principal*
Shabonee.nb27.org

WOOD OAKS JR. HIGH
Grades 6-8
Mr. Paul Suminski, *Principal*
Mrs. Cheryl Kinney, *Asst. Principal*
WoodOaks.nb27.org

DISTRICT 27 PTA RACE FUNDS EIGHT ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

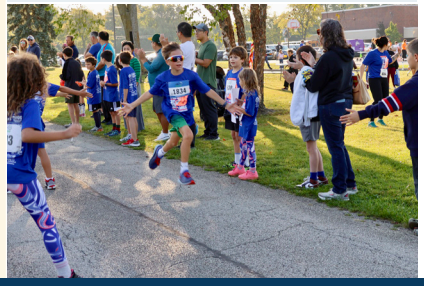
The District 27 PTA Council is proud to award eight scholarships to graduating seniors from Glenbrook North High School who are distinguished alumni of Wood Oaks Junior High. Each student received a $1,500 scholarship. The Rohrabaugh Scholarship Fund was established to honor Dr. James L. Rohrabaugh's 23 years of service to the Northbrook community, including his tenure as Superintendent of District 27. This year's scholarship was highly competitive, with 95 applications submitted. Congratulations to this year's recipients: Emina Catic, Jenna Cheung, Christine Ebhomielen, Liora Kalinovsky, Lexington Malkin, Eileen Rachelson, Lauren Rachelson, and Andrew Yim.

SAVE THE DATE! 2026 PTA RACE

The annual District 27 PTA Council 5K Run/Walk, 1 Mile Run, and Kids Dash will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026. This fun-filled family and community event is perfect for all ages. The race is USATF-certified and professionally chip-timed. Proceeds benefit the Rohrabaugh Scholarship Fund. **Visit https://www.nb27.org/pta/pta-5k-race for more information.**



NOW HIRING District 27 is hiring Instructional Assistants for the upcoming school year. We are looking for motivated, energetic, and student-centered educators to work individually with students. A bachelor's degree or greater is preferred. The hourly rate is based on experience. **Visit nb27.org for all employment opportunities.**



OUR ADMINISTRATION

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Superintendent

Dr. Katharine Olson
Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Dr. Kimberly Rio
Asst. Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Dr. Rob McElligott
Director of Human Resources and Student Services

Mrs. Heather Miehl
Director of Special Education

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