

NORTHBROOK UPDATE

A Newsletter from the Northbrook School District 28 Board of Education

DISTRICT 28

**EMPOWER
EVERY
LEARNER**

CLASS OF '22

TRADITIONAL GRADUATION, AWARDS RETURN

Northbrook Junior High Class of 2022 was recognized with the return to a traditional graduation ceremony at Glenbrook North High School on June 1. After “drive-through” recognition in 2020 and an outdoor event in 2021, the traditional ceremony was held for 211 graduates and their families.

The program included student awards for volunteerism and citizenship.

Emma Bergeron received the 2022 Northbrook Rotary Club “Service Above Self” Award for extraordinary work in the spirit of volunteerism. NBJH teachers nominate students for the American Legion Citizenship Award as best representing the character qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. A total of 14 students were nominated and four students were presented with awards: Matthew Ciancanelli and Maggie Gjermano received Distinguished Achievement awards, and Michael Eichstadt and Emma Bergeron received Honorable Mention awards.

The other 10 nominated students were: Lincoln Brown, Claire Dillon, Andrew Kim, Arpi Kirakosian, Natalie Mahoney, Liana Malishkevich, Aidan Sowl, Gigi Stevenson, Miao Sun, and Flynn Taylor.

“Northbrook Junior High taught us the spirit of community, to persevere together,” said Michael Eichstadt in the first of three student speeches. “We may be leaving Northbrook Junior High but the spirit of NBJH will not be leaving us.”



Superintendent Dr. Larry Hewitt presents the Northbrook Rotary Award for volunteerism to Emma Bergeron.



The 2022 Northbrook Junior High American Legion Citizenship Award winners are, from left, Emma Bergeron and Michael Eichstadt, Honorable Mention; and Matthew Ciancanelli and Maggie Gjermano, Distinguished Achievement.

SNAPSHOT

D28 AT A GLANCE

2021-22

Total Enrollment
1,838

628 – Northbrook Junior High
359 – Greenbriar
423 – Meadowbrook
428 – Westmoor

90%
Teacher Retention

81%
Teachers with master's degree
or higher

11:1
Pupil/teacher ratio

2%
Student mobility

3.4%
Low Income Students

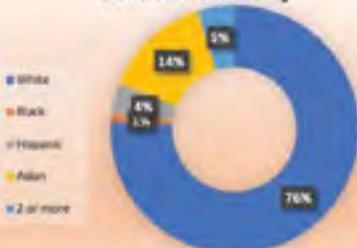
13%
Students with IEP

7%
English Learners

21.4%
Students identified as Gifted

14.7
Average Class Size

Student Diversity



REFLECTIONS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Larry Hewitt, Ed.D.

Serving this community has been a high honor

In July of 2007, I shared my introductory letter with the District 28 community, having just started as the new superintendent. Fifteen years later, I'm trying to put into words the gratitude I feel for the last decade and half.

There have been many projects, tasks, and initiatives through the years - school additions, program expansions, and curriculum revisions - but none has been more challenging than the abrupt and jarring impact of COVID that started in the spring of 2020. The changes, pivots, and adjustments we made are beyond what I would have ever imagined were probable or even possible. The Board of Education, staff and I are so grateful for your support and flexibility as we reconstructed school to fit the new and evolving rules for educating children during a pandemic. I've said to a few people, "I never want to go through something like that again, but as I look back, I'm so proud of the way our staff, families, and board responded - it was simply amazing, and it reminds me of the one key ingredient that makes District 28 so special - people who are intensely dedicated to providing the best possible education for the community's children, regardless of the obstacles."

As I close out my career, hindsight tells me that devoting my entire professional life to educating children was the right choice for me. I was energized as a young teacher fresh out of college, and I've been going full throttle ever since. As I throttle back just a bit in retirement, I'll have many fond memories of students, staff, and families who have been a special part of my life.

Serving as this community's superintendent has been a high honor and privilege for me - thanks for the opportunity!

Larry A. Hewitt, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

A community and staff open house was held June 1 for retiring Superintendent Dr. Larry Hewitt, where plans were unveiled to build an outdoor classroom in his name adjacent to the Northbrook Junior High organic garden.



INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

CLASSROOM SNAPSHOTS



Full STEAM Ahead!

Ms. Kowalke's first-grade Greenbriar students learned about sound and vibration while experimenting with various musical instruments. They demonstrated their learning by recording their work and writing informational text. The STEAM project was shared with parents on the classroom app Seesaw.

Cleaning Up Oil Spills

Second-grade students at Meadowbrook learned about ecosystems and how humans can impact nature. Science lab teacher Ms. Immer gave each group a model of an ocean ecosystem then simulated an oil spill with vegetable oil. Students tried to scoop out the oil, sponge off the oil and observed what happens when a drop of Dawn dishwashing liquid is added.



Math Playground

Westmor School students learned to love math one puzzle at a time. A "math playground" offered pick-up-and-go puzzles for all skill levels. The puzzles help students build confidence, flexibility, and develop a sense of joy with math. "The more we model a love for math and offer no-stakes opportunities, the more motivated our students are to join us on this journey," said Math Specialist Rebecca Stowell.



Student Government Day

During Student Government day, ten 8th-grade students shadowed city, park and library professionals. Then they came together to debate a topic for a mock village board meeting. The topic was whether Northbrook should build municipal broadband internet network for all citizens.



NOTABLES



HOH Scholarship Winners Recognized

Recipients of the District 28 Homer O. Harvey Scholarship were recognized at the Northbrook Junior High 8th grade graduation ceremony on June 1.

All of the recipients graduated from Glenbrook North High School and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward second semester of college next school year.

First row, from left, is Penelope Badgley, Bailey Onix and Lily Denk. Second row from left, is Allison Lau, Tacy Guest, Jenna Ciesla, Kate Rassin and Morissa Lambert. Recipients not shown are Sofia Fayman and Jonah Prober.

The scholarship was established in the name of longtime superintendent Homer O. Harvey in 1989. After a two-year absence, the District 28 PTO Council's HOH5K came roaring back on May 7 with over 400 participants and raising \$37,500 for the college scholarship fund. Since 1989, \$342,500 has been awarded to 388 Northbrook Junior High graduates.

Top Math Honors

Liana Malishkevich scored in the top 5% of students in the nation in the AMC 8 competition sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. She was also the top scorer at NBJH. The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills. The AMC 8 provides an opportunity for middle school students to develop positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics that can assist in future careers. Students apply classroom skills to unique problem-solving challenges in a low-stress and friendly environment.



Matthew Ciancanelli won the national Math Competition for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing through the Rochester Institute of Technology in a virtual competition. When competition started, Matthew said he easily completed the first two rounds in about 15 minutes instead of the allotted 45 minutes. The third and fourth rounds were conducted live over Zoom. The questions got a little more complicated, he said, and the championship came down to a tie-breaker. He captured first place by solving the equation in 30 seconds, surpassing 1,600 competitors.



ABOUT D28

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
Pat Thome, Principal

Westmoor School

2500 Cherry Lane, Northbrook
Mary Sturgill, Principal

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To contact board members, please email: BoardofEducation@northbrook28.net.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Larry Hewitt, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Kris Raitzer, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Kelly Sculles, Ed.D.

Director of Student Services

Jessica Donato, CSBO

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Michelle Jackson

Director of Learning

Terry Ryan, APR

Communications Director

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 at a cost of about 32 cents per issue.

Terry Ryan, Editor
Volume 34, Number 2
June 2022

TRANSITIONS

DR. JASON PEARSON SETS GOALS, ENTRY PLAN FOR 2022-23

Dr. Jason Pearson will become the next superintendent of District 28 on July 1. He comes to Northbrook from St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 where he spent the last 12 years as a district administrator, including the past five as Superintendent of Schools. He was selected by the Board of Education as the next superintendent after a rigorous process. He possesses the qualities and experience as most desired in the next leader of District 28 that were identified by the staff and community through surveys and focus groups conducted last fall.



Dr. Jason Pearson

Dr. Pearson brings a passion as a forward-thinking educational leader with over 20 years of service as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and

superintendent. In addition to his experience in public schools both in Tennessee and Illinois, Dr. Pearson also has a perspective on international comparative education. In 2007-08, he received a Fulbright Administrator Exchange Grant, administered by the United States Department of State, to partner with a school district administrator in Oulu, Finland. Early in his teaching career, he also spent time teaching on the Indian Ocean Island of Mauritius.

Dr. Pearson holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Belmont University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University. He earned a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Pearson's entry plan for the 2022-23 school year is posted on our website, northbrook28.net/about_us, or scan the QR code at right.



New Principal Named for Meadowbrook School

Ericka Garza will be the next principal of Meadowbrook School following Pat Thome's retirement after 11 years as principal of the school located at 1600 Walters Ave.

Ms. Garza was principal of Mark Twain School in Kankakee District 202 for the last five years. Previous to that, she was the English Learner program coordinator at Marquette School of Excellence in Chicago. She began her career as an EL Teacher for grades 4-8. She has a master's degree in Educational Leadership from National Louis University and is working on her doctoral degree from the University of St. Francis.

Ericka Garza, (right) the new principal for Meadowbrook School, visited with students during lunch as part of transition planning with Pat Thome, who retired at the end of the school year.



Early Childhood Screenings Available

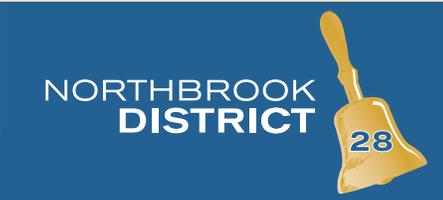
Northbrook School District 28 conducts early childhood screening for children 3 to 5 years of age who live within district boundaries. Children will participate in a play-based screening in the areas of cognition, language, fine and gross motor skills, social-emotional functioning, and adaptive skills. Screenings are held monthly by appointment only. Contact Helene Josephson, Admin. Assistant for Early Childhood at 847-504-3809.

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UPDATE 28



Northbrook Junior High students who competed at the state science fair gather for a photo at Bradley University.

NBJH Students Bring Home State Science Fair Medals

NBJH independent science students each came home with an award Saturday April 23 at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Fair in Peoria, sponsored by Bradley University.

With 29 NBJH students of 783 total participants, NBJH brought home 18 gold awards, 7 silver and 4 bronze. Special awards went to: Best in Category Behavioral - Emma Fraczek; Best in Category Zoology - Lily Smolik; and Best in Category Environmental Science - Lily Musslewhite. Additionally, Emma Fraczek, Emma Noll and Emma McGough were nominated for the Broadcom national competition.

“Every student who took independent science research this year has learned valuable scientific skills that will be useful in high school. I love how this course pushes students to improve in so many skills,” said Science teacher Amber Paull. The course is offered to 7th- and 8th-grade students.

Stay Connected

Want to know more? Subscribe to receive monthly reports on the Board of Education meetings. Visit the district website, northbrook28.net and click on the “subscribe to e-news” at the bottom of the page.



Board of Education meetings are now streamed live, and archived, on the “Northbrook District 28” YouTube Channel. Search YouTube, or access through the ‘live streaming’ link on the district website.



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