



OFF TO A GREAT START!



In North Shore School District 112, the school year, 2019-2020, has started in a flurry of activity with construction at the Northwood site, students and staff starting a transition at the newly renovated Northwood Jr. High School at Elm Place, curricular adoptions K-8, transportation improvements, and welcoming more than 40 new staff members. Although the pace of action has been dizzying, it is the assessment of the administration that the state of North Shore School District 112 is as strong as it has ever been and continues to improve every day. Look for a deep report on teaching and learning at the October 1, 2019, Committee of the Whole Board of Education meeting.

Evidence of a strong start can be seen in our most recent 6th-day student count. Enrollment numbers, which are typically fluid early in the school year, were reported at 3,885 students as a snapshot of the enrollment on August 26, 2019. The enrollment numbers are holding steady from year-to-year when compared to last year's 6th-day count of 3,882 students. This static trend overturns a dramatic downward enrollment trend that has been seen in District 112 and across the state of Illinois in recent years. The recent reforms and transformative approaches are taking hold and are starting to work.

One key reason for the uptick in enrollment is due to an increase of pre-kindergarten students entering Green Bay Early Childhood Center. This year, Green Bay School saw an increase of two sections or approximately 32 students year-over-year. Although this data can likely be attributed to many factors, the administration is hopeful that it, at least in part, is due to the recent positive developments in the District such as plans to modernize both of its middle schools, the offering of Full-Day Kindergarten, new curricular resources, and many more positive changes enacted in the last few years.

Another major indicator of success is the climate and culture survey data that the District has recently received from the staff. After three times of administering the INSIGHTeX culture survey, the district saw 76.05% of the 477 employees who took the survey report being highly engaged and highly satisfied in the work they do each day on behalf of students. This is an increase from April 2019 when 63.42% were highly engaged and highly satisfied as well as an increase from August 2018 where 72.41% were highly engaged and highly satisfied. It is planned that students will once again take the Student Engagement Survey in October. District and school leaders use survey results to plan and respond to areas of strength and needed improvement within District 112. We are an organization committed to continuous improvement.

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