

FALL

2026

COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER



A Message from Superintendent Mikkel Storaasli

As we settle into another school year, there is a lot happening across District 127 from the traditions that bring our school communities together to important work that will shape the future of Grayslake Central and Grayslake North.

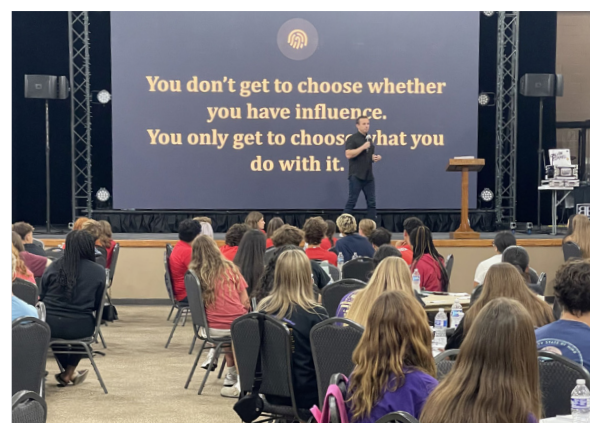
One of our biggest priorities this fall is the search for the next principals of Central and North. Last spring, students, staff, families, and community members helped us identify the qualities they want to see in their schools' next leaders. Now, as we move into candidate selection, that input continues to guide the process. I'm especially pleased that students will have a meaningful voice as candidates visit our schools and move through interviews.

This issue also highlights the many ways our students are learning, growing, and pursuing their futures. You'll meet a Central student competing on the international weightlifting stage and a North graduate who returned to his school in a new role, helping incoming students begin their high school journeys.

You'll also learn more about the long-range planning behind our facilities. Maintaining our schools responsibly means anticipating needs, prioritizing investments, and making thoughtful decisions about how we use the resources our community entrusts to us. That work helps ensure our buildings continue to support students, staff, and learning for years to come.

Thank you to our students, staff, families, and community members for the many ways you contribute to District 127. I'm excited about what lies ahead and grateful for your continued partnership as we empower all learners to launch their futures.

Warmly,
Dr. Mikkel Storaasli
Superintendent, Grayslake District 127



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Search for D127's Next Principals

Homecoming at Central and North

Students Find Their Paths

Planning Ahead for D127 Facilities

Bringing History to Life

NORTH BRINGS RIO TO HOMECOMING

Grayslake North added a new twist to Homecoming this year, as the Knights embraced a Carnival in Rio theme with carnival games, music, and activities for the school community. The week of celebrations also included plenty of Knight spirit. Seniors Skylar M. and Shiloh D., and juniors Rory B. and Brooklyn S., were crowned this year's royalty.



CENTRAL SHINES DURING HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS

The Rams rolled out the red carpet for Hollywood Nights, this year's Homecoming theme at Grayslake Central. Students carried on a favorite Central tradition with the Homecoming parade through downtown Grayslake before wrapping up the celebration with the dance where Joshua C. and Jessica H. were crowned Homecoming royalty.



Principal Search Moves Into Candidate Selection

Community-developed Principal Profiles are guiding the high school principal search

The search for the next principals of Grayslake Central and Grayslake North is entering its next phase, building on months of input from the people who know the schools best: students, staff, and community members.

Last spring, District 127 partnered with School Exec Connect to gather community feedback through focus groups, interviews, and surveys. That input helped create a unique Principal Profile for each school, identifying the qualities, priorities, and leadership characteristics the community believes will help each school continue to thrive. Those profiles are now guiding candidate recruitment, screening, and interviews.

Applications closed on Sept. 30, with interviews expected to begin in late October. Students will continue to have a voice in the process. Student representatives from both schools will participate in candidate “walk-and-talks,” joining prospective principals as they tour the buildings, experience the schools during the day, and learn more about the programs, people, and traditions that make Central and North unique.

The district expects to identify its preferred candidates in November, with Board of Education approval anticipated Dec. 10. The new principals will begin their roles July 1, 2027.

Throughout the process, D127 remains focused on finding leaders who will honor the distinct strengths of each school while helping Central and North continue to grow together as one district.

STUDENTS HAVE A VOICE

We asked student Board representatives what they want the next principals to know about their schools.

Karlee S.

Grayslake Central senior and student Board representative



“Involvement really matters here. Students love when you’re visible, whether that’s in the hallways in the morning, at sporting events, or at school productions. It’s important for students to know the principal is there for them, that they can be heard, and that they’re approachable.”

Mara C.

Grayslake North senior and student Board representative



“I want the future principal of North to know the amount of diversity there is among our students and to find a way to connect with all of them. Everyone here has different personalities and different interests, and I think it’s important to be present and welcoming to everyone.”

What Happens Next

**Sept. 30,
2026**

Applications
closed

**October
2026**

Candidate
review and
screening

**Late
October-
November
2026**

Interviews and
stakeholder
involvement

**November
2026**

Preferred
candidates
identified

**December
2026**

Anticipated
Board of
Education
approval

**Winter-
Spring
2027**

Transition
and welcome
new leaders

**July 1,
2027**

New
principals
begin their
roles

Scan the QR code to follow the principal search, view the Principal Profiles, and find the latest updates and timeline.





Ricky Gives Back After Graduation At North

When Grayslake North Class of 2026 graduate Ricky C. returned to North this summer, he saw his school through a new lens.

As North's student ambassador, Ricky helped welcome incoming freshmen and their families through the school's new student orientation. He led students through what to expect in high school, encouraged them to get involved, and introduced resources they can use throughout their four years at North. He also helped students navigate the building as the school year began.

For Ricky, being a recent graduate gave him something unique to offer: firsthand experience.

He remembers entering high school without knowing exactly who he was or what he wanted to do. Over time, Ricky said, he found himself and built relationships with teachers and staff that continued beyond graduation.

Returning to work alongside some of those same educators gave him a glimpse of opportunities he might pursue in the future, from working in a school to other careers centered on helping people.

Now, Ricky is beginning his next chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University, where he plans to study psychology and run track.

His advice to the students following him through North's doors is simple:

"Build relationships with your teachers. Be the best version of you that you can be. You just never know where you'll end up in life."

— Ricky C., Grayslake North Class of 2026

Adelyn Lifts Her Goals Higher

Grayslake Central senior Adelyn J. was 9 years old when a coach at her parents' CrossFit gym invited her to try weightlifting. Seven years later, she has competed at the Pan American Championships and World Championships with an even bigger goal in mind.

"The Olympics is my ultimate goal," Adelyn said. She has her sights on 2032, recognizing that reaching that level will require years of continued development.

Behind those ambitions is a schedule that demands discipline. Adelyn trains five days a week for about three hours at a time, while balancing classes, homework, and travel that can sometimes take her out of school for a full week. She credits her teachers with supporting her as she keeps up with coursework between training and competitions.

Competing internationally can still feel surreal. Adelyn described standing in the warm-up area surrounded by elite athletes and realizing that she had earned a place on the same stage. When it's time to compete, she gets to show the result of years of work.

But what people see on the competition stage or social media represents only a small part of that work. Training, recovery, and the choices she makes every day all contribute to those few moments in competition.

"You have to make the little choices that add up to the big accomplishments," Adelyn said.

For now, she continues making those choices with her eyes on 2032, one class, one training session and one competition at a time.

"You have to make the little choices that add up to the big accomplishments."

— Adelyn J.,
Grayslake Central Class of 2027



D127 Protects Its Investment

Long-term planning helps the district maintain its schools, manage costs, and keep resources focused on students.

Maintaining two high school campuses requires looking well beyond the next school year. District 127 uses long-range planning to identify facility needs, prioritize projects, and prepare financially for work before it becomes urgent.

That planning led to another busy summer across Grayslake Central and Grayslake North, with projects ranging from track and gym floor improvements to HVAC, building automation, and solar upgrades.

Deciding what comes next is a year-round process. D127's capital plan is informed by its life-safety survey, the expected life cycle and condition of major building components, and input from staff, coaches, administrators, and others who use district facilities every day. The district then balances those needs against available financial resources.

Energy costs are part of that long-term planning, too. D127 recently completed Solar 2.0 at Grayslake North, expanding the district's ability to generate electricity on-site and reducing exposure to rising utility costs.

Over the past five years, D127 has invested approximately \$30 million in capital improvements without issuing additional bonds, while maintaining healthy district fund balances. That approach helps the district care for the community's investment in its schools while protecting resources for students, staff, and learning.

"We map out and plan all of these things in advance. It's balancing what we can afford financially, with the severity and priority of that particular capital element."

— Dr. Abe Singh
Associate Superintendent
Chief School Business Official

BY THE NUMBERS



\$30 MILLION

invested in D127 capital improvements over the past five years



\$0

in additional bonds issued to fund that work during the same period



3.65 MW

approximate combined capacity of D127's solar systems, measured in megawatts



~650

the approximate number of homes D127's solar systems can power

Figures provided by D127 Chief School Business Official Dr. Abe Singh.

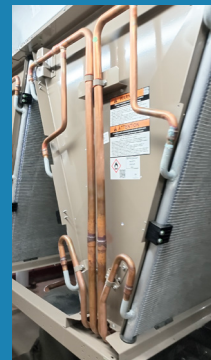
Summer Improvements

GRAYSLAKE NORTH TRACK



North's track was resurfaced this summer as part of its scheduled maintenance cycle.

HVAC + SMARTER CONTROLS



HVAC and building automation upgrades across D127 provide greater control and monitoring of building systems.

NORTH GYM FLOOR



The main gym floor at Grayslake North was refinished, giving the space a fresh look for students and athletics.

SOLAR 2.0



A new solar array at Grayslake North expands D127's on-site energy generation and helps offset future utility costs.

See the Improvements

Scan the QR code to hear from Dr. Abe Singh about how D127 plans, prioritizes, and invests in its schools.





400 N Lake Street
Grayslake, IL 60030



District Grayslake CHSD 127
Central Grayslake Central HS
North Grayslake North HS



District @GrayslakeCHSD127
Central @Grayslake_Central_HS
North @GNHS_knights



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High School District 127



Scan for a fast way to follow!

North Students Bring 9/11 Stories to the Stage

Twenty-five years after the September 11 attacks, Grayslake North students explored an event they know only through history by sharing the stories of people who lived through it.

North theatre students and members of Green Room Theatre Company performed a scripted reading created by teacher and director Clare McConville using firsthand accounts from September 11, 2001. The experience brought history off the page, helping students better understand the events of that day and the people whose lives changed because of them.



THANK you!

to our Board of Education:

**Douglas Nerge,
Amy Knutson Strack,
Jonathan Reinoso,
Hal Sloan,
Stacy Gabanski,
Dean Thorson,
and Liz Wiczer.**