



ALUMNI

Newsletter

WINTER 2025

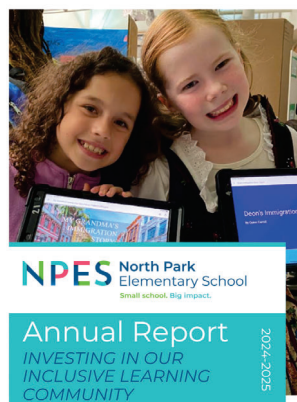
A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

Thank you for your continued support of North Park Elementary School. Your generosity strengthens our inclusive learning community, ensuring every student is known, valued, and inspired to thrive.

We are proud to share the [2024–2025 NPES Annual Report: Investing in Our Inclusive Learning Community](#), which highlights the meaningful impact of your giving and the powerful role affirmation, belonging, and connection play in the NPES experience.

From classroom innovation to community engagement, your contributions of time, talent, and resources make a lasting difference.

On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff – thank you for investing in the people and programs that make NPES such a vibrant place to learn and grow.



CELEBRATING OUR FIRST LEAPP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Each year, the [NPES Spring Appeal](#) supports a key initiative that strengthens and enriches our school community. From campus enhancements to student experiences, your generosity ensures that NPES continues to grow, thrive, and meet the needs of every learner.

This past spring, we were proud to direct Spring Appeal funding toward our educators through [LEAPP: Leaders Exploring a Professional Passion](#) – a new grant program created to empower faculty and staff with transformative learning opportunities. LEAPP supports educators who pursue bold, globally minded, and practice-expanding experiences that, in turn, enrich classrooms and deepen student learning.

We are thrilled to announce our inaugural LEAPP recipients:

- **Anna Nardulli, Preschool–2nd Grade Art Teacher**
Awarded up to \$4,670 to study Reggio Emilia: Constructing Modern Knowledge in Italy, strengthening Early Childhood learning and inspiring play-based, student-centered approaches across grade levels.
- **FrankO Mansilla, 4th–8th Grade Spanish Language & Cultures Teacher**
Awarded up to \$5,060 for Viva México!: A Cultural Immersion Journey, enriching Spanish and World Cultures curriculum, expanding identity windows and mirrors for students, and deepening cultural and linguistic engagement school-wide.



Upon their return, both educators will share their learning with our community, continuing the cycle of curiosity, reflection, and growth that defines NPES.

A special thank you to the Class of 2025 for establishing the first-ever senior LEGACY gift and providing a \$15,000 challenge grant in support of LEAPP. Your leadership ensures that NPES teachers continue to learn, innovate, and inspire.

We look forward to sharing updates as Anna and FrankO embark on their journeys.

NPES BASKETBALL WINTER SHOOTOUT HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to our student-athletes, coaches, and tournament volunteers on an exceptional 2025 Winter Shootout, hosted by the NPES Dads' Club at Northeastern Illinois University. With eleven schools from across the Northside participating, this preseason tournament was a fantastic way to launch the 2025–2026 basketball season.

Special thanks to Dads' Club members Andrew Herman, Goran Simic, Matt Meador, James Haigh, and Chris Kupcho; NPES alumni volunteers Mili Patel (Class of 2024), Ojas Patel (Class of 2025), Theo Pascaris (Class of 2025), and Judson Harper (Class of 2025); and NPES Basketball Director Rob Hirsch for making the day run seamlessly.

We are also grateful to our generous event sponsors: Slim's Chicago, Bertsch Properties, Deconstruct Architecture, Wastenot Compost, L&M Fine Foods, and Apachi Day Camp.

SAVE THE DATE: EXCITING EVENTS COMING IN 2026!

NPES Gala | March 7, 2026

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year at Sarabande Chicago (2726 W. Roscoe St.). Enjoy an evening celebrating the NPES community while supporting the people and programs that make our school exceptional. More details to come.

Class of 2022 – Senior Destination Day | May 2026

We are thrilled to welcome back the Class of 2022 before high school

graduation. Come walk the halls, see former teachers, wear your college gear, enjoy pizza, and reconnect with former classmates. A formal invitation with timing and registration to follow.

2nd Annual NPES Community Golf Outing | DATE TBD

Alumni students, families, and grandparents are invited to hit the course at our summer outing. All proceeds support the [NPES Financial Aid, Lynn Lawrence Grant Awards](#). Gather your foursomes - more information will be shared in the new year.

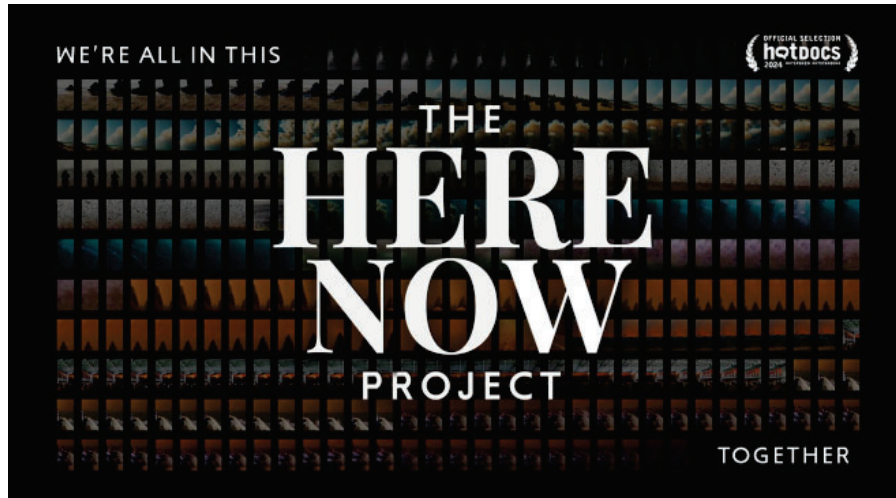
NPES ALUMNI PARENT GREG JACOBS RETURNS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES

We were honored to welcome back NPES alumni parent and acclaimed documentarian **Greg Jacobs** on November 18 for this year's NPES Social Justice Film Series. Since its launch in 2022, the series has extended our equity-centered curriculum beyond the classroom, inviting the wider community to engage with pressing social issues.

Greg joined us in person for a post-screening conversation of **The Here Now Project**, the powerful documentary he co-directed that captures the lived realities of climate change through self-shot footage from around the world. Immersive, urgent, and profoundly human, the film underscores a critical message: we are all connected in this global moment.

We are grateful to Greg for returning to NPES to inspire dialogue, deepen understanding, and demonstrate the role storytelling plays in shaping social change.

Visit our website for [information on the next film](#) in the series which will be shared soon.



HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT

The NPES 8th graders are nearing the end of the high school admissions season. Of the 22 8th graders, 21 participated in the CPS high school admissions test and did very well (76% with scores in the 90th percentile or above). Once again this year, students are exploring a variety of high schools, including Amundsen, Lincoln Park, Senn, Von Steuben, Payton, Northside, Whitney Young, Jones, Lane Tech, Beacon Academy, Loyola, Notre Dame College Prep, St. Ignatius, and DePaul. Keep an eye out for news of where students decide to go to high school as there's a good chance another NPES alumnus might be headed to your alma mater!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

NPES is proud to have a vibrant community, with over 160 families, 50 employees, and hundreds of alumni actively connected to the North Center–Ravenswood neighborhood. A key part of that commitment is our NPES Community Give Back Series, where local businesses partner with the school to support learning, engagement, and community connection. A portion of proceeds from the Give Back Series benefits NPES programs. We encourage our alumni to join us, say hello, and support a local business that supports our school. Past events have included [Teddy's Ice Cream](#), [Slim's](#), and [Xochimilco](#).

Our next Community Give Back Event is today at [Chicago's Pizza](#) (1919 W. Montrose) from 3:30 - 8:00 p.m. The event is dine-in and carry out. Please stop by to shop, dine, and support an NPES Community Partner.

Mark your calendar for our January Community Give Back Event at [L&M Fine Foods](#) on **January 15, 2026**.

If you are an NPES alum who owns a business or works for a company that would like to partner with us, we would love to connect.

To learn more about becoming a Community Partner, click [here](#).

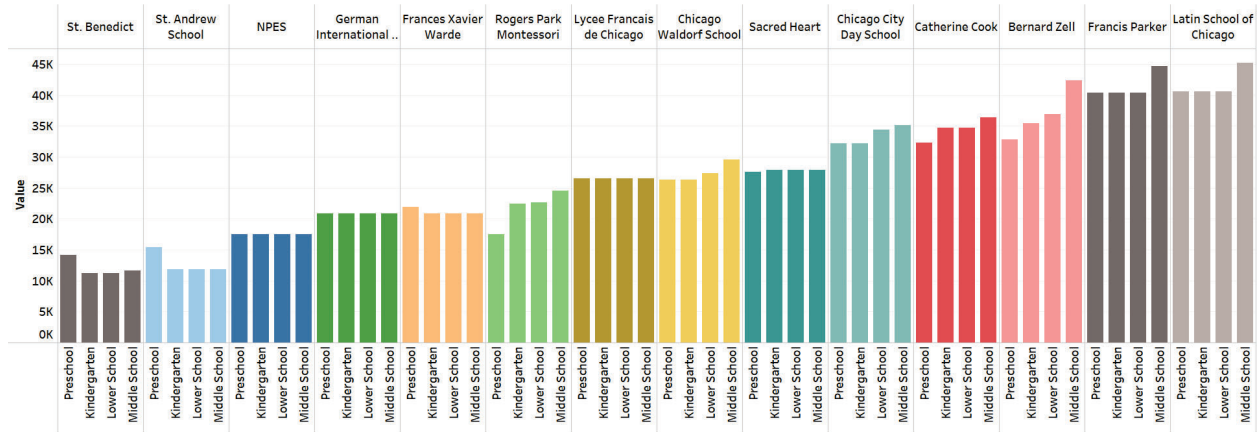
NPES REMAINS ONE OF CHICAGO'S MOST ACCESSIBLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

NPES continues to stand out in the Chicago independent school landscape by maintaining one of the most affordable tuition profiles among peer institutions. As reflected in this year's LMAIS 2025 comparison data, our commitment to accessibility is a core part of our mission and a point of pride for our community.

Because tuition intentionally remains below full cost, charitable giving plays a vital role in sustaining and advancing the NPES experience. Philanthropic support provides the essential margin of excellence that allows NPES to pilot innovative programs, expand enrichment opportunities, strengthen faculty development, deepen community partnerships, and ensure that students continue to learn in a setting where they are known, valued, and challenged to grow.

Thank you to our alumni community for helping keep NPES both exceptional and accessible. Your support directly shapes the student experience and ensures that the small-school, big-impact legacy continues for the next generation of NPES Sharks.

2024-2025 Tuition



SUPPORT THE NPES FUND – CONTINUE YOUR NPES LEGACY

Thank you to all alumni who have already participated in Giving Tuesday. Your generosity is helping us build strong momentum toward our [\\$50,000 Challenge Grant](#), which will match all gifts dollar-for-dollar through December 31.

As alumni, you know the lasting impact of an NPES education – a community that nurtures curiosity, compassion, and confidence. Your year-end gift to the NPES Fund supports what makes this experience exceptional: inspiring educators, inclusive access, meaningful community partnerships, and engaging programs that carry learning beyond the classroom.

Every gift matters, and every dollar is doubled until we reach the challenge. Help us close the year with strength and meet our goal.

Make your gift today and double your impact.



Thank you for being an important part of the NPES community. As we continue to grow our alumni network, we look forward to staying connected and sharing the lasting impact our small school has on the lives of our students, parents, and faculty.

STAY CONNECTED!

We'd love to hear what you've been up to! Please complete our [online form](#) to share your news with us. Feel free to share this link with your former classmates to help reconnect them with NPES.

NPES ALUMNI MAGNETS

We now have NPES Alumni car magnets. Be sure to stop by the front office to pick up your free magnet or to have one sent to you, please reach out to [Erin Leyden](#), Director of Development & Marketing.

NPES ALUMNI WEBSITE

Our website is the most effective tool for sharing everything that makes NPES special. We work hard to keep it up to date and recently started adding new articles written by our incredible staff, offering insights into their classrooms and curriculum. Be sure to visit often to see what's new!

We've also included links below to explore our latest **Annual Report** and **Currents** Magazine - don't miss out!

SUMMER 2025 CURRENTS MAGAZINE

NPES NEWS & VIEWS

ALUMNI SPIRITWEAR SHOP

