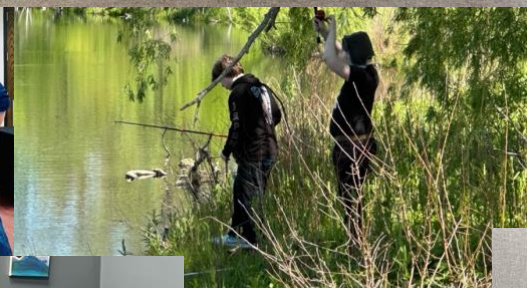


Felicity School

Summer 2025

NEW SPACE, NEW PROGRAMS AND NEW SUCCESS



GRADUATION...

On May 21, 2025 Felicity students were recognized at our graduation ceremony. We are extremely proud of our graduates and thrilled to see them begin the next stage of their journeys

GROWTH...

Felicity School took possession of the entire facility in March moving in to an addition 3,200 square feet of space providing a great setting for additional programming.

GREETINGS FROM STAFF...

The Felicity School staff has an amazing mix of personalities, skills, and passions. We are lucky to have such a dedicated staff. Meet a few.....

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OUR VISION

Cultivating the mind, body, and spirit: Felicity School will be the premiere private therapeutic day school leveraging superior staff and facilities to provide a curriculum and experience focused on the individual. Felicity School will create successful students and citizens with unique, relevant, and appropriate experiences.



Felicia Nekritz- 1971-1998



Felicity School Transition Center

Felicity School is in the process of creating a unique one-of-a-kind transition center to serve special education students in a way that has not been done before. With dynamic on and off-site business partners (some pictured below), we are designing a full spectrum of transition services for special education students of all abilities. In addition, the Center will serve as an ongoing resource for ALL Felicity School graduates for job placement, additional counseling, skill development, and more.

Our opportunities for employment will range from on-site with supports, on-site without supports, off-site with supports, off-site without supports, to job placement services across many industries. With our partners we will have access to scores of full and part-time jobs and resources for the greater Felicity community. Specific skill development and opportunities exist in food service, retail, hospitals/medical facilities, recreation including camp counseling, coaching, refereeing, child programming and more. Traditional Transition Services will include basic life skills, enhanced skill development opportunities, and generic home/work repair. Other students will experience college and career readiness opportunities in business, marketing, and entrepreneurship.



DUNKIN'



WH Smith

C.A.A.E.L.

The 2024-25 academic year provided opportunities and success for Felicity students who participated in the Chicago Area Alternative Education League (CAAEL). This organization mission is “to empower students and teachers in alternative schools by integrating athletic and academic programs into the school day, fostering personal growth and responsibility”, and Felicity took advantage of the offerings. Students participated in activities like basketball, art, chess, volleyball, kickball, and more. We are proud not only of the championship basketball team, but all the students earned the chance to participate through school attendance, academic progress and appropriate behavior. Well done!



CAAEL award recipients from the basketball tournament



Award winning art work from the CAAEL Art Fair

CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENTS

OUTINGS TO WHITEHALL: This year Felicity began an outreach program with Whitehall Senior Home. Periodically, students and staff spend time at a senior citizens' home providing treats, camaraderie and cheer. Visits included Halloween, Mother's Day and more. Our students enjoy their time with this older group and the home is thrilled to have our youthful energy visit their building.



Students and Staff pass out Mother's Day Greetings at Whitehall Sr. Center

A SURPRISE VISITOR

Chicago Bulls champion Bill Wennington made a surprise visit to Felicity. The St. John's graduate and current Bull's announcer came to visit his old stomping ground at The Berto Center. During his visit the seven-foot center reflected with students on his time with Michael Jordan, the Bulls and his time at the building. Mr. Wennington described the good times he had with the championship teams. Students even found some YouTube highlights of number 34 dunking to win a game!

SUMMER PLANS @ FELICITY

The summer session begins early June, but will include some unique programming design to develop student interests and curiosity in both the curricular and non-curricular arenas. Felicity has teamed with Partners for Progress to provide equine therapy and opportunities for students to care for horses. Some have already visited the stable to learn what to expect throughout this process. Felicity has also procured special passes to the Botanic Gardens for ecology classes, the environment club and nature lovers to enjoy the beautiful grounds. In the classroom, the summer elective courses like 3D Printing, Ecology, Literature, Personal Finance and Health were created based on student interest.

RECYCLING PROGRAM & RAFFLE:

Mr. Patrick organized a group of students to develop our recycling program for the school. In addition to helping the environment, students collected, organized and sold cans and other products. The money raised from aluminum sales returned to the students as part of our end of the year raffle. Several winners took home the funds while all had a good time bidding on other prizes with tickets earned from accomplishments and good deeds performed throughout the year.



Bill Wennington spends time with Felicity students

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS:

Part of the transition process is the exploration of college opportunities for students. This past year we have been able to develop great relationships with representatives from College of Lake County and Oakton. Felicity students tour the campuses, take placement exams and meet regularly with college advisors on their future. A few students have even been 'dual-enrolled' earning college credit during the high school years.

MEET SOME STAFF



Tian Tian: When students are in crisis or needing an empathetic ear, they reach out to Dr. Tian. With her amazing patience and calm energy, Dr. Tian is a great resource for her students. Outside of Felicity you will find this social worker providing the same love and support for her family and young children. We are grateful that Felicity is the professional home to Ms. Tian.



Catrina Hayes, Karen Schur & Lisa Johnson:

Felicity offers a wide range of supports to its students and their individual educational plans. To this end there is a cadre of highly talented staff that provides one on one or small group supports that not all students need. In the academic realm, **Ms. Catrina Hayes** provides literacy and reading expertise with her expertise with Wilson Reading. When not with our students Ms. Hayes trains other professional on how to best teach reading. **Ms. Karen Schur** is our long tenured speech pathologist who has a distinguished career working with students of all ages on their communication skills. For students needing occupational therapy, **Ms. Lisa Johnson** provides a welcoming and positive environment. Her patience and demeanor make her a great teammate at Felicity. We are thankful to call these three true professionals our colleagues.

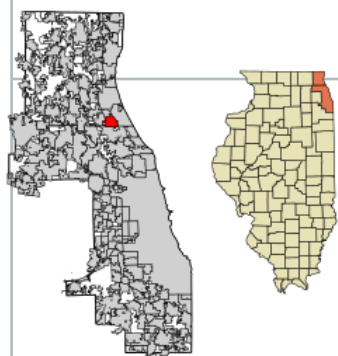
Sue Barker: Leading the Felicity staff is Dr. Sue Barker. Bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to the school, Dr. Barker has instilled a sense of pride to the school. Prior to joining Felicity, Dr. Barker led the Zion Benton High School Special Education Department opening up an in-house program for special needs students. At Felicity, we have seen new initiatives, a commitment to excellence and high standards for staff and students alike.

GRADUATION:

A special shout-out to the **fifteen** recent graduates of Felicity School. We are immensely proud of the collective and individual accomplishments. The festive ceremony held on May 21, 2025 highlighted the resiliency demonstrated by these young adults to overcome obstacles and achieve great success. The graduation program was followed by a buffet lunch for family and friends. Additional kudos to our students who will be transitioning full-time to their home schools based on their growth and development at Felicity. It was quite the amazing year for everyone involved.



Students and staff enjoy a lunch picnic with games and activities



FELICITY PARTNERS

We are pleased to share some of our District partners over the past few years. Thank you for trusting your students with us!

**North Shore School District
112**

Glenbrook School District 225

Waukegan District 60

Woodland District 50

**Township High School District
113**

Wauconda District 118

District 300

Evanston High School

**McHenry Community High
School**

Chicago Public Schools

**District 128- Libertyville/Vernon
Hills**

Grayslake High School District 127

Zion District 126

Niles Township District 219

Barrington District 220

Lake Forest High School

Zion School District 6

Stevenson High School District 125

Zion School District 6

Kildeer District 96

Lincolnshire-Prairie View SD 103

Park Ridge 64

Lake Villa

Grant High School

**New Trier High School District
203**

Evanston/Skokie District 65

Hinsdale High School District 86

Riverside Brookfield High School

**Township High School District
211**

**Oak Park River Forest High
School**

Lake Forest High School

Felicity School

550 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL. 60015

www.felicityschool.com