

Tinley Park H.S



**Illinois
Reads &
Young Authors
Book
Festival**

April 25th
2026



10 am - 2 pm

Tinley Park High School
6111 W. 175th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Welcome to Illinois Reads 2026!

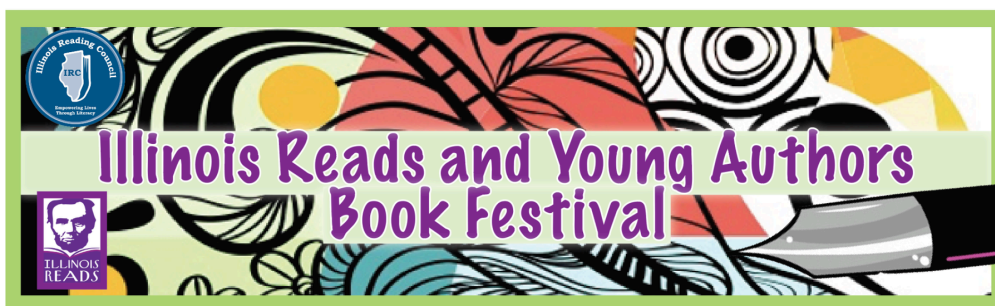
Hi Everyone,

My name is Sherry Sejnost and I am proud to serve as the Chair of the Illinois Reading Council's Illinois Reads committee.

Illinois Reads is an important initiative in that it encourages every member of your family to get to know and read books by authors from our great state. Kicking off in the Spring each year, the program offers a new list of titles at six different age bands and concludes in November on Family Reading Night. I encourage everyone to get involved by becoming an Illinois Reads Ambassador, attending an Illinois Reads author event, reading from the rich list of titles, and participating in a Family Reading Night program at your school or local library.

And Illinois Reads does not stop here! Each year at the Illinois State Fair, Illinois Reads authors attend the Illinois State Fair for Meet and Greets and free book signings. Kids from around the state have the opportunity to meet and interact with Illinois authors and get the authors' books in their hands for free – some start their first home library that day! After all the fun you had today, we'd love to see you stop by the Secretary of State's tent to visit the authors again this summer and get a free signed book!

Thank you for being a family of readers and for supporting Illinois authors,
Sherry



Agenda for the day

10:00 AM Opening Session

Introduction: Sherry Sejnost
Illinois Reads Chair

Welcome: Dr. Theresa Nolan
Tinley Park High School Principal

Greetings: Cindi Koudelka
President of Illinois Reading Council

Mayor Michael W. Glotz
Village of Tinley Park

Saranja Hicks
Regional ELA Curriculum & Instruction Specialist, South Cook ISC

Logo Winner: Lucie McMahan

Introduction of Authors/ Preview of Book Festival:

Renee Yunker
Tinley Park High School

10:30 - 10:50 AM Session 1 - Author Presentations

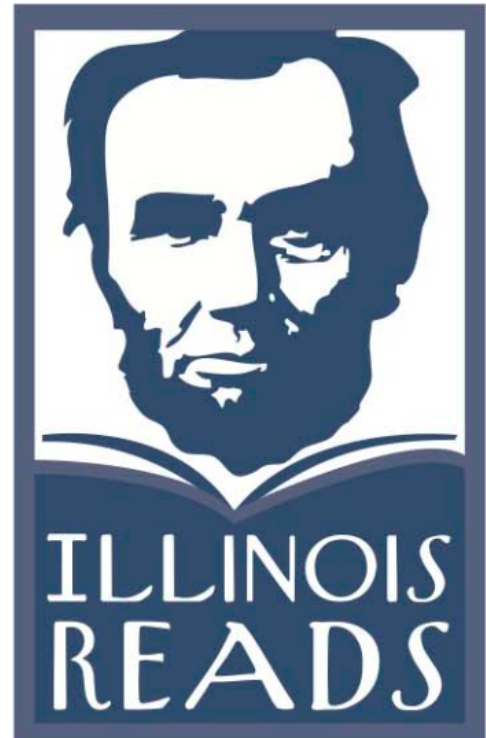
11:00 - 11:20 AM Session 2 - Author Presentations

11:30 AM- 11:50 PM Session 3 - Author Presentations

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Exhibits Open in the Library

12:00 - 12:50 PM Author Signing - Hallways

1:00 - 2:00 PM Young Authors Lunch - Cafe



Author Sessions

Birth - 4

Zach von Zonk	E – I – UFO: Old MacDonald Had a Farm	RM: 126
Harold Green III	Hugged by the Night	RM: 103
Dana Marie Miroballi	Inventions to Count On: A Celebration of Black Inventors	RM: 105A
Betsy Bird	POP! Goes the Nursery Rhyme	RM: 105B
Heidi Bee Roemer	Silly Puppies: Baby’s First Giggles	RM: 102

K - Grade 2

Veronica Castillo & Juleesa Espinoza	Emilia’s Corte	RM:124
Gina Bellisario	Give Back	RM: 104
Alex Willan	Piece Out	RM: 107A
Darcy Day Zoells	Smithy and Me	RM: 107B

Grade 3 - 5

Lisa Maggiore	Ava the Monster Slayer: Sleepover Superheroes	RM: Audion
Kate Hannigan	Rachel Carson’s Wonder-Filled World	RM: 109
Jessika Fleck	The Curse of Great Winter Academy: A Choose Your Own Adventure Book	RM: 111

Author Sessions

Grade 6 - 8

Rebecca Siegel	How the Ghost Army Hoodwinked Hitler	RM: 112
Jessie Ann Foley	Severe and Unusual Weather	RM: 113
Kristin Nilsen	The Scott Fenwick Diaries	RM: 115
Nicole M. Hewitt	The Song of Orphan's Garden	RM: 116

Grade 9 - 12

Adi Alsaid	Before Takeoff	RM: 117
Gene Ha	MAE: The Definitive Edition	RM: 118
Laurie Lawlor	Many Voices: Building Erie, the Canal that Changed America	RM: 120
K. Ancrum	The Corruption of Hollis Brown	RM: 121

Adult

Gloria Chao	The Ex-Girlfriend Murder Club	RM: 122
Neil Dahlstrom	Tractor Wars: John Deere, Henry Ford, International Harvester, and the Birth of Modern Agriculture	RM: 124

Exhibitors

Library's Main Level

Anderson's Bookshop
Girl Scout Troop #65856
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom
Illinois Reading Council
Illinois Reading Council International Projects
NIU Steam
Tinley Park Public Library

Concessions will be located outside of the cafeteria.

Thank You to our Volunteers

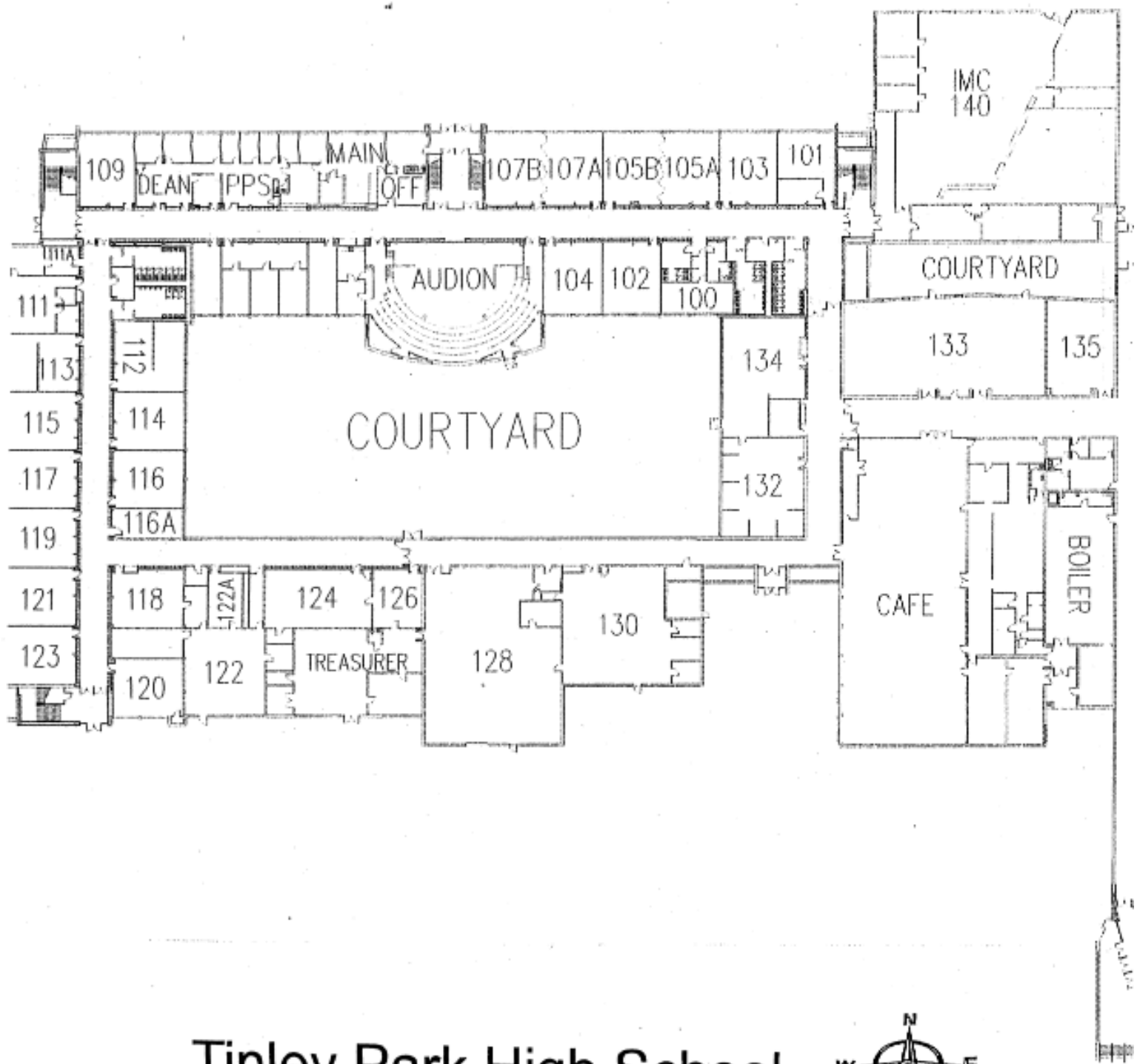
Kevin Daugherty
Karen Kortkamp
Cindi Koudelka
Bonnie Matheis
Roxanne Owens
Sheila Ruh
Carrie Sheridan
Tammy Potts
Adam Pries and his 2nd hour Graphic Design Class
Tinley Park High School Book Club
Tinley Park High School Junior Leadership
Tinley Park High School National Honor Society
Katie Udstuen
Renee Yunker

Thank You to our Sponsors

Anderson's Bookshops
Blueberry Hill Cafe
Bremen High School District 228
Bremen High School Superintendent Brad J. Sikora
Central Illinois Reading Council
Fox Valley Reading Council
The Honorable Alexi Giannoulis, Illinois Secretary of State's Office
Robyn Greenfield with Advertising Solutions
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom
Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education
Illinois Reading Council
NIU STEM
Tammy Potts
Prairie Area Reading Council
RFD Radio Network
Secondary Reading League
South Cook ISC
Southern Illinois Reading Council
Starved Rock Reading Council
Tinley Park High School
Tinley Park Public Library



ILLINOIS READS
A READING STATE OF MIND



Tinley Park High School
1st Floor