

I have a question –

Community Engagement Session #3

Hoffman Estates High School • Monday, April 4, 2016

The following are questions, with answers provided, that were asked by individuals completing the “I have a question –” form at tables during the Community Engagement Session.

How is the district going about finding internships?

District 211 networks with local businesses through local chambers of commerce, connections from career treks, career fairs and informal networking. Any company interested in a high school intern can contact Jan Brottman, District 211 Internship Coordinator at jbrottman@d211.org.

Has the district started to think about the potential elimination of football? Would that ever happen? If yes, sports are important to boys. What and where would those boys/athletes end up? A number of sports have limits on numbers of participants. Are the schools losing kids (their being involved) when they are cut from teams. I guess I am concerned about the lack of sport spots for everyone that wants to play – especially with the booming of travel sports (soccer, baseball, basketball). I am sure this is true for girls too?

At this time, High School District 211 and the Illinois High School Association do not anticipate the elimination of high school football. Rather, both agencies strive to provide our coaches, students, and parents with information necessary for participation in football.

Additionally, High School District 211 offers 29 (14 female, 14 male, 1 coed) athletic programs at each of our schools. Participation numbers have remained steady the past two years with approximately 8,000 participants spanning three seasons. Even though some of the sports are “cut” sports, making it difficult for some students, many of our programs do not reduce participation via tryouts. For example, boys and girls track and field, wrestling, boys and girls cross-country, football, boys and girls swimming and diving, and boys and girls gymnastics are a few of our sports that do not “cut.”

Although the business of travel sports has become more prevalent in our community, High School District 211 remains committed to offering an extensive, rich and diverse co-curricular program to our students.

Why isn't it stressed to take a Music and Arts Class? Why do counselors tell students they aren't able to take a music and arts class? Why do counselors steer towards foreign language rather than Music and Arts class? I understand we are very focused on the future and you (District) want us to achieve our goals, but why don't we rather

focus on educating us first?

Students' elective course selections are influenced by multiple factors, including students' personal interests, past experiences, required graduation credits, and individualized post-high school plans. School counselors work with students and their parents to balance these factors as students choose between different course options. In preparation for the 2016-2017 school year, nearly 5,000 students have requested to take Music and Art courses. Approximately 6,500 students have requested to take World Language courses.

Why does each HS have different ways to organize their student services dept.? For example, Conant has the red, blue and white teams that interact closely with students. HEHS doesn't work that closely with their students.

Each school has organized its student services personnel into teams composed of counselors, social workers, psychologists, and administrators. Additional staff members participate when appropriate. Some schools, such as Conant High School, have created physical spaces to house these team members in close proximity to one another. Although some schools' floor plans do not accommodate the close proximity of team members, those schools' student services teams support students using the same comprehensive team model.

Why doesn't the district have a grade expectation for students in performing arts: example (school) plays, band in comparison to athletic teams.

Students involved in athletics and competitive activities adhere to the Illinois High School Association academic eligibility standards, which requires them to be passing five classes each week. Currently, we do not require District 211 students who are involved in performing arts to adhere to the same academic requirements, but it is certainly something worth exploring for future consideration.