



# NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • December 2020

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

## A time to pause ...

As we approach the holiday season, I ask that you join me in taking a moment to pause, reflect, and embrace the positive. I want to thank our staff members for their hard work, and preparation to implement creative learning and extracurricular connections for our students. To our students and parents, we could not keep moving forward without your understanding and support during our transitions to and from different learning scenarios. Thank you for your flexibility. Shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday, parents will be asked to consider if they wish to make a change in their child's status as an in-person or remote-only student for the new semester which begins on January 7. You will receive these details in early December.

While we all know that our best work is done in a traditional setting with our students and staff together in school, it is important for us to do our part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 within our communities. Please continue to work together as a community and be vigilant about wearing a face mask, observing social-distancing rules, and refraining from gathering in large groups. You can review these safety guidelines on the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health websites.

I am hopeful that our Thanksgiving break will energize

– continued on back –

## Use *Curriculum Guide* for 2021-2022 course selection

Course selection for the 2021-2022 school year is approaching quickly. For current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, course selection will be conducted throughout the month of December. Incoming freshmen will be submitting elective course requests in mid-December.

The *Curriculum Guide* is one resource that is available for reviewing courses prior to registration. It describes courses offered during the current school year as well as information regarding academic standards, college admission criteria, and District 211 graduation requirements. A copy of the *Curriculum Guide*, complete with up-to-date revisions, is available at all times to all students and parents by accessing it on the District 211 website at: <https://adc.d211.org/Page/3718>. *Curriculum Guides* also are available upon request for current students at the Student Services office in their high school. Eighth grade students (incoming freshmen in fall 2021) will receive District

211 *Curriculum Guides* at their junior high schools.

Some courses are required to assure that each student receives an essential, well-rounded education. However, there are many credits needed for graduation that are elective. Students may benefit from reviewing their elective course choices for alignment with potential college majors and career clusters by visiting the District 211 website devoted to this topic at: <http://www.d211careercluster.org/>. Thoughtful planning and wise decision-making can help students match their high school coursework and experiences with their college or career goals.

Course selection is a collaborative effort by students, parents, and counselors. Parents are encouraged to review curricular offerings with their children to identify courses that will meet each student's individual study plan. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor.

## D211 Equity Team update

The District 211 Equity Team, formed earlier this year to help ensure that the District's decisions, policies, and practices are culturally sensitive and provide all students with access, opportunity, support, and resources, continues to meet as a full team and in committees each month to make progress toward a recommended District 211 Equity Plan. Each committee has identified key stakeholders that need to be engaged as part of the responsibility to include and affirm the voices of students, staff, and families from the District 211 community. While each committee has a specific area

of focus, each committee identified similar groups of stakeholders and a similar process for engaging them.

As the details are finalized from *Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement*, the Team moves toward *Phase 2: Research and Community Input*. At the November Equity Team meeting, each subcommittee provided information regarding their proposed plan for stakeholder engagement.

Additional information on the D211 Equity Team is available on the District website at: <https://adc.d211.org/domain/4922>.

## District 211 *Policy Manual* available for review

The High School District 211 Board of Education *Policy Manual*, which contains policies established by the Board, is available for review. It can be reviewed in-person during regular business hours at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center (1750 South Roselle Road in Palatine) or online at any time on the District 211 website (<https://adc.d211.org>). People interested in reviewing the *Policy Manual* in-person should telephone **Kathe Lingl**, assistant to the superintendent, at 847-755-6620 to schedule an appointment.

## Did you know ...

Students' final grades will be based upon achievement and performance in class, as well as on assignments and other exams throughout the semester. See details on the course syllabus in Schoology.

## A time to pause ...

– continued from front –

students and staff to finish first semester on a positive note and head into winter break excited for what the new year will bring. Our holidays will look different this year; however, I am confident that we all will find a way to safely enjoy connections with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we navigate this unique school year together.

Sincerely,



Lisa Small  
Superintendent

## Dates to Remember

- November 25** Non-Attendance Day  
— No School
- November 26** Thanksgiving Day —  
No School
- November 27** Thanksgiving  
Holiday — No School
- December 10** Board of Education  
meeting (6:30 p.m.  
Closed Session,  
7:30 p.m. Open  
Session; G.A. McElroy  
Administration  
Center)
- December 18** Teacher Institute —  
No Classes; End of  
1st Semester; Winter  
Vacation begins at  
close of school
- January 5** Teacher Institute Day  
— No Classes
- January 6** Teacher Institute Day  
— No Classes
- January 7** First Day of Classes  
2nd Semester

**Note:** Board meeting dates may be changed by vote of the Board of Education.



If you require assistance while visiting the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, please contact Matthew Hildebrand, director of administrative services, at 847-755-6626.

For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, please access the following TTD/TTY telephone number at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center: 847-755-6654.

## National Merit semifinalists named

High School District 211 announces that 30 students have been named 2020 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Semifinalists are selected based on scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (P.S.A.T./N.M.S.Q.T.), given to more than one million students nationally.

Students must meet additional requirements to become National Merit finalists. In the spring, nearly 6,500 merit scholarships will be awarded nationally.

William Fremd High School students Nathan A. Arango, Ysabelle F. Buenavista, Cara A. Chang, Stella J. Chung, Gabriel K. Classon, Joshua P. Corrigan, Manas P.

Gandhi, Natalia M. Gorecki, Allison Y. Kao, Anshul Kaushik, Sravya Konasani, Ethan Lin, Michelle Liu, Angela Ma, Mahima Malhotra, Gavin K. McCarthy, Gwendolyn R. Nicketta, David D. Phillips, Jessica W. Rao, Sufiya M. Shazia, Rachel Ye, Angelina J. Zheng, and William Zhong have been named semifinalists.

Nicholas K. Chen, Martin G. Ferris, Rei Komura, Sanjana Rajesh, and Matthew Schmitt from James B. Conant High School have been named semifinalists.

MaryEtta M. Brigham from Palatine High School and Mia L. Vollkommer from Schaumburg High School have been named semifinalists.

## Federal grant funds benefit students

Again this year, High School District 211 was awarded grant funding from the Illinois State Board of Education and the federal “Every Student Succeeds Act” Consolidated Grant Program.

Funds received through the federal program – which includes Title I, II, III, and IV Grants – are used to support a variety of school initiatives. The Title I Grant is targeted at strengthening reading and mathematics performance and looks to form partnerships with parents to design the best program possible. The goal of Title I is to provide supplementary academic assistance to that already available in the school, including additional teacher assistants, specialized student resource centers, and enhanced access to technology. The Title III Grant supports English language education for students who are not native English speakers, but who are working to acquire fluency in reading,

writing, and speaking.

Title I and II Grants fund professional development activities, including faculty attendance at local in-service seminars on such topics as content area reading skills, development of professional learning communities, and curriculum alignment. Title I, II, III, and IV Grants enhance assessments and supports to increase student achievement. Assessments help teachers target instruction to the specific needs of their classes. This data also enables teachers to provide timely interventions to students who require extra help in mastering standards.

Grant funding also has been awarded to District 211 to provide assistance to students with special needs, assist those engaged in vocational coursework, purchase books and software for school Media Centers, and provide resources that homeless students need to enable their full participation in school.

## District 211 complies with AHERA law

High School District 211 complies with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), a federal law which requires school districts to inspect for asbestos-containing building material and file management plans with a designated state agency.

Inspections have not disclosed any asbestos-containing building material needing immediate attention.

Persons may review District 211’s inspection reports as well as management plans weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, 1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine.

To make an appointment to review materials or for more information about AHERA, please contact **John Pahlman**, director of facilities & business services, at 847-755-6792.



“Township High School District 211 serves the educational needs of the community inspiring all students to successfully contribute to the world.”

Adopted by the Board of Education; August 18, 2016

### TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211

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Lisa Small, Superintendent

Website: [adc.d211.org](http://adc.d211.org)



The Superintendent’s Newsletter is published every 6 weeks throughout the school year for persons interested in James B. Conant, William Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools and Higgins Education Center and North Campus alternative schools.

