

[En Espanol](#)

January 6, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

Happy 2022! I hope you are enjoying a wonderful winter break. As we look forward to the return of students on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, below is information regarding the second semester. District 211 continues to prioritize in-person learning while keeping a safe and healthy learning environment. Thank you for your continued diligence in following our safety protocols to keep our schools operating as expected.

COVID-19 Reminders

Students exhibiting any of the COVID-19-related symptoms should remain home and parents should call the school's attendance office to report the absence. The school's Health Services staff will contact parents for more information and next steps for testing, return to school, etc. Tutoring will be scheduled as needed. District 211 continues to follow guidance from the Cook County Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Board of Education regarding COVID-19 symptoms and contact.

Current COVID-19 symptoms include fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

The Executive Order from Illinois Governor Pritzker requires masks for all students, employees and visitors while inside all pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade school buildings. Mask wearing is required regardless of vaccination status. Masks are available for those who forget a mask, and we have specific masks for students in activities such as band. Masks are not required outdoors. Per a Centers for Disease Control mandate, all individuals must wear masks on school buses and any other school-related transportation. Parents or guardians should contact the Student Services Department if their child has a medical concern regarding mask wearing.

District 211 continues to offer two optional COVID-19 tests to all students. Abbott BinaxNOW test and SHIELD Illinois PCR test are available at no cost to students. Both free COVID-19 tests require parent/guardian consent to administer to

students. Tests are available weekly, or as needed should symptoms occur. More information can be found at: <https://adc.d211.org/COVID-Testing-Info>. District 211 offers a drive thru SHIELD Illinois PCR test Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the District 211 Administration Center. The drive thru will open again on Monday, January 10.

Local health department information for vaccinations can be found at: <https://adc.d211.org/Vaccination-Info>. Currently, the COVID-19 vaccination is not required by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

District 211 continues to provide information regarding COVID-related cases within our schools via the District 211 COVID dashboard at: <https://adc.d211.org/COVID-Dashboard>.

State Testing on April 13 and 14, 2022

The Illinois State Board of Education has finalized the window for state testing. Wednesday, April 13 will be the SAT testing date for juniors. Thursday, April 14 will be the testing day for freshmen (PSAT 9) and sophomores (PSAT 10). There will be no classes held for other grades on those two testing days, as rooms and staff are needed for testing. More information will be forthcoming as the dates draw near. We encourage junior students to take advantage of our school-based SAT preparation options. Dates and times for preparation sessions will be communicated by your school.

Student Mental Health Days

As a part of new State legislation that is effective second semester, students may take up to five absences for mental health reasons. These absences will be fully excused and doctor notes are not required. However, parents must report and excuse the absence as they would any other student absence. Students will be able to make up missed work and reschedule assignments as with all excused absences. Following the second mental health day taken by a student, regardless of the amount of time that has passed, student services staff will reach out to ensure the student is supported and has proper resources to succeed. Harper College has indicated for this school year, neither the mental health days nor COVID isolation/quarantine days will be counted against a student for their Harper Promise Scholarship attendance requirement. Reminders regarding the Harper Promise Scholarship Program can be found at: <https://adc.d211.org/Harper-College-Promise-Scholarship>

Summer and Future School Year Calendars

The most up-to-date calendars as approved by the Board of Education for summer school and future school years can be found at: <https://adc.d211.org/School-Calendars>

We are grateful for your continued diligence and support. While some things look different than they used to, we are so proud of our staff and students and all they have accomplished. Working together, we have achieved great things with a renewed spirit, and there is much to look forward to this semester – from the creation of our District 211 Strategic Plan, which offers feedback opportunities from our community, to the creativity of our staff and students in developing increased opportunities for equity and physical, social and emotional wellness in our buildings.

Thank you for being part of our District 211 learning community!

Sincerely,

Lisa Small, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Know of someone seeking employment in District 211? We are hiring teacher assistants, bus drivers, substitute teachers, custodians, student supervisors and other positions for second semester. Additional information can be found at: <https://adc.d211.org/Employment>.