



October 2021

### Dates to Remember:

#### September 25

Homecoming Dance  
7:30 p.m.

#### September 28

Directions College & Career Fair  
(SPED College & Career Night)  
Forest View Educational Center,  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

#### September 29

Financial Aid Night  
6:30 p.m.

#### October 5

Early Dismissal – 11:50 a.m.

College Night  
Palatine High School,  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

#### October 7

Latino Parent Meeting  
HEHS, 6:00 p.m.

#### October 11

No School – Columbus Day

#### October 12

No School – Teacher Institute Day

#### October 16

Incoming Freshman Testing  
HEHS, 8:00 a.m.

#### October 21

Marching Band Concert  
Main Gym, 7:30 p.m.

#### October 22

ELS Fall Fest  
HEHS, 6:00 p.m.

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL: MIKE ALTHER

#### From The Principal

The start of the 2021-2022 school year has been a success. We welcomed our newest Hawks while reconnecting with our existing Hawks on August 12th. The excitement and energy our students brought to the building is a cornerstone to the types of academic, extracurricular and social experiences we want for all students. We also had the opportunity to connect with many of you on September 2nd during our Open House Event. Our partnership and collaboration are necessary to reach our collective goals. We believe that parent involvement is instrumental in student success and we desire to communicate and connect with you on a regular basis. In my previous newsletter, I offered ways in which you can stay informed and connected to your student's progress and they included:

Tip #1: Make time to talk about school -  
Tip #2: Communicate with our teachers, counselors, coaches, and sponsors -  
Tip #3: Stay updated with current attendance and grade information through our student information system called Infinite Campus -  
Tip #4: Connect to your student's course Schoology pages -  
Tip #5: Attend as many school events as you can!

In our partnership towards your student's success in meeting their high school goals, I would like to introduce and/or remind you of an important tool in tracking your student's progress. The District 211 Student Readiness Plan is designed to help students prepare for high school graduation and their lives as independent young adults. The Readiness Plan focuses on five essential readiness components:

- Academic Readiness
- College & Career Exploration
- Involvement
- Global Competitive Skills
- Wellness

All Hoffman Estates High School students are assigned an account within the District 211 Student Readiness Plan online portal providing them with a centralized hub to create individualized goals, measure progress, and track activity throughout their high school experience. Parents have access to view their child's Readiness Plan and are encouraged to have discussions with their child about goals and overall status. More information, including login instructions, is available at <https://adc.d211.org/domain/73>.

As a learning community we will work to foster the following in support of all students:

*Building a culture and climate of student connection and involvement*  
*Supporting student social-emotional wellness*  
*Increasing student academic growth*  
*Ensuring college/career readiness for all students*

We look forward to our collaborative effort in supporting all Hawks!

Sincerely,

Mike Alther  
Principal



If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the principal's office at (847) 755-5600.

### October 23

Cupcakes with Friends  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### October 26

Student Late Start – 8:50 a.m.

### October 28

Community Halloween Event  
HEHS, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **ERIKA'S LIGHTHOUSE**

Throughout the year, the Hoffman Estates Student Services and Wellness Departments will be promoting mental health awareness through Erika's Lighthouse programming. The month of September is Suicide Awareness and Prevention month. There will be several activities and that promote messages of hope and provide students with access to resources to find help with mental health.

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## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:**

### **HAWKS NEST**

The Hawks' Nest is a resource available to Hoffman students and families that are in need. The Hawks' Nest has received donations of food, hygiene products, household products, clothing, as well as monetary donations and school related supplies. The Hawks' Nest also serves as a food pantry, and families in need are welcome to access the food pantry at Hoffman Estates High School. All referrals remain confidential. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Nieft, Andres Acosta, or Maggie King, Social Workers, in the Student Services Department at (847) 755-5630.

## **College and Career Updates:** **FAFSA Graduation Requirement:**

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, all Illinois public high school students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, as eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, as a prerequisite to earn a high school diploma. The FAFSA application window opens annual on October 1st for the graduating class. To support the Class of 2022 and their parents in completing the FAFSA, Hoffman Estates High School will host an informational session on Wednesday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m.

## **General Information:** **FreshMentors & Foundations:**

FreshMentors are junior and senior students who are responsible individuals identified as having leadership skills, effective communication skills, and a commitment to helping others. The goal of this program is to provide support and structure to freshmen throughout their first year of high school. Our FreshMentors also serve as mentors to freshmen within the Freshmen Foundation classes. The FreshMentors work with their freshmen to help them acclimate to life at HEHS, get involved at school and encourage them to practice good study habits. FreshMentors also participate in new student/transfer student orientation events, Parent Open House, 8th Grade Parent Night and Bridging the Gap.

## **Freshmen Kick-Off:**

The 14th annual Freshmen Kick-Off was held at HEHS on Friday, August 6th. Approximately 200 freshmen attended the Kick-Off. Freshmen students located their classes and navigated the building as they would on the first day of school with guided tours. M&P Presentations spoke in the main gym about how to make the most of high school by stepping out of one's comfort zone and getting involved in school. Our parent organization, Hoffman Estates Loyal Partners (H.E.L.P.), also hosted two parent kick-off sessions on Thursday, August 5th and Friday, August 6th. This allowed current parents to share their experiences as to what it is like to be a high school parent with parents of the Class of 2025.

## **Latino Parent Meetings**

### **October 7th at 6:00 p.m.**

Academic Refusal: A social worker will help students and parents understand the underlying causes of adolescent school refusal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through testimonials of students, parents, and educators, the social worker will help identify solutions that will benefit all attendees.

### **November 4th at 6:00 p.m.**

Career/College Fair: Are you interested in exploring careers, college majors, or four-year colleges? Please attend this evening program to speak with Harper College and local four-year university representatives. In addition, Mrs. Paula Waterman – the HEHS Career Advisor – will provide information on career treks, apprenticeships, and summer internship opportunities.

### **December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.**

Emotional Wellness: Depression and Anxiety in Adolescents: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in adolescents who suffer from anxiety and depression. A mental health professional will help attendees identify signs and symptoms, coping strategies, and provide a list of resources in the community.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**Directions College & Career Fair**  
*(Special Education College and Career Night)*  
Forest View Education Center  
Tuesday, September 28  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Financial Aid Night**  
Wednesday, September 29  
6:30 p.m. @ HEHS

**D211 College Night**  
*(student early dismissal; 11:50 a.m.)*  
Palatine High School  
Tuesday, October 5  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Latino Parent Meeting**  
Thursday, October 7  
6:00 p.m. @ HEHS

**Teacher Institute Day**  
Tuesday, October 12  
No Classes

**Incoming Freshman Testing**  
Saturday, October 16  
8:00 a.m. @ HEHS

**Parent-Principal Advisory Board**  
Wednesday, October 20  
6:30 p.m. @ HEHS

**Marching Band Concert**  
Thursday, October 21  
7:30 p.m. @ HEHS

**ELS Fall Fest**  
Friday, October 22  
6:00 p.m. @ HEHS

**Cupcakes with Friends**  
Saturday, October 23  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. @ HEHS  
*\*This may be an outside event depending upon COVID mitigations*

**Student Late Start**  
October 26  
8:50 a.m.

**Community Halloween Event**  
Thursday, October 28  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. @ HEHS  
*\*This will be an outside event only*

**Fall Sports Awards Night**  
Tuesday, November 2  
7:00 p.m. @ HEHS

# Principal's SPOTLIGHT

## District 211 Student Readiness Plan

The District 211 Student Readiness Plan is an online tool that provides every Hoffman Estates High School student a place to track performance throughout his or her four years. The Readiness Plan focuses on five components of readiness. These components include Academic Readiness, College & Career Exploration, Student Involvement, Global Competitive Skills, and Wellness. Within each component, students can assess their current performance against established District 211 grade-specific benchmarks. The benchmarks are aligned with current research and recognized college and career readiness indicators. Students are also able to set personal goals that exceed District 211 benchmarks in each component. The table below presents an overview of the plan, including descriptions of each component and how your student can achieve a 100% completion rate on the component. \*

Component	Description	How to Achieve 100% Completion
<b>Academic Readiness</b>	Academic Readiness captures traditional measures of student performance in school such as grades and credits earned. Students can track their status relative to unweighted grade point average (GPA), weighted GPA, early college credits, standardized test scores, and high school credits earned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Earn an unweighted GPA of 2.8 or higher</li> <li>B. Earn at least 15 early college credits throughout high school</li> <li>C. Meet or exceed college readiness benchmarks on the SAT Suite</li> <li>D. Earn a minimum of 5 credits each year of high school</li> </ul>
<b>College &amp; Career Exploration</b>	Exploring and identifying post-high school options is a critical part of planning for life after high school. Within this component, students take account of their interests, document research findings, and track participation in events and activities that help build their awareness of the processes related to their selected pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Complete the Career Cruising online activity tool.</li> <li>B. Indicate careers of interest based on Career Cruising results.</li> <li>C. Participate in post-high school planning with your counselor</li> <li>D. Attend D211 College Night</li> <li>E. Experience a Career Trek or Internship</li> <li>F. Complete the FAFSA during your senior year</li> </ul>
<b>Student Involvement</b>	District 211 recognizes that students who are involved in at least one school club/activity or sport are more likely to experience success. Additionally, we also recognize that student involvement extends into the local community through experiences such as volunteering and part-time employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Students must actively participate in at least two student involvement opportunities</li> <li>B. One of the opportunities must be a school-based club/activity or athletic team.</li> </ul>
<b>Global Competitive Skills</b>	While in school, students develop many skills beyond the traditional academic abilities stressed in English, science, and mathematics coursework. These other skills are often referred to as Global Competitive Skills and consist of workplace readiness skills such as attitude and professionalism, work ethic and initiative, communication, teamwork, problem-solving and adaptability, timeliness, and digital literacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Students will complete skills assessments for each Global Competitive Skill.</li> <li>B. Student score benchmarks are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshman: 70%</li> <li>Sophomore: 75%</li> <li>Junior: 80%</li> <li>Senior: 90%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Wellness</b>	Physical health and social-emotional well-being is essential for achieving success in school and preparing for life after high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Personal wellness assessment</li> <li>B. Suicide awareness/prevention activity</li> <li>C. School attendance</li> <li>D. Fitnessgram assessments</li> </ul>

\*This table is intended to be a summary and does not include all information or performance standards. For a full understanding, students and parents should access and review individual student plans at [www.d211studentreadiness.org](http://www.d211studentreadiness.org).