

Please do not reply to this email

Dear Parents and Students:

The beginning of any school year is filled with a range of emotions for students, parents and educators. I truly understand that the change in the daily schedule and absence of in-person school connections at the start of the year is not what we want for our students and is unsettling at best for many students and parents. We all value the education our students receive when in our schools, and we want our students to have some sense of normalcy. Equally important, we want our students to progress through this school year having learned what they need to be prepared for their futures. District 211, as always, will continue to ensure students are learning the academics they need in order to prepare for their next set of courses in high school, to explore and develop career skills, and to prepare for post-high school destinations. As with much in our world, it will look and feel different, but the core educational components that keep our students successful are still engrained in our courses.

The information and tools below will help everyone in transitioning to this school year. There will be additional information forthcoming next week as we continue to partner with families for the start of the school year.

Students Returning to School

Although the school year will not begin with large numbers of students present (50%), we anticipate bringing small groups onto our school campuses and increasing that number while keeping all safety protocols in place as required by the Illinois State Board of Education (I.S.B.E.) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (I.D.P.H). Ideally, this will begin at the end of August and into September. These smaller numbers allow us to ensure that students and staff remain six feet apart in our schools. Parents and students will be notified when opportunities exist for this to occur. In-person opportunities could include academic support, limited athletics, activities, lab experiences or tutoring rooms. With a slow roll-in of students, the implementation of safety can be ensured, and we can build toward having more students in school. All of these plans are based on the allowance by the I.D.P.H. and the I.S.B.E for implementing their most current guidelines. Parents may still choose to have their children learn and connect remotely to school and to other experiences.

Student Expectations

The experience this fall is *NOT* the same experience students had during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. When classes begin on August 13, students must use *Zoom* links provided by their teachers to join their classes at the scheduled time. In general, students are expected to have their camera on and to be participating in class. Teachers will take attendance each period and parents can verify their child's attendance record via [*Infinite Campus*](#). If a student is marked present, this indicates the student participated as expected for the entire class.

Curriculum During a Remote or Hybrid School Scenario

Each individual course being taught in a District 211 school includes a rigorous and relevant curriculum defined by Critical Learning Standards. The curriculum has been designed and is updated regularly to ensure that our Critical Learning Standards are aligned with state and national standards, represent the most current research in each field of study, and fully prepare our students to succeed after high school. Our curriculum is designed for a full in-person model of instruction over a school year. As we begin the 2020-2021 school year, we want to ensure that our curriculum is translated for both a Remote and Hybrid model of instruction. The criteria include the following: which standards will provide students with essential knowledge, concepts and skills needed for the next course/level; which standards provide crossover application with other content areas; which standards are needed for post-high school careers; and which standards are critical for both early and future college credit. This work is accomplished collaboratively with teams of experienced teachers, department chairs and administrators.

These criteria, and the subsequent analysis of our course Critical Learning Standards, will allow our teachers to continue to provide a quality, comprehensive curriculum in each course. While the method of delivery and instructional experience is different from our traditional classroom model, we remain committed to providing excellent teaching in order to prepare our students for life after high school.

Four Periods per Day, Plus Academic Support

The traditional 8-period school day will be spread across two days, the A-Day and the B-Day. The 2-day block schedule, with four one-hour periods per day, allows for the critical content to be covered. Each afternoon, a 90-minute block of time is dedicated to academic support allowing students to focus attention on the specific classes in which they need extra support. Parents can help students sign up for extra support which will become available beginning August 24, the second full week of school. More information will be provided to students and parents prior to the start date to fully understand how to ensure students are connecting to academic support for their needs.

Infinite Campus

Parents and students use [Infinite Campus](#) to see their daily class schedules, find *Zoom* links, check grades and view daily attendance.

Schoology

Teachers manage student and parent access to the class *Schoology* account. Specific account information will be sent to parents and students within the first few days of school via email. *Schoology* has class expectations and class assignments will be posted for both students and parents to see.

Zoom Links for Connecting Remotely to Classes

Teachers will establish *Zoom* links during the days preceding the first day of classes. Students should check their class schedule in [Infinite Campus](#) to find these *Zoom* links. Additionally, teachers will post their *Zoom* links on each course's *Schoology* page. *Zoom* links are the way students connect to the teacher in each class, and each class will have a separate *Zoom* link.

Student Email

Students are expected to check their District 211 email each school day.

If you would like to learn more about how to use Infinite Campus, Schoology, Zoom, or student email, please go to [2020-2021 School Year Student-Parent Resources](#) for video tutorials.

Daily Class Schedules Available

Tentative 2020-2021 class schedules are currently available in [Infinite Campus](#).

Changes to Students' Daily Class Schedules

All students must consult with a school counselor to discuss requests for changes to their daily class schedule. Counselors are available and can be reached by contacting the student services office at the student's school. All requests are reviewed for alignment with the individual student's academic needs, class size limits, availability of seats within sections of a course, and balance of student groupings under the Hybrid Scenario. Requests for changes based on convenience will not be honored. Additionally, students may not freely replace the study hall period representing their Traditional School Scenario lunch assignment with another course.

Student Meals

During Remote learning, meal service will be available to all District 211 students via bus deliveries. Breakfast and lunch meals will be included in each meal bag. If

students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, meal bags are free of charge. If you would like to purchase meals, a 5-day meal bag is available for \$21.00 and can be paid by adding funds to your lunch account at [MySchoolBucks](#). To sign up for a weekly meal delivery, please complete [this form](#) or visit the [Food & Nutrition Services webpage](#) for additional details. Additional information pertaining to weekly meal bag delivery day will be sent the week of August 10 to individual families that sign up for delivery service.

On Wednesday, August 12, curbside meal pick-up will be available at all District 211 schools from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to provide meals prior to the start of meal deliveries. Consistent with weekly meal bag deliveries detailed above, if students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, meal bags are free of charge, otherwise each 5-day meal bag is \$21.00. Please bring either a student ID, student schedule, or proof of student registration to pick up meals. Details on the curb-side meal bag pick-up can be found [here](#).

Parents Who Received a Late Email on Tuesday

There was a communication for parents and students that was received on Monday evening by some parents and on Tuesday by many more parents. I apologize to those whose email was delayed, as we had trouble with a service provider. It was not intended for students to have information that parents did not have, and I understand the position in which that puts a parent. The issue has been resolved. Please continue to visit the District 211 [Back to School August 2020](#) webpage to find copies of all communications about the start of the 2020-2021 school year, as well as updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

We will continue to reach out with future communications about important school starting information. Also, if you have not registered your child for the 2020-2021 school year, you need to do so immediately. Information about registration is available [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and for partnering with us during this transition to the school year. Through the beginning of the school year, students will be reminded about expectations and time commitments described above that they must make for each class, but it is important for all to be aware ahead of time. Communications will continue to be forthcoming from both me and your principal.

Sincerely,

Lisa Small
Superintendent

You received this electronic communication because you provided your email address to High School District 211. Changes or updates to your email address can be made using [Infinite Campus](#). If you have questions regarding any of the information contained within this email, please call the high school for assistance with your concern.

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