



# NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • November 2019

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

## Transition to next superintendent

I am pleased and proud that the Board of Education has appointed Dr. Lisa Small as the next superintendent of schools in District 211. Throughout her 27 years in District 211, Dr. Small has been a highly respected leader in every role she has served. As an excellent teacher and coach, as an exceptional administrator and principal, and for the past five years as a highly successful associate superintendent, Dr. Small's leadership and many contributions have had a tremendous impact in District 211, and I am certain that our students, parents and staff members will benefit from her years as superintendent.

Because these transitions are both rare and important, I want to use this newsletter to develop understanding as to this process and sequence for the changeover. Throughout our many years in District 211, Dr. Small and I have shared a similar career path. More importantly, we share the same dedicated commitment to the students and countless people who care deeply about the mission and identity of District 211. Years ago, we served together at the Administration Center under a previous superintendent, and since 2008, we have worked together as members of the District's administrative leadership team. Upon becoming superintendent, my first appointment was to make Dr. Small an associate superintendent, and her influence and accomplishments have been exceptional. Dr. Small and I will continue to work closely throughout the remainder of the current school year to ensure a seamless transition.

For the past five years, we centered our academic priorities on more students experiencing more rigor with the objective of more students earning more college credit before leaving high school. Drawing upon teachers and local industry leaders, we provide every student with a head start toward a career pathway. We have worked

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## National Merit semifinalists named

High School District 211 announces that 36 students have been named 2019 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 Ishika Awachat, Ella J. Burns, Cindy Cai, Sagnik Chakraborty, Justin Chang, Alice Chen, Anmol B. Desai, Thomas N. Filipiuk, Sophia Ji, Nithika

Karthikeyan, Emma R. Katovich, Andrew W. Kim, Matthew J. Kim, Varsha S. Krishnan, Sofia R. Oliver, Eileen Peng, Aditya Prathap, Jack T. Riemer, Ethan Schillinger, Andrew Son, Nikhil Sriram, Ayushi Tripathi, Nipun Velupally, Kaitlin R. Wong, Sharon Wu, Andrew Z. Yin, and Kylie Zhang have been named semifinalists.

Sohail Ahmed, Samantha Ernst, Andrew I. Milas, Riya G. Patel, and Elizabeth L. Zhang from James B. Conant High School have been named semifinalists.

The semifinalists from Hoffman Estates High School are Gwenevere M. Madsen, Inka J. Rzezinowska, Parita M. Shah, and Ashish M. Subramanian.

## Use Curriculum Guide for 2020-2021 course selection

Course selection for the 2020-2021 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

2020) will receive District 211 *Curriculum Guides* at their junior high schools.

Several 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.

## Guidelines for senior final examinations

High School District 211 allows seniors who meet established criteria to apply for exemptions from final examinations during their last semester of attendance.

To qualify, the senior student must have at least the following: a "C" average in the course; have less than six absences from class; have never been truant from the class; have never been suspended from the class; and have no incomplete assignments required by the teacher. Seniors who qualify for exemptions can elect to

take final examinations to improve grades.

Seniors planning to graduate in December and who either are not exempt or who wish to take their finals will be tested on December 18, 19, and 20, 2019. Seniors scheduled to graduate in May and who either are not exempt from finals or who wish to take their finals will be administered exams on May 20, 21, and 22, 2020.

Additional information will be given to seniors at the beginning of second semester.

**Did you know ...**

The High School District 211 Class of 2019 earned 37,865 early college credits (early college credits reflect scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on Advanced Placement exams or passing dual credit courses).

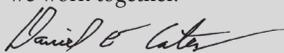
## Transition ...

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closely with Harper College to expand dual credit courses significantly. Our transition programs and services for students with special needs have been recognized and rewarded by the State for helping large percentages of students secure opportunities after leaving District 211. Every student has an individual readiness plan available for parents to review, and it serves as a centerpiece for guidance discussions with counselors. All of this important work for students will continue.

Looking ahead, in addition to hiring a person to serve in her current role overseeing our instructional programming, we are also mindful that Mr. Tim Little will be retiring as principal of Schaumburg High School.

Leadership is critical, and with the appointment of Dr. Lisa Small as the next superintendent, our current course and progress will continue. As we begin the process of selecting several additional new leaders, we know that we all get better when we work together.



Daniel E. Cates  
Superintendent

## Dates to Remember

- November 14** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- November 27** Non-Attendance Day — **No School**
- November 28** Thanksgiving Day — **No School**
- November 29** Thanksgiving Holiday — **No School**
- December 12** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- December 18, 19, 20** 1st Semester Final Exams
- December 20** End of 1st Semester; Winter Vacation begins at close of school
- 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.

## School canine searches

In an effort to discourage students from drug violations, the possession and use of THC vaping pods, and other drug-related distractions, High School District 211 has joined with local law enforcement agencies to use police dogs to search for drugs on school campuses. The use of canine units in District 211 schools is intended to assist in the administration's ongoing efforts to deter students from taking the risk of bringing illegal substances, including THC-infused vaping products, into the school building or on campus, including the student parking lot.

Searches may occur at any time in each of the five high schools at the determination of the administration. In order to create a more visible deterrent, the implementation of canine searches will include multiple searches each semester conducted by a small number of canine search teams from local

police departments offering this community service.

Local police departments and High School District 211 administrators will follow outlined procedures during the canine search, as well as if drugs or drug paraphernalia are found on campus. A school administrator will oversee and coordinate each search taking place on school grounds. Classroom doors will remain closed during the search, and individuals who leave a classroom may be asked to return if a search is being conducted in the immediate area. Every effort will be made to complete a hallway search within 20 minutes after a class period has started. Once a hallway search is complete, the canine unit may search the school parking lot and student locker rooms.

Please contact the principal's office at your school if you have concerns or additional questions.

## Severe cold school closing information

Recent winters have brought periods of extreme cold that have led to school closings. The decision to close school due to cold weather is centered on the priority of maintaining safety for students.

In order to provide clarity and consistency as to when cold weather conditions warrant school closure due to scientifically-based concerns about safety, the District 211 administration consulted with an expert in meteorology, climatology, and weather analysis and another expert in cold weather exposure. Working together, guidelines were developed to define when weather conditions pose a threat to safety. As a result of these consultations, District 211 has worked with administrators from neighboring school districts to establish parameters and guidelines for everyone's access to understand when cold weather

conditions will necessitate an emergency school closure. This information will be communicated to parents as a "**Level Orange**" alert through the District's tiered communications/notifications system (<https://adc.d211.org/Page/6868>).

When the National Weather Service (NWS) declares a "**wind chill warning**" will be in effect, school will be cancelled. When the NWS declares a "**wind chill advisory**" to be in effect, school will be conducted through the establishment of "**Severe Cold Action**" procedures. During a wind chill advisory, classes will be held and actions will be taken to safeguard students and minimize potential exposure to adverse conditions. More information on the District's severe cold response can be found online at <https://adc.d211.org/Severe-Cold-Response-Plans>.

## 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 anytime 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.



"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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Daniel E. Cates, 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.

