



NEWSLETTER

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

A message from the Superintendent ...

The generosity of attention

I have the opportunity for only a few more newsletter messages in my remaining time as superintendent. Looking ahead, I began to chart out the sequence of my columns in January, February, April and May. My thought was that by planning ahead, I could make the most productive sequence of topics. Then, as I was preparing to write this column in mid-December, reality reached out to remind us that each moment – this moment right now – is the one that matters.

In December, we lost a student from one of our schools. We try to imagine and sympathize with the sadness, pain and heartbreak that the student's family, friends, teachers and classmates likely still experience. In continuing to send our heartfelt care, sympathy, and support to each of them, we also commit our attention and energies to the students in our immediate reach.

In talking frequently with students, I commonly ask them which teacher made the difference for them. The best and most important takeaway is that every one of the hundreds of students I have asked has cited a teacher or staff member who has made significant impact. When asked what characteristic about this teacher or staff member makes the difference, students commonly convey that they can sense that their named teacher truly cares about them, that the teacher sees the student's individuality, and that the staff member recognizes that the student is a person navigating and experiencing a life outside a particular class.

We can recognize that many students

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Summer school dates set

Summer school dates have been approved by the Board of Education. The first semester of summer school will begin on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, and will continue through Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Second semester will start on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 and will end on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Summer school classes will not meet on Fridays (June 5, June 12, June 19, June 26, July 3, and July 10).

Summer school is a great opportunity for educational growth and enrichment. Each year, over 11,000 students are enrolled. Courses offer students opportunities to

explore enrichment subjects, develop new interests, or complete required courses for graduation. Please plan your summer school schedule early. Remember, because summer school is a condensed program, daily attendance is mandatory.

Summer school course catalogs will be mailed in early March. Registration for summer classes begins on April 6, 2020 for Conant, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools and on April 8, 2020 for Fremd and Palatine High Schools. Counselors can assist students with the registration process.

Incoming freshmen update

All students entering 9th grade in a District 211 school during fall 2020 are required to take a placement test. On October 19, 2019, the incoming freshman class of 2024 took the PSAT 8/9 test, part of the SAT Suite of Assessments, as the required placement exam. Results of this test allow high schools to learn more about each student's strengths and abilities. Student services directors and junior high school teachers will review test scores and determine academic placement in January. Junior high school teacher recommendations are an essential part of District 211's placement process. This information also may be used as criteria

for placement in special programs, such as accelerated courses or developmental programs. Additionally, recommendations for summer school programs are made as a result of these test scores.

Placement test results and materials for student elective course selection were shared with parents in mid-December. Notification of student course placement will be mailed in mid-February. The deadline for requesting a change in elective course selection is January 31, 2020. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact the student services director at the high school your child will attend in the fall.

Food Service prepayment available online

Parents can take advantage of the convenience of online credit card payment for their child's food service prepayment account. Utilization of the online prepayment system allows parents to better manage their child's food service account and make a deposit into their child's account using Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Online deposits made to your child's account will be available for same-day use within two hours from receipt of payment.

The online prepayment system can be accessed by logging onto <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>. The MySchoolBucks system allows parents to view their child's account balance and purchase history, as well as

set up low-balance alerts and automatic account replenishment. MySchoolBucks can be reached directly at 855-832-5226 for questions about the prepayment system. Parents can request refunds or sibling transfers of account balances by emailing foodservice@d211.org. Refunds must be requested within a year of graduation or transfer from District 211. Refund requests over \$10.00 will be paid by check to the parent and mailed to the home address provided. Refund requests less than \$10 will be paid in cash by the school cashier and must be processed in person. With prior authorization, the refund may be issued to a student. The Food & Nutrition Services department can be reached at 847-755-6681.

Did you know ...

Beginning in March, the United States Census Bureau will invite households across the country to participate in the 2020 Census in order to count every person living in the U.S. 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. Learn more about the 2020 Census and why it's important to participate at <https://2020census.gov>. **Be counted!**

Generosity ...

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– and adults – experience a nearly-constant electronic presence and influence. As we begin a new year and a new semester, we all have an opportunity each day to add a few more moments of undistracted attention, genuine care and recognition of the young people in our presence. The next interaction may be the particular moment that makes the difference.

We all get better when we work together. I am encouraged by a quote attributed to the philosopher Simone Weil: “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.” May this year provide countless opportunities to pay attention and to be generous with each other.



Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent

Dates to Remember

- January 16** Board of Education meeting (6:30 p.m. Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Recognitions/Public Comment; G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- January 20** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — **No School**
- January 21** Student Late Start day
- February 1** GEMS Conference – Girls (5th/6th grade) in Engineering, Mathematics & Science (8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Conant High School)
- February 4** Student Late Start day
- February 13** Board of Education meeting (6:30 p.m. Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Recognitions/Public Comment; G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- February 17** Presidents’ Day — **No School**
- February 18** Student Late Start day
- February 27** District 211 Career Expo (4:30-6:30 p.m., Fremd High School)

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.

Register online for Continuing Education classes

High School District 211 Continuing Education classes begin the week of January 20, 2020. Registration began January 6, 2020. Registration can be completed online by visiting the District 211 website at <https://adc.d211.org>, clicking on “Departments,” then “Adult Continuing Education,” and following the instructions to a secure online registration service. Registration also may be

completed by fax (847-755-6867); by mail; or in person at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, 1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Catalogs with spring course offerings were mailed to area residents in late December, and also are available on the District 211 website. For additional information, please call the Continuing Education office at 847-755-6820.

New students and incoming freshmen need physical exams

State law requires that each incoming freshman submit a physical examination form and record of immunization before registration is complete. Physical exams must be completed by a licensed physician, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner within 12 months prior to the first day of school. The State of Illinois and the Department of Public Health mandate that all school physicals be submitted on a uniform form provided by the school; no other forms may be accepted. Forms completed by chiropractors must be co-signed by a licensed physician, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner. For new students, physical exams should be completed before August registration. Without proof of a physical exam, a student’s schedule will not be issued. An electronic version of the form is available on the District website at: <http://adc.d211.org/domain/3472>.

District 211 Summer Athletic & Competitive Activity Physical Exam Requirements for Participation:

District 211 Summer Camps – Students wishing to participate in summer athletic camps, including poms and color guard, must provide evidence of an appropriate physical exam within the last 13 months. Physicals must be submitted to the school nurse’s office prior to participation.

IHSA Participation (school year) – Students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics, including poms and color guard, must provide evidence of an appropriate physical exam within the last 13 months. Students participating in fall sports must complete their physicals before practice begins on August 10, 2020. Physical exam forms must be submitted to the school nurse’s office prior to participation.

Winter weather warnings ... be prepared!

Because winter weather can be extreme, it is important to become familiar with weather terms used by the National Weather Service (NWS) to ensure that you and your family remain safe during extreme winter weather conditions.

A *winter storm watch* indicates that severe weather, such as heavy snow or ice, is possible. A *winter storm warning* indicates that severe winter weather conditions – such as heavy snow, ice storms, or blizzards – are occurring, imminent, or highly likely. A *winter weather advisory* indicates that winter weather conditions will cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. Examples of winter weather advisories are *snow advisories*, *wind*

chill advisories, *freezing rain/sleet advisories*, and *blowing/drifted snow advisories*.

When the National Weather Service (NWS) declares that 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, school will be in session 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>.



“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

1750 S. Roselle Road • Palatine, Illinois 60067-7336 • Telephone: 847-755-6600
Daniel E. Cates, Superintendent

Website: 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.

