



# NEWSLETTER

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

## Did you know ...

The first day of class for the 2020-2021 school year is **Thursday, August 13, 2020**. Information about Back-to-School August 2020 is available on the District website at <https://adc.d211.org/Page/7816>.

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

### Continuing excellence in High School District 211

The first of July has brought several changes to Township High School District 211. Though I have worked in District 211 for 28 years, that day began my first as the new superintendent, following the retirement of Dr. Daniel Cates. Dr. Cates served District 211 for 28 years, the past six as superintendent, dedicating his work to the advancement of educational opportunities for all students across our District. I would like to thank him for all that he did, and I look forward to continuing to build on the excellence so many have contributed toward in District 211.

The coming months will bring new challenges as we navigate the educational process in the world of COVID-19. As discussed in my emails from July 10, July 17, and July 22, we will continue to work closely with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide guidance for the safest and best possible option for students returning to school in August. While we stand by the importance of quality education for our students, we believe that their safety is paramount. For the most up-to-date information regarding school opening, please visit our Back-to-School August 2020 webpage at: <https://adc.d211.org/Page/7816>.

Over the next few months, things may continue to look very different around the District, but one thing will never change. Our teachers, staff, and administrators will remain dedicated to providing the quality education that has come to be associated with all

*– continued on back –*

## Registration underway for 2020-2021 school year; School Board waives student textbook & parking fees

School registration occurs each summer, and is required for all students who will attend a District 211 school during the 2020-2021 school year. School registration is now open, and parents are encouraged to complete registration using the District's online registration system. Additional information about online registration was mailed to all parents in early July, and is posted on the District and school websites. As an alternative, a parent may choose to complete school registration during the designated in-person registration dates at their child's school. In-person registration will occur in late July.

New this year, 2020-2021 student fees will be billed in August, with payment due in September. The Board of Education has waived the textbook/instructional fee of \$170 as well as the student parking fee of \$75 per semester for all students for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents may pay any amounts due using their *MySchoolBucks* account.

Access to the online school registration system will be blocked until the school nurse

has proof that your child is compliant with all required vaccinations. All incoming 12th grade students, the graduating Class of 2021, must show proof of receiving the meningococcal vaccine as required by the State of Illinois. If you have questions regarding when or if your child has received the meningococcal vaccine, please contact your physician or refer to your child's immunization record in Infinite Campus. High School District 211 has a first-day exclusion policy and incomplete vaccination records will keep your child from beginning school on the first day of classes. If you have further questions, please contact your school's health office.

The online registration system is accessed through the parent's Infinite Campus account. For parents not currently using Infinite Campus, an individualized account can be established by contacting your high school's technology department. A link to the Infinite Campus login screen is posted on each District 211 school website, as well as on the District website.

## Food Service prepayment and free or reduced-price meals available

Meal applications for the 2020-2021 school year are available for families interested in applying for free or reduced-price meals. The meal application is available on the District and school websites. If your household receives a letter or email stating that your child has been automatically approved for meal benefits for the 2020-2021 school year, you do not need to complete a meal application. If you have a District 211 student in your household who is not included on the letter, please contact the food and nutrition services department. If preferred, a hard copy meal application is available upon request. A new application must be completed each school year in order to qualify for benefits.

Students at all District 211 schools have the option of prepaying for food service purchases by check or credit card. Credit card payments

can be made using the food service payment system at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). Families new to MySchoolBucks will need to set up a new account in order to access the system. Once an account is established, parents can set up low-balance alerts and automatic account replenishment, and they can view their child's purchase history. Funds also can be added to an account by sending a check prepayment to the school cafeteria. If you previously had an automatic payment scheduled, please review the status for the new school year. All District 211 account balances from the previous school year will roll over into the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information about these programs, please contact the food & nutrition services department at 847-755-6681 or view materials online at: <https://adc.d211.org/domain/17>.

## SAT exam for Class of 2021

The ongoing health crisis caused the Class of 2021 to miss last April's State-sponsored SAT exam. The Illinois State Board of Education recognizes the value of this exam and is providing next year's seniors with a free SAT exam on October 14, 2020. This SAT will be administered in school; more details about the school day schedule will be provided to students and parents in early September.

## Continuing excellence in D211 ...

— continued from front —

District 211 schools. We will continue to provide exceptional learning and extraordinary opportunities through innovative teaching.

Sincerely,



Lisa Small

Superintendent

## 2020-2021 Calendar/handbooks mailed


The 2020-2021 calendar/handbook were mailed to all District 211 families in July. The calendar/handbook provides easy access to policies, procedures, and important dates. Please plan to review its contents with your child to become familiar with school expectations.

If you do not receive a calendar/handbook by the start of school, you may call Director of Community Relations **Tom Petersen** at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, 847-755-6631, to request a copy. Additional copies of calendar/handbooks also are available at each school and online at the school and District websites.

## Dates to Remember

- August 11-12** Teacher Institute — **No Classes**
- August 13** Opening day of school
- August 13** Board of Education meeting (6:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- September 7** Labor Day — **No School**
- September 17** Board of Education meeting (6:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- September 21** 6-Week In-Progress Grades Recorded

**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.

## 2020-2021 school year calendar revised

On June 16, 2020, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed Public Act 101-0642 establishing November 3, 2020 as a State holiday. All government offices, including schools, will be closed on the Election Day state holiday.

In order to accommodate the new holiday, the 2020-2021 school calendar was adjusted to remain compliant with Illinois State Board of Education requirements. The teacher institute day originally scheduled for October 13, 2020 was moved to January 5, 2021, and October 13 will now be a

regular school attendance day for students. Repositioning the institute day reduces winter break for staff members by one day, and retains a status of no classes for students on January 5. The end of the school year is not disrupted by the movement of the teacher institute day. The District 211 Board of Education approved the revised 2020-2021 school calendar at its July 16, 2020 meeting. A copy of the revised school calendar is available on the District website at: <https://adc.d211.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=6410>.

## Mass communication system

In order to improve communication with parents and enhance the District's ability to respond to major events, High School District 211 uses a mass communication system. This system provides the ability to deliver thousands of messages simultaneously via phone call, email and/or text message for a variety of purposes, including emergency and school closing information. To participate, parents are encouraged to maintain current

contact information for phone numbers and email addresses with the school. To add, update, or verify contact information, please log on to Infinite Campus and review household information and family members. The link to access Infinite Campus can be found on the District or school websites. Please contact your school's Technology office if you need assistance accessing Infinite Campus.

## Optional student insurance

As required by the State of Illinois, High School District 211 provides catastrophic accident insurance coverage for student-athletes. If a District 211 athlete is injured during a practice or a game and due to their injury, they incur medical expenses in excess of \$25,000, medical insurance is provided to cover only the amount exceeding \$25,000.

It is important to note that, with only this

exception for catastrophic injury, District 211 does not carry accident insurance on students. Parents are urged to review their family health insurance plan to determine if they believe it offers adequate protection.

Should parents feel student accident coverage is necessary, information is available on the District 211 website (<http://adc.d211.org/parentsstudents-2/student-insurance/>).

## Tobacco and vaping device use prohibited in District 211 schools

A reminder that Illinois state law prohibits the use of any tobacco products, including vaping devices, on school property or at any school-sponsored activity. Please respect the laws of the government, the rules of your school, and your health and that of others by refraining from the use of vaping devices and tobacco in any of its forms while at school or on school property.

*"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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Lisa Small, 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.

