



# Township High School District 211 *Community Connections: A Quarterly Update of the Strategic Plan*

October 2016

## Drug Awareness Session

Students are often challenged by social pressures to experiment with drugs and other substances. A student's response to these challenges can have life-altering impact. To help parents understand current trends and warning signs concerning students' access to marijuana, narcotics and prescription medications, representatives from the local police departments and the Kenneth Young Center will host an informational event on **Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at Fremd High School in the school's Media Center from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m.**



A special guest speaker, Chelsea Laliberte, will share her experience at this event. Ms. Laliberte is the executive director of *Live4Lali*, an organization Ms. Laliberte founded in her brother's memory and dedicated to the prevention of drug-related deaths. The session is designed to help parents and caregivers have greater awareness of warning signs to prompt early intervention. This drug awareness session was presented at Conant High School last May. Sessions presented as part of the District's Community Education Series will be offered at both the northern and southern parts of the District, when possible.

## One-to-One Program

An individual technology device, such as an iPad, is a remarkably powerful tool for any learner who facilitates frequent communication with teachers and immediate access to a universe of information. An electronic device can also lead to distraction. District 211 is now into its third year of full implementation in which every student and teacher has an iPad device. Using feedback from parents, students and staff members, District staff members worked with leaders of Apple and implemented restrictions on the devices that have reduced the potential for distractions. Any iPad device can be adjusted to reduce distractions and District leaders continue to meet with engineers and company representatives from Apple to optimize the instructional impact of the iPad devices.



## SAT Testing

Illinois has adopted the SAT as the State's designated college admissions test to be taken by all juniors. The publishers of the SAT have designed a nationally-recognized sequence of tests that the District 211 Board of Education has adopted to chart the progress among students in eighth, ninth and 10th grade in order to help them best prepare for the SAT in 11th grade. Teachers throughout District 211 have aligned classroom exercises and after-school test preparation sessions to help students become familiar with the SAT format. In addition to the standardized Preliminary SATs administered during eighth, ninth and 10th grades, 11th graders can take a practice SAT in October prior to taking the official SAT in April.

## Benefits of Advanced Placement Coursework

As a result of legislation passed last year, students earning a score of 3, 4, or 5 on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam will earn college credit at public Illinois colleges and universities. Research indicates that students earning college credit while they are in high school are more likely to complete a college degree. In order to help more students earn college credits, District 211 continues to expand AP course offerings and will soon add two more AP courses: AP Seminar in fall 2017, and AP Research in fall 2018.

In addition, District 211 is one of a small number of school districts selected to participate in a state-wide initiative known as Lead Higher, which is designed to enroll more students of all backgrounds in AP courses. With the assistance of the Equal Opportunity Schools organization, the District has gathered individual student information to help increase enrollment in AP courses among historically under-represented student groups and students from economically disadvantaged households.

## Interpreter Pool

In our commitment to reach families of all languages, we have initiated an interpreter pool of people to provide assistance with translation. Connecting parents with school personnel facilitates greater understanding for all, which in turn provides for a better

student experience. If anyone you know might have interest in serving as an interpreter or translator, please contact Mr. Jerry Trevino, director of summer school and community outreach, at 847-755-6725 or via email, [jtrvino@d211.org](mailto:jtrvino@d211.org).

Learn more about the District 211 Strategic Plan at <http://adc.d211.org/strategic-plan>