



# NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • November/December 2016

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

## Engagement, improvements and stewardship

Several weeks ago, we began seeking ideas for potential uses of 60 acres of undeveloped land that District 211 owns in Schaumburg. We have already received nearly 1,400 responses and if you have not yet shared your input, we invite you to take a few minutes and tell us your ideas. The questionnaire will remain open until the end of November and is available on the District 211 website at the following link: <https://adc.d211.org/land-use-questionnaire>.

Once we have compiled and synthesized the hundreds of open-ended suggestions into a usable format, we will begin calculating the impact and potential benefits to the District's students, families and community members associated with the various suggestions. This analysis will include a thorough forecast and estimates of the necessary time, funding and regulatory requirements necessary to achieve the recommended ideas. We will similarly formulate the anticipated benefits that would result from the suggested uses and their alignment with the District's mission, strategic plan and recent community engagement.

Organizational efficiency remains one of the District's key priorities, and includes optimizing this unused land asset. Through careful planning and responsible financial management, we have continued to enhance and develop current-state learning environments, to deliver quality technology infrastructure and to fulfill required facility

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## Curriculum Guide available to aid in selecting courses

Course selection for the 2017-2018 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 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: <http://adc.d211.org/academics/curriculum-home>. *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 2017) will receive District 211 *Curriculum Guides* at their junior high schools.

Several courses are required to assure that each student receives a basic, well-rounded education. However, there are many credits needed for graduation that are elective. Thoughtful planning and wise decision-making can help students match their high school education 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 21, 22, and 23, 2016. 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 24, 25, and 26, 2017.

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

## District 211 wishes "all the best" to mid-year retirees

High School District 211 extends best wishes to mid-year retirees. Fremd High School's mid-year retirees are **Daniel Davis** (physical education department), **Nancy Palmissano** (food service department), and **Jeannette Sellergren** (student supervisor). **Joan Phillips** (technical assistant) is retiring from Schaumburg High School and Hoffman Estates High School has three retirees: **Christine Jenkins** (English department), **Deborah Nelson** (ESL teacher assistant), and **Victoria Reilly** (secretary). **Radmilla Dicianni** and **Carol Patrizi** are retiring from the transportation department. *Best wishes in your retirement!*

## Did you know ...

Current District 211 freshmen, Class of 2020, are eligible for the Harper College Promise Scholarship program, offering up to two years of free tuition for students who meet eligibility criteria throughout their four years of high school. Applications must be submitted by December 15. Visit the District 211 website at: <http://adc.d211.org/parentsstudents-2/scholarships/harper-college-promise-scholarship-program/> to learn more, or contact your child's counselor.

## Engagement ...

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improvements – all while emphasizing quality financial stewardship (see some of the enhancements at: <http://adc.d211.org/improvements>). We anticipate being able to reach our goal of being debt-free next year, we continue to use existing funds to provide tax relief now totaling more than \$30 million, and we have strategic financial plans to use our annual operating budgets to pay for future needed facility improvements.

Thorough financial and operational planning of an organization of our size and complexity provides stability, enabling us to continue our primary work of providing world-class opportunities to nearly 12,000 students each day. Whether you are a parent, a student, a staff member or a community member, we are partners and we get better by working together to develop and implement plans that will uphold the quality programming and opportunities we provide to the students of District 211.




Daniel E. Cates  
Superintendent

## Dates to Remember

- November 15** Student Late-Start day
- November 23** Non-Attendance Day — **No School**
- November 24** Thanksgiving Day — **No School**
- November 25** Thanksgiving Holiday — **No School**
- December 8** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- December 21, 22, 23** 1st Semester Final Exams
- December 23** End of 1st Semester; Winter Vacation begins at close of school
- January 9** Teacher Institute Day — **No Classes**
- January 10** 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.

## Second Semester Calendar (2017)

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|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| <b>January 9</b>   | Teacher Institute — <b>No Classes</b>          | <b>April 3</b>   | Opening Day of School After Vacation   |
| <b>January 10</b>  | Opening Day of 2nd Semester                    | <b>April 14</b>  | Non-Attendance Day — <b>No School</b>  |
| <b>January 16</b>  | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — <b>No School</b> | <b>May 18</b>    | Hoffman Estates High School graduation; District 211 North Campus, Higgins Education Center, and Alternative High School graduations |
| <b>January 24</b>  | Student Late-Start Day                         | <b>May 21</b>    | Palatine High School graduation  |
| <b>February 7</b>  | Student Late-Start Day                         | <b>May 22</b>    | Conant High School graduation  |
| <b>February 20</b> | Presidents' Day — <b>No School</b>             | <b>May 23</b>    | Fremd High School graduation   |
| <b>February 21</b> | Student Late-Start Day                         | <b>May 24</b>    | Schaumburg High School graduation  |
| <b>March 7</b>     | Student Late-Start Day                         | <b>May 24-26</b> | Semester Examinations  |
| <b>March 21</b>    | Student Late-Start Day                         | <b>May 26</b>    | Last Day of School   |
| <b>March 24</b>    | Spring Vacation Begins at Close of School      |                  |  |

## GEMS: Girls in Engineering, Math and Science seeking assistance

In February each year, High School District 211's female STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teachers and students gather with 250 fifth and sixth grade girls to share their excitement about STEM fields of study through a career fair and hands-on exploratory sessions.

The GEMS planning committee is asking parents if they know of a female working in engineering, math, or science who would be a great role model for young girls and is interested in creating a 30-minute session to get girls excited about a STEM field. The committee also

is asking if parents know of a company or an individual willing to donate STEM-related games, door prizes, trinkets, or equipment for fifth and sixth grade girls that could be used at the annual GEMS event. If so, please complete the online involvement form at: <http://adc.d211.org/GEMS-involvement-form>. A member of the GEMS planning committee will contact you directly.

Registration for fifth and sixth grade girls who wish to attend the February 4, 2017 GEMS event begins December 1 via the District 211 website at: <https://adc.d211.org/academics-home/gems>.

*"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 4½ 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.

