



NEWSLETTER

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

A message from the Superintendent ...

Constant improvement

"Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection." – Mark Twain

Throughout the first quarter, staff members across the District have been working on several key instructional priorities: 1) examining our grading systems and practices; 2) facilitating increased student enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses; and 3) affirming our one-to-one direction and device. We are all better when we work together and this message will provide you with a brief overview of these three essential initiatives.

Grading: Few topics generate energized interest like the topic of grading. Countless books, articles and discussions offer an array of differing thoughts about evaluating and communicating student performance. Our improvement efforts are currently focused on aligning performance reporting systems within each school and the timing of performance reporting. We anticipate communicating any recommended improvements for 2017-2018 prior to the end of this school year.

Advanced Placement Enrollment: The State of Illinois passed legislation declaring that Illinois colleges will grant college credit to students earning a score of 3, 4 or 5 on an AP examination and research indicates that earning college credit before high school graduation increases the likelihood of a student earning a college degree. Using individual information from students and teachers, our improvement efforts are currently focused on enrolling more students who have the characteristics to succeed in AP courses. By improving communication among students and faculty, we can now engage in course selection discussions on

continued on back

National Merit semifinalists named

Township High School District 211 announces that 24 students have been named 2017 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 Naman Agarwal, Pranith Bottu, Ruchi N. Chitgopekar, Praneet Dara, Joseph D.

Fahey, Priyal M. Gosar, Emma Y. Liu, Kevin D. Liu, Koumani W. Ntowe-Fankam, Adam P. Quinn, Mingda Zhang, and Christopher J. Zhu have been named semifinalists.

Michael R. Borro, Piyush Deshpande, Ryan Estep, Akash J. Moozhayil, Anjali Patel, and Kishan R. Thakkar from James B. Conant High School are semifinalists.

Palatine High School's semifinalists are Brandon R. Canfield, Sarah M. Gonwa, and Emily C. Steinebrey.

Kevin Eberhardt and Kshitij D. Vashi have been named semifinalists from Schaumburg High School.

The semifinalist from Hoffman Estates High School is Parin U. Shah.

Update for school canine searches

In an effort to discourage students from drug violations and 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 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.

District 211 Policy Manual available for review

The Township 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 the District 211 website (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.

Did you know ...

The District 211 Foundation's 6th annual RAH (Realtors Against Homelessness) event will be held November 3, 2016 at Chandler's in Schaumburg from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All proceeds directly benefit homeless students in District 211. Learn more at <http://www.realtorsagainsthomeslessness.com>.

Improvement ...

continued from front

a deeper level.

One-to-One Program: After three years of steadily increasing the number of teachers integrating technology into their instruction, we have now completed two years of full one-to-one technology integration throughout our classrooms. Our improvement efforts are focused on supporting learning by reducing distractions, continually advancing our instructional effectiveness in a one-to-one classroom, and developing technology skills that will create advantages for our students.

Commonly, progress and improvement can initially be accompanied by questions or uncertainty. As public school employees, it is our privilege to work on behalf of you and your children – our students. It is my hope that this brief message helps all to have an understanding about our ongoing work and our commitment to communicate our efforts to improve student progress and achievement.




Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent

Dates to Remember

November 1	Student Late-Start day
November 3	District 211 Foundation "Realtors Against Homelessness" event (5:00-8:00 p.m., Chandler's Chophouse, Schaumburg)
November 10	Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
November 14-18	American Education Week
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

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.

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 our 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.

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, we will conduct school 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 adc.d211.org/severecold.

Student safety always a priority in District 211

Safety is always a top priority in High School District 211. Safety and security procedures are continually monitored and reviewed at each school in order to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff. In light of past events in our country and throughout the world, it is important for everyone to serve as advocates for safe and secure schools. Listed below are some useful ideas to help parents stay informed and involved.

- Keep lines of communication open with your child
- Be involved with your child's school life
- Discuss the school's discipline policy with your child
- Involve your child in setting rules for appropriate behavior at home
- Help your child understand the consequences of harassment and violence
- Teach your child how to solve problems
- Help your child find ways to deal with anger that do not involve verbally or physically hurting others
- Help your child understand the value of accepting individual differences
- Note any disturbing behaviors in your child and speak with a professional at the school about getting help
- Work with school-based groups concerned with violence prevention
- Talk with parents of your child's friends about safety concerns

"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



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.

