



NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community ● October 2017

A message from the Superintendent ...

Highlights for new year

The 2017-2018 school year is well underway and this edition of the newsletter highlights several initiatives and informational tools to improve and enhance shared understanding among parents, students and faculty surrounding student performance.

Our formal connection with students and families begins when students are in eighth grade. Comprehensive planning and communications have already gotten underway with current eighth grade students who will enter as freshmen next year. Our guidance department staff members have developed a helpful communication tool called the Incoming Freshman Transition Guide. While the Guide is tailored to the families of students who will enter the District as freshmen next year, any parent and student will likely find helpful information in this booklet, accessible at this link: <https://adc.d211.org/parentsstudents-2/incoming-freshman/>.

During the four high school years, teenagers experience a remarkable developmental transition from adolescence into emerging adulthood. Our purpose and commitment is to develop the readiness skills they will need to be successful in whatever venture they pursue. The number of courses, activities, and interests throughout a high school career can be challenging for parents to know or comprehend. Through our community engagement initiative and in subsequent focus groups with parents, students, and faculty members, we have initiated an individual Student Readiness Plan to compile information about five key readiness components: academic readiness; college and career exploration; global competitive skills; student involvement; and wellness. We will test the prototype application with 500 students this year with the goal of making the Student Readiness Plan available to all students in 2018-2019.

We are now at the six-week mark of the semester and parents and students are receiving our first issuance of the six-week grade progress reports. Several previous communications detailed our improved grading sequence. This year, we begin issuing grade progress reports at the six-week and 12-week points of each semester. The final semester grades issued upon completion of the 18-week semester are the official grades that factor into a student's grade point average (GPA). We

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District 211 College Night to be held at Palatine High School on October 11

The 2017-2018 District 211 College Night program will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at Palatine High School, 1111 N. Rohlwing Road in Palatine. The event is open to all High School District 211 students and their parents.

Admission representatives from colleges around the country will be gathered in one place to provide information about their admissions process and answer questions about programs, student life, and financial aid. More than 200 representatives from two- and four-year colleges and military academies will provide curriculum and campus information.

For students and parents unable to visit a college campus, College Night is the perfect opportunity to meet with the college representatives who will be reading their applications. Before the event, students are encouraged to create a label sheet with identifying information on it, such as name, home address, high school, GPA, ACT score, sports and activities, and more. In use this year will be StriveScan, an app that allows colleges to scan a barcode containing student information. The app also sends an email to the student with information about the college, saving time and providing easy access to important information.

Free, round-trip shuttle bus service will be

provided from other District 211 schools to Palatine High School. Parents are asked to take advantage of shuttle buses because parking is limited. Online shuttle bus signup is available here: <http://bit.ly/2xcKZkC>.

College Night is just one of the many college-bound resources for students and parents. The "Directions College and Career Fair 2017," a joint venture between School Districts 211, 214, 220, St. Viator High School, and Harper College, was held on Tuesday, September 26 at Forest View Educational Center. This event provides information on post-secondary options for students with special needs. If you were unable to attend and require additional information, please contact **Patrick Abraham** at 847-755-1848 or **Lauren O'Donnell** at 847-755-1851.

Additionally, District 211 hosted First Generation College Symposium on Wednesday, September 27 at Palatine High School. The evening included sessions for students and parents presented in English and Spanish, and offered information about financial aid, the college planning process, and "Connecting with Universities."

For more information about the College Night or other resources, please contact your school's college & career counselor.

Facility improvements and new faces for school year

Over the summer break, a variety of routine maintenance projects were completed at schools throughout the district. Each school also welcomed some new members to their administration team.

Conant High School received a new culinary arts classroom in addition to regular maintenance and parking lot improvements. **Thomas Mocon** and **Jordan Catapano** were named assistant principals, and **Erik Hauser** was named dean of students.

At Palatine High School, renovations of the stadium parking lot were completed. **Luis Arroyo** was named assistant principal, while **John Volgi** was named dean of students.

Construction of athletic fields at Fremd High School is nearly complete, and with a strong spring growing season, it is possible the fields could open in the spring. Work crews

also replaced the school's roof. Work in the Media Center continues with an anticipated completion this fall. **Hamid Mehreioskouei** was named assistant principal, and **Martin Zacharia** was named dean of students.

An \$18 million project was completed at Schaumburg High School of which locker rooms, the kitchen, cafeteria, music ensemble rooms, and childcare facility were all remodeled. The roof also was replaced. **Michele Napier** was named assistant principal, and **Whitney Gbur** was named dean of students.

Hoffman Estates High School's parking lot was updated while the building received routine maintenance. **Justin Onayemi** was named assistant principal, and **Mary Kate Smith** was named dean of students.

At the Administration Center, **Diana Mikelski** was named Director of Transportation.

Did you know ...

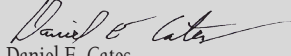
Incoming freshman placement testing is Saturday, October 14, 2017. Informational packets were mailed and additional information is available on the District website.

Highlights ...

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are pleased to offer improved progress comments with meaningful information about a student's performance in a given class.

We all get better together and improvements in our communications surrounding important student events, our new grading sequence, descriptions of student performance, and student readiness will benefit students, parents, and faculty now and into the future.



Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent

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/student-insurance/>).



Dates to Remember

- September 28** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- October 1** District 211 Foundation Fun(d) Run/Walk (8:00 a.m., Palatine H.S.)
- October 3** Student Late-Start day
- October 9** Columbus Day – No School
- October 10** Institute Day – No Classes
- October 11** District 211 College Night (6:30-8:30 p.m., Palatine H.S.)
- October 14** Incoming freshman testing
- October 17** Student Late-Start day
- October 19** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)

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.

A.P. courses prepare students to excel

Last spring, 3,427 students took 7,360 Advanced Placement (A.P.) examinations in one or more of 28 A.P. subjects available in High School District 211. Seventy-nine percent of District 211 examinees earned scores of 3, 4, or 5, which may qualify a student for financial and academic advantages at many colleges and universities, including college credit in that subject. District 211 offers A.P. courses in Art History, Studio Art, Music Theory, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, Literature and Composition, Language and Composition, Spanish, German, French, United States History, European History, World History, Human

Geography, Economics, Macro-Economics, Statistics, Psychology, Government and Politics, and Computer Science.

“Advanced Placement courses provide students the opportunity to earn college credit equivalencies while still in high school,” commented **Mark Kovack**, associate superintendent for student services. *“The robust set of available A.P. courses allows students to choose subjects that align with their individualized post-high school plans.”*

For more information about the Advanced Placement program in District 211, please contact your high school's Student Services Office.

A reminder about free or reduced-price meals

Applications for free or reduced-price school meals were mailed to parents at the end of July. The application must be completed each school year by any family who is interested in qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. Both the online meal application and hardcopy versions are available on the District 211 website at: <http://adc.d211.org/operations/food-service/free-reduced-meals/>. Only one type of application, online or hardcopy, is necessary to submit per household each school year. For more information, please telephone District 211's Food Service office at 847-755-6681.

Student Directory confidentiality

Parents who want directory information about their sons or daughters to be kept confidential should send their requests in writing to their high school principal.

Directory information includes: student's name and address, gender, grade level, birth date, and birth place; parents' names and addresses; academic awards or honors; information relating to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics; and period of high school attendance.

Unless prohibited in writing, directory

information will be provided on request. Most requests come from colleges, universities, armed forces, and area employers.

High School District 211 also maintains permanent and temporary records for each student which remain confidential at all times. These records are kept in compliance with federal and state regulations.

For additional information on student records, please refer to pages 22-23 in your calendar/handbook.

Seventh semester transcripts information

Because few colleges and universities request seventh semester transcripts as a part of the admissions process, seventh semester transcripts will only be sent under the following conditions:

- student is required to submit seventh semester transcript with initial application
- student requests seventh semester transcript be sent to admissions officer to

document entrance that requirements have been met

- college or university requests seventh semester transcript for student who has applied for admission

For more information regarding the sending of transcripts to colleges or universities, please contact your school's Student Services Office.

“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 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.

