



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL: JOSH SCHUMACHER

This week marked our Homecoming 2017 celebration as well as the end of the first six weeks of the school year. New this year, we will be issuing a six-week progress report as part of the modifications to our District 211 grading procedures. In it, you'll find information about your student's absences, tardies, and current academic progress. The grades contained in this report represent current academic performance in each class through Friday, September 22. I highly encourage you to review the report with your son or daughter first and then contact the appropriate teacher if you have questions about individual course progress. If it would benefit your student, I'd also encourage you to utilize Hoffman's numerous academic supports, including math tutoring, a reading and writing center, and a room specifically devoted to making up missed tests.

As we look ahead to October, there are many exciting opportunities that will help ensure your student's college and career readiness. Mark your calendars for the District 211 College Night which will be held on Wednesday, October 11, at Palatine High School. This is an early dismissal day for students, and an incredible opportunity to explore the over 200 colleges and universities that will be in attendance at the event. If I can offer you a little insider information, develop a list of the specific colleges and universities that you would like to visit and rank order them so that you can maximize your time at the event. This is a district-wide event and there will be parents and students from other District 211 schools in attendance. I highly recommend that you arrive at Palatine High School early in order to secure a parking space, or that you utilize the free shuttle buses that will leave from HEHS between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Finally, all Junior students will have the opportunity to take a full-length SAT practice exam during the school day on Wednesday, October 11. This is a great opportunity for students to gain familiarity with the format and content of the exam, and will give them an advantage as they focus their preparations to take the official exam in April 2018.

Sincerely,

Josh Schumacher  
Principal

## College and Career Updates:

### College Night

The annual D211 College Night will be held Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at Palatine High School from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Over 200 colleges and universities will be represented. Parking will be at a premium. Free shuttle buses will be provided to students and parents from Hoffman Estates High School to Palatine High School.

*Being prepared before this event is extremely important. A list of participating institutions will be available to students prior to College Night. Students and parents can target colleges for group presentations and visit many others to gather information.* For more information, please contact HEHS College and Career Counselor, Mr. Michael Murphy at (847) 755-5646.

October 2017

## Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 1 D211 Foundation 5K Fun(d)  
Run/Walk  
Palatine High School, 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 3 8:50 a.m. – Late Start for Students
- Oct. 4 McTeacher Night  
2270 W Higgins Rd., Hoffman Estates,  
5:00-8:00 p.m.
- Oct. 7 SAT – 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 9 Columbus Day – No School
- Oct. 10 Teacher Institute – No Classes  
Principal's Advisory Board Meeting  
Principal's Conference Room, 6:00 p.m.  
H.E.L.P. Meeting  
Principal's Conference Room, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 11 11:50 a.m. – Student Dismissal  
D211 College Night  
Palatine High School, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 Volley for the Cure  
Main Gym, 5:00 p.m.  
Fall Choir Concert  
Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 14 Incoming Freshman Testing, 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 16 Sounds of the Stadium Marching Band  
Concert  
Main Gym, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17 8:50 a.m. – Late Start for Students
- Oct. 20 Senior Panoramic Photo  
Main Gym, 7:30 a.m.
- Oct. 25 College Application Completion  
Afternoon  
Room 150, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 26 Community Halloween Event  
4:30-6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 27 ELS Fall Fest  
Faculty Dining Room, 6:00-7:45 p.m.
- Oct. 28 Cupcakes for a Cause  
Cafeteria, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the principal's office at (847) 755-5600.

## Community Connections:

### 2017 Hoffman Estates High School Community Halloween Event

For the past 20 years, our Family and Consumer Sciences Department has sponsored a fun filled Halloween Event for preschool to age 10. It is a safer way for our local community preschoolers and elementary students to trick or treat. This year it will be on Thursday, October 26 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

We will have candy, crafts, games, and pictures. Many of our clubs and activities will be there to assist. Our helpers will pass out candy and usually in an hour the little ones have their fill.

The entire first floor of the high school is decorated for the event. The event is free, except for the pictures for \$1.50 which the children can craft a frame for as well.

Please come and join us for our TWENTYTH thrilling year!!

---

### Practice SAT for Juniors in October

All current juniors will participate in a practice SAT on October 11, 2017 during the school day. The SAT is a longstanding college entrance exam that is also used by the state of Illinois as its mandated student achievement test for third year high school students. The SAT plus writing will be provided at no cost to all juniors enrolled in Illinois public high schools on April 10, 2018. The information from this practice test will help students gain a better understanding of the test format for when they take the exam as part of the state assessment in April. Students will be able to use their practice test results to help them better prepare for the official test and identify areas in which they may need to improve.

## General Information:

### PSAT/NMSQT Test in October

High School District 211 will administer the PSAT/NMSQT assessment to interested juniors, as well as to sophomores enrolled in E208, on October 11, 2017. PSAT is considered a “pre-SAT” test because it is a reliable predictor of student success on the SAT college entrance assessment. PSAT/NMSQT results are used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to select top junior class scholars from across the country for the purpose of awarding National Merit Corporation scholarships. The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered during the regular school day on October 11. Students participating in this assessment will be excused from their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd block classes due to the abbreviated bell schedule for D211 College Night. Junior students participating in the PSAT/NMSQT can use this testing opportunity as their practice exam and will not participate in the practice SAT occurring at the same time on October 11. The cost for participating in the PSAT/NMSQT is \$16. More information regarding the PSAT/NMSQT will be distributed to applicable students through their classes.

### Progress Reports/Tutoring Centers

The six-week progress report is one way for you to gauge whether your child's first weeks of school are progressing positively. This report may be a starting point for a discussion with your child on each class concerning homework, tests, quizzes, class participation, timelines, and attendance. The Infinite Campus Portal will give you more detailed information regarding grades and attendance for each course. If your son or daughter is not progressing as expected, please communicate directly with the teacher or counselor. There are many additional resources available to your student during the school day. The Hawk Academic Center and Study Lab may be a part of your student's schedule and provide quiet opportunities to complete homework during the day. The Reading and Writing Center (RWC) and Math Tutoring are open during the school day for students who need additional support in the areas of English and math.

There are also opportunities for academic support after the school day. The Resource Center (RC) is open for tutoring on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in room 145. Two after school bus runs occur on these days at 4:00 p.m. and 5:20 p.m. Additionally, the HEHS Media Center is open for quiet study Monday through Thursday from 3:00 until 5:30 p.m. and on Fridays until 3:30 p.m. Through our partnership, we can utilize multiple resources to assist your son or daughter.

### Semester Grading System

The semester grades students earn throughout their high school career play an important role in their choices after high school, including employment opportunities, college admissions, scholarships, etc. Similar to a typical collegiate grading system, the semester grading system allows students the full 18 weeks to demonstrate their abilities in a course as opposed to the previous 9-week (quarter) system. Semester grades are calculated over the 18-week semester, weighted at 80%, plus the final exam score weighted at 20%. The semester grade is the only grade shown on the official transcript for the student. The official transcript is the document that can be sent – with the student's permission – to employers, universities, etc.

In-progress checkpoints are issued at 6 weeks and 12 weeks during the semester. These in-progress grades will match the in-progress grades available daily in Infinite Campus and also may have teacher comments. Teachers may design unique comments and have access to comments that go beyond the traditional academic comments. These comments span a variety of positive and needs improvement areas that are helpful skills that can be applied beyond the classroom. (sample comments available [here](#))

The comments are informational for parents and are not a part of the student's official transcript, but do give parents insight about their child's actions in the classroom beyond the academic skill performance found in the grade details.