



# NEWSLETTER

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

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

## Beginnings ...

*"The beginning is the most important part of any work." – Plato*

Welcome to the new school year! This is a year of beginnings. Our new school calendar is in full effect as students began the school year earlier, allowing us to complete first semester final exams prior to winter break and to complete the school year by Memorial Day. We have received positive feedback about this change resulting from input received from students, families and staff members. Also drawing upon months of feedback from people throughout the community, the Board of Education adopted a new mission statement, identified defining values and created a five-year strategic plan.

Like all matters, the plan is driven by student-centered programming to fulfill the District's newly revised mission statement: *The mission of District 211 is to serve the educational needs of the community inspiring all students to successfully contribute to the world.*

The plan articulates four key strategic areas: Life Readiness, Professional Responsiveness, Community Partnerships and Organizational Effectiveness. Developing student readiness plans, exploring potential college majors and career directions, and cultivating the skills students will need to succeed in the workplace establish the core of the plan. To accomplish these objectives, we are committed to supporting highly professional and responsive staff members throughout the organization and communicating effectively with all community partners. Sustaining the District's financial stability to ensure we can provide quality services now and long into the future includes optimizing all resources, existing assets and debt management.

We are all better when we work together and everyone will soon receive the new comprehensive strategic plan identifying our priorities and action steps. I invite you to review the plan, to share in understanding our planned course and to partner with us in accomplishing our goal of preparing

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## District 211 College Night to be held at Palatine High School on October 19

The 2016-2017 District 211 College Night program will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 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.

College Night is just one of the many college-bound resources for students and parents. The upcoming "Directions College and Career Fair 2016," which will provide information on post-secondary options for students with special needs, will be held at Forest View Educational Center on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend and require additional information, please contact **Patrick Abraham** at 847-755-1848 or **Diane Pfister** at 847-755-1851.

Additionally, District 211 hosted a college night for first generation college-bound students and their parents on Wednesday, September 14 at Palatine High School. The evening included sessions 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

During the summer months, facility improvements were made across the District, as well as several administrative changes. Each school received routine summer maintenance, such as parking lot repaving and concrete repair, gym floor refinishing and maintenance, as well as new stadium scoreboards.

Conant High School's parking lot reconfiguration for student drop-off and pick-up areas was completed, in addition to routine building maintenance. **Jeannette Ardell** and **Justin Onayemi** were named assistant principals, and **Derek Fivelson** was named dean of students.

The school parking lot was reconfigured at Palatine High School. The Adult Transition Program-North building was completed on school grounds. Building Construction students and District 211 maintenance staff built the facility as a joint effort. Work on the school's media center is ongoing, with completion scheduled by Thanksgiving 2016.

At Fremd High School, **Darius Sanchez** was named dean of students.

Swimming pool renovations are ongoing at Schaumburg High School and will be completed in Spring 2017. The school received boiler replacements and field renovations were completed for the varsity baseball and softball fields, including backstops, fencing, and netting. Additionally, the stadium press box is nearing completion.

**Josh Schumacher** was named principal at Hoffman Estates High School. **Brian Harlan** and **Courtney Symonds** were named assistant principals, while **Scott Hoelt** was named dean of students. Life Safety Work was completed at the school, including domestic water piping replacements, window glazing, and new doorframes. Roof repairs also were completed.

**Dane Henning** was named administrator for the Alternative Learning Academy at the newly named North Campus (formerly Academy-North). The building received a new security system.

At the Administration Center, **Eric Wenckowski** was named director of athletics and activities, **Jim Britton** was named director of human resources, and **Gary Gorson** was named chief technology officer.

**Did you know ...**

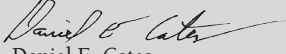
Incoming freshman placement testing is Saturday, October 1, 2016. Informational packets were mailed and additional information is available on the District website.

## Beginnings ...

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all students to be ready for their life after graduation.

Plato's quote to start this column refers not to just any beginning, but to the beginning of establishing character in a young person. Together, we share this most important work of all.



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 20** Student Late-Start day  
**September 22** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)  
**October 1** Incoming freshman testing  
**October 4** Student Late-Start day  
**October 10** Institute Day – No Classes  
**October 14** End of 9-week grading period  
**October 16** District 211 Foundation Fun(d) Run/Walk (8:00 a.m., Palatine H.S.)  
**October 18** Student Late-Start day  
**October 19** District 211 College Night (6:30-8:30 p.m., Palatine H.S.)  
**October 20** 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, 2,957 students took 6,796 Advanced Placement (A.P.) examinations in one or more of 23 subjects available at Advanced Placement level 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, 2-D and 3-D Studio Art, Studio Drawing, 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 with opportunities to experience college-level curriculum while students are still in high school,”* stated Mark Kovack, associate superintendent for student services. *“Students can select courses that align with their areas of interest and earn college credit through satisfactory performance on the A.P. exam.”*

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 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](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.

