



NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • July/August 2016

A message from the Superintendent ...

The 211 of Tomorrow Engagement

We recently engaged our community through an initiative called *The 211 of Tomorrow* to seek input about the priorities, challenges and opportunities District 211 should consider within a five-year strategic plan. In January 2016, more than 200 individuals provided candid reports and ideas as part of 14 different focus groups. In February, March, April, and May, we held open, community engagement discussions throughout the District's five high school communities. Nearly 1,000 people participated in these eight evening events covering the state of the District, academic programming, student involvement and wellness programs, and our finances and facilities. During May and June, 500 people were selected at random and responded to a telephone survey, followed by nearly 1,600 people sharing their experiences and suggestions in an online survey. In all, information was gathered from nearly 3,000 respondents throughout the initiative. If you were able to participate in any way, thank you for taking the time to contribute your thoughts.

The information gathered throughout the past six months has been available on the District 211 website at: <http://adc.d211.org/communityengagement/>.

The Board of Education will use the information to draft a strategic plan, setting the priorities and direction of the District for the coming five years. I want to highlight several key findings and areas for future growth.

- Approximately 82% of online and 77% of telephone survey respondents gave District 211 a grade of an A or a B
- Approximately 89% of online and 83% of telephone survey respondents expressed that District 211 is the reason why families move into the area
- Approximately 75% of both online and telephone survey respondents believe the District provides excellent value for the investment
- Approximately 84% of online and 80% of telephone survey respondents believe our schools are safe and secure
- Approximately 80% of online and 72% of telephone survey respondents agreed that District 211 is recruiting and retaining a high quality teaching staff

We are pleased that our efforts throughout the District receive supportive affirmation such as this. At the same time, as a large organization whose primary mission is public service and the education of our youth, we continually seek areas for improvement and we heard that

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Mandatory pre-season meeting

Each student, along with at least one parent or guardian, must attend a mandatory pre-season meeting prior to participating in High School District 211 athletics or competitive activities. The mandatory team meetings are hosted by each program's head coach or sponsor. During this meeting, the head coach/sponsor will communicate team policies, procedures, and expectations, as well as District 211 and IHSA academic and athletic eligibility regulations. In addition, each coach/sponsor

will explain the District 211 Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and the consequences associated with violating the Code of Conduct.

If a student or parent fails to attend, that student will be restricted from competition until a makeup session can be scheduled with the coach/sponsor. **Individual schools and teams will notify** team members of dates, times, and locations for team meetings. Information also is available in athletic and activity offices and on school or team websites.

Adult education evening and weekend courses popular with District residents

For over 65 years, the High School District 211 Continuing Education program has provided lifelong learning opportunities to community residents. The program, designed for adults in the community 18 years of age or older, offers more than 200 adult education evening and Saturday classes. Course catalogs will only be available online at the District website. Classes are scheduled to begin the week of September 6, 2016.

Adults may register for courses, beginning August 15, 2016, during regular business hours Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Registration is accepted by telephone at (847) 755-6820. When registering by phone, please have the class registration information and a Visa, Discover, or MasterCard ready. In addition, registration may be done by mail, by fax (847) 755-6867, or by walk-in at the Administration Center, 1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine.

Online registration can be completed by visiting the District 211 website at adc.d211.org. Click on the "Continuing Education" menu tab, and follow the instructions to the secure registration service. Consult the online course catalog for complete registration instructions.

Be sure to look for new courses that are offered. Some popular listings include courses in business, investments, self-help, personal finances, language and sports and exercise programs. Full course descriptions for these and other course listings can be found in the course catalog on the District 211 website.

Classes in English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) and literacy are available free of charge to all adults.

For more information, contact the Continuing Education Office at (847) 755-6820 or visit the High School District 211 website.

New calendar/handbooks to be mailed

The 2016-2017 calendar/handbook will be mailed to all District 211 families in early August. The calendar/handbook provides easy access to policies, procedures, and important dates. Please plan to review its contents with your child to become familiar with school expectations.

If you do not receive a calendar/handbook by the start of school, you may call Director of Community Relations Tom Petersen, at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, (847) 755-6631, to request a copy. Additional copies of calendar/handbooks also are available at each school and online at the school and District websites.

Reminder: School begins Monday, August 15, 2016
A copy of the 2016-2017 school calendar is available at:
<http://adc.d211.org/information/calendars>

Did you know ...

The High School District 211 Foundation is sponsoring its annual 5K Fun(d) Run/Walk on October 16, at 8:00 a.m. Register online at <http://www.roadracing.rocks/d2115k>.

Engagement ...

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we need to continually strive to engage all members of our changing communities in our programming. We need to continue our integration of technology and, at the same time, consider how we can ensure good focus and reduce distractibility associated with today's technology devices. Students today face many opportunities and we need to continue building partnerships with local businesses to deepen student career pathways and provide internships, while also recognizing the need for student wellness. Our own data convey that student involvement in athletics, activities or fine arts is a key component of good academic performance, but we must also be responsive to the impact of student demands in today's intense world. Supports for students who are struggling academically were listed as a priority and we heard repeatedly how we need to provide social and emotional supports to students during this critical phase of development amid the multiple arenas and challenges that they navigate as teens.

Many people expressed their appreciation for the way that the District has managed our finances and has maintained our facilities to ensure stability of our programming and student opportunities into the future. As a public organization funded by local taxpayers, we also recognize the need for and benefit of openly conveying information about our finances and facilities. We continually strive to communicate this information effectively and we were reminded to sustain our efforts to convey information about our financial status and planning as we look ahead in the coming five years.

Like you, District 211 is where I have my home. I am hopeful through our engagement opportunities that all of us will continue our partnership and reap every benefit of improvement through the input and ideas that have been shared.



Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent



Dates to Remember

- August 8** IHSA football begins
- August 10** IHSA fall sports begin
- August 11-12** Teacher Institute —
No Classes
- August 15** Opening day of school
- August 18** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m.,
G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- August 23** Student Late Start Day
- September 1** Parent Open House
- September 5** Labor Day — *No School*
- September 6** Student Late Start Day
- September 13** End of mid-term grading period

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.

Note athletic and activity eligibility rules

General eligibility requirements for participation in any school-sponsored athletic or extra-curricular activity are to be made available to all students and parents. Additionally, students who express a desire to participate in a specific sport or activity shall receive detailed eligibility requirements and related information.

In order to be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored athletic or extra-curricular activity, a student must satisfy both the Illinois High School Association and District 211 eligibility requirements. Failure to meet these requirements will result in athletic and extra-curricular probation or ineligibility until specific academic criteria are met. Students placed on probation must adhere to specific academic interventions to continue to compete in athletic or extra-curricular programs.

Many activities – including Auto Club, BPA, Chess, Debate, Flags, Math Team, Model U.N., National Honor Society, Pom Poms, Scholastic Bowl, Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, Special Olympics, Speech, Student Congress, Student Council, Worldwide Youth Science & Engineering and Varsity Club – require that participants meet the same academic eligibility rules as student-athletes.

In addition, student-athletes must have a valid physical examination on file with the school nurse.

Physicals are valid for 13 months. Therefore, students planning to participate in athletics are advised to schedule physical examinations annually prior to expiration of their previous physical to ensure eligibility throughout the following school year. Student-athletes participating in fall sports must complete physicals before practice begins on August 10, 2016 (August 8, 2016 for football). Adhering to these dates will ensure athletic eligibility during the school year.

A final requirement for all students interested in athletics or competitive activities is to participate in a mandatory “Meet the Coach/Sponsor” team meeting, which addresses participation policies and procedures in addition to coach/sponsor expectations. Rules and regulations regarding drug and alcohol use and abuse as well as prevention and interventions are reviewed. Additional information about this meeting can be found on the first page of this newsletter. Times, locations, and dates for these meetings are scheduled by the coach/sponsor and are publicized through athletic and activity offices and on school websites.

Additional eligibility information will be available in the 2016-2017 calendar/handbook prior to the start of the school year, and at “Meet the Coach/Sponsor” team meetings throughout the school year.

Mass Communication system

In order to improve communication with parents and enhance the District's ability to respond to major events, High School District 211 uses a mass communication system. This system provides the ability to deliver thousands of messages simultaneously via phone call, email and/or text message for a variety of purposes, including emergency and school closing information. To participate, parents are encouraged to maintain current contact information for phone numbers and email addresses with the school. To add, update, or verify contact information, please log on to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and review household information and family members. The link to access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal can be found on the District or school websites. Please contact your school's Technology office if you need assistance in accessing Infinite Campus.

Food Service prepayment and free or reduced-price meals available

Applications for free and reduced-price school meals will be mailed to families in late July, and a new online meal application will be available on school and District websites by August 1, 2016. Families interested in qualifying for free and reduced-price school meals must apply each school year.

Students at all District 211 schools have the option of prepaying for food service purchases by check or credit card. Information on the prepayment program will be included in the July mailing.

For more information about these programs, please telephone Stacy Lenihan, director of food services, at (847) 755-6681, or view materials online at adc.d211.org/operations/food-service.



“The Mission of Township High School District 211 is to serve the educational needs of the community by developing and implementing quality programs which challenge students to achieve their potential to become contributing, informed citizens capable of meeting the demands of a changing world.”

Adopted by the Board of Education; February, 1999

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.

