



NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • January/February 2017

A message from the Superintendent ...

A look at grading

As we begin the second semester, I wish each of you a Happy New Year in 2017. We continue to develop numerous important initiatives in District 211 and I want to focus awareness on our work in the area of grading. Along with this newsletter, parents and students received a report card conveying the final grades earned for every course completed during the first semester. Grades are central to much of what we do as educators and it is essential that we continually review, improve and communicate our practices in partnership with students and parents.

Regardless of one's age or role, everyone has received grades of some kind and – knowingly or unknowingly – most people have a conception about what they think a grade should represent. Grades are easily recognized for their universal nature, but grades are not always well understood for the complexity in their underlying assumptions or for the varying means and methods available to communicate an appraisal of student performance.

Last year through our community engagement sessions, we gathered input from students, parents and school personnel about grading. A committee of teachers and school leaders also met throughout the past year to examine potential grading improvements. Drawing upon this comprehensive feedback, throughout the first semester faculty members and school leaders conducted extensive reviews of our grading practices, including: our grading scales, the electronic gradebook, the timing of grades, homework completion, final exams, mid-term reports, missing assignments, our critical learning standards and others.

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Summer school dates set

Summer school dates have been approved by the Board of Education. The first semester of summer school will begin on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 and will continue through Wednesday, June 21, 2017. Second semester will start on Thursday, June 22, 2017, and will end on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. Summer school classes will not meet on Fridays (June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23, June 30, July 7, and July 14). There will be no classes on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4 in observance of the federal Independence Day holiday.

Summer school is a great opportunity for educational growth and enrichment. Each year, over 11,000 students are enrolled.

Courses offer students opportunities to explore enrichment subjects, develop new interests, or complete required courses for graduation. Please plan your summer school schedule early. Remember, because summer school is a condensed program, *daily attendance is mandatory.*

Summer school course catalogs will be mailed in early March. Registration for summer classes begins on April 10, 2017 for Conant, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools and on April 12, 2017 for Fremd and Palatine High Schools. Counselors can assist students with the registration process.

Incoming freshmen update

On October 1, 2016, the incoming freshman class of 2021 took the PSAT 8/9 Test, part of the SAT Suite of Assessments. All students entering 9th grade at a District 211 school during the fall of 2017 are required to take a placement test. Test results allow schools to make initial assessments of a student's skills and abilities. Student services directors and junior high school teachers then review scores and academic placement during January. The information gathered from junior high school recommendations are essential to High School District 211's placement process. This information may be used as criteria for placement

in special programs, such as accelerated courses or developmental programs. Recommendations for summer school programs also may be made as a result of these test scores.

Placement test results and materials for student elective course selection were shared with parents in mid-December. Notification of student course placement will be mailed in mid-February. The deadline for requesting a change in course selection is February 3, 2017. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact the student services director at the school your child will attend in the fall.

Register online for Continuing Education classes

Classes begin the week of January 23, 2017. Registration began January 4, 2017. Registration can be completed online by visiting the District 211 website at <https://adc.d211.org>, clicking on "Continuing Education," and following the instructions to a secure registration service. Registration may also be completed by fax (847-755-6867); by mail; or in person at the G.A. McElroy Administration

Center, 1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

A course catalog with spring course offerings is available online at the District website: <https://adc.d211.org/academics-home/continuing-education-home/>. No catalogs will be mailed. For more information, please call the Continuing Education office at 847-755-6820.

Did you know ...


High School District 211's website (<http://adc.d211.org>) and school websites will contain the most up-to-date information should a severe storm or other emergency require school to be closed. Additional information on severe cold can be found online at: <https://adc.d211.org/severecold>.

Grading ...

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Diligent work among our educators to identify potential grading improvements will continue in the coming months. A top priority for the upcoming semester is the articulation of recommended grading practices which will set the course for professional development among our educators, students and parents to ensure an understanding of the rationale guiding our improvements and how the implementation of our grading improvements will benefit students.


Thousands of professional articles, books and conference seminars center on the topic of grading. Within the professional field of education, opinions, beliefs and conclusions about grading often differ, and I have found these differences to exist in just about every conversation with any group of teachers, parents and students. Our pursuit of continuous improvement includes our grading practices and though differing ideas will likely remain, communicating a clear understanding of our recommended grading improvements will benefit all of us in our work together.


Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent

Dates to Remember

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| January 16 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — No School |
| January 19 | Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center) |
| January 24 | Student Late Start day |
| February 4 | GEMS Conference – Girls (5th/6th grade) in Engineering, Mathematics & Science (8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Conant High School) |
| February 7 | Student Late Start day; End of Mid-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.

New students and incoming freshmen need physical exams

State law requires that each incoming freshman submit a physical examination form and record of immunization before registration is complete. Physical exams must be completed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner within 12 months prior to the first day of school. The State of Illinois and the Department of Public Health mandate that all school physicals be submitted on a uniform form provided by the school; no other forms may be accepted. Forms completed by chiropractors must be co-signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner. For new students, physical exams should be completed before August registration. Without proof of a physical exam, a student's schedule will not be issued. An electronic version of the form is available on the District website at: <http://adc.d211.org/information/health/>.

Food Service prepayment available online

Parents can take advantage of the convenience of online credit card payment for their child's High School District 211 food service prepayment account. Utilization of the online prepayment system allows parents to better manage their child's food service account and make a deposit into their child's account using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Online deposits made to your child's account will be available for same-day use within two hours from receipt of payment.

The online prepayment system can be accessed

District 211 Summer Athletic & Competitive Activity Physical Exam Requirements for Participation:

District 211 Summer Camps – Students wishing to participate in summer athletic camps, including poms and color guard, must provide evidence of an appropriate physical exam within the last 13 months. Physicals must be submitted to the school nurse's office prior to participation.

IHSA Participation (school year) – Students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics, including poms and color guard, must provide evidence of an appropriate physical exam within the last 13 months. Students participating in fall sports must complete their physicals before practice begins on August 7, 2017 (football) and August 9, 2017 (all other sports). Physical exam forms must be submitted to the school nurse's office prior to participation.

by logging into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal through the District 211 website (<https://adc.d211.org>) using your parent log-in credentials and clicking on the link for "Registration and Lunch Prepayment." The system allows parents to view their child's account balance, add funds to their account, and view their child's purchase history. A link which provides a description of many items available to students also is available. Questions or comments about the online prepayment system should be directed to Stacy Lenihan, director of food service, at 847-755-6680.

Winter weather warnings ... be prepared!

Because winter weather can be extreme, it is important to become familiar with weather terms used by the National Weather Service (NWS) to ensure that you and your family remain safe during extreme winter weather conditions.

A **winter storm watch** indicates that severe weather, such as heavy snow or ice, is possible. A **winter storm warning** indicates that severe winter weather conditions, such as heavy snow, ice storms, or blizzards are occurring, imminent, or highly likely. A **winter weather advisory** indicates that winter weather conditions will cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. Examples of winter weather advisories are **snow**

advisories, wind chill advisories, freezing rain/sleet advisories, and blowing/drifted snow advisories.

When the National Weather Service (NWS) declares that a **wind chill warning** will be in effect, school will be cancelled. When the NWS declares a **wind chill advisory** to be in effect, school will be conducted through the establishment of "Severe Cold Action" procedures. During a wind chill advisory, school will be in session 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.



"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

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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.

