



# NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • November 2017

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

## Persistent and patient messages

Throughout our lives, we are constantly learning new life lessons, often experiencing unforeseen challenges. I began my career as a psychologist, and throughout the past 25 years and still true today, it is always humbling to be alongside parents, students or staff members who share a similar revelation: I did not envision that I would be facing this challenge, and I am not certain how best to respond. Though it may not appear as if others face similar challenges, fears or uncertainty based on what we can see on the surface, it has been my experience that all people will encounter these feelings at some time.

The high school years serve as a key developmental period when adolescents face first-time challenges with nearly regular frequency. Amid times when a teenager's own internal identity may not be fully established, his or her communication and relationship with parents and other adults may demonstrate a marked change. Just when it would appear teens may need parents the most, students in high school may be frustratingly distant or possibly even reactive.

Several years ago, I began practicing hot yoga. Like any unfamiliar challenge, the experience was often extremely demanding. Throughout the early months, my mind would question whether I could even make it to the end of the session. With patience and encouragement from the instructors, I just kept showing up and one day, I finally began to hear important messages that I am sure I had failed to hear countless times due to my own mind-chatter, messages like "Let your breath quiet the body" or "Your mind is stronger than your excuses."

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## National Merit semifinalists named

High School District 211 announces that 31 students have been named 2018 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Semifinalists are selected based on scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (P.S.A.T./N.M.S.Q.T.), given to more than one million students nationally.

Students must meet additional requirements to become National Merit finalists. In the spring, nearly 6,500 merit scholarships will be awarded nationally.

William Fremd High School students Abhinav R. Balu, Kevin Chen, Varun Cidambi, Bissmun Gill, Matthew C. Grabianski, Kailey G. Henson, Stephanie X. Hu, Jesse Huang, Kashif Javid, Edward W. Li, Anna J. Miller,

Allison M. Nakazawa, Adhith Palla, Nicholas L. Parekh, Elizabeth D. Perez, Andrew L. Ruan, Lauren P. Streitmatter, and Jerry Zheng have been named semifinalists.

Anubhav Agarwal, Adithya S. Chari, Annika K. Lafyatis, Bianca Saputra, Nitinshankar Subramanian, Sarah R. Yamaguchi, and Allison L. Zhang from James B. Conant High School have been named semifinalists.

Semifinalists from Hoffman Estates High School are Ryohei Namiki, Megha Ramanathan, and Shashank Sandu.

Schaumburg High School's semifinalists are Lisa N. Bonatz and Edwin J. Suresh.

Bhargav Yadavalli is the semifinalist from Palatine High School.

## Use Curriculum Guide for 2018-2019 course selection

Course selection for the 2018-2019 school year is approaching quickly. For current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, course selection will be conducted throughout the month of December. Incoming freshmen will be submitting elective course requests in mid-December.

The *Curriculum Guide* is one resource available for reviewing courses prior to registration. It describes courses offered during the current school year as well as information regarding academic standards, college admission criteria, and District 211 graduation requirements. A copy of the *Curriculum Guide*, complete with up-to-date revisions, is available at all times to all students and parents by accessing it on the District 211 website at: <http://adc.d211.org/academics/curriculum-home/>. *Curriculum Guides* also are available upon request for current students at the Student Services office in their high school. Eighth grade students (incoming freshmen in fall 2018) will receive District 211

*Curriculum Guides* at their junior high schools.

Several courses are required to assure that each student receives a basic, well-rounded education. However, there are many credits needed for graduation that are elective. Students may benefit from reviewing their elective course choices for alignment with potential college majors and career clusters by visiting the District 211 website devoted to this topic at: <http://www.d211careercluster.org/>. Thoughtful planning and wise decision-making can help students match their high school coursework and experiences with their college or career goals.

Course selection is a collaborative effort by students, parents, and counselors. Parents are encouraged to review curricular offerings with their children to identify courses that will meet each student's individual study plan. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor.

## Guidelines for senior final examinations

High School District 211 allows seniors who meet established criteria to apply for exemptions from final examinations during their last semester of attendance.

To qualify, the senior student must have at least the following: a "C" average in the course; have less than six absences from class; have never been truant from the class; have never been suspended from the class; and have no incomplete assignments required by the teacher. Seniors who qualify for exemptions can elect to

take final examinations to improve grades.

Seniors planning to graduate in December and who either are not exempt or who wish to take their finals will be tested on December 20, 21, and 22, 2017. Seniors scheduled to graduate in May and who either are not exempt from finals or who wish to take their finals will be administered exams on May 23, 24, and 25, 2018.

Additional information will be given to seniors at the beginning of second semester.

## Did you know ...

The 7th annual RAH (Realtors Against Homelessness) event will be held November 16, 2017 at Chandler's in Schaumburg from 5:00-9:00 p.m., and will feature the band *7th heaven*. All proceeds directly benefit homeless students in District 211. Learn more at <http://rah211.com>.

## Persistence ...

*continued from front*

Importantly, the instructors leading us never stopped sending the messages.

We are more alike than we are different, and most people are more likely to hear and internalize a message when they are calm, free from agitation, and not feeling fearful or overwhelmed. As adults, we have endured challenges that our high school adolescents may not have faced yet. Though they may not appear to hear us or to heed us, it is important that we continue to send guiding, assuring and encouraging messages. As educators, we recognize that sometimes teenagers may be likely to hear a message from someone outside the immediate family, even though it is the same message parents have patiently offered countless times.

We all get better when we work together. Please know that we have many staff members who want to work alongside you on behalf of our primary interest – your son or daughter.



Daniel E. Cates  
Superintendent



## Dates to Remember

- November 16** Realtors Against Homelessness Event (5:00-9:00 p.m., Chandler's in Schaumburg)
- November 22** Non-Attendance Day — *No School*
- November 23** Thanksgiving Day — *No School*
- November 24** Thanksgiving Holiday — *No School*
- December 14** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- December 20, 21, 22** 1st Semester Final Exams
- December 22** End of 1st Semester; Winter Vacation begins at close of school
- January 8** Teacher Institute Day — *No Classes*
- January 9** First Day of Classes 2nd Semester

**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.

## Update for school canine searches

In an effort to discourage students from drug violations and drug-related distractions, High School District 211 has joined with local law enforcement agencies to use police dogs to search for drugs on school campuses. The use of canine units in District 211 schools is intended to assist in the administration's ongoing efforts to deter students from taking the risk of bringing illegal substances into the school building or on campus, including the student parking lot.

Searches may occur at any time in each of the five high schools at the determination of the administration. In order to create a more visible deterrent, the implementation of canine searches will include multiple searches each semester conducted by a small number of canine search teams from local police departments offering this community service.

Local police departments and High School District 211 administrators will follow outlined procedures during the canine search, as well as if drugs or drug paraphernalia are found on campus. A school administrator will oversee and coordinate each search taking place on school grounds. Classroom doors will remain closed during the search, and individuals who leave a classroom may be asked to return if a search is being conducted in the immediate area. Every effort will be made to complete a hallway search within 20 minutes after a class period has started. Once a hallway search is complete, the canine unit may search the school parking lot and student locker rooms.

Please contact the principal's office at your school if you have concerns or additional questions.

## Severe cold school closing information

Recent winters have brought periods of extreme cold that have led to school closings. The decision to close school due to cold weather is centered on the priority of maintaining safety for our students.

In order to provide clarity and consistency as to when cold weather conditions warrant school closure due to scientifically-based concerns about safety, the District 211 administration consulted with an expert in meteorology, climatology, and weather analysis and another expert in cold weather exposure. Working together, guidelines were developed to define when weather conditions pose a threat to safety. As a result of these consultations, District 211 has worked with administrators from neighboring school districts to establish

parameters and guidelines for everyone's access to understand when cold weather conditions will necessitate an emergency school closure.

When the National Weather Service (NWS) declares a "wind chill warning" will be in effect, school will be cancelled. When the NWS declares a "wind chill advisory" to be in effect, we will conduct school through the establishment of "Severe Cold Action" procedures. During a wind chill advisory, classes will be held 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 <http://adc.d211.org/severecold>.

## District 211 Policy Manual available for review

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education *Policy Manual*, which contains policies established by the Board, is available for review. It can be reviewed in-person during regular business hours at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center (1750 South Roselle Road in Palatine), or online at the District 211 website (<http://adc.d211.org>). People interested in reviewing the *Policy Manual* in person should telephone **Kathe Lingl**, assistant to the superintendent, at (847) 755-6620 to schedule an appointment.

*"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 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.

