



Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

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Park Forest, Illinois 60466
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Caletha White Ed. D.
Superintendent

May 18, 2021

Dear 8th Grade Families,

This letter is an update to families regarding our in-person graduation plan for Thursday, May 26th. The 2021-22 school year has been a year of restoring our in-person learning environments and engagement with families. Our 8th grade graduation activities for May 2020 and May 2021 were drive-through celebrations with our students and their families. As you know, when we re-opened schools this past August for staff and students Governor Pritzker, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provided multiple layers of guidance related to safe and healthy environments in Illinois schools. As the year progressed, many of the COVID mitigation strategies were relaxed and/or removed. Decision making and mitigations shifted to local school boards.

Our current mitigation strategies includes universal masking, health monitoring and efforts to social distance. The school principals have communicated to all 8th grade families that each student will receive two (2) tickets for the May 26th graduation. In addition, all guests are required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test. At the time of that communication, our COVID Illinois Department of Public Health Community Status was “low.” Since the April 25, 2022 Board of Education Meeting, our Community Status has shifted to “medium.”

Due to the shift in the Community Status, there is a possibility that we will decrease the attendees to one (1) guest per student and/or request that all attendees provide a negative COVID test result. On-site COVID testing will be available. This letter is an update to the potential changes due to the increased positivity rates in our school and community. A final decision will be communicated to all 8th grade families by Monday, May 23rd.

We look forward to our in-person 8th Grade Graduation on Thursday, May 26th. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our school community.

Be excellent,

Dr. Caletha White
Superintendent of Schools

21st Century Primary Center
240 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490
Fax (708) 747-0261

Algonquin Pre-K Center
170 Algonquin
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200
Fax (708) 503-2267

Barack Obama School of
Leadership and Stem
401 Concord Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100
Fax (708) 283-2358

Blackhawk Primary Center
130 Blackhawk Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500
Fax (708) 481-0917

Mohawk Primary Center
301 Mohawk
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300
Fax (708) 748-9738

Michelle Obama School of
Technology and the Arts
530 Lakewood
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600
Fax (708) 503-2297

“Intelligence plus character, that is the true goal of education.” Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.