



Park Forest – Chicago Heights  
School District 163

242 South Orchard Drive  
Park Forest, Illinois 60466  
Phone: (708) 668-9427  
[www.sd163.com](http://www.sd163.com)

Caletha White Ed. D.  
Superintendent

February 13, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

School safety for all District 163 students and staff is a priority. I am writing to inform you of an important update regarding student backpacks and bags. In our ongoing efforts to enhance the safety of our school environments, all kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to use clear backpacks effective Monday, February 27, 2023. The school principal will provide one clear backpack for each kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade student during the week of February 13<sup>th</sup>. No other bags will be allowed except a small purse no larger than 6" x 5" x 2" in size.

We recognize the trust our families place in us when sending your children to school and that our staff have in us when coming to work. Please be reminded of our District 163 policies shared on our website at [www.sd163.com](http://www.sd163.com) and in our Parent-Student Handbook regarding expected student behaviors. Students are prohibited from bringing items such as incendiary devices (matches/lighters, etc), illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, nicotine, electronic cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, weapons, or look-alike weapons (bbguns/toy guns). Students are subject to disciplinary action for engaging in prohibited student conduct. Our goal is to ensure the safety of students and staff and maintain a positive, weapons-free and drug-free learning environment.

As a reminder, using or possessing a cellular telephone during the school day is prohibited. Any Prekindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student cell phone must be turned off and remain in a backpack. All 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade student cell phones must be turned off and remain in their school locker.

We continue to focus our efforts on improving school climate and proactively addressing school safety. We are committed to keeping our schools safe places for learning. If you have any questions about our safety efforts, I encourage you to connect with your school principal. We appreciate your partnership in promoting safe schools!

Sincerely,  
  
Dr. Caletha White  
Superintendent of Schools

21<sup>st</sup> 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

*"Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities"*