



Park Forest – Chicago Heights
School District 163

242 South Orchard Drive
Park Forest, Illinois 60466
Phone: (708) 668-9427
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 8th 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 8th grade student during the week of February 13th. 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 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 3rd grade student cell phone must be turned off and remain in a backpack. All 4th – 8th 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

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

"Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities"