



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

March 13, 2023

Dear Parent(s) and/ or Guardians:

We appreciate your investment in your child's education and want to share with you important information about district, State, and federally required assessments. Federal law requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to administer certain assessments to all students who attend public schools in the state. According to federal law:

- *Students must take an achievement exam in reading/language arts and mathematics each year from third through eighth grade. In Illinois, students take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR).*
- *Students in grades 5 and 8 must take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)*

Assessments help improve standards, curriculum, and instruction at the classroom, school, district, and state levels. Assessments play a role in helping ISBE and school districts identify areas where schools across the State are meeting expectations and where targeted support is needed. We encourage students to do their best on all assessments. School districts must administer assessments to at least 95 percent of students and at least 95 percent of each student demographic group or face lower public school recognition status, which leads to increased state oversight and may put districts' state and federal funds at risk. Our testing window is March 20th – March 31st.

Our 3rd-8th grade students will take the required IAR Mathematics and English Language Arts assessment for their grade level.

Our 5th and 8th grade students will take the ISBE required Illinois Science Assessment.

Our 2nd grade students will also have an opportunity to demonstrate their cognitive abilities during the administration of the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test. Students will engage in multiple choice questioning based on verbal and non-verbal reasoning and problem solving. These results will help in programming for students as they enter 3rd grade.

In an effort to ensure that students do their best on these upcoming tests, we are asking you to make a special effort to ensure that your child is at school promptly at 7:45 a.m. if they are eating

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

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

Mohawk Intermediate 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”

breakfast and 8:10 a.m. for regular attendance. Our school day begins at 8:15. It is important that our students arrive to school on time because once testing has begun students will not be able to enter the classroom until the testing session is completed. Late students will need to take their makeup test(s) in another classroom on another day with a teacher that they may not be familiar with. Testing under these conditions does not give your child the opportunity to perform at their highest academic potential.

It is important for all students to:

- Come to school daily during the testing window March 20th – March 31st
- Arrive to school on time, rested, alert, and prepared to test
- Listen carefully and follow test directions
- Maintain good behavior to ensure that the classroom environment is conducive for testing
- Do their best on all tests

Reinforcing these expectations at home will remind students that we are all working toward the same goal, their success. If your child becomes ill during the testing period week and is unable to attend school, please remember to call the school office and leave a message. Please make every effort to ensure that your child knows that meeting these expectations for their success is important to you.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school Principal. Dr. Taiyuan Banks at tbanks@sd163.com. Thank you for partnering with us.

Respectfully,

Dr. Calettha White

Dr. Calettha White
Superintendent of Schools