



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

August 18, 2021

Dear District 163 Families,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. We are excited about welcoming our students back for in-person learning in all District 163 schools for the 2021-22 school year on our first day of school, Friday, August 20th.

On Monday, August 16th at 4:30 p.m. we were notified by our transportation provider, Cook-Illinois Kickert, of 50% reductions in our District 163 bus routes due to a driver shortage. Our team immediately began to discuss plans to mitigate the issues and support our school community. Kickert offered to provide morning and afternoon transportation for our students in two “waves”. This means some students are transported first and the buses return back out to pick up the second ‘wave’ of students.

It is important for us to communicate quickly and thoroughly with our families regarding information that impacts you and your children. On Tuesday, August 17th our team hosted a Virtual Town Hall Transportation Meeting and provided detailed information regarding bus routes and ‘wave’ schedules. The Virtual Town Hall meeting is available on our district website if you were unable to attend. The current schedules are attached to this letter. A letter from Kickert is also attached. This ‘wave’ plan will be implemented beginning Friday, August 20th. Please keep in mind that bus routes may take longer during the first few days of school. We will provide updates with any changes to this schedule. Please ensure that your child’s school has correct phone numbers and emails in Skyward for you to receive our communications.

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we navigate this school transportation issue. You may choose to temporarily ‘opt-out’ of bus transportation in the morning, afternoon or both. You may also choose to drop off and/or pick up your child. Please contact your child’s school if you would like to make any transportation changes. Our goal is that each child is transported safely every day.

As a reminder, masks are required on all school buses and in all school buildings. Thank you for your partnership in our efforts to work together to stop the spread of COVID-19! Wear our masks, wash our hands frequently, watch our distance, and get vaccinated. We look forward to seeing you soon! Stay well! Stay connected for communication updates!

Sincerely,

Dr. Caletha White

Superintendent of Schools
#elevatingexcellence

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.