



1625 Deep Lake Road * Lake Villa, Illinois 60046 * Fax 847-395-7553 * www.chsd117.org

11-5-2021

Community High School District 117 Families,

This past summer, while preparing for the upcoming school year, the District recognized and responded to the need for additional student and staff support. Due, in part, to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief ([ESSER](#)) funds received from the federal government, the following are some of the additional services established to provide an even stronger learning environment this year:

Program improvements

- Summer school students were able to participate in a credit recovery program at no cost. This allowed students to make-up credits not earned over the period of remote learning. The District plans to continue its support of this program through the summer of 2022.
- The District provided "hot spots" to students who did not have access to Wifi in their homes to ensure students were able to access their classes when not attending in-person learning.
- Tutoring opportunities have greatly expanded this school year. Full-time certified tutors in Math and English are available to all students. Evening support tutoring, "homework hangouts" are held after school and in the evening. Peer tutoring is available to students prior to and during the school day.
- The District continues to monitor and respond to the needs of our students during these challenging times. We are proud to share that we continue to expand our social emotional and academic support for our students and will continue to assess the need for additional support which assists students and their families.
- Our expanded partnership with Community Youth Network (CYN) provides counseling to students in the school setting.
- Developed a partnership with One Hope United in Lake Villa, to offer counseling services that focus on supporting students who have experienced various forms of trauma.

Staff adjustments

- The Student Services staff has been expanded to include a full-time district School Psychologist as well as two Social Work Interns.
- Hired two additional special education teachers to support our students' growing needs as well as a District Transition Services Coordinator to provide targeted support for senior students with disabilities and post-secondary planning.

Safety and Security

- The District has welcomed the close partnership with our Police Departments and we are fortunate to have a School Resource Officer in each of our high schools.
- Collaborated with the University of Illinois to provide onsite COVID testing for students and staff. In addition, BinaxNow has been available since spring 2021.
- Expanded COVID testing flexibility by partnering with OHARE Labs to provide even more opportunities for COVID testing that are more convenient for our students and families.
- Hired a dedicated Nurse to handle contact tracing and additional nursing support to our students and staff.
- The District ensured families in need received meals since the beginning of the pandemic. Meals have been available for pick-up even when school was not in session. Thanks to the help from staff and community volunteers, meal delivery was made available for families that lack transportation.
- Continue layered mitigation measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- The Fine Arts Departments in both schools have provided incredible performance opportunities for our talented students. Marching band, fall plays, concerts and showcases have been well attended and supported in both schools.
- Fall athletic seasons will conclude with IHSA State Cross Country Championships this Saturday, November 6. More than 800 students participated in 11 athletic program offerings in each building.
- Over 30 clubs and activities actively engage a wide variety of the student body. More information is available on [school websites](#) to leverage these great opportunities.
- Winter athletic seasons have begun and competitions will begin in the coming weeks.
- District 117 is excited to provide exceptional facilities for a number of upcoming tournaments and performances in the District field house.

These examples, among others, demonstrate the District's effort to respond to current challenges and to achieve our ongoing goal of creating school conditions which maximize in-person learning in a healthy and safe manner, with minimal interruptions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim McKay

Superintendent