



March 11, 2022

Hello everyone,

It is hard to believe, but today marks the end of the 3rd quarter of the school year. I am thrilled with the progress that our students have made to this point and the last 10 weeks of this school year will be very important. In the coming weeks, our students will participate in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, so please look for additional information from your building principal regarding the schedule and other school-specific information.

COVID-19 Metrics

As of today, we have 4 active COVID-19 cases between students and staff members in our 5 schools and district office. In addition, we have 0 outbreaks at this time. You can find our district and school metrics anytime by following [this link](#). Please make sure to keep your child home from school if they are ill and also notify your building nurse if your child does test positive for COVID-19. The breakdown of the active student and staff cases is as follows:

Location	Number of Active Cases	Student Vaccination Percentages
Flossmoor Hills	0	18%
Heather Hill	1	24%
Serena Hills	0	19%
Western Avenue	1	40%
Parker Junior High	2	37%
Normandy Villa	0	N/A

COVID-19 Protocols

On Monday, February 28, District 161 implemented the following COVID-19 protocols:

- Students and staff who want to wear a face mask in school can continue to wear them. Masks are required when entering the nurse's office.
- SHIELD testing will continue as scheduled [a mask is required to participate].

- Physical distancing will still be in place.
- COVID-19 positive students and staff will isolate for 5 days, and must wear a mask through the 10th day of isolation.
- Close contacts to a positive case in school may participate in testing to stay or quarantine for 5 days and must wear a mask through the 10th day of isolation.
- Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be assessed by the nurse and will be required to wear a mask while waiting to leave the building.
- Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not enter the building and will be required to show proof of a negative PCR/antigen test prior to return.

The administration will continue to monitor both the community and district data and will make changes to our protocols if necessary.

***NEW* Proposed Calendar Change for 2022-2023**

Tuesday, November 8th, is now an Election Holiday to recognize the date of the general election in Illinois. Veterans Day is also celebrated on Friday of that week, November 11th. Therefore, it is recommended that we observe Veterans Day on Monday, November 7th, followed by the Election Holiday on November 8th, and students would begin that school week on Wednesday, November 9th, to provide scheduling consistency. As a district, we will recognize Veterans Day with in-person activities on Friday of that week. A public hearing will be held at our Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 11th to discuss and take action.

Community SHIELD Testing Information

We are offering community COVID-19 SHIELD testing on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Parker Junior High School. Additional details can be found [here](#).

Free Internet Access Opportunities Through AT&T

Households can confirm their eligibility for the new ACP benefit and get approved with the federal government's National Verifier at www.acpbenefit.org. More information on this program can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, March 15	Summer Academy Registration Opens
Monday, March 28 - Friday, April 1	Spring Break - No School
Monday, June 6 - Tuesday, July 19	Summer Academy in Session [No school on June 20, June 28, or July 4]

Summer Academy Information

The D161 Summer Academy program will begin on June 6, 2022 and end on July 19, 2022. The program will provide free learning opportunities for pre-K-7th-grade students. Please review the Summer Academy brochure [here](#) for additional details. Parents will receive the registration forms on March 15, 2022. Please contact Ms. Karen French at 708-647-7017 or kfrench@sd161.org with any questions.

Employment Opportunities

Interested in becoming a part of the D161 team? We are currently seeking individuals to fill the following positions for this school year: Lunchroom Supervisor at Serena Hills, Special Education Paraprofessional at Western Avenue, Serena Hills, and Parker Junior High, Guest Teachers, Guest School Nurses, and 2nd Shift Custodian. For the 2022-23 school year, we have the following positions available: Special Education Resource Teacher at Western Avenue, 4th Grade Teacher and Art Teacher at Serena Hills, Music Teacher at Flossmoor Hills, .5 FTE Speech Language Pathologist for Western Avenue and Flossmoor Hills, F/T Speech Language Pathologist and Heather Hill, and a 5th Grade Teaching position at a school to be determined later.

For our online application, click [this link](#) and then the 'Apply' button next to the position. To find out more about what D161 has to offer, click [here](#). If you have any questions about the process to becoming a licensed substitute teacher, please contact our Human Resources department.

Illinois 5Essentials Parent Survey

Today is the last day to complete the 5Essentials survey for your school. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to fill out the survey, as your input is very important. We use the data from the 5Essentials survey to make decisions regarding classroom programming, parent resources and events, and staff development, just to name a few ways that we use the information. Your input is critical to our future success and I am thankful for your feedback.

How to take the survey:

- [Click here](#) to take the survey.
- Select a 'Parent Survey'.
- You may enter your email address if you would like to receive confirmation of your submission, but it is not required.
- Enter 'COOK' into the county field and 'NAME OF SCHOOL' to find your child's school.
- Please remember to click 'submit' at the end of the survey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent