



March 18, 2022

Hello District 161 students, parents, and staff,

As we move further into March, I am excited for the various events and opportunities to welcome parents and families back into our schools. Each school has a number of concerts and events planned in the coming weeks and I hope you can participate in them.

### **COVID-19 Metrics**

As of today, we have 5 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	3	38%
Normandy Villa	0	N/A

### **\*NEW\* Public Health Travel Guidance**

For domestic and international travel, students may return to school the next day after returning, but it is recommended that people take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after returning home and self-monitor for symptoms for a full 10 days. Being up to date on your vaccines and COVID-19 testing before and after travel, are straightforward ways to stay healthy.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.acpbenefit.org). More information on this program can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, March 23	Kindergarten Registration Begins
Monday, March 28 - Friday, April 1	Spring Break - No School
Friday, April 15	Good Friday - No School
Friday, May 6	Last Day to Register for Summer Academy
Monday, June 6 - Tuesday, July 19	Summer Academy

## \*UPDATED\* Summer Academy Information

The D161 Summer Academy program will begin on June 6, 2022 and end on July 19, 2022. Registration is now open for Summer Academy. Please review the [Summer Academy Newsletter](#) and complete the registration form below. The program will provide free learning opportunities for pre-K-7th-grade students. Registration is due by Friday, May 6, 2022. Please contact [summeracademy@sd161.org](mailto:summeracademy@sd161.org) if you have any questions.

- Registration Forms: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

### **\*NEW\* Kindergarten Roundup**

Registration for students entering kindergarten in August will begin on Wednesday, March 23. Additional information will be posted on the district and school websites early next week.

### **Employment Opportunities**

Interested in becoming a part of the D161 team? We are currently seeking individuals to fill the following positions for the 2022-23 school year: Special Education Instructional Teacher at Parker Junior High, Kindergarten Teacher, 4th Grade Teacher, and Art Teacher at Serena Hills, .5 FTE Speech Language Pathologist for Western Avenue and Flossmoor Hills, Kindergarten Teacher and Instructional Paraprofessional at Western Avenue, 3rd Grade Teacher and Reading Specialist at Heather Hill, Elementary Orchestra Teacher, and School Psychologist.

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.

Our Summer Academy registration is up and running and I encourage you to review the programming options to determine if your child[ren] should participate. Every year, we welcome more students to our half and full day programs and we see measurable growth in the students who join us for summer learning. If you have any questions about Summer Academy or anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent