



April 8, 2022

Dear District 161 students, parents and staff,

I hope you all had a wonderful Spring Break and that you are ready for the final 8 weeks of the school year. Our students are currently taking the Illinois Assessment of Readiness [IAR] in grades 3 through 8 and that will conclude in the next couple of weeks. The IAR is a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate their learning, so please encourage your child to do their best!

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. In certain circumstances, home tests for COVID-19 may be allowed for proof of absence of disease.

***UPDATED* Community SHIELD Testing Information**

Community-wide SHIELD testing is available every Saturday at Parker Junior High School from 9am to noon. Additional details can be found [here](#).

Kindergarten Roundup

A kindergarten roundup event has been scheduled on Wednesday, April 20th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at each elementary school. Parents will be able to submit registration and residency paperwork, tour the school, and meet the current kindergarten team. You will receive additional information from your school principal on this opportunity.

Summer Academy Information

The SD161 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 if you have any questions.

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

Employment Opportunities

Interested in becoming a part of the D161 team? We are currently seeking individuals to fill positions for Summer Academy and for the 2022-23 school year. To view our open positions and/or apply for a position, please click [here](#). 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.

Are you interested in becoming a certified teacher and already have a bachelor's degree? National Louis University, one of our university partners, has informational sessions coming up about obtaining your Masters of Arts in Teaching degree in Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, or Special Education. [This flier](#) will provide you with more information about their upcoming sessions.

Important Upcoming Events:

- Monday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m., Board of Education Meeting
- Wednesday, April 13 at 3:45 p.m., Community Engagement Committee Meeting
- Friday, April 15, No School: Good Friday

As always, if you have any questions about the information in this letter or if I can assist you in any way, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent