



## Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

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**Caletha White Ed. D.**  
Superintendent

May 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child prepares for the transition to the 4th grade in the Fall of 2020, Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 is pleased to announce that we offer two school options, for students who are eligible. The Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts or the Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM. Each school will offer different enhancements to peak student interest and infuse a deeper and more challenging component within the regular curriculum. All District schools will offer the core curriculum with alignment to the Illinois State Standards.

The Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts will offer a program in the arts that includes theater, music, performing arts and visual arts. Eligible students will have additional opportunities for the performing arts through show choir and theater performances. Go to <https://youtu.be/Xytws-V8V00> to learn more about the Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts.

The Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM will offer a program of student leadership for upper-grade students, STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for all students, as well as special programming in Horticulture. This exciting curriculum integrates hands-on learning with technology and literacy in ways that motivate and excite students in areas such as alternative energy, robotics, and communication media arts. Eligible students will also be given opportunities for additional field learning experiences. Go to [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hu\\_258dwK-vBm8FRjL-S\\_ZvD7UvvBsDU/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hu_258dwK-vBm8FRjL-S_ZvD7UvvBsDU/view?usp=sharing) to learn more about the Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM.

Students who qualify for eligibility will have the option to choose their school based on their individual interests in learning. A Genius Hour virtual panel discussion will be offered on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and 5:00 TO 6:00 p.m. to answer any questions that you have regarding each of the two choice schools. You may access the panel discussion by clicking on the following Zoom link.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Preparatory Center**  
240 S. Orchard Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
(708) 668-9490  
Fax (708) 747-0261

**Algonquin Primary 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 Intermediate Center**  
130 Blackhawk Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
(708) 668-9500  
Fax (708) 481-0917

**Mohawk Intermediate 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

***“Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities”***

May 6, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86540985951  
Meeting ID: 865 4098 5951  
Password: 1Rzjgq

May 6, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82525566448  
Meeting ID: 825 2556 6448  
Password: 0KcQum

The discussion will be recorded and can be accessed via the district website on Thursday, May 7, 2020 if you are unable to join the live Genius Hour.

Attached you will find a copy of the eligibility rubric that staff use to evaluate your child's eligibility status for school choice, and a School Choice Application. We are asking that you discuss the two school options with your child and complete an application indicating your child's preference for his/her 4<sup>th</sup> grade school assignment. Your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher is completing the eligibility rubric.

Please complete and email your school choice application to Carenda Lacy @ [clacy@sd163.com](mailto:clacy@sd163.com) or drop your application off at your child's school between 9-11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Adhering to the application deadline is important as applications will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis. Additionally, it is important to note that your application will be reviewed in conjunction with your child's eligibility rubric score ranking and the space available at each school.

The final selection will be made by the Superintendent, and you will be notified by Friday, May 22, 2020. Students who are not eligible to choose their attendance center will be assigned to either Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts or the Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM based upon residency.

We are pleased and proud that we can offer our children a progressive learning experience that will continue to inspire and challenge each student's quest for knowledge.

Sincerely,

Caletha White, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

att: School Choice Option Information  
Eligibility Rubric  
School Choice Application