

Handbook Updates Pertaining to COVID-19

Board of Education Meetings: The District #110 Board of Education meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. in the Grant Middle School Library and are open to the public. During the COVID pandemic, while in phases which restrict the amount of people who can gather in a space, Board Meetings shall be conducted remotely at the regularly scheduled time. The link to these meetings can be found on the District website at www.dist110.com

Book Bags & Coats and Personal Items: Personal items will be stored separately. In an effort to minimize spread, students should only bring essential items to school.

Building Hours: Student attendance hours are normally as follows: Grant Middle School from 7:40 to 2:20 and Illini Elementary School from 8:30 to 2:55. Grant students not riding the bus should not arrive at school before 7:15 A.M. Students arriving after the designated start time of the day must obtain a pass from the office in order to be allowed to enter class. Students must be out of the building no later than ten minutes following the end of the day unless involved in a supervised school activity. School officials may contact appropriate authorities if students are not picked up from school in a timely manner. Students who are at Illini School before 8:10 or who are not picked up by 3:00 PM, will be checked into the *Latch*Key* program. A fee of \$1.00 per minute is assessed for child care, for those students who are not enrolled in the *Latch*Key* program.

All students will be screened for fever before entering the building. Students will not be allowed to enter prior to 7:15 at GMS and 8:10 at Illini. During COVID, students will report directly to their classroom in the morning. Breakfast will be grab and go to be eaten in their classrooms.

Dress Code: Students and staff will be required to wear Personal Protective Equipment while in the school buildings. The District will provide washable masks for students. If a student is unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, parents will need to provide documentation from a health care provider indicating the need for an alternative (face shield).

Personal Property: Students should not bring additional personal property to school during COVID. Examples of such personal property are “scooters,” toys, games, trading cards, skateboards, radios, iPods, CD players or MP3 players, and so on. If personal property is brought to school, it is done so at the student’s own risk. The school will not be responsible for any personal property items brought to school by students. *See page 13, Prohibited Property and Consequences.*

School Physicals (health examinations): All children entering early childhood, Pre-K, for the first time, kindergarten, first grade for the first year of school attendance, sixth grade, or entering the district from out-of-state, are required to submit a current physical examination, done within the past year, including complete up-to-date immunizations. Students not meeting this state mandate may be excluded from school until all requirements are satisfied. Transfer students and students new to the state have thirty days to meet the requirements. The district health care provider will monitor all health records. The Superintendent of Schools will make the final decisions regarding exclusion for non-compliance. Due to the availability of doctor appointments during the COVID pandemic, the District asks these be completed as timely as possible.

Dental Requirements: The state of Illinois has added dental exams as part of the health requirements for all students in **Kindergarten, Second, and Sixth** grades. The exam may not be more than 18months old (must be done after November 15th). A signed and completed dental form must be turned into the nurse

no later than May 15th. Due to the availability of doctor appointments during the COVID pandemic, the District asks these be completed as timely as possible.

Vision Requirements: Kindergarten and students enrolling for the first time in an Illinois School.

The law calls for the eye exam to take place within one year prior to kindergarteners starting school in the fall. Proof of the eye exam must be submitted by October 15th of each school year. Students enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time have 30 days from the day they enroll to turn in a completed Eye Exam Form. Due to the availability of doctor appointments during the COVID pandemic, the District asks these be completed as timely as possible.

School Visitors: *Public Act 86-0202* was enacted into law as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of our children at schools. All visitors who come to the school (parents, grandparents, volunteers, and all others) are required to go to the building office and register; identification may be requested. Badges will be given to all visitors and must be returned to the office when the visitor signs out. Student visitors to our schools must have prior consent from the Principal. During COVID, visitors will not be permitted in the buildings.

P. E. Dress: Students in grades K-8 must have gym shoes that do not leave marks on the floor. 7th and 8th grade students will have uniforms that must be purchased through the school. During COVID, students will not be required to dress out for PE.

Promotion and Retention: During COVID, under a remote learning platform, students are expected to meet the same academic standards as they would during in class learning. Legislation enacted by the Illinois General Assembly states that students must meet academic standards established by the school district in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Social promotions are not permissible. **To be considered for promotion at Grant District #110, a 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade student may not fail more than 1 of the core courses** (Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies), District 110, in accordance with the Illinois law, will not support social promotion. The goal of District #110 is for all students to maintain academic success. The nature of the educational process is a “building block”, in that the skills acquired during a school year need to be retained and expanded upon as a student progresses. It is imperative that District #110 maintains high academic standards to ensure that students obtain success throughout their entire school career. Therefore, in the event that a student is not demonstrating adequate academic performance they will be a candidate for retention. Building administration will collaborate with parents and teachers to develop a remediation plan that is appropriate for each retention candidate.

The minimum requirement for acceptable academic performance is that students must earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 on the 5.0 scale. **The decision for retention or promotion lies solely with District 110.**

Attendance: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make sure the child is at school every day. This also includes logging in to the remote learning platform for the required attendance time, should the COVID pandemic create a need for remote learning. During a remote learning situation, parent will still need to notify the school if your child needs to be absent from logging in to class. The following are considered excusable reasons for absence from school; illness of the student; death of a member of the immediate family; serious illness of a member of the immediate family; medical or dental appointments which absolutely cannot be made at any other time; emergencies or Acts of God; other absences given prior consideration and approval by the administration. **At all times, parents not the students, must make a**

call to the school before 9:30 AM giving the reason for the student's absence. Failure to do so, will result in the office calling the parents at home and if necessary, their place of business (as permitted by law) to obtain the information. This note must be presented to the office where the student will receive a pass for entry into the classroom. **Chronic truants** are defined as a student who has missed more than 5% of school attendance days, will be referred to the ROE truancy review board. A **full day of attendance** is constituted when students are present at school for 300 or more instructional minutes. A **half-day of attendance** (50%) requires students to be at school at least 150 minutes per day.

If a student is not able to attend in person classes because of a health concern, parents may submit documentation from a health care provider to the school. The District will accommodate the students needs utilizing a remote learning plan.

Truancy: A child is considered truant when he/she is subject to compulsory school attendance and is absent from school without valid cause for a school day or portion thereof. A chronic or habitual truant is a child who is absent from school without valid cause for five percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days. The District may require a physician's note regarding excess absences and or tardiness. District 110 shall make available support services and other school resources in order to attempt to correct the chronic/habitual truant behavior before calling in the Regional Office of Education or taking punitive action. The Fairview Heights Police Department may be called to assist with home visits. Truancy still applies during a COVID remote learning situation if a child does not attend the remote class sessions.

Bus Conduct: Riding the bus is a privilege and should be treated as such. Each student has a responsibility to themselves and their fellow students in helping maintain a safe and orderly means of getting to and from school. All students riding the bus must ride to and from school. Students may only enter or leave the bus at their designated pick-up or drop-off point. Students will be assigned seating on the bus and must remain in their assigned seat for the purpose of limiting spread of the COVID virus and for contact tracing, should it be necessary.

Extra-curricular activities: The school district offers programs, which are operated outside the regular school curriculum and are designed to enhance student talents and skills. These extra-curricular activities include athletics, dance, cheerleading, chess club, computer club, scholar bowl, student council, student newspaper, Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA), yearbook staffs, Gaming and Running Clubs, as well as other student based clubs as requested. Students will be declared ineligible to participate if they have either 2 D's or a failing grade in any class. Students must also demonstrate appropriate behavior at school to maintain eligibility. At this time, extra-curricular activities for the Fall season have been cancelled by Belle-Fair Conference Officials. Guidance regarding an ability to return to play is continually being assessed and the District will make decisions about future activities in alignment with the changing COVID-19 situation.

Illness: When a student is not feeling well, please keep them home. When you report your child sick to school staff, please be prepared to report your child's symptoms, how long they have had symptoms, and if you have had your child seen by a health care professional. During the COVID pandemic, it is critical for parents to consult their health care professionals when an illness arises.

When a child becomes ill at school, or if they arrive at school with symptoms, they will be sent home immediately. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up quickly by having people arranged to get your child if you are unable to. Should your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater, they will need to be fever free for 72 hours, without medication, and be symptom free for 10 days prior to returning to school. Children who are seen and cleared by their health care professional may be permitted to return to school if they are cleared by their doctor.