

*Please do not reply to this email*

Dear Students and Parents:

I sincerely hope that this communication finds you and your family in good health and good spirits as we approach the month of May and the extended continuation of our remote learning. Each day, our empty classrooms remind us that we have no complete substitute for the in-person connections that our teachers and student services personnel develop and foster with our students. For many, these formative interactions and life lessons exchanged between our students and our staff members shape the direction of young people's lives. Though distanced at this time, our teachers, counselors, psychologists, social workers and all our staff members strive to continue these critical connections.

With just over three weeks remaining in the semester (only two weeks for our seniors!), we draw encouragement from seeing how expressions of support for one another – no matter how small – help all of us to stay stronger. Yesterday, my wife and I and all our neighbors had our day brightened by a caravan of students in honking cars each stopping in front of a neighbor's house to drop off birthday wishes for a friend. One could see the joy on their faces even as they all safely followed distancing guidelines. We hope you had a happy birthday, Evelyn!

In recent weeks, I sent some encouraging notes to people and the response is nearly always the same: *"Your message came just at a time when I needed it!"*

We can create and multiply our happiness simply by reaching out to someone today.

Again this week, this is the first of several communications to help keep everyone informed and connected. You can find our previous communications on the District website in two places regarding [Coronavirus Updates](#) and [E-Learning \(Remote Learning\) information](#).

### **Tentative In-Person Graduation Dates**

Because public health restrictions prevent us from having our in-person graduation ceremonies as regularly scheduled in May, we have reserved the **Sears Centre on both Saturday, June 20, 2020 and Saturday, July 25, 2020** as possible dates to conduct an in-person graduation ceremony. If public health guidelines allow, we are preparing to conduct our ceremonies on either of these dates, and we have posted this information on our [website](#).

Unable to know what the future might allow, we will provide a virtual graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 on the original date scheduled for each school's graduation. Preparations for each school's online ceremony are already underway.

I want to acknowledge the sheer disappointment that we all share in not being able to celebrate our seniors through our familiar graduation ceremonies in May. Staff members throughout our schools have worked through many possibilities to honor and celebrate our seniors in some way. In an upcoming communication from each principal, we will provide information about the ways we hope to honor the accomplishments of our seniors.

Tomorrow, on Wednesday, seniors and their parents will receive a message from your school's principal about how seniors can pick-up their graduation cap and gown and the graduation program, along with other items next week at your school.

### **Lockers and Personal Possessions**

In an upcoming communication from your principal, you will receive detailed information about when and how students will be able to retrieve any possessions that may still be in our facilities. A survey of lockers in our schools found that students had done a great job clearing most possessions. For those who may still have any belongings in our schools, we want to assure you that each school will communicate arrangements so that you will be able to get your possessions.

### **Summer School 2020 Update**

Summer School 2020 will consist of two semesters and each semester will be delivered via remote learning. No in-person summer school courses will be offered this year. The summer school calendar has not changed from its originally scheduled days. Semester one will be held from June 2 through June 23, and semester two will be in session from June 24 through July 15. Remote learning will take place from 8:00 until 11:30 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays during summer school, and summer school classes will not be held on Fridays.

Registration will begin on Wednesday, April 29, with initial registration running through May 8. More information about summer school will be emailed tomorrow, on Wednesday, April 29, including details on the staggered summer school registration window and will include a list of courses that will be available for students this summer.

### **D211 Meal Bags Pickup**

Throughout the closure, District 211 will continue distributing nutritious meal bags for any student in-need. This week's no-contact, drive-thru pick-up for families will be on Thursday, April 30 at Palatine High School (1111 N. Rohlwing Road in Palatine) and at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center (1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine) from 9:00-11:00 a.m., and at Hoffman Estates High School (1100 W. Higgins Road in Hoffman Estates) from 9:00 a.m. - noon. Additional information is available on the [District 211 website](#), and questions can be emailed to [foodservice@d211.org](mailto:foodservice@d211.org).

### **Upcoming Communications**

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncertain times and challenges together. We will continue to communicate each week through the District and from each school's principal for the remaining weeks of the semester.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Cates  
Superintendent

*You received this electronic communication because you provided your email address to High School District 211. Changes or updates to your email address can be made using [Infinite Campus](#). If you have questions regarding any of the information contained within this email, please call the high school for assistance with your concern.*

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