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Dear Parents and Students:

As we approach the halfway mark of the first semester of the school year, our schools' plans to transition from the Remote learning scenario to a Hybrid scenario continue to be refined. Earlier, we announced that this change could happen as early as the last week in October, and I am pleased that we are targeting October 26, 2020 as the first day of Hybrid learning. As you may recall, our Hybrid learning scenario is a rotational schedule with a group of students physically attending school each day for one week, while the remainder of students attend school remotely for the week. The groups then rotate weekly. Some students will connect to the classroom remotely every day as their families have indicated that they will not be attending in-person classes during first semester.

I'd like to thank parents for the thought and time they invested in responding to our recent online survey regarding learning preferences for their children for the remainder of first semester. The data gathered through the survey is critical to our schools as they finalize specific health and safety protocols for in-person learning under the Hybrid scenario. These include ensuring six-foot social distancing in all spaces within the school building and solidifying classroom, restroom, and hallway protocols, which must be strictly followed by all students and staff. Next week, additional information will be provided to students about what to expect when attending in-person class beginning on October 26, including school team assignments for students that will indicate in-person attendance weeks for the remainder of the first semester.

Week of October 12

Following the Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 12, 2020, there will be no Afternoon Academic Support sessions for students October 13-15, as staff members will use this time in the afternoon to prepare for our transition to Hybrid learning. Afternoon Academic Support sessions will resume the following week, starting on October 19 and will continue as scheduled throughout the semester. On Wednesday, October 14, select seniors will be taking the SAT exam in-person (see below). All other seniors and students will continue in the regularly scheduled remote classes on October 14. Friday, October 16 is an I.S.B.E.-approved Teacher Institute Day, and no classes will be held.

State-Sponsored SAT Exam for Seniors – October 14 & 27

On Wednesday, October 14, 2020 or on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, seniors will be taking the State-sponsored SAT exam in-person at school. Senior students were assigned a specific date based on the preference they indicated in a recent survey. The SAT exam provides an opportunity for seniors to complete this graduation requirement. Those seniors who are taking the SAT exam will receive the [District 211 Daily Wellness Screening Survey](#) sent directly to their District 211 email account the morning of the exam. Seniors taking the exam should complete this survey before coming to school and should be prepared to show the confirmation message when entering the building. Seniors taking exams on these days will be excused from classes. All other students, including those seniors not taking the SAT exam, are expected to participate in classes remotely on both days, October 14 and October 27. Junior students, and those seniors not taking the exam in October, will take the State-sponsored SAT exam in April. Seniors who do not know if they are taking the SAT exam on October 14, October 27, or on the April SAT date should contact their school counselor.

Teacher Institute Day – October 16

Friday, October 16, 2020 will be a Teacher Institute Day, with no classes for students. Remote learning for all students resumes on Monday, October 19, 2020.

District 211 College Night – October 20

The District 211 *Virtual* College Night program will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The event is open to all District 211 students and their parents and will consist of four 25-minute sessions. In each session, students and parents will be able to select from eight different presentations hosted by a representative from popular colleges and universities. Links also will be provided to other colleges and universities from across the country. Additional information on the District 211 *Virtual* College Night is available [here](#).

PSAT/NMSQT Exam for Juniors – October 29

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, the optional PSAT/NMSQT or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be given to juniors who have signed up for the exam in-person at their high school. Junior students taking the exam will be excused from classes on this day, while all other students will attend classes as scheduled with their Hybrid scenario team assignments, either in-person at school or remotely.

D211 Meal Bags – Thursdays

District 211 Meal Bags are still available to all District 211 students free of charge. Each meal bag contains breakfast and lunch for a full week. During Remote learning, two options are available to receive meals. Meals are available via bus deliveries. Families must sign up for weekly meal delivery by completing the form available [here](#). The other option for meals is weekly curbside pick-up every Thursday. This

no-contact, drive-thru pick-up is available at all District 211 high schools on Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Meals will still be available to in-person and Remote students during the Hybrid learning scenario. More information on current curbside pick-up service is available [here](#).

Face Masks Must Be Worn in School

Students are required to wear approved face masks while at school. This includes attending in-person Afternoon Academic Support sessions, activities and athletics, and in-person classes once the Hybrid scenario begins on October 26. Strict enforcement of health and safety guidelines established by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Cook County Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education will be followed in order to keep all students, staff members, and community members safe. Additional District 211 safety protocols are available [here](#).

Continue to visit the [Back to School 2020-2021](#) webpage and the [2020-2021 School Year Student-Parent Resources](#) webpage for updates and the most current information. On these webpages, you will find information regarding safety protocols, transportation, FAQs, copies of previous communications, etc.

As we prepare to move into the Hybrid learning scenario, I thank you in advance for your patience, understanding, flexibility, and support. This has been a challenging time for all. Together, we will move forward to the next phase. Next week, additional information will be provided to students about what to expect when attending in-person class beginning on October 26, opportunities for freshmen and other students new to high school to walk through their schedule, and school team assignments for students that will indicate in-person attendance weeks for the remainder of the first semester. I look forward to seeing more of our students in our schools in a few, short weeks.

Sincerely,

Lisa Small
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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