



# NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community • January 2019

*A message from the Superintendent ...*

## New beginnings in a New Year

I recently read a quote from a philosopher that goes like this, “New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings.” The New Year offers a fitting time to reflect on the past year that is behind us, and an opportunity to consider all that we are now beginning.

After starting the school year back in the heat of mid-August, our students recently ended a rigorous semester with a string of final exams. The end of a semester offers all of us a chance to reflect on the positive and productive habits we practiced as well as an opportunity to establish an improved path for ourselves, moving beyond any unproductive thoughts or patterns that might have hampered our best effort.

I believe it also is important to openly acknowledge that during the last week of our semester – with only a short time remaining before students were scheduled to take final exams – our District stood at the brink of reaching a point we had never reached in our history: an employee work stoppage that would have cancelled school and likely disrupted the scheduled completion of the semester.

Like many others, I took appraisal and have reflected often about the past months, weeks, days and even hours leading up to the moment when we finally knew for certain that we had resolved the impasse and that school would continue without interruption. These reflections continued well into the days since we reached a resolution.

We now stand at a point wherein we can best serve our students and

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## Summer school dates set

Summer school dates have been approved by the Board of Education. The first semester of summer school will begin on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, and will continue through Tuesday, June 25, 2019. Second semester will start on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 and will end on Thursday, July 18, 2019. Summer school classes will not meet on Fridays (June 7, June 14, June 21, June 28, July 5, and July 12). There will be no classes on Thursday, July 4 in observance of the federal Independence Day holiday.

Summer school is a great opportunity for educational growth and enrichment. Each year, over 11,000 students are enrolled.

Courses offer students opportunities to explore enrichment subjects, develop new interests, or complete required courses for graduation. Please plan your summer school schedule early. Remember, because summer school is a condensed program, **daily attendance is mandatory.**

Summer school course catalogs will be mailed in early March. Registration for summer classes begins on April 15, 2019 for Conant, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools and on April 17, 2019 for Fremd and Palatine High Schools. Counselors can assist students with the registration process.

## Incoming freshmen update

All students entering 9th grade in a District 211 school during fall 2019 are required to take a placement test. On October 13, 2018, the incoming freshman class of 2023 took the PSAT 8/9 test, part of the SAT Suite of Assessments, as the required placement exam. Results of this test allow high schools to learn more about each student's strengths and abilities. Student services directors and junior high school teachers will review test scores and determine academic placement in January. Junior high school teacher recommendations are an essential part of High School District 211's placement process. This information also may be used as criteria

for placement in special programs, such as accelerated courses or developmental programs. Additionally, recommendations for summer school programs are made as a result of these test scores.

Placement test results and materials for student elective course selection were shared with parents in mid-December. Notification of student course placement will be mailed in mid-February. The deadline for requesting a change in elective course selection is February 1, 2019. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact the student services director at the high school your child will attend in the fall.

## Register online for Continuing Education classes

Classes begin the week of January 21, 2019. Registration began January 7, 2019. Registration can be completed online by visiting the District 211 website at <https://adc.d211.org>, clicking on “Departments,” then “Adult Continuing Education,” and following the instructions to a secure registration service. Registration also may be completed by fax (847-755-6867); by

mail; or in person at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, 1750 S. Roselle Road in Palatine, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Catalogs with spring course offerings were mailed in late December, and also are available online at the District website. For more information, please call the Continuing Education office at 847-755-6820.

## Did you know ...

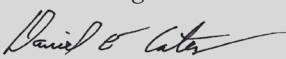
High School District 211's website (<https://adc.d211.org>) and school websites will contain the most up-to-date information should a severe storm or other emergency require school to be closed. Additional information on severe cold can be found online at: <https://adc.d211.org/Severe-Cold-Response-Plans>.

## New beginnings ...

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our colleagues by pulling together, believing firmly in the new beginning that is upon us. Though much has likely been said about our recent uncertainty, as the New Year and a new semester begins, our responsibility and our privilege as public school leaders and employees is to resume our work together – to our greatest capacity possible – on behalf of every student and family we serve. We reached a resolution several weeks ago by committing ourselves to taking the next right action, and this simple guidance holds the key to our best future together.

As we proceed with the steady march through winter, each new day brings a few more minutes of daylight. As we return to session for the start of the second semester, we all share a new beginning more rested, and with a fresh start. We all get better when we work together.




Daniel E. Cates  
Superintendent



## Dates to Remember

- January 17** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- January 21** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — No School
- January 22** Student Late Start day
- February 2** GEMS Conference – Girls (5th/6th grade) in Engineering, Mathematics & Science (8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Conant High School)
- February 5** Student Late Start day
- February 14** Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m., G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- February 18** Presidents' Day — No School
- February 19** Student Late Start day

**Note:** Board meeting dates may be changed by vote of the Board of Education.

 If you require assistance while visiting the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, please contact Matthew Hildebrand, director of administrative services, at 847-755-6626.

For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, please access the following TTD/TTY telephone number at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center: 847-755-6654.

## New students and incoming freshmen need physical exams

State law requires that each incoming freshman submit a physical examination form and record of immunization before registration is complete. Physical exams must be completed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner within 12 months prior to the first day of school. The State of Illinois and the Department of Public Health mandate that all school physicals be submitted on a uniform form provided by the school; no other forms may be accepted. Forms completed by chiropractors must be co-signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner. For new students, physical exams should be completed before August registration. Without proof of a physical exam, a student's schedule will not be issued. An electronic version of the form is available on the District website at: <http://adc.d211.org/domain/3472>.

District 211 Summer Athletic & Competitive Activity Physical Exam Requirements for Participation:

**District 211 Summer Camps** – Students wishing to participate in summer athletic camps, including poms and color guard, must provide evidence of an appropriate physical exam within the last 13 months. Physicals must be submitted to the school nurse's office prior to participation.

**IHSA Participation (school year)** – Students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics, including poms and color guard, must provide evidence of an appropriate physical exam within the last 13 months. Students participating in fall sports must complete their physicals before practice begins on August 12, 2019 (football and golf) and August 14, 2019 (all other sports). Physical exam forms must be submitted to the school nurse's office prior to participation.

## Food Service prepayment available online

Parents can take advantage of the convenience of online credit card payment for their child's High School District 211 food service prepayment account. Utilization of the online prepayment system allows parents to better manage their child's food service account and make a deposit into their child's account using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Online deposits made to your child's account will be available for same-day use within two hours from receipt of payment.

The online prepayment system can be

accessed by logging onto the <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>. The MySchoolBucks system allows parents to view their child's account balance and purchase history, as well as set up low-balance alerts and automatic account replenishment. MySchoolBucks can be reached directly at 855-832-5226 for questions about the prepayment system. Refund requests of account balances can be sent to [foodservice@d211.org](mailto:foodservice@d211.org), or by calling the Food & Nutrition Services Department with account questions at 847-755-6681.

## Winter weather warnings ... be prepared!

Because winter weather can be extreme, it is important to become familiar with weather terms used by the National Weather Service (NWS) to ensure that you and your family remain safe during extreme winter weather conditions.

A **winter storm watch** indicates that severe weather, such as heavy snow or ice, is possible. A **winter storm warning** indicates that severe winter weather conditions – such as heavy snow, ice storms, or blizzards – are occurring, imminent, or highly likely. A **winter weather advisory** indicates that winter weather conditions will cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. Examples of winter weather advisories are **snow**

**advisories, wind chill advisories, freezing rain/sleet advisories, and blowing/drifted snow advisories.**

When the National Weather Service (NWS) declares that a **wind chill warning** will be in effect, school will be cancelled. When the NWS declares a **wind chill advisory** to be in effect, school will be conducted through the establishment of "Severe Cold Action" procedures. During a wind chill advisory, school will be in session and actions will be taken to safeguard students and minimize potential exposure to adverse conditions. More information on the District's severe cold response can be found online at <https://adc.d211.org/Severe-Cold-Response-Plans>.



"Township High School District 211 serves the educational needs of the community inspiring all students to successfully contribute to the world."

Adopted by the Board of Education; August 18, 2016

### TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211

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Daniel E. Cates, Superintendent

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The Superintendent's Newsletter is published every 6 weeks throughout the school year for persons interested in James B. Conant, William Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools and Higgins Education Center and North Campus alternative schools.

