

Superintendent's Message to Parents, March 3, 2010

E-Backpack

Please remember to check the E-Backpack link on the district webpage for any flyers or informational items that would normally be sent home with your children. We are striving to be a little more "green" in communicating this information to your home. Information from the schools and District Office is being posted regularly.

2010 – 11 School Calendar

The 2010 – 2011 District 89 school calendar was approved at the February 15, 2010 Board of Education meeting and is now posted on the district website. The first day of school for students will be Wednesday, August 25, 2010.

School District Finances and Budget

District 89, like most other school districts, continues to be challenged by the lingering effects of the recession, the 2009 Consumer Price Index calculation (0.1%), and the growing uncertainty of state budgets. Approximately \$650,000 of budget reductions for the next school year will be recommended to the Board of Education at the March 15 Board meeting. Many of our reductions include attrition of staff through retirements and other leaves. We have worked hard at trying to minimize the impact on the classroom; however, it is likely that class sizes will continue to be staffed at maximum levels. Because of declining enrollments, staffing will also be decreased to proportionate levels. Other reductions are being proposed in support staff, delaying expenses, and program and operational efficiencies.

While District 89 has ample short term cash reserves, the state's shortfall to school districts could severely diminish this balance. Governor Quinn has placed budget documents on his web site that proposes an FY 2011 budget with a reduction of \$922 million for K-12 education. That corresponds precisely with the amount of federal stabilization funds that have been or will be used in FY 2010 to pay for General State Aid and other state funded education expenses. District 89 receives approximately \$880K in General State Aid and another \$750K for alternative state funding programs. Should we lose these state funds, deeper cuts will need to be made and/or losses offset from the District's cash reserves. We certainly encourage you to contact area legislators to ensure that school districts are not adversely impacted by these possible reductions.

Spring Student Registration

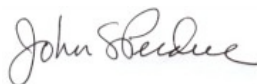
Student registration packets for the 2010-2011 school year will be sent home with your children on Friday, April 9, 2010. Please complete the necessary forms and return them to your school by Friday, April 23, 2010. The Board of Education approved a modest increase in student registration fees, and the new fee schedule has been posted on the district web site.

Parent Education Programs

We encourage you to periodically review the parent education programs listed on the home page of our web site. In partnership with District 87, we are being included in making these programs accessible to our D89 community. The March 4 session is "Totally Wired, What Teens are Really Doing Online."

Thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89!

Sincerely,



John S. Perdue, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Superintendent

John S. Perdue, Ed.D.

**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**

Susan J. Caddy

**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**

Jamie Reilly, Ed.D.

Board of Education

Lori Gaspar

Gene Glauddell

Mary Kataura

Terry Lachcik

Mike Nelson

Jody Selenica

Frank Zak

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Principal

Briar Glen School

Emily Tammaru, Principal

Park View School

Amy Warke, Principal

Westfield School

Peggy Marhoefer, Principal

Glen Crest Middle School

Todd Schrage, Principal

Shalagh S. O'Neill, Assistant Principal