

October 22, 2009 Letter from the Superintendent

Parents and Stakeholders,

H1N1 Update

As influenza activity increases during this unique influenza season, we are encouraging increased awareness and actions to help control and prevent the spread of influenza to keep our students and community safe and healthy. Continued circulation of 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is expected this fall and winter. The numbers of ill students are increasing.

It is important that you know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. For medical questions or concerns, contact your physician.

It is important to have your child stay home if they are sick until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications). This will help reduce the number of people who may get infected.

We will continue to collaborate with the DuPage County Health Department and the DuPage Regional Office of Education toward closely monitoring disease activity, severity, and scope, in order to follow current recommendations in accordance with Illinois Department of Public Health and CDC guidance. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available to reduce the impact of influenza in our schools and community. For more influenza information and updates, please visit www.protectdupage.org, www.ready.illinois.gov/, www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/, or www.flu.gov. For general information, call the H1N1 Hotline at 630-221-7600.

Declining Enrollments and Strategic Planning

Enrollment continues to decline in District 89. An update on Pre-K to Grade 8 enrollment was presented to the Board of Education on Monday, and the numbers show a 10-year decrease in student population of 505 students or about 50 students less per year. District facilities are currently 68% occupied at 2,025 students. This compares to 2,530 students 10 years ago. By 2013-14, district enrollment is projected to be 1,782 or 243 fewer students than today.

If the enrollment decline continues, the District will be faced with difficult decisions, only to be compounded by challenging economic factors. With continued enrollment declines, maintaining four elementary schools may no longer be financially responsible. For example, enrollment trend data presented suggests that as early as 2013-14, the Arbor View population could be moved to Briar Glen.

District 89 is in the early stages of renewing the 2009-2012 strategic plan. Given current enrollment trend data, the Board and the Administration feel it would be prudent to continue monitoring enrollments, and consider the possibility of three elementary schools in the future. Many factors and processes would contribute to a

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David Bruno, Principal

Briar Glen School

Emily Tammaru, Principal

Park View School

Amy Warke, Principal

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Glen Crest Middle School

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Shalagh S. O'Neill, Assistant Principal

decision to close a school.

Because neighborhood schools are an integral part of District 89, thinking about this scenario is undesirable to everyone. However, we do need to plan with the data before us, ensure we are making the wisest use of available resources, and hope enrollments pick up. We are keenly aware that eventually district neighborhoods will re-gentrify, so there would be no plan to sell, demolish, or abandon a school.

Parents and community members should understand that no decision has been made to close a school. The Board and Administration is simply taking a responsible approach to monitoring and planning with respect to enrollment declines as well as economic challenges before the district. I will continue to update you on this issue.

Board Book Electronic Materials

This fall, the district has become more "green" by moving to a totally electronic format for all Board of Education meeting materials, minutes, and presentations. These materials are available to the public through our web site at www.ccsd89.org and clicking on the Board of Education link. We encourage you to visit this site and view Board of Education materials.

Cell Phone Use in School Zones

Did you know that PA 96-0131 amends the Illinois Vehicle Code by prohibiting any driver, regardless of age, from using a wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone or using a wireless telephone while operating a vehicle on a highway in a construction zone? Exceptions include using a cell phone in a voice-activated mode, emergency use, and use by construction workers and law enforcement.

Student Transportation

We appreciate your patience as we work to rectify numerous problems with student transportation this year. Hopefully, by now problems have been rectified. Current district policy does provide for a fee-based bussing option for those who reside within the 1.5 mile statutory limit. The fee is \$1.00 per day. Existing routes will be utilized with no new routes added. If you are interested in this option, please contact your school.

Parent Conferences

With parent conferences approaching, we hope you take this opportunity to visit with your child's teacher(s), and to learn about the growth of your child. Certainly this is a time to also assist the school with learning activities at home. If you have not already done so, contact your child's school to arrange a time to visit with teachers.

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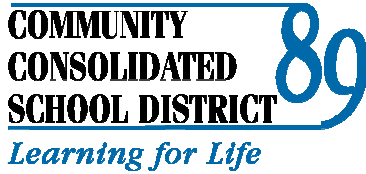
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Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Please be reminded that District 89 schools will be in session on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009.

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

Sincerely,

John S. Perdue, Ed.D.
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