CCSD 89 families:

A lot of the education world has changed since I was a student, and nowhere is that more evident than in the impact of technology on young learners.

No matter their career path, none of our students can be future ready without having technological fluency. In Community Consolidated School District 89, we have written this into our core values. We provide each of our students the opportunity to use a variety of devices throughout their day, giving them access to incredible new methods for engaging in learning. Students can virtually travel the world with a swipe or a click of a mouse.

Even as I see the power of this connective technology, I’m reminded of its limits. It is not a panacea. It is a tool to be used for certain work, at certain times. At home, this can lead to difficult conversations with young people who have grown up in a connected world. In my own home, I am always reviewing whether my boys are using their technology in age-appropriate ways, and in balance with other parts of life.

We have created times in our home when phones and tablets must be turned off to ensure we’re having the important face-to-face conversations. I always encourage parents to know what apps are on their student’s devices – and make sure they’ve tried those apps. Parents should also follow, and have access to, all of their child’s social media accounts. As much as they might resist, our students are too young to have a secret life online.

I don’t know what the right limits are for your family; everyone’s circumstances are different. But I have noticed that while bringing my own boys on college visits, the schools are looking for tech-savvy young people who can also make real, in-person connections, free from social media. Balance is the key.

At school and at home, we need to help students continue to use these exciting tools for learning, without tuning out real-life experiences. As a community, the challenge for all of us is to find ways to integrate our technology with conversations and interactions that lead to understanding and growth.

Here are some important reminders and celebrations:

**Complete your registration by April 30 to save $10**

There is one week left to save $10 on your 2017-18 registration! If you complete the 2017-18 registration forms by April 30, you can deduct $10 from your fees.

The District bases staffing decisions and other planning on having complete registration information, so I encourage all families to register as soon as possible. You can find more information here: goo.gl/7NqEXK
Blood Drive at Glen Crest on May 3
Did you know that bone marrow transplant patients can need as many as two units of blood per day? You can help save lives by donating blood at Glen Crest Middle School between 2 and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3. To schedule an appointment, or to determine if you are eligible to donate, contact Heartland Blood Centers at (800) 786-4483. Find out more: https://goo.gl/9enHbL.

Congrats to Park View student Andrew Ford-Taggart
Congratulations to Park View Elementary student Andrew Ford-Taggart, who earned a perfect score on a recent WordMasters Challenge. Andrew was one of only 22 fifth graders in the country to earn a perfect score, and he’s the first at Park View in more than a decade. You can read more about Andrew’s amazing accomplishment here: http://www.ccsd89.org/pages/CCSD_89/News/WordMasters Congrats, Andrew!

New Board Members sworn in May 1
The District would like to welcome our two newest members of the Board of Education: La Sridhar and Jay Lerch, who were elected in April. Board members Haydee Núñez and Beth Powers were re-elected at the same time. Sridhar and Lerch were elected to fill the seats of Board President Mike Nelson and Board Member Jeff Hume, who are both retiring.

On May 1, the Board of Education will hold a brief meeting to seat Sridhar and Lerch. At the same meeting, a Board President, Vice President, and Secretary will be elected. Prior to the meeting, there will be a reception to celebrate Nelson and Hume.

Board of Education updates
The Board of Education met on April 17. The Board heard a presentation on technology, and approved small increases in elementary lunch prices. The price for elementary school lunch will increase from $3 to $3.10 next year, and milk from 40 cents to 45 cents.

A summary of the April 17 Board meeting can be read here: https://goo.gl/00w21F The Board will next meet on May 1, and then again on May 15.

Upcoming events
May 1: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
May 3: Blood Drive, 2-6 p.m. at Glen Crest
May 9: District Art Show and Spring Chorus Concert
May 13: Glen Crest Band, Orchestra, Chorus in Parks Festival
May 15: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
May 18: District spring band concert
May 23: District spring orchestra concert
May 29: No School (Memorial Day)
May 30: Glen Crest promotion ceremony
May 31: Last day of school for students – morning attendance

Thank you for all you do to support learning for life!

Sincerely,

Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent
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