

CCSD 89 families:

In September's superintendent letter, I asked for community members to consider joining one of the three committees that will have a profound impact on this District's future. I was thrilled to receive enthusiastic responses from parents, staff, and students across the District who wanted to be part of the Enrollment, Strategic Plan, and Finance committees.

Next week, the Board of Education will consider the final product of the Strategic Plan Committee's work. The committee members have [revised our action plans](#) in order to increase rigor and strengthen our focus on preparing students for lifelong success. The new strategies will ensure all students have strong communication and collaborative skills, are empathic, and understand the world around us. The committee also discussed the importance of expanding STEM education for all learners. I appreciate the work done by all committee members - especially the insights shared by students Malachi Clark, Nicholas Miranda, and Annabel Moore.

Over the past few months, the Enrollment Committee has been exploring strategies on how to manage our current and future enrollment increases. Many of you have already felt the impact of our steady growth over the past four years: Park View Elementary is at full capacity, and we continue to bus more students away from their neighborhood to buildings with more space.

In November, the Board of Education studied a [demographer's report](#) that indicates our enrollment could increase by 300 more students over the next three years. The Enrollment Committee has been looking at a variety of options for how to resolve the many challenges this surge will create. I am appreciative that parents, staff, and administrators have each had a chance to share their perspective on this issue. I expect in February the Enrollment Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Education on how to best serve all our students. The Board could take action shortly after that, with changes taking effect as soon as the 2017-18 school year.

I encourage you to explore the work done by both committees. Minutes, agendas, and other important documents are posted here: http://www.ccsd89.org/pages/CCSD_89/Superintendent_Committees

Here are some more important reminders:

Board of Education

Jeff Hume
Tim Jedlicka
Michael Nelson
Haydee Núñez
Scott Pope
Beth Powers
Giselle Sandi-Tapia, PhD

Superintendent

Emily K. Tammaru, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Learning**
Robert Langman, Ed.D.
**Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Operations**
Maureen A. Jones, CSBO

Arbor View School

David Bruno, Ed.D., Principal
Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Barb Peterson, Principal

Westfield School

Stacey Hewick, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Kim Price, Principal
John Batiste, Assistant Principal

MAP testing in January

In January, students at all levels will be participating in the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests. These tests help monitor your student's progress from the beginning of the school year, and help staff make individual and school-wide adjustments to instruction and academic goals.

These tests do not count toward your student's grades and there is nothing that you need to prepare for the MAP tests. We do ask that, as much as possible, students stick to their regular routines of good sleep and healthy meals on those days. Feel free to contact your school or classroom teacher with further questions.

Preschool registration opens January 26

Registration for the 2017-18 CCSD 89 preschool will open on January 26. The program, located at Arbor View School, features developmentally appropriate curriculum delivered by early childhood educators. There will be limited openings for 3- and 4-year-old children who live in the CCSD 89 boundaries.

To start the preschool registration process, call Jaclyn Ackerman at (630) 469-5505 and request a pre-enrollment packet. Registration will be held on 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. January 26 at Arbor View School.

Blood Drive at Glen Crest on December 15

With more local permanent blood centers closing, Community Consolidated School District 89 has been serving as a regular host site for Heartland Blood Center drives for the last year. These drives are open to the entire community, not just CCSD 89 families. On Thursday, December 15, the community can donate at Glen Crest Middle School between 2 and 6 p.m. Help our middle school students break last year's record! More information is available at: <https://goo.gl/71rcKf>

Winter weather reminders: dress warm, update contact information

Winter is here and so it's time to issue our regular, but still important, reminders about cold weather. In addition to walking to and from school, elementary school students will continue to go outside for recess. Also, there is always the chance that an emergency could cause students to stand outside for an extended time. Please make sure your student is dressed warmly these next few weeks.

I also want to remind you how important it is that the school has your most current contact information. The District uses a 'call-out' phone system to notify families of emergency closings. The calls are sent to the phone numbers registered by guardians so it is important to provide the school with any new numbers or email addresses. If schools are closed due to weather, that information will also be posted on the District's website and social media channels.

Upcoming events

December 15: Blood Drive at Glen Crest Middle School

December 19: Start of winter break

January 2, 2017: No school

January 3, 2017: School resumes after winter break

January 9, 2017: Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

January 13, 2017: Half day for students

January 16, 2017: No school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

January 17, 2017: Mid-term

As we wrap up 2016, I am reflecting on the many changes we have seen in the District this past year – as well as all the support we have received from this wonderful community. I hope that your students' winter break is refreshing, relaxing, and filled with quality family time.

Let me be the first to wish you a very happy new year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily K. Tammaru".

Dr. Emily K. Tammaru

Superintendent

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