

News & Views

Superintendent's letter

Welcome back! There is much activity that has taken place throughout the District this summer, but you have all grown accustomed to it over these past few years as new buildings rose and old buildings were transformed. But what you may not be ready to hear is this: all major reconstructions are either finished or in their final weeks. This day has been many years in the making.



A process that began long before my arrival to the District is coming to a very successful conclusion. This summer Elmwood, Prairie and Ranch View elementary schools and Lincoln Junior High underwent renovations that improved entrance security and enhanced some of the facilities. Naperville North's pool renovations and the final phase of Naperville Central's transformation were finally completed on time and on budget. I cannot be more proud of the hard work so many people put in to make these projects a success.

There is no doubt District 203 is successful in so many ways — remarkable students, involved parents, unparalleled educators and a committed community. What we must now put our minds to is not what makes our students a success in this community, in Illinois or even in this country, but what will provide for their success on a global level. Our children already understand the connectedness of our world.

They see it in the friendships formed with the students they sit next to in class, and in the digital community of the internet.

I've said it a hundred times these past few months. This is an exciting time to be in education. The changes being put forward through state legislation are not challenges to District 203. They are opportunities because we are already poised for these changes. From implementing Infinite Campus, a new student information system that will improve real time communication between teachers and parents to advanced data analytics that will not only measure what students know but also where gaps in knowledge may exist, District 203 is prepared to make the move from success to significance.

So, welcome back. Take joy in the accomplishments of your child in whatever form they come. This is an exciting time for all of us.

What we must now put our minds to is not what makes our students a success in this community, in Illinois or even in this country, but what will provide for their success on a global level.

**NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER**

203 West Hillside Road
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630-420-6300

www.naperville203.org

Para una versión en español de este boletín, por favor vaya a www.naperville203.org o visite el Centro Administrativo para solicitar una copia impresa.



**Naperville
Community
Unit School
District 203**

Back-to-School Information for Parents

FEE WAIVER INFORMATION

Students who qualify for free lunch, or whose families are receiving public aid, are eligible to have their general fees waived. Board policy states that “additional consideration will be given by the Superintendent or designee upon recommendation of the Business Office.” A District committee will review such requests twice yearly. Families who do not meet free or reduced lunch thresholds, but want to request a year-long payment plan, or who wish to apply for a fee waiver due to hardship, should contact their school principal for further information.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Occasionally, it becomes necessary to close school or restrict bus use on days of heavy snow or icing. In severe weather, school may close or start late (see website for explanation). When a decision is made, this information is first posted on the District 203 website. A Talk203 email/SMS text message will be sent to all families for whom we have the necessary numbers AND a phone call will be made to all households. Please obtain information regarding closings from these sources rather than calling the schools directly. See “Reaching families through Talk203” in this newsletter for details.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

A physical exam and specific immunizations are required for entrance into Pre-K, Kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades, as well as for students transferring into District 203 from an out-of-state school. For further details, or to download the physical form (and other health-related forms, including permission to dispense medication and the state-required dental and new vision exam forms), please visit www.naperville203.org/departments/health/index.asp. The vision exam is required for entrance to Kindergarten (no later than October 15).



Permission to share the news

Each year our students create innovative projects, take part in interesting activities and earn remarkable recognitions. Sharing their work is important to the students, the schools, the District and the community, but we want to make sure we have your permission to do so.

Inside your student’s registration packet is a revised Denial of Permissions form, which allows parents/guardians to DENY permission for their child to be named, videotaped or photographed (NOT including the school yearbook). During the course of the school year, students may be involved in activities that are documented for sharing through District 203 communications tools via partners like Naperville Community Television (NCTV17) and/or with other media and internet sources.

Should parents wish that their child’s name, image and/or work NOT be used, they must sign and return the Denial of Permissions form to their school (to be completed each year). We will also track all denials regarding the right to use a student’s name, address, telephone number or the parent’s/guardian’s information in school directories. Additionally, there is a section for parents of high school students to deny permission to release contact information to military recruiters.

District launches new Student Information System

This fall parents will have a new online tool for accessing information about their student. Replacing the i-Parent student information system is Infinite Campus. This system will not only allow a parent access to the same types of data found in the old program, but adds features that help streamline information gathering.

Infinite Campus incorporates a “Family Calendar” function which allows a parent to view all their children’s details at one time. Other added features include fee, transportation and health information. The parent user will be able to update contact information (except for emergency contacts) and perform their own password reset. Tools that remain in place from the older system are attendance, schedule, grade, behavior and assignment checking. Teachers may still elect to use Blackboard as their primary assignment tool, however.

Parents will receive access code and instructional information at the school open houses for the senior and junior high levels. Elementary level parents and anyone not in attendance at an open house will have their information mailed. Infinite Campus will go live on Tuesday, September 6. I-Parent will close July 1, and information will not be accessible until Infinite Campus opens.

Enrollment process now centralized

Beginning in August 2011, District 203 will open a Centralized Enrollment Office located in the Administrative Center at 203 West Hillside Road. This will be the place where new and/or returning families must enroll their school age children. After enrollment is completed, families will go to their school(s) of attendance to register, select courses (in the case of Junior high and high school) and learn more about their new school.

Enrollment is a “one time only” event that occurs when a student enters the school system for the first time. Parents or guardians must prove residency and provide census information in order to enroll their child/ children. Families of incoming kindergarten students enroll their child at Kindergarten Preview in February of the preceding year. Families new to the District after Kindergarten Preview occurs will enroll through the Centralized Enrollment Office.

When enrolling, parents/guardians will be asked to complete necessary paperwork including the enrollment form, residency affidavits, English Language Survey, etc., and to present legal documents such as a birth certificate, letter of good standing, etc. Once enrolled, the family will proceed to the school(s) to complete registration. This process will limit the number of times a family is asked to present legal documents and complete standard paperwork.

The Centralized Enrollment Office will open on Monday, August 1, 2011.

Regular Hours – 7:30 AM until 4:00 PM

Early Hours (by appointment only) - Tuesday mornings beginning 6:30 AM

Late Hours (by appointment only) - Wednesday evenings until 7:00 PM

Enrollment staff will also be able to better assist families whose primary language is Spanish.

On the calendar

Aug. 17 — First day; classes begin

Sept. 5 — Labor Day; no school

Oct. 6-10 — Institute days; parent conferences; Columbus Day; no school

Nov. 23 — Staff development; no school

Nov. 24-25 — Thanksgiving break; no school

Dec. 23-Jan. 6 — Winter break; no school

Jan. 16 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day; no school

Feb. 20 — President’s Day; no school

March 2 — County Institute Day; no school

March 15-16 — Institute days; parent conferences; no school

March 23 — Staff development; no school

March 26-March 30 — Spring break; no school

April 6 — No school

May 21 — Commencement (May 22 - Rain date)

May 28 — Memorial Day; no school

May 29 — Last day; classes end (if no emergency days required)

Back-to-School Information for Parents

DENTAL EXAM REQUIREMENT

The State of Illinois requires that students attending Kindergarten, second and sixth grades undergo an oral health examination performed by a licensed dentist. For this school year, the exam should be performed after November 15, 2010, and before May 15, 2012. Oral exam forms are accessible through the Health Office in your child’s school or on the District website (see “Physical Exams”). If you need a referral to a dentist or financial assistance, please contact your school Health Office.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Student behavior should reflect standards of good citizenship. The Board of Education Student Discipline Policy 7:190 is reviewed annually. Each parent and/or guardian will receive a copy of the student discipline policy within 15 days after school begins, or when the student enrolls, if it is after the beginning of the school term. This policy is also posted on the District 203 web site and can be found in the Student/Parent Handbook for each school.

AIR QUALITY

When considering the factors leading to optimal academic success, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) emerges as one of the critical building blocks. IAQ is an often invisible factor which affects the learning/working environment. District 203 employs an Indoor Air Quality manager. Any concern regarding air quality should be initially directed to the school principal.

EMERGENCY BUILDING EVACUATION

Every school has a Crisis Plan and an Evacuation Plan. Consult your Student/Parent Handbook for information. If it is necessary to send the students home, school personnel will call parents to pick up their children. Staff will stay until all children have been picked up.

Important Numbers

District 203 Switchboard	(630) 420-6300
Superintendent's Office	(630) 420-6311
Buildings & Grounds Office.....	(630) 420-6583
Business Office.....	(630) 420-6581
Communications Office.....	(630) 420-6412
Community Relations Office.....	(630) 420-6815
Curriculum Office.....	(630) 420-6836
English Language Learners	(630) 983-2501
Enrollment Office.....	(630) 548-4320
Human Resources Office.....	(630) 548-6002
Instructional Technology	(630) 420-6473
Operations Office.....	(630) 420-6318
Student Service/Special Education Department.....	(630) 420-6465
Transportation Department.....	(630) 420-6464

Reaching families through Talk203

Talk203 is an email and telephone notification system that helps the District and the schools better communicate with our families. These communications include emergency messages, special events, school news updates and honors and awards earned by our students. This is a powerful communications tool that is interconnected with the student information database, Infinite Campus. Because of this connection, Talk203 automatically includes all our families.

At the start of the school year, parents are asked to provide cell phone email addresses on their student's registration form. It is important that your information reflects a regularly accessed email address. If you provide us with a cell phone number, emergency TEXT/SMS messages can be sent to you directly. Please remember that emergency notifications are also sent via email and to home and cell phone numbers. TEXT/SMS messages are only used for emergency purposes.

Talk203 can only process ONE Text/SMS number per family at this time. If you have not set up an SMS contact number already, the cell phone number posted under the first parent/guardian listed will be the default TEXT/SMS contact. Once you have received your access code information to Infinite Campus, you will be able to change or delete the TEXT/SMS number under your personal information.

See www.naperville203.org/departments/communications/CommunicationsSystems.asp for details. You may also email i-campus@naperville203.org or call 630-420-6825 (7:30 AM-3:30 PM, M-F) for assistance.



Back-to-School Information for Parents

DISTRICT WEB SITE

Naperville District 203's web site address contains information regarding the schools, the budget, boundary maps, District curriculum, special education, health services, human resources, technology and much more. Emergency notifications are posted on the front page of the web site when they occur. The answers to frequently asked questions are also located within this online resource. Visit www.naperville203.org.

TRANSPORTATION/BUS RIDING POLICY

Only those students who qualify to ride a bus are eligible to do so. Bus route information (specific bus number assignments, location of stop and pick-up/drop-off times) will be mailed to each qualifying student approximately two weeks prior to the start of school. Busing-related questions or concerns should be directed to the District Transportation Department at (630) 420-6464.

USE OF ELECTRONIC NETWORKS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Board of Education adopted a policy regarding access to and the acceptable use of District 203's electronic networks. A copy of this policy is included in the Student/Parent Handbook at each school. In addition, a new Electronic Communications Guideline covering the use of social media was established in 2011. This can be reviewed on the District web site.

STUDENT RIGHTS

Copies of the educational rights of students with disabilities, and of student/parent rights concerning a student's records, are available though the main office of each of our 22 schools, as well as from the Administrative Center located at 203 W. Hillside Rd.