



Prospect Heights School District 23

November 13, 2020

District 23 Return to Full Remote

[Spanish Translation](#)

Dear Parents and Staff,

District 23 will return to Full Distance Learning 2.0 for ALL students starting next week. At this point, January 19 is our next realistic return date, but we will continue to monitor data and bring Targeted students back on campus, or even hybrid, as soon as possible. Unfortunately, case and positivity rates continue to rise and we have surpassed our ability to maintain a safe teaching and learning environment.

We are aware of 5 staff members, 7 students, and numerous family members who are currently confirmed COVID cases. There are many cases of close contact among students and staff due to the widening spread. I'm certain that there are more cases that have not been reported to the schools. At present, we have excluded more than 20% of staff and 5% of students due to various COVID related factors.

We keep our staff, students, and their families who are coping with COVID and its symptoms in our thoughts and prayers, wishing them all a speedy and full recovery. We continue to report to the Cook County Department of Public Health and ask everyone to please participate in their contact tracing efforts.

We recognize and share in the disappointment of not being in person for instruction, but have an obligation to our students, staff, and community to do our part to stop the spread of the virus.

As we return to our remote instruction model, our pledge is to continue to provide a robust, rigorous, and highly engaging program. The transition from Fall to Winter, including the holiday season, will present both challenges and opportunities for all of us, so we must continue to work together to make the best of this situation. We must redouble our efforts to maintain our mitigation efforts: wearing masks, keeping socially distanced, and continued hand washing.

I am hopeful that our efforts, as part of a larger community-wide response, will help keep everyone safe and enable us to return to in person instruction safely.

Lastly, as we gather (physically or digitally) with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving, I will keep the Community of District 23, students, staff, families, and partners on my list

Upcoming Events

NO SCHOOL
November 16

November 17
Return to Distance Learning 2.0 for ALL students.



November 23-27
Thanksgiving Break

November 30
FLEX Learning Day
Day of Attendance



**Board of
Education
Meeting**

December 9, 2020
7:00 pm
At Grodsky Building or
Attend Virtually

**Follow these links
for more
information:**

[Back to School
Blueprint](#)

[FAQ Document](#)

[D23
Transportation
Website](#)

of things for which I am grateful. I am so appreciative of the dedication, sacrifices, support, and perseverance of our students, staff and parents in working together throughout this pandemic. We are truly better together which I one reason why I'm #Proud2BD23!

Best wishes,
Dr. A



[Spanish Translation](#)

This summer, District 23 joined the chorus of voices in opposition to

racism in all its forms. More importantly, we identified strategic goals that we could implement to demonstrate our commitment. As an educational organization we start with curriculum and our opportunities to ensure inclusivity, respect, and cultural awareness are a part of our daily learning. We are also planning engagement activities to bring our community together to celebrate our diversity. We are reviewing our policies and procedures related to recruitment and hiring of candidates who represent the cultural diversity of our District and continue our compliance with all trainings and actions that support a safe and welcoming learning environment.

District 23 does not tolerate harassment, including acts of harassment based on race. We encourage any staff, student, or parent who believes any student has been subjected to harassment to immediately report the incident(s) to Administration, as District 23 is committed to investigating any complaint of harassment promptly and effectively. Dr. Amy Zaher, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, serves as our complaint manager and investigates each situation. Students and staff found to have engaged in harassment based on race will be disciplined.

As a community, we need to come together to end racism and create a culture that embraces diversity. We stand committed to serving the needs of our students and to protecting their rights. That's another reason why I'm #Proud2BD23!

[D23 Food Service Website](#)

[Extended Day Program](#)

[D23 COVID Dashboard](#)

Quick Links



[Visit the D23 website](#)



[Link to: Board of Education Agendas and Meeting Highlights November 11, 2020](#)

Student Data Review

Dr. Eleni Speron of ECRA Group presented the annual student data report. This year, due to the limited Spring assessment data, our analysis shifted to the COVID impact on student growth and performance. The data is used to inform everything from individual



student to District-wide curriculum, instruction, and services. This Fall term provides a baseline of performance and will enable us to generate goals, targets, and benchmarks for Winter assessment performance. The presentation is posted to our website and can be [found at this link](#).



Veterans Day 2020

MacArthur's traditional Veterans Day breakfast and assembly took on a different form this year. In collaboration with the American Legion Post 525, our students participated by submitting songs and speeches that we shown during the small, live gathering. Thanks to our MacArthur students for representing our District so well. A link to the recording can be [found here](#).



E-Learning Days Approved



Although they do not apply during the COVID pandemic and closures, the District did approve our E-Learning plan for remote instruction when needed. These days may be used in place of emergency weather closures (snow days) by providing remote learning.



Financial Updates

A "clean" Audit was approved at the board meeting. There were no findings and the District was commended for its financial management and planning.



The tentative tax levy for 2020 has been approved and a Truth in Taxation Hearing has been set for Dec. 9, during our Board Meeting. Though not required, the District holds this hearing in the spirit of transparency and community engagement.



Recognitions and Appreciation

November 15 is School Board Appreciation Day. We thank our Board members for volunteering their time in leadership and service to our District.



November 16-20 is also American Education Week and we celebrate the significant contributions of all who have dedicated their lives to education and students.

Thanks to our PTO for providing treats and to our Board of Education for their support as well.

Info from our Community Partners

STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS!

ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH IN 2020 - UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Parents are facing unique challenges right now.

How can you help your teen cope?

What are some warning signs that I should be aware of as a parent?



Dr. Aaron Weiner is a licensed, board-certified psychologist and master addiction counselor. He is a clinician and author. Dr. Weiner earned his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and completed his fellowship in Addiction Psychology at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

JOIN US:

Wednesday, November 18th
5:00PM -5:45PM
via ZOOM

Access the presentation using this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/97873587921>

Featuring:

Aaron Weiner, PhD, ABPP
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

This was developed and funded in whole and or part, from the Illinois Department of Human Services and/or under grant number SP20150 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The views, opinions, and content of this publication are those of the authors and contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of IDHS, ONDCP, SAMHSA, or HHS, and should not be construed as such.

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