



Dwight D Eisenhower

Betsy Ross

Anna Sullivan

Douglas MacArthur

The School Scene

Prospect Heights School District 23

April 10, 2020

Distance Learning Plan Committee

After four weeks of closure and three weeks of Distance Learning, I am so impressed with the engagement, creativity, and flexibility being demonstrated by our students, families, and staff. I wish I could say that you will see us returning to "school" soon, but at this point all signs point to an extended closure. That means that our Distance Learning Plan is going to be our new "normal" for the foreseeable future.

Our initial Distance Learning Plan was developed and refined in response to the short term orders and guidance from the State of Illinois. With eight weeks of school ahead of us, we have convened a Distance Learning Committee comprised of teachers, administrators, support staff and parents to review and reflect on survey response data and to modify our plan as necessary.

Our goals for this crisis response include:

- **Feed and care for the extended safety, health, and welfare of students, families, staff, and community at large.**
- **Communicate clearly; share coherent, organized and controlled messages with staff, students and community.**
- **Provide for the continuity of learning.**
- **Provide support and assistance to First Responders and Community as needed.**

Below you will find updates to our Distance Learning Plan.

Thank you again for your partnership and active participation. We will continue to keep you informed as we progress toward the end of the school year!

Best wishes,
Dr. A

Upcoming Events



[CLICK HERE to access our Distance Learning Plan](#)



Registration for the 2020-21 School Year is now open!

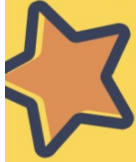


Board of Education Meeting

**May 13, 2020
7:00 pm
Attend Virtually**

Quick Links

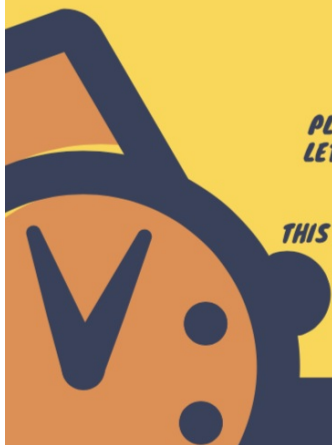
REGISTRATION FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL
YEAR OPENS APRIL 8!



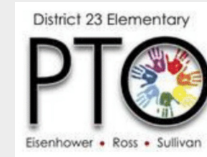
DON'T DELAY!
REGISTER BY
MAY!

*PLEASE USE THE LINK AND SNAPCODE IN THE
LETTER MAILED HOME IN MARCH TO COMPLETE
YOUR REGISTRATION BY MAY 1ST.*

*THIS HELPS US TO PLAN AND SHARE INFORMATION
WITH FAMILIES IN A TIMELY MANNER.*



Visit the D23
website



IMPORTANT UPDATES for Parents

As we prepare for the next 8 weeks of instruction, we have updated our plan and want to provide clarity on a few key items. For more detailed information, please review our updated documents:

[Instructional Time and Grading Guidelines](#) and **[Parent FAQ](#)**

PARENT EMPOWERMENT:

The purpose of our Distance Learning Plan is the continuation of student learning and to minimize and negative impact these unprecedented circumstances may have on students. We know that each family circumstance is unique and parents know what is best for their child and home. **Please monitor stress level and work load. If you or your child become overwhelmed or stressed, PLEASE STOP. Students' grades will not be effected negatively during our Distance Learning Days.**

Schedule:

Our Distance Learning Plan will continue through the month of April as scheduled. Teachers will continue to provide activities Monday through Friday so please be sure to remember to take attendance each day. However, for the next two Fridays (April 17th and 24th), teachers will NOT hold any live sessions and may not be available as they will be in planning meetings.

Attendance:

Please continue to take attendance DAILY so that we can monitor student engagement and activity.

Grading:

At the conclusion of the 3rd trimester or 4th quarter, students will be issued a letter grade of “P” for Pass or “I” for Incomplete. Final grades for art, music and physical education and other specials will also be issued as a “P” for Pass or “I” for Incomplete.

Distance Learning Grading Scale for Third Trimester for Grades K-8	
P = Pass	Pass: Students showed any evidence of learning or engagement during the distance learning timeframe. The mode of which a student provides evidence of learning needs to be differentiated based upon student circumstances.
I = Incomplete	Incomplete: Students did not show any evidence of learning and will be given the opportunity to complete activities or assignments after distance learning ends.

Workload:

The following guidelines for student engagement is inclusive of digital interaction as well as assigned work. This is not inclusive of enrichment opportunities, which ISBE encourages our teachers to provide. The table below could be inclusive of project time that spans multiple days, independent work, and direct teacher engagements.

Grade Level	Recommended Engagement Time*
Pre -K	60 minutes per day
Kindergarten	90 minutes per day
1st - 5th Grade	120 minutes per day
6th - 8th Grade	180 minutes per day

*Please note that this chart reflects estimated engagement time in total for the day; however students are not required to work for 120 minutes straight. Parents can chunk the learning time based on their own knowledge and discretion regarding their child’s individual attention span.



[Link to: Board of Education Agendas and Meeting Highlights](#) [April 8, 2020](#)

Contract with Our Awesome Custodians Approved!

The Board ratified the negotiated agreement with our custodial union. We are pleased to report a successful negotiation process that was collaborative, respectful, and mutually beneficial.

SEIU Local 73

Representing over 29,000 Public Service Employees in Illinois & NW Indiana

April Recognitions

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. We thank all who share their time and resources with District 23 to support our students and staff.

April is also recognized as School Library Month. We recognized our Library Media Specialists: Ms. Herzog, Mrs. Strachn, Mrs. Yager, and Mrs. McWilliams for their dedication and inspiration that leads our Media Centers into innovative and Future Ready places of learning.

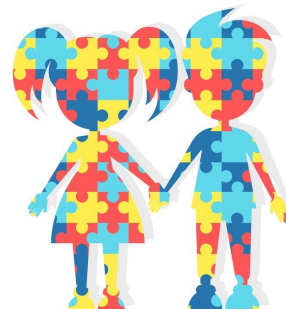
We also recognized Autism Awareness Month in April and thank all of our professionals who bring this specialized skill and expertise to serving our students and families.

April 8th is the start of National Assistant Principal Appreciation week so we recognized our outstanding AP Chris Alms.

We celebrate Teacher Appreciation and Nurse Appreciation Week in early May. We thank all of our professionals for their dedicated service and contributions that make District 23 an amazing place in which students learn and grow.



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY



Transportation Enhancements Planned



Chief School Business Official, Mrs. Amy McPartlin, shared the planned enhancements for transportation services next year. Building upon the parameters set by the Board, we are working to implement a more consistent and parent/student friendly system of routing. Information will be shared this Spring in an effort to provide parents more time to prepare for the start of the next year.

Most notably, we are working to develop "Common Stops" that will allow parents to bring students to ONE corner for pick-up/drop-off for ALL of their children. Stay tuned for more information!

Building Briefs

Playgrounds Closed

All District 23 playgrounds are also closed.



Please respect this order and maintain social distancing.



Meal Distributions Continue Weekly

To date, we have prepared and distributed more than 24,000 meals. These meals are intended for ANY student under the age of 18, including high schoolers.

Wednesdays

Noon - 3:00 pm

**MacArthur Middle School
(Cafeteria Entrance)**

Thursdays

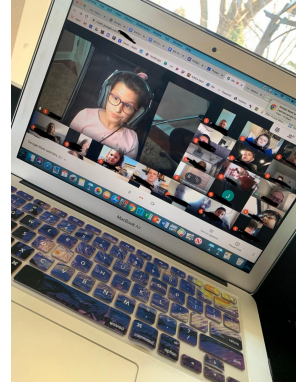
9:00am - 10:00am

**School Bus Deliveries at
the Following Locations:
Pleasant Run/Forums
(At Pool Entrance)
Wine Tree Apartments (At
Tennis Courts)
VIP Apartments
(At Cornell Entrance)**



Looking forward to Seeing you Online!

These screenshots have quickly become a common sight in homes across this country. This image of Mrs. Zarafonitis' 3rd graders connecting for a class meeting is an example of the ways we are trying to bridge the divide between home and school. Seeing our students' smiling faces is the BEST part of our days!!



Connect With Us



Administration: (847) 870-3850

[Dr. Don Angelaccio](#)
Superintendent

[Dr. Amy Zaher](#)
Assistant Superintendent

[Mrs. Amy McPartlin](#)
Chief School Business Official



[Dr. Chrys Sroka](#)
Director of Special Education

[Mrs. Maria Stavropoulos](#)
Director of Technology

[Mr. Brian Rominski](#)
Director of Buildings & Grounds