

## **District #162 School Closure Information Updated May 8, 2020**

**We have updated our Question & Answer document below for the latest information. Please take a moment to review this as it will answer most questions.**

### **Q. Will the District be making-up these days?**

A. The Governor announced that schools are to provide Remote Learning Days. All of these days count toward the 2019-2020 school year and absolutely no days need to be made-up.

### **Q. Will BASE still be operating during the closing?**

A. The Governor's mandate is to close all school buildings to students and, as such, BASE will not be operating in District 162 schools during the mandated closure period.

### **Q. Will the district be providing meals to students during this time?**

A. The District made arrangements with its food service provider, Preferred Meal Systems, to provide a "grab and go" type breakfast and lunch to all students Monday through Friday during the statewide school closure period. Students **DO NOT** need to qualify for the Free or Reduced price meals program to receive the meals without cost. Students may go to Arcadia, Indiana, Richton Square, Huth, or the District Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. each weekday day to pick-up the meals and take them home. The district is not allowed to open its lunchroom facilities for the meals to be consumed on-site. Per the Governor's order, families picking-up meals must practice social distancing when picking up meals.

### **Q. Will the district office be open or will there be any staff at district buildings?**

A. The district office will be open each day from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. At least one administrator will also be in attendance at each of the school buildings that are serving meals during these hours for the duration of the mandated closing.

### **Q. How will the closure impact the administration of the 2020 State-mandated assessments such as the IAR and Science assessment?**

A. The Illinois State Board of Education has cancelled the administration of the IAR exam as the State Science Assessment for the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Q. I completed an application for my student to attend Illinois School in the fall of 2020. How do I know if my student was able to be enrolled?**

A. All students who applied for admission to Illinois School for the 2020-2021 school year were able to be admitted except students at the Kindergarten level. The district held a lottery for admission of Illinois School Kindergarteners on April 22, 2020. Successful applicants were notified by phone call of their acceptance. If you still have not received a call, please contact the District 162 Registrar at 708-748-0100 x4104 to find out if your child was selected in the lottery.

### **Q. Is the district still planning to hold IEP meetings during the closure period?**

A. District staff will be contacting families of students with scheduled IEP meetings to discuss various options for holding those meetings.

**Q. Will the district be holding summer school classes this year?**

A. The district will continue to be guided by the directives and recommendations of the Governor's Office and the Illinois State Board of Education in determining the viability of holding a summer school program. As soon as guidance is provided we will make a decision with regard to summer school and notify parents of the decision.

**Q. Will the District be holding a Graduation ceremony for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates?**

A. The district is working on plans for a graduation celebration that will allow for each student to receive proper recognition. The date has been changed from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Details will follow.

**Q. How will yearbooks be distributed and how can I obtain my child's personal belongings that are still at school?**

A. Parents and Guardians will be able to come to their child's school on June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup> to retrieve their personal belongings and drop off any items such as textbooks, library books, musical instruments, or other items. Building Principals will be sending out communication to all parents the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> outlining the process.

**Q. What is the district doing about school sponsored trips that must now be cancelled?**

A. All school sponsored trips for the remainder of the school year must be cancelled. Refunds have already been issued to parents for all scheduled trips. If you think you were owed a refund but did not receive one, please contact your child's Principal.

**Q. How will the district handle the funds that I have deposited into my child's school meals account?**

A. Any funds remaining in a child's school meal account will be rolled over to the following year unless a parent would like to request a refund of the balance. Parents may request a refund of meal balances by emailing the Director of Food Service, Mary Anne Presto, at [mpresto@sd162.org](mailto:mpresto@sd162.org). Also, parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates that have siblings in the district can request to have their 8<sup>th</sup> grade child's balance transferred to a sibling.

**Q. How will the 2020-2021 school year registration be conducted?**

A. Last year the district implemented an optional online registration process for those parents that did not want to attend in-person registration. The district is providing that option again this year beginning Monday, April 27, 2020 through June 15, 2020. Parents and guardians of students who will be returning for the 2020-2021 school year should have received a mailing from the district at the end of April with instructions on how to log-in to their account to complete registration. Fee payments for next year can either be completed at the time of registration or delayed until the following year. Fees do not need to be paid in order to complete registration. The district strongly encourages all returning parents to utilize the online registration system this year, if possible. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact the Registrar at 708-748-0100 x4104 or by sending an email to [registration@sd162.org](mailto:registration@sd162.org).

**This is an unprecedented situation and we recognize that you may have more questions.**

**Administrators will be available at school buildings that are serving meals as well as at the district office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer any other questions that you may have. As always we will update you as we learn any new information.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, Superintendent