

School District 12 Update

March 9, 2023

*From the Desk of
Dr. Mary Henderson*



Calendar Events

[2022-23 School Year Calendar](#)

[2023-24 School Year Calendar](#)

Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

SMART day: Wednesday, March 22

[District 12 website](#)

Dear D12 Families,

Spring is in the air and yet our students are working harder than ever! Both of our schools have a feeling of positive energy and enthusiasm when you walk through the halls.

March Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education will host its regular monthly meeting on March 21.

The agenda includes:

1. Announcement of the new SHS principal by our final interview student panel
2. Update on School Improvement Plans
3. Update on Social-Emotional Task Force

Personnel Information

Recently a staff member went on leave for the remainder of the year for personal reasons. Communication was shared with the families in her classroom as appropriate. Unfortunately, that letter was posted on social media for many to see, resulting in undue stress and embarrassment for the employee. Additionally, it fueled unfounded rumors that the employee was terminated.

The laws that govern school districts are very clear in this area. Employees are not disciplined (suspended or terminated) without public action by the Board of Education. This means that a specific action item must be placed on an open meeting agenda, the Board of Education must publicly vote on the item, and the employee's name must be read aloud in public. These are not District 12's rules, they are the law in Illinois. This has not happened and will not happen in this particular situation.

I ask that you respect an employee's right for privacy in personal matters and not fuel rumors and innuendo. In all situations, individuals deserve compassion and should not fear that information about them would be posted to social media without their consent.

5Essentials Survey

The window remains open for the 5Essentials Survey. Parents, staff, and students in grades 3-8 are asked to provide feedback on each school of attendance/work. This feedback is important for two reasons:

1. First and foremost, the feedback helps our school improvement teams identify opportunities for growth and improvement. This gets incorporated into the school's improvement plan.
2. The results of this survey are included on the School Report Card that is published by the Illinois State Board of Education on an annual basis. It is the only report that presents consistent information, regardless of where the district is located. For this reason, realtors rely on this to share with clients when they are choosing which community best meets their needs.

The survey is completely anonymous. Data is reported to the schools as totals only and not broken out by individual respondents.

We ask that all parents/guardians complete the survey for each school in which they have children. The survey may be found [here](#).

2023-24 School Year Calendar

Please see the link for the approved calendar for the 2023-24 school year at the top of this newsletter. That link will remain there, and you may also find it on our district website.

Final Day of School

The official final day of school will be approved at the regular April Board of Education meeting on April 18. Communication will be sent to all families the following day.

Daylight Savings Time kicks in this weekend. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead!

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

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