

# School District 12 Update

August 8, 2022

*From the Desk of  
Dr. Mary Henderson*



## Calendar Events

[2022-23 School Year Calendar](#)

**Staff Institute Days: August 15 and 16, 2022**

**FIRST DAY OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE: Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

**Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

[District 12 website](#)

Dear D12 Families,

It is a very busy time in our schools as we are just one week away from welcoming our staff to the new year and just a week and a half from welcoming our students. School buildings just don't feel the same without kids in them, and we are excited to see all of our Springers and Ravens! There is a lot of important information included in this newsletter, so please read carefully.

## Meet and Greet for the 2022-23 School Year

We are looking forward to bringing back our traditional in-person Meet and Greet in August. There will be a slight change to what some families have previously experienced. Both schools will be hosting

their Meet and Greet on Tuesday, August 16; however, they will be held at different times. RMS will host their Meet and Greet from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and SHS will host theirs from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

For families who have not experienced this in-person event, parents and their student may come to the school, see the classroom(s), meet the teacher(s), and *drop off school supplies. On our first day of school, families will say their good-byes in the drop off drive or bus stop and not come into the building.* Our students enter the building as they arrive and do not line up outside. If you are not able to attend Meet and Greet, please send school supplies with your child on the first day.

## *Sales Tax Holiday on School Supplies and Clothing*

For the first time, Illinois will be implementing a 10-day sales tax holiday on some school supplies and items of clothing. This applies to families and teachers. Please see this [document](#) for details.

## *Safety in Our Schools*

This summer the administrative team has been reviewing our safety practices and procedures. We do this as a matter of routine but also in response to school and/or community tragedies that occur. Unfortunately we had two situations to debrief and determine what we might learn from them: The school shooting in Texas and the community shooting in Highland Park. We do not publicize our emergency response plans as that is not information we want in the hands of someone who may wish to harm us; however, here are some areas that we address:

**Internal security:** We have surveyed all staff to insure that all emergency locks on classroom doors are operating as expected and have included doors that may join two classrooms.

**External doors:** We have addressed issues with any of our external doors that may have not been consistently closing properly. These will continue to be monitored, especially as weather changes can sometimes impact this.

**Locked entrances:** At no time are external doors to be propped open or left unlocked, even if school staff are within eyesight of the door. Procedures have been reviewed with the administrative team and will be reviewed with all staff during Institute Days. This will also be reviewed with any external groups such as the Park District who use our buildings.

**Drills and Consultation with Roselle Police Department:** We do hold lockdown drills in accordance with Illinois School Code requirements. Also as required, these drills are announced to avoid panic among our students and staff. We work closely with the Roselle Police Department on all areas of school safety. Additionally, we participated in a safety task force through the DuPage Regional Office of Education in order to work collaboratively with other districts and get recommendations from school safety experts.

**Parent Communication:** It is critically important that parents keep email addresses and cell phone numbers updated in Skyward. We rely on this information to communicate with families all the time, but it is particularly important in an emergency. We will send emergency notifications via email, phone call and text message. If at any time our schools go into a lockdown, whether due to a threat in/at our building or because of an issue in the community that has required us to shelter in place, please do not come to the school building. I know how difficult that is to read as a parent, but we want to insure ease of access for our emergency responders, and even if the threat is in the community and not inside the school, we are not able to let you in the building or release any student. If there is ever a situation that requires us to evacuate our students due to an intruder situation, damage to our buildings from a weather event, fire, etc., reunification of students and parents will take place away from our school locations.

## *School Lunch Program*

Our district has offered a school lunch program through Preferred Meals for several years. Shortly after our Board of Education approved our contract for the upcoming school year in May, Preferred informed us that they were getting out of the K-12 school lunch program. We, along with many other districts, were left to find a new vendor in a very short time. Food service is one of the most difficult to procure for a small district. We have signed an intergovernmental agreement with Lake Park High School to join in on their food service contract with Quest Food Management Services.

The biggest impact for our families is that lunches available for purchase or for our students on our Free/Reduced lunch program will be cold lunches only. Please be on the watch for additional information on this year's lunch program.

We are grateful for the partnership with Lake Park. We will be surveying families this year on their satisfaction with the program and plan to go through a full bid process for the 2023-24 school year.

## *COVID-19*

As we begin our third year of operating our schools in a pandemic, I'd like to remind you of the safety measures in place:

1. Positive COVID-19 diagnosis: Individuals must isolate for at least 5 days AND until fever free and improving symptoms for at least 24 hours (loss of smell/taste, fatigue may last longer). Individuals will need to mask for Days 6-10 or remain home for those days.
2. COVID-19 symptoms: Individuals will need to remain home for five days and until symptoms are resolved. A negative test along with resolved symptoms will allow for an individual to return sooner than five days.
3. Close contact quarantine: At this time we are not requiring close contacts to quarantine. However, if we are having school -related outbreaks, this could change. Also, our three years of data collection has clearly shown that most positive cases among our students and staff come from exposure to a positive case within their home. We strongly encourage families to keep students home and isolate when there is a positive case within the home.
4. Masks: The use of masks by students and staff are optional other than returning after a positive COVID diagnosis.
5. Vaccines for students: We encourage all families to work with their healthcare provider to make vaccination decisions. Students are not required to have the COVID-19 vaccine.

## *Contact Information*

If you are in need of information about the district, here are contact details that will help:

Registration, School Fees, General D12 Information:

JoAnn Dumelle: [jdumelle@sd12.org](mailto:jdumelle@sd12.org)

Principal, Spring Hills School:

Lew Girmscheid: [lgirmscheid@sd12.org](mailto:lgirmscheid@sd12.org)

Principal, Roselle Middle School:

Nate Molby, [nmolby@sd12.org](mailto:nmolby@sd12.org)

School secretaries:

Secretary, Spring Hills School:

Dawn Wegner: [dwegner@sd12.org](mailto:dwegner@sd12.org)

Secretary, Roselle Middle School:

Mary Hawkins: [mhawkins@sd12.org](mailto:mhawkins@sd12.org)

On behalf of the Board of Education and all of our D12 staff, we look forward to opening our doors for the 2022-23 school year and hope that this one is the best yet for your child(ren)!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

