

Non-Essential District 127.5 Event Cancellations

Good afternoon,

The health and safety of all District 127.5 students and staff are always our highest priority.

With a heightened level of awareness around the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to provide you with updated information about COVID-19 and our District's efforts to maintain the healthiest environment possible for our students and staff. COVID-19 has now been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). Just from last night to today, the situation has reached a level that requires our immediate action to help curb the spread of the virus.

Therefore at this time, out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel all non-essential community events at all District 127.5 schools effective today, March 12, 2020. We are also canceling facility rentals for any public entities and outside presenters that may have been scheduled for any participants.

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends following a "Social Distancing" strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing measures are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of a disease or virus.

Non-essential school-related activities include: school assemblies, field trips, performance events, and PTA events.

This includes events taking place at District 127.5 this week and next: PTA Open Gym at Ridge Lawn (3/13), Pre-K Screenings (3/16), District-wide Band Parent Night (3/16), Family Engagement Night at Ridge Central (3/19), Pre-K Parent Workshops (3/20).

Regularly scheduled after-school activities (i.e. tutoring and clubs) that involve only our students and staff will continue at this time. If you have a question about a specific activity please contact your student's school.

District 127.5 will send timely updates to our community for as long as there is an ongoing concern regarding this public health issue. We will continue to closely monitor and evaluate the developing public health crisis and make decisions following guidance from ISBE and various public health organizations. We do not make these decisions lightly; however, believe they are in the best interest of all District 127.5 students, faculty, staff and their extended families.

We know that part of our culture at District 127.5 includes welcoming our families and the community into our buildings. We are extremely proud of these events and the tremendous amount of planning and effort that it takes to host these events for our school community. **Canceling non-essential events allows us to limit contact while also maintaining the healthiest learning environment for our community's children, which currently aligns with IDPH's recommendation to keep schools open.**

We will continue to provide you updates in a timely manner. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this challenging and fluid situation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adam J. Thorns
Superintendent