



Monday Memo

From Supt. Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams

Nov. 9, 2020

Important link: Our website page with [COVID-19 and school reopening updates](#).

[Click here](#) to view my November video update.

Report on hybrid-learning survey results

We had a robust response to the survey we sent out last week to gauge interest in on-site classes. To see the results, [click here](#). Here's an overview that includes results disaggregated by grade and race/ethnicity:

- **1,809** parents/guardians responded.
- The demographics of respondents' students represented our student body pretty closely.
- Overall, **66%** of parents/guardians would opt their students **in** for on-site classes, while **34%** would opt their student **out**.
- The breakdown across grade levels was similar, with **66%-69%** of parents in each grade saying they would opt their students **in**.
- Differences among racial/ethnic groups were as follows:
 - **74%** of parents/guardians of **white** students would opt them **in**.
 - **57%** of parents/guardians of **Latinx** would opt them **in**.
 - **57%** of parents/guardians of students of **two or more races** would opt them **in**.
 - **52%** of parents/guardians of **Black** students would opt them **in**.
 - **45%** of parents/guardians of **Asian** students would opt them **in**.

As a reminder, the survey was *not* to get a commitment from families but rather to help in our planning as we work on the draft hybrid plan that will be presented to the Board on Nov. 19.

Results from Profile of a Graduate Thoughtexchange

Thank you to everyone who participated in our most recent Thoughtexchange, which will help shape our curricular programming. Our next step is to convene a focus group of community members to help us analyze the data in this report and shape it into the themes that will comprise our profile. [Click here](#) to see the report on results.

Small-group support for students

Our latest way to support students through the pandemic is Mind Over Matter, a program of small groups led by OPRF social workers. Topics of focus include self-regulation strategies, mindfulness practice, and self-care tips. Groups begin today, Monday, Nov. 9, after school. [Click here](#) to sign up.

Winter sports registration deadline is Nov. 11

Student-athletes have through Wednesday, Nov. 11, to register in person in the Athletic Office for the winter athletics season, which begins on Monday, Nov. 16. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) announced that the following sports would run as "in-season" sports for the winter: boys swim and dive, girls gymnastics, cheerleading, and drill team. IHSA also announced that boys and girls basketball was approved for the winter

season. However, this decision is contradictory to current health guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the governor's office, and we will not be running basketball. [Click here](#) for more information.

Meal distribution is for ALL students

Last week we reminded families that every Tuesday morning, from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. at Door 3 (Scoville Avenue, south end of the building), Food Service distributes free packages of seven shelf-stable breakfasts and lunches. We want to clarify that meal packages are for *any* student who wants one, not just students in need of food assistance.

Update on ventilation system

Given that our building is so old, the condition of our ventilation system has been a concern for many parents and staff members. The district is following [guidance](#) from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, which in response to the pandemic recommends that schools upgrade to filters with a MERV-13 rating. These filters are efficient at capturing airborne viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. During the past few months, we've upgraded the air handlers for nearly all classrooms to MERV-13 filters. In the 35 classrooms where the systems are too old to accommodate these filters, we will be providing individual filtration systems.

Keep it on the up and up!

We saw these reminders on a billboard on the Eisenhower and thought they were a great summary of public health recommendations. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, when outside your household, please:

- Mask up.
- Back up.
- Wash up.