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PENNOYER SCHOOL

*Proudly Serving the Communities of Harwood Heights, Norridge and Norwood Park Township, Unincorporated
Educating the Minds of Tomorrow*

May 23, 2018

Dear Pennoyer Families,

As we close out this school and prepare for next school year, I wanted to update you on some building projects we will be doing over the summer.

This year, our intercom and bell system began to fail and does not work properly or consistently in every classroom. The intercom system is an important function in a school building to notify students and staff of emergencies such as fire, tornado or lock downs. The current intercom system in Pennoyer School is at the end of life and no longer has parts available to purchase for repairs. The Board approved at the May meeting a replacement of our intercom and bell system as part of a safety and security plan for Pennoyer School. Also part of the new safety and security system will be additional security features on the exterior doors that include secure access points for our staff and security cameras.

We will also be updating our visitor procedures to include a visitor management system that will scan all guests through the sex offender database and provide the office with a real time roster of who is in the school.

This summer, we will complete several life safety requirements. There will be 12 rooms that receive an asbestos abatement of their floors. Seven classrooms had their floors abated over last spring break. Our goal is to have all the asbestos floors abated by the end of next summer with a possible ceiling tile and floor abatement the summer of 2021. Several of the floors that were abated over spring break have substantial cracks that need to be addressed before new flooring can be put down. This added cost may extend the timeline of putting down new flooring in several classrooms.

There will also be patch work done on the roof to repair several leaks, additional fire exit signs added to exits, and work on our parking lot and playground to address trip hazards. The small playground on the East side of the playground will be removed this summer due to broken parts that cannot be replaced.

Even after substantial budget reductions and fee increases, we still struggle to find monies to proceed with life safety and capital projects that are needed throughout our building. We will continue to prioritize projects based on the safety and security of our students and staff. The Board, administration, and staff at Pennoyer are committed to providing the best education to our students. I welcome dialogue or questions you may have so we can continue to partner and make Pennoyer School the best it can be!

Sincerely



Kristin A. Kopta, Ed.D
Superintendent
Pennoyer School District 79

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*At Pennoyer School, we are dedicated to the development of our children academically, emotionally, and socially.
We must prepare our students to become life-long learners, positive contributors of our community
and responsible citizens of a global society.*