



May 14, 2020

Dear District 95 Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As we continue with eLearning and following JB Pritzker's *Stay at Home* order, I want to personally share with you my gratitude for the support, flexibility, commitment, and patience you have demonstrated throughout this school year, and most especially over the last eight weeks. During the end of the school year, while many days are spent wrapping up final learning experiences, we also continue to find ways to celebrate all that we accomplished during our time together. While each grade level and classroom has unique ways to bring closure to this school year, it is the passing of this milestone for our senior class, whose reflections bring closure to years spent preparing them for their post-secondary experiences that give us all pause. I am committed to continuing to find ways to enrich these final moments so that our graduating seniors can enjoy memorable closing experiences. It is noteworthy that this year brings us a very different end than what we had planned. While our senior class will miss out on those traditional celebratory moments, District 95 has considered many ways to help bring closure to a truly special class.

In planning for senior students, we greatly appreciate the feedback recently provided by our families of seniors and senior students regarding our July graduation celebrations as well as many other suggestions. In preparation for the end of courses for many seniors this week, our staff will be sending out a tribute to all seniors, and teachers will be saying virtual goodbyes. One example from our high school band, orchestra, choir teachers and students [can be seen here](#). In addition, we have found a safe way to provide a senior parade in collaboration with our local village and police departments. Seniors, and family members of seniors, will receive more information regarding the parade along with health and safety mandatory guidelines early next week; however, so you can mark your calendars, it will occur on Sunday, May 24, between 2:30pm and 4:15pm.

### **Educational Foundation Donation**

I am very proud to announce an incredible donation to each of our elementary aged students by our District 95 Educational Foundation. The Educational Foundation has purchased a new book for every student, which will be handed out during the pick-up process assigned by each elementary school. I am so excited and grateful for this donation, as a love of reading is extremely important to the overall success of a child's learning experience.

### **Meal and Shelter Support Information**

**District 95 Administration Center – 832 South Rand Road - Lake Zurich IL 60047-2459**

**Phone: (847) 438-2831    FAX: (847) 438-6702    [www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)**

Our community is very fortunate that we are able to continue to support our families through meal pick-up and home deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. This service will continue until June 30, even though the school year ends on June 1, 2020, with the exception of Memorial Day (Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>). The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at the St. Francis Ministry Center continues to operate every Thursday evening from 6:00 -7:15 p.m., and the Alpine Chapel Food Pantry operates every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – noon. In addition, on Saturday, May 16 the Mobile Food Pantry at The Chapel will be open from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for all community residents. Finally, please download the FoodFinderUS app for additional information regarding the locations of food pantries, kitchens, and shelters across the United States.

### **District 95 Educational Foundation/Joanie’s Closet Fundraiser to Support Families**

Mr. Lyle Erstad, Director of Facilities, has volunteered to shave his head once he raises \$3,000 or more in pledges to Joanie’s Closet to support District families who have resource needs. If you are interested in participating in this fundraiser, please [visit the District 95 Foundation/Joanie’s Closet site](#).

### **Website Updates**

District 95 continues to update the website to include additional student work experiences and artwork captured during eLearning. Please consider viewing our [eLearning Digital Scrapbook](#) and our [Starbuck’s Virtual Art Wall](#) for the most current display of incredible student and family learning experiences. I am so proud of all that you are accomplishing each week, and hope you will join me in celebrating our students by visiting our website and viewing these sites.

We have added a link to our website in the “Stay Safe” section of the [eLearning webpage](#) to provide families with greater information around gun safety. The Lake Zurich Police Department (LZPD) is a Project Child Safe partner and a distribution location for free firearm safety kits (which includes a free gun lock). This program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation promotes firearms safety and education through the distribution of safety education messages and free firearm safety kits to communities across the U.S. Their website has a wonderful resource library with videos, checklists, interactive materials, and safety resources, <https://projectchildsafe.org/resource-library>.

### **Summer Learning and Upcoming Survey**

We continue to make plans for PreK-8 summer programming that align to Governor Pritzker’s *Stay at Home* order and the State’s Restore Illinois plan. We are also in the process of finalizing a stakeholder survey so that the district can best understand areas of success and need related to our eLearning plan, technology supports, instructional experiences, and communication efforts. It is our goal to ensure that we continue to modify and develop programs and experiences that are responsive to the needs of our students, families, and staff to the best of our ability. Please look forward to responding to a district survey on May 22, 2020 so that we

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may be able to use this information as a guide in our planning efforts for the potential future use of eLearning.

In closing, thank you for the compassion, kindness, and support you continue to share across our learning community. This is what sets the Lake Zurich 95 learning community apart from others... YOU! District 95 is a place where all community members truly care about each other and demonstrate this through extending good will, a helping hand to those in need, support and productive communication with schools, and a willingness to grant grace to any person, family unit or organization needing it. This is the perfect model for our children in how to respond to a crisis as a collective community.

Wishing you good health and another great week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelley Gallt  
Superintendent