

May 22, 2020

Dear District 95 Parents,

While we continue to focus on bringing a successful conclusion to this academic year, we have begun planning for our return to school in Fall, 2020. As a part of this communication, I will share with you both district-wide culminating information as well as some initial thoughts related to the Fall of 2020-21, so that you might be able to begin planning over the summer. Please remember that these preliminary ideas are reliant upon our State's decision making over the next few months.

**STUDENT MATERIAL PICK-UP (including technology)**

Please be sure to follow the guidance and direction from your child's building principal related to the pick-up procedures for items your child had remaining at school. If you are unable to participate in the dates already communicated, please email the appropriate building principal, and he or she will make other arrangements, which may include home deliveries. Please note that as a part of this process, all students, except high school seniors and students moving out of our district over the summer, will return iPads on the first day of school in the fall.

**eLEARNING SURVEYS**

While District 95 has worked very hard to provide students with engagement opportunities to foster the continuation of learning through our eLearning plan, we also wish to provide an opportunity to reflect alongside all parents, staff, and students to better assess our areas of success and opportunities for growth in order to make necessary adjustments to our current plan. Whether we use our eLearning plan for a future snow day or as a replacement of face-to-face instruction due to other reasons, it is very important that we understand the needed areas of improvement. Please help us to reflect on the effectiveness of our eLearning process, technology supports, instructional experiences, and communication efforts by completing this anonymous survey: <https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5597154/Parent-eLearning-Survey>.

**SENIOR PARADE**

We are excited about the upcoming Senior Parade scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2020 with two routes, [the North route beginning at 2:30 p.m.](#), and [the South route beginning at 3:15 p.m.](#) Please access our parade route to determine if your home is on the route. If, and only if, your home is located on the route, please come outside to cheer on our seniors as this was the original date of their graduation before rescheduling due to the pandemic. It will be very important that we, as a collective community, continue to model appropriate social distancing while participating from individual homes. I thank you in advance for your consideration of joining me in celebrating our seniors' accomplishments!

**CANCELLATION OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Based on all of the current information available, it has become necessary for District 95 to cancel our high school prom that had been rescheduled for July 17, 2020 as well as the May Whitney TAFT experience that had been rescheduled for the end of July. I am very sorry to provide yet another disappointment, but we do not believe we can safely provide these experiences and be consistent with the expectations from the State for gatherings as outlined in Governor Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING FOR Pre-K - 8th**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has recently released guidance to all school districts that requires all summer school programs to remain in a virtual/online format throughout the entire summer. Therefore, District 95 will provide summer learning for students in grades PreK-8th, July 13th – 30th, using an eLearning format that will have a significant virtual format. This will include Summer Wonders, Summer Success, EL/Bilingual Summer School, and Extended School Year (ESY) programming. [Please visit the Summer Learning catalog](#) on the district website for further information on Summer Wonders and Summer Success. EL/Bilingual Summer School and ESY will be communicated separately to all qualifying students.

### **TEACHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT**

This afternoon, through a virtual Zoom meeting, all staff were invited to learn of the recipients of our District 95 Awards, including the Teachers Make a Difference Awards. Thanks to our parents and students, more than 175 nominations were received for this award. Three very deserving teachers have been awarded the 2020 Teachers Make a Difference Award:

Mr. Billy Heisler, Middle School North  
Ms. Jen Lyons, Isaac Fox Elementary  
Ms. Lisa Siedentop-Wing, Lake Zurich High School

Please help us in congratulating these exceptional educators!

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY**

Applications are being accepted through May 29th, 2020 for a School Board vacancy after Ms. Kathy Brown resigned her seat from the Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95 School Board on May 15, 2020.

**Qualified community members interested in filling this vacancy should submit an application consisting of a resume and a cover letter explaining their interest in serving on the District 95 School Board by 3:00 p.m. on Friday May 29, 2020. Please send both the application and cover letter via email to the attention of:**

**Scott McConnell**  
School Board President, Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95  
[scott.mcconnell@lz95.org](mailto:scott.mcconnell@lz95.org)

For more information, [please visit the District website](#).

### **MEAL DISTRIBUTION**

Please note that District 95 is continuing to offer daily breakfasts and lunches for pick-up at Lake Zurich High School until June 30, 2020, however, beginning the week of June 1st, meals will only be distributed on Mondays (two breakfasts and two lunches) and Wednesdays (three breakfasts and three lunches). Also, please note that while no meals will be offered on Monday, May 25 due to the Memorial Day holiday, extra meals were provided both last Friday and today thanks to the generosity of community partners Consume and Phase Three Brewing. A special thank you to each of these businesses for supporting our families.

### **PLANNING FOR THE 2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR**

In anticipation of our return to school in the fall, we have begun our planning process. Our goal is to have face-to-face learning, but we are bound by Illinois School Code to follow the directive of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) who will be under the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public

**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)**

Health. In the meantime, our district planning efforts include working with a district wide Pandemic Advisory Council composed of representative staff, administration, and parents. This team will be providing advice, feedback, and recommendations based on work of smaller staff/administrative teams. Part of their work will be to read and develop understanding of the guidance provided by multiple sources that I have been reviewing over the past several weeks. This information includes documents published by the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) (CDC), [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH), and other state plans and professional association guidelines for returning to school, like that from the [National Institute for Excellence in Teaching](#) (NIET). Additionally, the State Superintendent, Dr. Carmen Ayala, is expected to provide guidance specific to Illinois district's return to school in the near future.

### **EDUCATIONAL & INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING**

Our back to school planning will be based on the content and guidance from professional associations as previously noted, but more specifically, we will also study the survey data we are collecting from our different stakeholder groups to ensure our focus remains on the safety and health of our entire district community, as well as the best possible learning experiences we can provide given the directives from our state.

With that said, we will continue to carefully monitor all of the information currently surfacing about the flu and COVID-19 resurgence as well as other potential concerns that may cause interruptions to the upcoming school year. Therefore, we are planning for the following potential realities:

Face-to-Face learning with identified health safeguards (currently unknown)

Blended eLearning Model, which will include face-to-face instruction alongside eLearning

eLearning Model, which will be updated based on feedback and recommendations

Face-to-Face with Intermittent Returns to an eLearning or Blended eLearning Model

We are continuing to work to refine our eLearning plans, and will also be planning so that our face-to-face return will provide the greatest possible learning experiences for all students. I continue to be so thankful for each of you and our entire staff, as you have worked together on behalf of our students to ensure a continuation of learning despite the inability for us to provide traditional face-to-face educational services.

Finally, I will provide all stakeholders with continual updates regarding our planning progress throughout the summer as well as during our scheduled Board of Education meetings on June 25 and July 21. Please also continue to visit District 95's website for the most current information.

Thank you again for your incredible and unwavering support of our students and staff. One example of your support is through the impressive fundraising challenge launched by our Facilities Director, Mr. Lyle Erstad. With his hair growing longer, Lyle pledged to shave his head if he could raise \$3,000 in donations for Joanie's Closet to support District families in need. Challenge met! Having raised over \$3,600, Lyle will shave his head LIVE on Twitter tomorrow. Be sure to follow his Twitter feed at @LyleErstad1. Because of each of you, we continue to find ways to meet the needs of all students emotionally, educationally, and physically. I am proud to say that I serve the District 95 learning community!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kelley Gallt  
Superintendent

**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)**

**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)**