



TALK205

ELMHURST COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

November 30, 2020

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New Items

Tomorrow is #GivingTuesday. Support Foundation 205 - Dec. 1

Tuesday, December 1st is #GivingTuesday -- a day to celebrate the power of collective generosity. Please consider a gift today to support Foundation 205's mission to support our students with innovative resources dedicated to addressing unique and important needs during this crisis. It is the collective generosity of our community that will help ensure that our children continue to thrive under these challenging times.

Let's show the power in numbers. [Click here](#) to donate to Foundation 205.

City of Elmhurst Commission on Youth Presents Anxiety in Kids During COVID - Dec. 2

The City of Elmhurst Commission on Youth presents their first virtual event, "[Anxiety in kids during COVID-19](#)," presented by Rogers Behavioral Health on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 7 p.m. on [ElmhurstTV](#).

If you have any questions, please email jackie.haddad-tamer@elmhurst.org. D205 is part of the City of Elmhurst Commission on Youth and regularly partners with the Commission to host and promote youth-centric events.

Register Today! D205 Parent Engagement Series - Distance Learning Playbook for Parents: Fine-Tuning Your Hybrid Learning Environment - Dec. 8

- Topic: Fine-Tuning Your Hybrid Learning Environment
- When: Tuesday, Dec 8, 2020, 6:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Register in advance for this webinar: https://elmhurst205.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_knmdTs3VSRSOvRia0qqVQQ

D205 has developed a series of presentations with parents in mind. The presentations will follow the work of the book, *The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents* (Fisher, Frey, Hattie, & Wiseman) (available for purchase [from Amazon](#)). It is important for families to be able to understand how to support students through Zoom, monitor sleep habits, understand Google Classroom all while taking care of each other. The first session covers The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents, Chapter 1 and will allow parents to engage in a discussion with administrators and teachers to glean some helpful tips and hints in order to more effectively navigate a hybrid learning environment.

Each presentation will be broadcast in English and Spanish and will be recorded so that parents can watch them at a later time.

Learn more about the entire series by visiting the [Thrive D205 page](#).

Reminder: D205 Food Services Offering Free Meal Kits for all Children

During this time of remote learning, District 205 Food Services is helping to bring a little bit of school home to you! [Free meal kits](#) are available for ALL children, ages 1-18! Seven days of meals (breakfast and lunch) is provided with each pickup. No pre-order or ID is required.

Pickup is Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 PM and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 AM at the following locations:

- York High School, Main Entrance Door #3
- Bryan Middle School, East Entrance Door #13
- Churchville Middle School, Main Entrance Door #1
- Sandburg Middle School, Main Entrance Door #3

Please help everyone to stay safe by wearing your mask and staying inside your car (roll down back windows or open the trunk to receive the meal kits). Thank you!

Previous Announcements:

42nd Annual UCCA Virtual Holiday Food Drive - Until Dec. 1

For more than 40 years, the Elmhurst community has participated in the UCCA Holiday Food Drive to help Elmhurst District 205 school children and their families. This year will look a little different but the need is still great, if not greater, than ever. The goal is to help almost 100 more families than last year.

To ensure everyone's safety, the collection effort is moving online. Instead of bringing food donations to school, you can go online and donate to sponsor a holiday meal, a box of food, or more. It's quick and easy. Go to www.ucca-elmhurst.org/ucca-volunteers or scan the [QR code on the flyers](#).

Please give today to help struggling families put food on the table during these unprecedented times. Gifts of any amount are appreciated.

You may also drop off Jewel and Mariano's gift cards at the Elmhurst YMCA and the Elmhurst Public Library.

- Holiday Meal Box - \$16. Provide a complete holiday meal with turkey, potatoes, green beans, and more.
- Box of Food - \$30. Provide a box of food filled with pantry staples.

Watch the Replay: Disruption in Education & Choosing College w/ Michael Horn

The Thrive D205 School & Community Wellness Partnership presented: "Disruption in Education & Choosing College" with Michael Horn, author of *Blended* and *Choosing College* on Monday, November 9, 2020.

If you were unable to attend, watch the recorded Zoom presentation [here](#).

2020 Dukes of Distinction Virtual Program Available Now

The York Distinguished Alumni Program (YDAP) has served to recognize and honor alumni who have distinguished themselves through significant and/or extraordinary accomplishments. The Honorees for 2020 are: Jillian Arnold, Class of 2000; Manu Edakara, Class of 2010; Larry Larkin, Class of 1955; Kenneth Moy, Class of 1951; and Martha Garman VanGeem, Class of 1972

The program is now available for the community to [watch](#). For more information about previously honored Dukes of Distinction, visit: <https://www.elmhurst205.org/alumni/ydap>

Virtual Backpack

Looking for non-profit, community activities or information that is fun and educational for students, check out the D205 [Virtual Backpack](#) page.

Additional Resources

ComEd Bill Assistance

If you are aware of staff members or families that could benefit from additional support, we ask that you share this information with them and have them call ComEd immediately at 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661), M-F, 7am-7pm. Customers can also visit ComEd.com/Support to learn more about the following payment assistance options and eligibility requirements:

- CARE Customer Hardship Grants. Residential customers facing financial hardship may be eligible to receive one-time CARE grants from ComEd to help them get back on their feet.
- COVID-19 Financial Bill Assistance. A one-time bill assistance credit of up to \$500 is available this year for eligible, low-income households.
- Flexible, Extended Payment Arrangements. For a limited time, low-income households and residential customers expressing financial hardship may be eligible for a flexible payment arrangement so they can spread balances over 24 payments, with 0% down. Residential customers who may not be facing financial hardship, but would like to spread balances, may be able to do so over 18 payments, with no more than 25% down.
- Waiver of New Deposits and Fee Relief. ComEd is waiving any new deposit requirements for a limited time for customers expressing financial hardship and extending relief from various fees (such as reconnection fees) to help low-income residential customers.

- State and Federal Financial Energy Assistance. Illinois' Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) also provide valuable financial help to households that may be facing financial challenges.

New Language Translation Feature Added to D205 & School Websites

A new language translation feature is now available on the District and all school web pages. The feature is easy to use and can be found in the lower right hand corner of the screen. Simply click on the drop down menu of languages and select the language needed. The District's Top Six languages, including Spanish and Polish, are currently available.

Free Internet/WiFi Services

- Comcast Internet Essentials Is Free to New Customers: Low income families who live in a Comcast service area may sign-up for Internet Essentials with 60 days of complimentary service (normally available to all qualified households for \$9.95/month).
- See internetessentials.com or es.internetessentials.com, or call 1-855-8-INTERNET.
- Comcast Xfinity WiFi Is Free For Everyone: Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country are available to anyone for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi. Once at a hotspot, select the "xfinitywifi" network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser.
- AT&T is expanding "Access from AT&T," our low-cost home internet offering to qualifying households AT&T will continue to offer internet access for qualifying limited income households at \$10 a month through our Access from AT&T program. [Click here for more information. PDF Download](#)

Illinois state agencies released a wi-fi [hotspot map](#) to help students across the state who lack internet access in their homes. The wi-fi map has at least 200 hotspots students can use to complete coursework. Students and their parents or guardians should continue to practice social distancing by remaining in their cars while utilizing the hotspots. If a student or caretaker is sick or experiencing symptoms, they should remain at home.