



TALK205

ELMHURST COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

December 8, 2020

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New Items:

Special D205 Board of Education Meeting - Dec. 10

The D205 Board of Education will host a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2020. The Board will discuss the plan to return D205 students to campus following Winter Break. The meeting can be viewed on YouTube using this [link](#).

Regularly Scheduled D205 Board of Education Meeting - Dec. 15

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the D205 Board of Education is 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 15, 2020. The meeting can be viewed on YouTube using this [link](#).

Previous Announcements:

D205 Parent Engagement Series - Distance Learning Playbook for Parents: Fine Tuning Your Hybrid Learning Environment - Dec. 8 (Tonight)

- You are invited to a Zoom webinar
- When: Tuesday, Dec 8, 2020 6:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Topic: Fine Tuning Your Hybrid Learning Environment

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!

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](#).

Virtual Backpack

Looking for non-profit, community activities or information that is fun and educational for students, checkout 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.

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.