



Dear Palos 118 Families,

This week, Palos South participated in Say Something Week. Say Something was started by the Sandy Hook Promise in an effort to put an end to violence on the premise that all violence is preventable if we look out for each other. Palos South has made it a priority to empower their students to speak up to their trusted adults when something doesn't seem right to them. In addition to reviewing warning signs and ways to make a report, the school conducted various activities each day, including wearing green masks, signing pledge cards vowing to say something and to stand up for each other. Students also wrote thank you cards or letters to their trusted adults and wore Cardinal spirit wear for Fly Together Friday.

The week's big event was held yesterday in honor of Trusted Adult Thursday. The school conducted a reverse parade with staff, administrators, school board members, local fire, and law enforcement officers to greet students upon arrival. Thank you to the Palos Fire Department, Cook County Sheriff's Department, the Palos Park Library, our Palos 118 PFA, Palos Heights Mayor Straz and Alderman Lewandowski, Palos 118 Board Members, Central Office Administration, and the amazing Palos South staff for making Say Something Week a great success. The event was highlighted on WBBM radio and NBC Channel 5 news! You can listen to the WBBM radio clip here: <https://app.radio.com/1WRh5mmeb>.

### **Registration**

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year has begun! Please check your email for information on kindergarten and returning student registration, which opens today. Contact us at [notification@palos118.org](mailto:notification@palos118.org) or call the district office at 708-448-4800 if you need assistance.

### **Adaptive Pause**

Please don't forget to mark on your calendars our adaptive pause immediately following spring break. As a reminder, all students will engage in remote learning on March 29, 30, 31, and April 1. In-person instruction will resume on April 6. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our students and staff safe.

### **School Calendar**

The 2021-2022 school year calendar will be presented to the Board of Education for adoption at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 16. The school district will return to a traditional school year with a tentative start date of August 25<sup>th</sup> for students. Winter and spring recess will align with District 230. As a carryover from this school year, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for November 22 and November 23. The entire week of Thanksgiving will be a non-attendance week for students. We will publish the calendar after the March 16 meeting.

## Palos South Graduation

Eighth grade graduation is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 16. The school district is awaiting updated guidance regarding graduation ceremonies from the Illinois Department of Public Health prior to planning this year's event. We hope to have that guidance soon.

### This week's metrics:

- **A return to Phase 3 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan**  
Suburban Cook County remains in Phase 4, which allows schools to conduct in-person instruction. Source: Governor's Office
- **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**  
We are unaware of any reported outbreaks in area schools. Source: ISC-4 and media reports.
- **Confirmed Community Spread**  
Test Positivity is "minimal." New Cases per 100,000 is "moderate." New Cases are "minimal." Youth Case Increase is "minimal." The 7-day rolling positivity rate is  $\leq 8\%$ . The 14-day rolling positivity rate is  $\leq 8\%$ . Source: IDPH and Northwestern University
- **Directive from IDPH, CCDPH, ISBE, or the Governor's Office**  
There have been no new directives this week.
- **District 118 Staffing**  
If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, visit the [employment page](#) of our website to see if you qualify and to fill out an online application.
- **COVID Dashboard Statistics**  
You can view our updated COVID Dashboard by visiting [www.palos118.org](http://www.palos118.org).

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella  
Superintendent of Schools