



Palos School District 118

8800 W. 119th St. | Palos Park, IL 60464 | 708-448-4800 | www.palos118.org

Dear Palos 118 Families,

Thank you to the families that took the time to fill out our recent surveys. The feedback on our first-semester satisfaction survey was very encouraging. Respondents indicated very high levels of satisfaction with both in-person and remote learning. School and district communication to families was also rated very highly. Overall, I am very pleased with the survey results. You can view these survey results by [clicking here](#). Thank you to our dedicated teachers and staff for providing outstanding educational services to our students during the first semester. We are all looking for an even more rewarding second semester.

Palos 118 is excited to announce the use of the Rhithm app as a part of our response to COVID-19 and our commitment to supporting whole child development. Whether your child is learning in-person or remotely, Rhithm will help us better understand each student's learning readiness and respond to social and emotional needs during this time. The Rhithm app is a check-in tool that provides responsive support for students in just 3-5 minutes. Students respond to five questions centered around Mental, Energy, Emotional, Physical, and Social state and then can engage in brief mindfulness and well-being related activities that are tailored to student needs, build social-emotional skills, and help students get ready to learn. For more information regarding Rhithm, [please click here](#). If you have questions about Rhithm, please contact our Director of Student Services, Erin Deval, at edeval@palos118.org.

The close partnership between families and the school district is why our safety plan works and reason our schools remain open for in-person instruction. Even with falling positivity rates and vaccines on the horizon, nothing has changed with our safety plan. The importance of families notifying the school immediately if their child is symptomatic and/or receives a positive COVID-19 test is as important now as it was on our first day. **Families refusing to follow our safety plan will have their children withdrawn from in-person learning and enrolled in remote learning for the safety and protection of their classmates and our school staff.** We have had an outstanding track record of safety throughout the first semester. Let's continue to work together to keep students and staff safe during the second half of the school year.

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 "moderate." New Cases per 100,000 is "substantial." 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 our website. www.palos118.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools