



## **Honoring the family and Mexican tradition**

*Return of in-person "Day of the Dead" event in Cicero brings back  
live entertainment, arts, community engagement*

**Cicero, Ill. — Oct. 21, 2021 —** Following last year's move to an entirely virtual program honoring Day of the Dead, Cicero District 99 is proud to announce the in-person return of its popular, in-person "Día de los Muertos" event, celebrating all things community, Mexican culture and history, entertainment and education.

The event, which will be held from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30 at Unity Junior High School (2115 S. 54th Ave., Cicero), will feature Mexican history food, classic songs from youth singers, mariachi and folkloric dancers, and an exhibition of nearly 150 xoloitzcuintli (xolos, or Mexican hairless dogs) handmade by dozens of District 99 families using wire, air dry clay and paint, in tribute to the animal's reverence as a spirit guide to the kingdom of the dead.

Attendees of Día de los Muertos will vote for fan favorite artwork, and a special judges panel, including Chicago's Consul General of Mexico Reyna Torres Mendivil and representatives from the Cicero Mexican Cultural Committee, will select 10 semifinalists and top three winners.

"We are very happy that guidelines and the proper health and safety protocols have allowed for our district to bring back this coveted community program in-person," said Dr. Aldo Calderin, superintendent for District 99. "As always, our goal with this event is to honor children and childhood while increasing school and community engagement."

Día de los Muertos, a holiday which originates from Mexico, is a multi-day celebration which involves family and friends coming together to pray for and remember loved ones who have passed away, helping support the spiritual journeys of the deceased.

Additional fun will be provided by guest emcee Omar Ramos of Univision Radio Chicago — who hosted last year's virtual program — along with children's book giveaways and raffles to focus on the importance of biliteracy and celebration of Hispanic culture.

"It is important the community is reminded of the District's dedication to not only culture, but promotion of literacy which honors their home language and promotion of cultural responsiveness," said Isabel Ramirez, District 99's parent outreach liaison.

District 99's program is sponsored in partnership with the Cicero Mexican Cultural Committee, Town of Cicero and Cicero Public Library.

For information about news coverage of District 99's Day of the Dead celebration, contact Parent Outreach Coordinator Isabel Ramirez at [iramirez@cicd99.edu](mailto:iramirez@cicd99.edu).

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**About Cicero District 99**

Cicero District 99 is a 16-school public elementary school district in Cicero, Ill., a near-west suburb of Chicago which is home to more than 82,000 residents. A predominantly Hispanic and working-class community, District 99 educates more than 9,000 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade — 95 percent of whom come from low-income households and qualify for either free or reduced-price lunch.