

May 20, 2022

Dear Palos 118 Families,

Someone recently asked me what my favorite part of my job was. The answer is simple. I love that I get to spend portions of every day engaged in discussions with stakeholders on how to improve our already amazing school district. After discussions with our elementary school teachers over the past several months, I'm excited to announce two important changes to our elementary school schedule for the 2022-2023 school year.

Next school year, we are revising the school day schedule to ensure longer sustained blocks of instructional time for core instruction. Our teachers expressed concerns regarding choppy schedules that made it difficult to dive deep into lessons. Starting next year, our teachers and students will benefit from schedules that will prioritize uninterrupted time for ELA (English Language Arts) and Math. This change in scheduling will not impact school start or end times.

The second important change for next school year at our elementary schools is a transition to trimesters. Both Palos East and Palos West will move to three grading periods in contrast to the current four grading periods. The reason for the move to trimesters is twofold. First, Trimesters give teachers a longer period of time to provide instruction, collect and analyze data, monitor growth, and allow for reteaching and enrichment prior to formal grade reporting. Secondly, trimesters provide students with the time they need to reach the required levels of proficiency for essential learning standards prior to formal grade reporting.

I wish everyone a wonderful upcoming Memorial Day Weekend and ask for your continued partnership as we close out another successful school year at Palos 118!

Our School Nurses Rock

May 11 was National School Nurses Day. Every day, our school nurses play a key role in our schools and over the past two years they have been vital to keeping our students and staff healthy. Thank you to our Palos 118 nurses, Darlene Sierzega, Terri Segredo, Jane Scott, and Brenda Hook for all that they do to support our students.

Palos 118 Students Add Up Wins at Math Bowl

Congratulations to our students who took part in the 2022 South Cook Math Bowl at Prairie State College on April 28 and 29. Ten students from Palos 118 had top 6 finishes with one team taking first place in Division A.

Palos 118 Choir Knocks It Out of the Park at White Sox Day

Kudos to our students from Palos East, West, and South who performed at the start of the May 1st White Sox game to sing the national anthem for Palos 118 Day. Also, thank

you to our PFA volunteers for organizing the event and to our choir directors Amanda Schuller and Danielle Wetle for leading the student performance.

Thank You to Our Principals and Teachers

The beginning of May was Principal Appreciation Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to all of our Palos 118 school administrators and teachers for all that they do on behalf of our students.

Choir and Band Play Final Performances

Choir and band students held their final performances in May, a true sign that the end of the school year is fast approaching. Thank you to all of the students and families who came out to support our performing arts programs this year.

South Save Promise Club Wins Award

Students in the Palos South Middle School Save Promise Club have been recognized by the Sandy Hook Promise organization for their efforts to create a more inclusive school environment. They were one of the winners of the 2022 *Say Something Week* Awards for their week-long campaign in March which included a different theme each day of the week to foster a culture to prevent school violence.

Palos South Assistant Principal Recognized by INSPRA

Congratulations to Palos South Assistant Principal Meagan Doornbos who was recognized at an awards luncheon on May 13 for her work promoting the efforts of the Save Promise Club by the Illinois School Public Relations Association. Ms. Doornbos received the Award of Excellence in the Administrator category as part of INSPRA's 2022 Distinguished Service Awards Program.

2022-23 Registration

A reminder that registration for the 2022-23 school year has begun. You can find all of the information needed to register on our [website, palos118.org](https://www.palos118.org). Families who register and pay their student fees by June 8 can receive a \$25 discount per student.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoys the final few weeks of the school year and has a restful summer break. Enjoy the warm weather, have fun with family and friends, and please don't forget to keep reading.

Board Recap

The Palos 118 Board met on Tuesday night. You can read a recap of the May meeting [here](#).

Best regards,

Dr. Anthony Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools