

June 24, 2022

Dear Palos 118 Families,

Thank you for another great school year! Once again, the Palos school community demonstrated its steadfast commitment to supporting children during challenging times. Throughout the school year, much of the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic faded away and we ended the school year in a typical fashion with celebrations and a graduation ceremony that once again brought us all together. It was great to welcome you back into our schools and I look forward to seeing everyone in August. Have a wonderful summer break!

Modification to 2022-23 Calendar

As it always seems to happen after you hit print, we have had to make a small adjustment to our 2022-23 school year calendar. We've added a non-attendance day on April 21. The last day of school is still June 9, but it will be full day of school for students.

Please also note graduation is tentatively scheduled for June 1 but is subject to change due to the availability of Stagg High School's facilities.

You can see the updated at-a-glance calendar and our interactive District calendar on our [website](#).

Congratulations to the Class of 2022

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! We are so proud of all that you have achieved while at Palos South and can't wait to see all of the great things you will accomplish in high school and beyond.

School Lunch Changes

I wanted to let you know that school lunch fees will return for the 2022-23 school year. The federal program that allowed school districts across the country to offer free lunch to all students will expire on June 30, 2022. The District will be returning to a free and reduced-price meals program based on income eligibility guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Students whose families are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch will be able to access meals next school year at no cost or a discounted rate. Since this adjustment may create a financial burden on some of our families, we are writing to give you advance notice of this change. Currently, we do not need any information from families. If you are in need of financial assistance for the 2022-2023 school year, the free or reduced application will be available on the District website beginning August 1, 2022.

Seed Grant Helps Bees

Congratulations to Palos East 4th grade teacher Caitie Sekema who recently received a grant from the Planet Bee Foundation. The grant included material to make seed balls which the 4th graders planted in the school's courtyard to create a pollinator garden and to boost bee habitat.

Investing in Our Schools

In order to continue to provide world-class learning spaces for our students, the Palos 118 board continues to invest in our facilities. This summer, work has begun on upgrades to Palos South's applied technology laboratory. The update will create a future-ready learning environment that includes new entryway, floors, ceilings, furniture, paint, electrical access, and a new outside elevated learning space. All Palos South students will have the opportunity to participate in STEAM activities in this renovated space.

Interactive Monitors

Thank you to our Education Foundation and PFA for their generous donations that have provided the resources necessary to have new interactive monitors in all first and second-grade classrooms for the 2022-23 school year. These interactive monitors replace aging smartboards and would not have been possible without the support of these two outstanding organizations. Their financial support has never been more important to our school district, and I encourage all families to consider getting involved in the Foundation or PFA or donating to them. Also, if you have a student participating in band or are interested in the musical arts, please help support our music programs by joining the MPA (Music Parents Association). More information on these organizations can be found here:

Best Wishes to Our 2022 Retirees

A banquet was held in May to honor our 2022 retirees, but I just wanted to again offer my congratulations to all of our retirees. Thank you for your service and contributions that have helped make Palos 118 a great place to work and an exceptional place to learn. Enjoy the next chapter in your lives.

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). As a reminder, there won't be a board meeting in July. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer break so far. As you enjoy your downtime, spending time outdoors, or taking your family vacation, please be sure to make time for some summer reading too. I'll see everyone in August. School begins again on August 24th.

Board Recap

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

Best regards,

Dr. Anthony Scarsella

Superintendent of Schools