



Welcome to our district's Employee Newsletter!

These bits of quick information, announcements and links will help keep you informed!

SD 308 Family! Together, We Got This!

Please submit content for Friday Updates to: communications@sd308.org or through this [link](#)....*thank you!*

May 28, 2021

#TogetherWeGotThis

Monday, May 31 is Memorial Day- the district is closed. Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The holiday is observed on the last Monday of May.

A Message from Dr. John Sparlin:

It is hard to believe that the 2020-21 school year is coming to a close. On Saturday, we graduated a little over 1,400 students at Northern Illinois University. It was great to see the class of 2021 together as a full class! At graduation I stated, "with every end there is a new beginning". I know how hard this school year has been on everyone. As we end this year, and look forward to the next, I find myself excited and optimistic, looking towards next year as a new beginning for us all. Although this year has been difficult, I hope that your school year has been filled with many rewards and successes, knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of our students. I received and have been copied on many emails from parents who have shared the impact each of you have made in the lives of those we serve. On Saturday, I acknowledged all of you by stating, "Teachers, we salute your efforts. Over the years, you have made it your life's mission to teach, nurture, and guide these young adults and so many others. You have taught our graduates subjects like math, English, science, social studies, kinetic wellness and fine arts. However, that is not all. You have taught them about right and wrong, about beauty and truth. You have taught them about life". Words cannot describe how appreciative I am of your commitment and dedication to our students, and the mission to provide a high quality education that all kids deserve. Over the past couple of weeks, I have tried to visit as many schools as possible. I wish I could have seen all the smiling faces behind the masks, but what I have seen, are the smiling eyes and the happiness that each of you bring out in our students each day. In closing, I would like to say: Thank you for all that you do! You are appreciated! SD308 is a special place because of all of you! If you are leaving us, I wish you the very best in the future. I hope that you all find time this summer to rest, relax, spend time with family and loved ones and reflect on the incredible opportunities we have to positively influence kids. Take care, be safe and again, THANK YOU for making the most of a very tough year and I look forward to a great 2021-22 school year.

Graduation

To view a video of images from both OE and OH graduations, [click here](#).

KCCFP - Oswego Satellite Location

The KCCFP - Oswego Satellite Location will be open next Friday, June 4th at 61 Franklin Street, Oswego (6:00-7:30). Please note that there will be **NO** Food Pantry during the month of July. The next scheduled date is Friday, August 6th. Thank you for all your support this year.

Parent Info on SEL/ CRT

As the vast majority of our students return to in-person learning in the Fall, it will be very important to increase our support for developing a positive climate for learning. While it has always been important

for students to learn how to get along with others, how to set short and long term goals, how to manage their own emotions/stress, it will be essential to spend more time on this as many of our students have struggled and have had limited social opportunities during the pandemic. Here is a link to our SD308 [Climate for Learning Framework](#). This is the foundation of our work as we build safe, nurturing environments for students to achieve and grow academically. Here is a link to the [Social /Emotional page](#) on our website that includes more information, the standards we are teaching and past newsletters that have gone out this year on this topic.

Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT)

We've heard that some parents are confused between CRT (Critical Race Theory) and Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT). Please know that we embrace Culturally Responsive Teaching. Culturally responsive teaching (CRT) is a research-based approach that makes meaningful connections between what students learn in school and their cultures, languages, and life experiences. These connections help students access rigorous curriculum, develop higher-level academic skills, and see the relevance between what they learn at school and their lives.

SEL Workshops

SEL Workshops, consisting of Summer Book Clubs, SEL Collaboration Times and Professional Development Alliance Workshops are being offered this summer for PD credit. [Please click here to see the options available.](#)

ISBE - Teacher of the Year / Those Who Excel

ISBE's Those Who Excel program annually recognizes and honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to public and nonpublic elementary and secondary education. This year our district has submitted the following nominations for ISBE Teacher of the Year: Anna Gibson (OP) and Ashley Porras (GP) and ISBE Those Who Excel: Theresa Komitas (DAC), Administrator, Jennifer Pienkos (DAC), Student Support Personnel, Duncan Armstrong (Transportation), Educational Service Personnel) and Heidi Podjasek-DAC and Elizabeth Palatine-PT (Food Pantry Team). These individuals will be notified in the fall from ISBE of whether they have received an Award of Excellence, Meritorious Service or Special Recognition. We would also like to congratulate the following individuals who were nominated by their peers for consideration: Alexis Harlow (OE), Donna Thill (PL), Melissa Brundige (BH), Pam Klick (CH), Mackenzie Bell (GP), Nicole Crocker (OH), Jessica Haight (DAC), Kathy Willard (LC), Laurie Williams (PL), Sheri Wurster (DAC), Marcus Lewis (PL), Phil Murray (LB), Kimberly Richmiller-Zimm (DAC), Caitlyn Gannon (PL), Mary Engmark & Judith Landeros (LB)

Summer Hours

Summer hours will be in effect Monday, June 7 - Friday, July 30. To view the memo sent out by Ken Miller, Executive Director of Human Resources, dated May 12, 2021 please [click here](#).

Leaving for Summer?

Please remember to power down all computers and electronic equipment.....thank you!

RUSH Medical Reimbursement Program

SD 308 employees enrolled in the District's Preferred Provider Organization or Health Care Account benefit plan and who receive care from Rush Health providers can now be reimbursed for most out-of-pocket expenses, like co-pays and deductibles commonly incurred for treatments.. For more information please visit: [Rush Healthcare Savings Program](#) page located on the Employee Intranet under Human Resources/Insurance Benefits.

Naturally Slim

This is the last chance to enrolled for the next Naturally Slim class. Apply between May 17th – May 30th and you'll be among the first to experience the new look of their Wondr Health program and learn the science-based skills to lose weight and improve your overall health. Naturally Slim uses science-based approaches based on the eating patterns that people who don't struggle with their weight use naturally and the Naturally Slim program is delivered online and via mobile device to make it even more convenient for you. You must be enrolled in either PPO plan to apply. Space may be limited! Visit <https://www.sd308.org/Domain/4835> to learn more.

Friday Updates: All Friday Updates can be found on the Intranet under the [Communications Tab](#).
News Stories....Submit to: www.sd308.org/Stories.
Pass It On!....(FOR STAFF)..[Click here](#) or visit the Intranet/Communication's tab to send a Pass It On!
Facebook....Follow and "like" [Community Unit School District 308](#) page on Facebook.
BOE Meeting....Next meeting: Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:30 pm at OEHS. Live stream@ www.sd308.org.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy