

SD308 | FRIDAY UPDATE

April 24, 2020

SD 308 Family! We Got This!

Each Friday we will provide you with a quick list of important announcements, personnel information, awards, and shout outs! **Please submit** content for Friday Updates to: communications@sd308.org.....thank you!

Pass It On!Has Gone VIRTUAL!

Perhaps during this unprecedented time in education, there is no better opportunity to express a note of gratitude, a shout out, or a thank you to a SD 308 staff member. Our staff members have sent out over 1570 notes to each other this year! Let's keep this going. To send a Pass It On! to a peer..... visit www.sd308.org/PassItOn. These messages will now be sent directly to an individual's email on a weekly basis.

Those Who Excel/Teacher of the Year

Nomination period ends next Thursday, April 30th. Please submit your nomination TODAY for:

- 1) Those Who Excel (Administrator, Team, Community Volunteer, Student Support Personnel, Educational Service Personnel): <https://forms.gle/BmseAHXRk4cBuQZFA>
- 2) Teacher of the Year (5+)/Outstanding Early Educators: <https://forms.gle/yaYYm4FWEsTqw5aC8>

End of School Year

The last day of remote instruction for students Early Childhood through 11th grade will be May 19. The last day for seniors is May 15.

High School Summer School & Special Education Extended School Year (ESY)

High School Summer School will be conducted all through online format this summer. Special Education ESY will be delivered via remote learning this summer. Specific information will be provided to parents/staff at the end of April.

Graduation Change of Plans

Last week we communicated that our Graduation had been rescheduled for late June. However, given the current health crisis, Northern Illinois University is not hosting any large events on the campus prior to Aug. 1. This means that our rescheduled graduation date in June is no longer possible. Our administrative teams are working together to research and develop alternative plans, with the health and safety of our students, staff and families being our highest priority. More information will be provided when it's available.

ACE Teacher Appreciation Raffle

American College of Education (ACE) appreciates educators! During Teacher Appreciation Week, they're offering educators the opportunity to win one of five \$500 or one of five \$250 Amazon gift cards from April 23-May 9. Winners will be drawn on May 12th. [Enter here](#).

#LightsForTheFight

As we remain sheltered in place, many people continue to work, risking their lives on behalf of others. In a show of unified support for our medical personnel, first responders and essential workers, our high schools will continue to join many other area schools in Lights for the Fight by illuminating stadium lights from 8-8:20pm on Friday nights in honor of those brave heroes among us. Light is synonymous with hope and optimism. Lighthouses guided ships to ports long before there was GPS. Friday night lights in our stadiums are amazing experiences for our school communities, and while we cannot be together in person, we can be united in our hope!

#LightsForTheFight

Fill Out the 2020 Census Today

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location. Completing the census safely online, by phone, or by mail means census takers do not have to come in person to your residence. Illinois is doing well, however, 48 percent of Illinoisans still need to respond. Census responses are required! To fill out the 2020 Census, please [click here](#).

Ensure that your Day Care FSA Meets Your Current Needs

Many Americans have children at home or in alternative care arrangements because of school or day care facility closures. If you have had to change daycare providers in reaction to the COVID pandemic, you can enroll in or adjust your Daycare RSA election to help pay for your new care arrangement. You can also use your Daycare FSA funds to pay a family member to watch your children, as long as the family member is not your spouse or a dependent under the age of 19. The chart (located below) provides a list of events that qualified as reasons to change your Dependent Care FSA. If you have questions, please contact Glenn Campos in HR, otherwise, you can make changes to your FSA by logging into <https://enroll.benefitsconnect.net/Login/V2>

Dependent Care Event	Allowable Election Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing from one child care provider to another that charges a different amount. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase or decrease election to correspond with change in fees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of children that need child care or the number of hours that child care is needed (i.e., because schools are closed). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase election consistent with increase in child care costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing the number of children that need child care or the number of hours that child care is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease or cease election consistent with decrease in child care costs/needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to participant's schedule or work location which makes a different child care center more convenient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase or decrease election to correspond with change in child care provider and subsequent change in fees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing child-care provider because a provider (i.e. parent, family member) is now providing child care for free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease or cease election.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person was not previously enrolled in DCFSA because children were at school. Schools are now closed and employee needs DCFSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll in DCFSA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant and spouse were both actively working and participant was enrolled in DCFSA. Spouse loses job and will now watch children at home while in-between jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease or cease election.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant's spouse begins new job so child care is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll or increase election.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant or their spouse experiences a change in work schedule, which affects the number of hours that are needed for child care (increase or decrease). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant is allowed to increase or decrease their election to correspond with the change in amount of child care needed.

Blue Cross Blue Shield - Quick and Understable Videos Related to COVID-19

[What is COVID-19?](#)

[Flattening the Curve](#)

[Social Distancing](#)

[Quarantine/Self-Isolation](#)

[Handwashing](#)

Diabetes and Hypertension Programs through LIVONGO

Use online LIVONGO myStrength for free through July 2020. Livongo, a BCBSIL health partner that provides diabetes and hypertension programs, is offering a COVID-19-specific version of its myStrength digital behavioral health self-service tool to plan members and their family and friends during the pandemic. This tool includes 25+ education modules about mental health and evidence-based coping skills. Topics range from loneliness to managing time at home with children. This tool will be free to any visitor accessing resources through bcbsil.com/covid-19 until the end of July. Users must click the myStrength link located on the lower right corner to create an account and get started.

Physical and Mental Well-Being While Working from Home

Uncertain times can come with anxiety, stress, and poor self-care habits. *Naturally Slim* developed a collection of resources through a toolkit that will help protect your mental and physical health during the COVID-19 outbreak. The toolkit will continue to evolve over the coming weeks, with resources offered in a variety of formats on topics like: stress and anxiety management, healthy sleep habits, staying physically active without access to a gym, creating structure while working from home, timely media articles that are in alignment with Naturally Slim's whole-health philosophy, and more! To access the toolkit, please go to:

<http://go.naturallyslim.com/now-is-the-time>

Take Advantage of Newly Eligible Over-the-Counter Health Products

As a part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed into federal law on March 27th, 2020, many new health care products are now eligible for purchase with FSA funds. Over-the-counter drugs (antihistamines, antacids, cold medications, etc.) no longer require a prescription to be purchased with FSA dollars, and Feminine/menstrual care products are now medically eligible products.

If you purchased these items after January 1st, 2020 and have kept your receipts, you can file a claim for reimbursement from your spending account. Most stores and online retail outlets will be updating their inventory and point-of-sale systems to reflect these new changes on or before the end of May, 2020, which will allow you to use your Navia Benefits Card to purchase these items on an ongoing basis. Your Navia card may be declined if you attempt to use it to purchase OTC products during the period where retail stores are updating their systems.

Coronavirus Information

At this time, the best prevention is still to continue to use every day, common sense actions to reduce the spread of viruses, such as proper handwashing, and staying home when you're sick. Please visit the [SD 308 webpage](#) with numerous links to local, state and federal health authority sites that contain realtime information on the virus, recommendations, and prevalence.

Remote Learning Resource Page

There is a page on the district site: www.sd308.org/remotetelearning that has links and videos to help guide everyone through remote learning.

As a reminder - All Friday Updates can be found on the Intranet under the Communications Tab

"It's your reaction to adversity, not adversity itself that determines how your life's story will develop." — Dieter F. Uchtdorf