

District Parent Announcements

Graduation 2016

The official date of Graduation 2016 will be Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Last Day of School

At this time, the last day of school will be Wednesday, May 18th for student attendance and Thursday, May 19th for teacher attendance. Obviously, a lot can change, but that is where we are at now.

Ballgame Etiquette

For the safety of our players and your children, please make sure your child remains in the bleachers until timeouts, end of quarters, etc. People walking up and down the sideline during play is very dangerous. Thank you for your understanding and help in this matter.

School Calendar - February 2016

Friday, February 12 = No School - Lincoln's Birthday. (We do attend school on President's Day - Monday, February 15).

Two-Hour Delayed Start

I have stated that the primary use of the two-hour delayed start is to battle dangerous wind chill temperatures AND to make the announcement the night before. What is the rationale for such a targeted purpose? Obviously, the safety of our students is the primary reason for any weather-related cancellation or delay. Making the call the night before ensures that parents have the opportunity to make the necessary arrangements especially for elementary students. A decision made the morning of may result in students being left unsupervised at home or cause them to have even greater exposure to the elements. For example, a student whose parents have already left for work may have to walk to school instead of being dropped off. I realize there are going to be mornings where it appears the two-hour delayed start would be ideal. However, for the reasons previously stated as well as the uncertainty in predicting improved road conditions and/or weather changes, I will not be making the two-hour delayed start call the morning of. I am sure there are exceptions, but that is the rule.

State Testing

You received a copy of your child's PARCC scores when we distributed 2nd quarter report cards. It is important everyone does not read too much into the results of the tests as this is the first year of the test.

This is a completely different type of assessment than we have had before and these results simply set a baseline. In addition, PARCC standards are internationally benchmarked. Previous tests were benchmarked against state standards, and this change has created a perception of lower test scores when in fact they are

simply different. Proficiency was measured on four levels in the previous assessment system. Two were considered proficient and two were not. Under PARCC, there are five levels with level three meaning a student is approaching standards and has demonstrated proficiency on some standards but maybe not every standard at the time the test was administered. We plan to use these results the way they were intended to be used, which is to help us make curriculum decisions. As you know, our students, our teachers, and our school district are not defined by a single test score.