



Chicago Heights

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Middle School

4.25.22

Spring Field Trips

Dear Spartan Parents and Guardians,

The 2021-2022 school year is quickly coming to a close. We have spent the last two weeks conducting our English Language Arts and Mathematics State Assessments, and this week, we will finish our eighth grade State Science Assessments. All of these standardized assessments will give us feedback about individual students, allow us to set learning goals for next year, and provides our teachers with feedback on how they implemented their lessons. These assessments help us to compare Chicago Heights Middle School with the rest of the state and see where we fall in relation to your child's grade level peers. In a few weeks, we will take our last of the IReady assessments. The IReady Reading and IReady Math assessments are conducted in the fall, winter and spring. This adaptive assessment allows us to measure growth across the school year with your individual child and will help us place students in summer school, fall programming, such as honors classes and interventions, and allow us to celebrate each child's growth at our end of the year assemblies. This sounds like a lot of testing, but we use each data point to develop systems to support every child in our building.

Chicago Heights Middle School is still only in its first year of in-person learning. We have learned from the pandemic, learned from our students, and adapted our practices to meet the needs of our students academically and social emotionally. We have done this with our wonderful educators and the partnerships we have created with our families. Educating students in the 21st century is a team effort and no easy task.

As we enter the building, we are reminded of our building's mission; Preparing for a Brighter Future. In order to prepare our students for college and career readiness the next step is to provide our students with real-world experiences. Every student comes to the classroom with a different set of world experience. "We know that students who have been exposed to many different things do better in school. In order to be successful readers, students need to relate what they read to what they've experienced. To think broadly, students need to have a variety of experiences."

"As teachers, a field trip is one of the best tools that we can use to provide every student with real-world experiences. Whether that's a trip to the local grocery store, waterfront park, a library, a museum, a theater, a community garden or a restaurant, each experience that a student participates in contributes to their understanding of the world. When students leave the classroom, they see the connections between what is happening at school and in the 'real-world'. They begin to see that what they learn within the walls of the classroom can help them solve the problems they see in the world around them and can have a direct impact on who they become as people." (The Benefits of a Field Trip)

Chicago Heights Middle School hopes to allow all students the ability to access tools and environments that are not available within the brick and mortar setting of our beautiful new school. Each experience outside of the classroom solidifies learning and supports important academic concepts. This year, we have prepared three field trips, one per grade level, that we hope will help us extend the classroom walls, broaden each child's experiences, and most importantly, Prepare Students for a Brighter Future.

In order for our students to join us on their assigned field trip, they must prove to their teachers and parent/guardians that they are ready to learn in the community. We have created a set of criteria for the students to earn their field trip. All students are able to attend as long as they conduct themselves in a way that positively reflects their school community and their family. Please see below the criteria each student must meet to attend their trip.

Mr. William Z. Seidemann, Principal 708.541.1119

Mr. Nick Novak, Assistant Principal **Mrs. Kiki Panos**, Assistant Principal

Mr. Nick Pezuto, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director **Mr. Neftali Sanchez**, Assistant Principal

Field Trip Criteria:

Academics:

- No Fs can be earned in the fourth Quarter.
 - All assessments and assignments can be made up in the current quarter. Students need to schedule these make up sessions with their teachers.
- All students must complete their IReady and Illinois State Assessments in order to be eligible to attend.

Missing Assignments:

- Students can have no more than 2 missing assignments, per class, from the start of fourth Quarter until the week prior to their field trip.
 - All students are able to make up and turn in any missing assignment(s) throughout fourth quarter.
- No missing assignments the week of the field trip.

Behaviors:

- Students cannot earn more than 1 office referral from April 26th until the field trip.
- Students cannot earn a single bus referral from April 26th until the field trip.
 - Expectations were reviewed with your child on Monday, April 25.

We still have a bit of unfinished learning to attend to before we leave for the summer. We hope that this criterion will keep our students focused through June 2nd. We always put academics first, but we also must ensure that the field trip is a safe learning experience for all. Before we take every student into the community, on their field trip, each student must meet their academic and behavioral targets. Students who do not meet the criteria will stay back and work on their make up assignments with designated staff members. We have nearly 30 staff members attending each field trip which includes the school nurse and at least one building administrator. At this time, we will not be asking parents to join us on these trips.

Please talk to your child about their current grades, set a plan to make up their missing assignments if they have any, and getting them excited about attending their field trip.

6th Grade will be going to Medieval Times in Schaumburg

7th Grade will be going to a Minor League Baseball Game at the Joliet Slammers Field

8th Grade will be going on the Chicago River for an Architecture Tour and then eating lunch at Navy Pier.

Thank you for your support and speaking with your child about how to end the school year as an appropriate middle schooler. We look forward to providing your child with continued learning experiences that will Prepare them for a Brighter Future! We will be hosting a Virtual English and Parent Meeting on Monday, May 2nd at 5pm in English and 6pm in Spanish to answer any questions you may have on the field trips.

Sincerely,

Mr. William Z. Seidelmann
Principal

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