



SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

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Cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time

FRIDAY NEWS

August 24, 2018

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

The District 29 family joins the rest of the Northfield community in expressing our deepest condolences to the Bodman family upon the recent passing of Lynn Bodman Schneppe. Lynn, a former District 29 School Board President, was a champion for education and advocate for the children of District 29. Her spirit and genuine sense of caring and compassion will be forever woven into the fabric of District 29.

WELCOME HOME

Whether you are brand new to District 29, or returning for another year, I sincerely welcome you to another great year in our very special center for learning! We take our mission of “*cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time*” very seriously. While we pledge to work towards this goal every day, we know that there will be obstacles in our way and times when we fall short. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to one of our “fanatically committed” staff members or administrators for assistance.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

On Tuesday night, you should have received a “test” emergency communication from Dr. Greene and Dr. Sukenik. If you did not receive the communication, or your emergency contact information has changed, please contact Melissa Draka (Middlefork School) 847.881.9501 or Kyla Quesada (Sunset Ridge School) 847.881.9454 to provide your accurate contact information.

SCHOOL SAFETY

On Monday, nationally recognized school security expert Paul Timm provided staff training regarding school safety and security. One of Mr. Timm’s most highly recommended practices to enhance school security is the control of access to our property and facilities. This includes single facility access points for visitors, locked entrances, visitor management and background checking systems, and video surveillance. We ask for your patience and understanding when these measures inconvenience your visit to one of our schools. Trust that our primary goal and purpose is to maintain a safe environment for your children and our work environment.

LUNCHROOM ACCOUNTS

All students that purchase a lunch (a la carte or the “daily special”) from school must maintain a positive lunch balance on their district accounts. Once a lunch account reaches a balances of -\$30.00, the account is deactivated and the student must bring a lunch from home or purchase a lunch with cash. We have a number of students that began the year with very low or negative lunch accounts and are in jeopardy of having their accounts deactivated. PLEASE check your student(s) account(s) and take appropriate actions to rectify any negative balances.

MOODY’S RATES DISTRICT 29 Aaa

On Wednesday, Moody’s Investor Services (the leading provider of credit ratings, research, and financial risk analysis) designated Sunset Ridge District #29 as “Aaa Status.” Aaa is the highest investment grade offered by Moody’s, and held by few public schools in Illinois. We are very proud of this recognition of District 29’s superb financial solvency and management.

MIDDLEFORK SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

We have been working all summer with Wight + Co. (architects) and Pepper Construction (construction Manager) refining designs for the upcoming Middlefork Capital Improvement Project. The scope of the project targets security enhancements, the addition of several small group learning spaces (within the current footprint), and a complete renovation of the learning center with a state-of-the-art “maker space.” The renovation work is planned for the Summer 2019 and estimated to cost approximately \$2M. The District will utilize reserve funds to finance the renovations.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

To all our families new to the district, please join us for an ice cream social on September 12 from 6-7:30pm at Clarkson Park. You can meet your mentor families and get to know other parents and children who are new to the school. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONCERT FOR KIDS

St James the Less is hosting a kids concert with Justin Roberts and Liam Davis on their new public lawn on Sunday, September 9, 2018 beginning at 4:00 p.m. A \$10.00 donation is suggested. All are welcome. Visit their website (WWW.SAINTJAMESTHELESS.ORG) for more information.

Sincerely,
Edward J. Stange, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES	SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES
HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a wonderful first day we had on Wednesday, welcoming back	LUNCHROOM REMINDER - We love when students by their lunches from our

returning students and greeting 50 new kindergartners and six new 1st-3rd graders.

2nd CUP of COFFEE: Parents new to Middlefork this year are invited to attend one of two 2nd Cup of Coffee meetings at Middlefork on August 30 (9:00 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.). Dr. Greene will host an informal discussion and Q&A about the philosophy, curriculum, and special traditions of Middlefork and Sunset Ridge D29.

“LOOSE PARTS” PLAYGROUND MEETING: As detailed in Dr. Greene’s summer back-to-school letter, we are looking for parent volunteers to assist us with rolling out a new playground play option for Middlefork students during the Tuesday lunch recess. The “Loose Parts PlayPod” project will encourage creative, unstructured, imaginative play, but we can’t do it without you! Volunteers could participate on two levels, either as in-person facilitators (Tuesdays, 12-1:00 p.m.) or as collectors/organizers of “loose parts/stuff”. (And the former can’t happen without the latter!) To find out more about the “Loose Parts” movement and how you can help, please attend an organizing meeting on Monday, August 27 at 3:30 p.m. We’ll meet in the Middlefork Learning Center, This link will provide a little more background on our dream!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqilKyJJeKg>

CODING KIDS CLASSES: Registration for Middlefork Coding Kids goes live at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 9/4. You may register via the links below, the Middlefork News webpage, or the Coding Kids webpage. Classes begin the week of 9/17. Registration is first come-first served. Once capacity is reached, a wait list will be formed. Students on the waitlist have priority registration status for the winter session. We will notify you of your status the w/o 9/10. Again, registration opens **Tuesday evening, 9/4.**

1st - 3rd Grades Coding Registration

<http://www.sunsetridge29.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=570623&pageId=2892380>

Kindergarten Coding Registration

vendor, Organic Life. However, several students have been buying A LOT for lunch. Please remember that you can look at what they are ordering (and how much they are spending!) at lunch. It’s a great opportunity to remind your child that lunch should be made up of more than fizzy drinks and cookies!

2nd Cup 8/29 @ 9:00 am - Join Dr. Sukenik for an informal Q&A about all things Sunset Ridge! We’ll be meeting in the large conference room.

CURRICULUM NIGHT: Please join us for an evening to meet your child’s teachers and hear about the exciting year they have planned. This evening is for parents and guardians only.

7th and 8th grade @ 5:30 pm
4th, 5th, and 6th @ 7:00 pm

ATHLETICS ARE STARTING:
6th thru 8th Grade **Girls Volleyball** Informational Meeting is Tuesday, August 28, 2018 from 3:30-3:45pm

6th - 8th grade **Boys and Girls Soccer** Informational meeting is on Tuesday, August 28 from 3:40 - 4:00 pm

FOUNDATIONS: This year we are implementing a school-wide Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Plan called Foundations. We have developed clear expectations for behavior in common areas of the building (i.e. lunchroom, hallways, etc.) and are sharing them with students. We developed the expectations along with a “one liner” to help remember. The first area - the hallway - was shared at our opening day assembly. Ask your child about:

<http://www.sunsetridge29.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=570623&pageId=2892479>

MIDDLEFORK CHESS: The fall session begins Friday morning, 9/7, at 7:30 a.m. For more information about fees and registration, click on the link to the Middlefork News at the end of this column.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT is Thursday, 9/13, beginning at 6:30 p.m. , so please save the date! A complete schedule will be emailed to parents next week.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP: A reminder that on Tuesday, 8/28, all 1st & 2nd graders will be dismissed simultaneously at 3:00 p.m. So I'm sorry to say that the traffic reprieve you might have been feeling this week has been temporary! Please follow the procedures as detailed in the parent back to school mailing. An additional reminder to caregivers picking up 3rd graders - please do *not* enter the driveway before 3:10 p.m. The big kids get out later this year - 3:10, *NOT* 3:00 p.m!!

LOOKING FOR A PLAYHOUSE! If you have a sturdy children's (Little Tykes style) outdoor playhouse that you are ready to part with, please give us a call! After 20+ years, the plastic house on the kindergarten playground was finally "retired" to the dumpster!

MIDDLEFORK NEWS:

http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school_k-3

Travel only on the right in hallways and on stairs.

"Sight on the right"

WALK with purpose.

Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

"Feet on the street, Hands to self"

Use respectful and appropriate voice level and language.

"Level 1 or 2"

Use furniture in hallways appropriately.

"Respect so it's not wrecked"

We will continue to update you on Foundations through the Friday News.

UPCOMING AT SRS:

8/28 - Girls Volleyball Informational Meeting for 6th - 8th grade students @ 3:30

Boys and Girls Soccer Informational Meeting for 6th - 8th grade students @ 3:45

8/29 2nd Cup with Dr. Sukenik @ 9:00 am

9/3 NO SCHOOL

9/5 Curriculum Night
5:30 pm - 7th and 8th grade
7:00 pm - 4th, 5th, and 6th grades

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:

http://www.sunsetridge29.org/sunsetridge_school_home.aspx