FRIDAY NEWS
March 22, 2019

SPRING BREAK OFFICE HOURS
While most district staff will be taking time off over the spring break session, there will be limited accessibility to our buildings next week. If you need to stop by one of the schools, please phone first to make sure someone is available to let you in and/or address your needs.

REQUIRED DENTAL EXAM
Illinois law requires all children in kindergarten, second, and sixth grade in any public, private, or parochial school to have a dental examination. This law provides that if a child in the kindergarten, second, or sixth grade fails to present proof of having been examined by a dentist by May 15, 2019, the school may hold a child’s report card until one of the following occurs:
1.) the child presents proof of a completed dental examination or,
2.) the child presents proof that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15, 2019.
Exams completed within 18 months prior to May 15, 2018 (i.e., dated after November 15, 2017) are also acceptable. A waiver form may be submitted in place of the dental exam if a student shows undue burden or lack of access to a dentist. The link for the waiver form is below:
http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamWaiver.pdf
Please contact the school nurse (Ann Mertes, Middlefork School; Linda Curry, Sunset Ridge School) with any questions.

JOIN THE 2019-2020 PTO BOARD
A great way to get involved and meet new people is to join the PTO board! PTO board positions of various commitment levels are open for the 2019-2020 school year. Visit the PTO website for information about all of the board positions http://district29pto.org/about-us/board/ and contact Megan Waite at meganwaite@comcast.net by April 1 to get involved.

NEW STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENTS
After spring break, District 29 will begin the new state-mandated Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) with all students in grades 3 through 8. All public school districts in Illinois are required to present the test to all students on each scheduled test and makeup day. The IAR replaced the previous state-mandated PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) tests. PARTICIPATION ON THESE TESTS IS IMPORTANT, as schools with less than 95% participation are ineligible to receive the “Exemplary” designation on the published school report card. Furthermore, schools with participation rate below 95% for three consecutive years
will be placed on a ‘watch list’ and will be required to develop and implement a “Work Plan for School Improvement.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Inclusive Education and Public Policy: A Conversation with Madeleine Will**
*When: Tuesday, May 21, 2019  9:30 AM to 10:30 AM*
*Where: Gorton Center, 400 East Illinois Road.*
*When: Tuesday, May 21, 2019  7:00 PM - 8:00 PM*
*Where: New Trier Township High School Northfield Campus*

More Info: Ms. Will plans to share highlights and lessons learned from her nearly 40 years of involvement in the evolution of publicly funded services for children and adults with disabilities. She will reflect on the importance of inclusive practices, and the growing national focus on community integrated living and employment for people with long term care needs. In 1983, Madeleine Will was appointed by President Reagan to serve as Assistant Secretary of Education for Special Education and Rehabilitation. During that time, she was instrumental in developing the concept of transition planning in special education and in getting supporting employment included in public policy. Ms. Will continues to be an influential force in shaping educational and public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Ms. Will shall be answering questions in an interview format, you will be prompted for questions when you register. Register now! [https://www.nssed.org/events](https://www.nssed.org/events)

**A Night with Illinois Special Needs Planning Experts**
*When: Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm*
*Where: Takiff Center Community Hall; 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe IL*

More Info: This evening will be a Town Hall discussion covering the most challenging issues facing families with loved ones with disabilities. Topics to be discussed: Transitioning through life, Preparing your family for the future, Communicating your planning to those who will be involved, and Building community relationships. RSVP by contacting the Center for Independent Futures; 847.328.2044 or center@independentfutures.com. Space is Limited. Register Early!

HAVE A WONDERFUL BREAK!

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

MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES

**MIDDLEFORK SPRING BREAK HOURS:** The office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week.
IAR TESTING SCHEDULE: Testing dates for 3rd graders are April 8-12, 2019. Please ensure your 3rd graders arrive to school on time each morning. A late arriving student not only starts his/her own day off abruptly, but the tardy child also affects classmates who are waiting to begin their testing session. Thank you for being timely!!

CLASS PLACEMENT REMINDER: A copy of Dr. Greene’s March 2019-20 class placement letter can be downloaded from the Middlefork News webpage (link below).

DISTRICT 29’s annual student YEARBOOK includes both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge students. You can order one today via the following link: Sunset Ridge & Middlefork Yearbook Ordering.

DEDICATED DOLPHINS: Thanks to the Middlefork community’s support, the Dedicated Dolphins have raised over $1,000 for the American Heart Association through their keychain sale. Additionally, the Dedicated Dolphins helped Middlefork students learn heart healthy habits such as drinking water instead of soda, watching out for salt in foods, eating 2 fruits and vegetables/day, and exercising for 30 minutes/day. And of course, they learned the importance of doing a good deed for others. The DDs are still working to fill orders, so remaining keychains will be sent home after the break. Thank you for your patience as they finish up!

PORTFOLIO SEASON launches with 1st grade Portfolio Night and Explorers’ Club Museum on April 11th at 6:30 p.m. 2nd graders share portfolios with parents on May 1st, and 3rd graders follow one week later on May 8th. Finally, the Kindergarten Portfolio Breakfast is May 29 at 9:00 a.m.

3RD GRADE’S BIKE SAFETY UNIT begins with Officer Friendly on Friday, April 12 and runs through Thursday, April 18, when the traditional “road test” is held. So despite the current cold temps, spring break is a good time to check out/tune up students’ bicycles. Details will be coming from Mrs. Kasper in early April.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the annual Middlefork Volunteer Assembly on Thursday morning, April 25 at 9:30 a.m.

MIDDLEFORK NEWS:
http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school__k-3_

SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

CONGRATULATIONS: Our 5th grade musicians were outstanding at the band and orchestra performance on Tuesday. It’s wonderful to see how much growth they’ve made in such a short time!

YEARBOOKS: Order this year’s yearbook! Sunset Ridge & Middlefork Yearbook Ordering

SAVE THE DATE: The 6th grade will be showcasing their podcasts on Friday, April 5th from
8:45 am - 10:15am. Please come out and hear the incredible podcasts our 6th graders have recorded on a variety of topics ranging from original poetry to the debate about tackle football.

SUNSET RIDGE OFFICE HOURS: The SRS office will be open every day next week during spring break from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

IAR: The new Illinois assessment, IAR, is upon us. Testing will begin for 7th graders on April 2nd and 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th grade students on April 8th. Please see your child’s teacher newsletter for exact timing. ALL STUDENTS NEED HEADPHONES for the test.

I hope you have time next week to enjoy your friends and family, as well as some of this beautiful spring weather. Have a wonderful spring break!

D29CONNECT UPDATES
We will be sharing updates each week about the different committees of D29Connect. You can also access information on our website - click here for a direct link to the D29Connect page!

UPCOMING AT SRS:
SPRING BREAK - 3/25 - 3/29

4/1
Marvel Club - 5th grade recess

4/2
Big Books Club - 4th grade recess
Giving Club - 5th grade recess

4/3
Scribbler Sisters - 5th grade recess
Script writing/acting club - 4th grade recess

4/4
Parent Connections - 8:45 am @ SRS Large Conference Room
8th Grade Washington DC Trip departs

4/5
8th Grade Washington DC Trip
6th Grade Podcast celebration - 8:45 am in the SRS auditorium

4/6
8th Grade Washington DC Trip

4/7
8th Grade Washington DC Trip returns