NEW SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL EARNED IASB TOP AWARD

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) recently announced that it has awarded top honors (“Award of Distinction”) to the new Sunset Ridge School! Sunset Ridge was one of 3 schools earning this highly coveted recognition, out of 27 school construction projects across the state that were considered. We will be recognized at the annual IASB conference today in Chicago—I am out of the District attending the event. Click on the following link for more information about this recognition.


PUBLIC SCHOOL REPORT CARD

This week, the Illinois State Board of Education release their new “report card” for all public schools in the state. One feature that was added to the new report card is a state designation for each individual school (Exemplary, Commendable, Underperforming, Lowest Performing). The designation is based on performance on the annual state-mandated PARCC test, student attendance, performance on the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, and performance of English Language Learners on another state-mandated assessment). To qualify as “Exemplary”, a school must have at least 95% of students participate in the annual state-mandated PARCC tests. Since neither Middlefork or Sunset Ridge had 95% of students participate in the tests last year, the highest designation we could earn was “Commendable.” Please look for a separate mailing being sent home regarding this topic.

2019-2020 DISTRICT CALENDAR

At the Board of Education meeting earlier this week, we began the process of considering different options for the 2019-2020 District Calendar. In particular, we are looking at the potential benefits and challenges of a pre- versus post-labor day startdate, as well as the potential for making fall conferences earlier than November. We hope to adopt an official 2019-2020 District calendar by January 2019.

ILLINOIS 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is an annual state-mandated climate survey for staff, students, and parents/guardians. The parent form of the survey is now available to all parents, guardians, or other caregivers with a child in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Click the following link to access the parent survey http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/.
These survey results are published on our annual district report card and are utilized by administration and staff in school improvement efforts.

**D29 CONNECT**
D29 Connect is a comprehensive umbrella of social-emotional supports offered at Sunset Ridge School. To learn more about D29 Connect, and learn how you can get involved, please visit the following link [http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_/__d29_connect](http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_/__d29_connect)

**PARENT TECH RESOURCES**
Dr. Kristen Mattson joined us last night for our parent night to talk about how we can help our children become great Digital Citizens. She provided some excellent resources that we’d like to share with you. Please click on the link below for parent tips and picture book recommendations. [http://sunsetridge29.org/parents/tech_resources_for_parents](http://sunsetridge29.org/parents/tech_resources_for_parents)

**PTO BENEFIT**
The PTO Benefit will be held in March of 2019. The Benefit includes a fundraising auction to bring parents, teachers, and administrators together for a night of fun! Items donated by the D29 community help to create essential auction packages needed for a successful fundraising event. Please consider making a donation. For donation ideas, and information on how to donate, please click the following link: [http://www.district29pto.org/2018/10/auction](http://www.district29pto.org/2018/10/auction)

We are also looking for corporate / personal sponsors. You or your business could be featured in the promotions leading up to the event and displayed prominently at the event itself. For more information on sponsorships please contact the benefit team at benefit@district29pto.org.

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

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**MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES**

**WEATHER PREPARATIONS:** There’s no turning back now! Winter is officially upon us and we’ve already had two surprise, snowy recesses with a bunch of disappointed students who were not equipped for the wet conditions. Please help your children to bring the necessary snow gear as soon as you can, so they can enjoy recess play to the fullest!

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** has closed, so please email the teacher directly if you still wish to set up a conference for Monday afternoon or evening.

**WE ARE THANKFUL:** We wish a very Happy Thanksgiving to all of our wonderful families, and we thank you for supporting this year’s first delivery of lunches to the shelter at the First
Baptist Church in Evanston. On Tuesday, D29 parent Buggie O’Grady delivered 150+ brown bag lunches on behalf of Middlefork. See the Middlefork News page to download the remaining schedule for 2018-19.

**NORTHWESTERN SETTLEMENT HOUSE:** We were delighted to welcome back a representative from the Northwestern Settlement House; Allison Marino met with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders today to explain the year-round work they do to support immigrant families in the West Town neighborhood of Chicago. The presentation helped our students understand their own families’ contributions to the annual Adopt-A-Family PTO project, a D29 tradition for 25+ years.

**ANNUAL TURKEY TROT - 11/26/18:** Join this post-Thanksgiving tradition that is twelve years running! Don your running/walking shoes and stop by the Middlefork big gym to exercise away those excess Turkey Day calories with your child(ren). It’s healthy, fun, and fast!

**HOUR OF CODE WEEK 2018:** Once again parents are invited to catch a glimpse of students’ coding activities during Computer Science Education Week (12/3-12/9). Please participate in one of our coding classes that week: K meets on Tue. 12/4 @ 1:50 p.m. 1st-3rd graders meet on Tues. 12/4 @ 3:00 AND and Wed/Thur. @ 7:45 a.m.

**VETERANS WALL:** 100 expressions of gratitude adorn the Wall of Honor in Middlefork Lobby. Students have contributed stars for veterans across all branches of the service. It’s both heartwarming and precious, so be sure to take a look when you come in for conferences on Monday.

**WINTER CONCERT SEASON:** Be sure to reserve the 12/19 (1st-3rd) and 1/17 (kindergarten) concert dates!

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:** As we embark on this season of gratitude, I’m thankful for the many bounties in my life, and one of those is of course, our students. It is my pleasure and privilege to serve the children and families of our wonderful D29 community, and I wish each and every one of you a very healthy, happy Thanksgiving holiday!

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

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**SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES**

Thank you to all have donated to *World Bicycle Relief* already! So far we have raised enough money to cover the cost of donating 14 bikes to people in need. We are getting close to meeting our goal of 20 bikes! We will continue to collect donations during conferences to conclude our fall collections. Please consider making a donation to our collection jars during conferences or donate online at:
World Bicycle Relief SRS Fundraiser

With Gratitude,

The Sunset Ridge Transportation League

ART UPDATE: Take a look at some of the really phenomenal things happening in the SRS art room: https://www.smore.com/f5hs7

LOST AND FOUND: We have an outrageous amount of things in our lost and found at this point. There are sweatshirts, jackets, water bottles and more. Please encourage your child to take a look if he or she is missing something. We’ll leave it out through parent teacher conferences on November 19th and then donate what is not claimed.

2ND CUP WITH DR. SUKENIK: Dr. Sukenik will host a 2nd Cup to discuss #D29Connect progress as well as a general Q&A on December 3rd at 9:00 am in the SRS Large Conference Room.

DESIGN STUDIO UPDATE: Check out this month’s update at http://sunsetridge29.ss18.sharpschool.com/cms/one.aspx?portalId=570623&pageId=1207783

END OF TRIMESTER: Today is the last day of the first trimester. You will be getting your child’s report cards via email the first week of December.

THANKFUL: Thanksgiving brings to the forefront all of the things that bring joy, happiness and fulfillment to our lives. We are so fortunate to live and work in this exceptional community! I am personally filled with gratitude to work and play with such wonderful students, families, and staff. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Sunset Ridge and for your support with all we do. I hope you, your friends, and families have a wonderful holiday season!

#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:
11/17
8th Grade New Trier Testing (see http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/Calendars/Student_Services/Testing/8th_Gr_Placement_2018/ for more information)
11/19
Parent-Teacher Conferences

11/20
NO SCHOOL

11/21
NO SCHOOL

11/22
NO SCHOOL - Happy Thanksgiving!

11/23
NO SCHOOL

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS WEBSITE
New Trier Township Presents:
FINDING BALANCE: Understanding How Parental Controls on iOS Devices Can Help Our Students

Thursday, November 29, 2018
6:30-8:30pm
New Trier East Campus
(385 Winnetka Ave.)

FREE REGISTRATION 🌐 bit.ly/NTParents

All parents/guardians in the New Trier Township are invited to join us for this FREE event!

Event Details & Timeline:
6:30-7:15 pm: Guided Panel Discussion with Social Workers, Psychologist, Administrators & District Police Liaison - Focus on how teens and their families can find balance and social-emotional well-being in a time when technology and social media have strong influence in their lives.

7:30-8:15 pm (Concurrent Session): Technology use experts/trainers from Apple, Inc. will provide small-group, hands-on breakout sessions covering Parental Controls, Self-regulation, and Privacy features available in iOS 12.

7:30-8:15 pm (Concurrent Session): Panel Members available for follow up conversations.

8:20-8:30 pm: Closing Remarks from Experts and Hosts

R.S.V.P.

OR 🌐 bit.ly/NTParents