



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 31, 2018

SAFETY FIRST

During the first weeks of school, we always focus heavily on reviewing and practicing safety procedures. Establishing general preventative measures and response protocols for specific events is important to ensure a safe campus. Parents/guardians can assist us in this endeavor by modelling and reinforcing safe behaviors when driving on campus, volunteering at one of our schools, or just enjoying the recreational opportunities on our grounds. Please also reinforce a “see something, say something” approach and encourage your children to report anything unusual.

PARENT CONNECTIONS

The Parent Connections Committee exists to support the social and emotional development of children by sharing information and resources, providing networking opportunities, and offering mutual support for District parents and community members. The first meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2018 from 8:45-10:15 at Sunset Ridge School. We will be discussing the the new District Strategic Plan, our social emotional learning program, and initiatives for the Committee this year. All are welcome to attend!

CHICAGO MAGAZINE RANKS DISTRICT 29 SCHOOLS HIGH

The annual Chicago Magazine report of the “Best Schools” in the area recently identified both District 29 schools as being in the “Top 10” of the “Best Schools” in suburban Cook County. Middlefork School was ranked #3 and Sunset Ridge School was ranked #7. District 29 was the only district to have all of its schools ranked in the top 10! Congratulations to our fanatically committed staff, engaged students, and collaborative parents/guardians for this accomplishment!

NEW SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL RECEIVES “ENR” RECOGNITION

Earlier this week, Engineering News-Record (ENR), awarded the new Sunset Ridge School top honors in the category of “Green Construction.” ENR provides engineering and construction news, analysis, commentary and data for the construction industry. ENR reports on the top design firms, construction companies, and projects in the United States and around the world. While we know our new school is special, the recognition by industry professionals is a welcome accolade!

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

WHAT A WEEK! Writing folders, Number Corner, indoor recess, hopscotch, fire drill, Sharks & Minnows, sundials, breakfast for lunch, MakerSpace meetings, etc... We're starting to understand our new routines and feeling like we're back in the groove! Have a great weekend and we'll see you bright and early on Tuesday!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: If you are able to volunteer in the Learning Center during your child's scheduled class time, please click below to fill out the volunteer form. Mrs. Johnson will contact you in the next couple weeks with a schedule. Thank you! [Volunteer Form](#)

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 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 @ 6:00.**

1st - 3rd Grades Coding Registration

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

Kindergarten Coding Registration

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

MIDDLEFORK CHESS: The fall session begins next 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. (Registration goes through GM Chess Academy, not the Middlefork office.)

PLAYHOUSE SUCCESS: Thank you, Michael Bader and family for donating your gently and barely used playhouse to our kindergarten playground!

PICK-UP and DROP-OFF NOTES: YAY! We made it through our first full week of drop-off and pick-up with only few questions, so **thank you** to everyone for adhering to the procedures as outlined in the back-to-school packet. Here are a few more tips moving forward:

- Please make sure your child is zipped up and wearing shoes when you pull into the driveway. This ensures he/she is ready to grab a backpack and hop out, and *that* keeps the traffic moving!

- Drivers arriving ahead of the designated pick-up time can cause back-ups. 1st/2nd graders do *not* exit the building before 3:00 p.m., and 3rd graders are not dismissed until 3:10 p.m.
- 2nd grade caregivers, if there's no space to enter the mid-driveway line and traffic is backed up, thank you for parking and/or going around again and reentering the drive. (This allows the lead car in the 1st grade line to exit.)
- Please be cognizant of the wheelchair accessible section of the sidewalk directly in front of the Middlefork main doors (there's a yellow stripe), and do not block this area when there is a vehicle parked in the handicapped space.
- In order to maintain order and safety on the sidewalk during pick-up and drop-off, only 3rd graders are permitted to park their bikes in the bike rack *and* that is in the Spring, after they complete a Bike Safety course. Additionally, if you walk here with a dog, please do not bring him or her on the school sidewalk. If it's during dismissal, your child can walk to meet you on the public sidewalk. Thank you for understanding that such safety procedures for 200 students can be different from and more complicated than those for individuals and families.

SAFETY DRILLS: Monday we practiced our first of three state mandated fire drills. It was an announced drill and everyone did great! Next week we will practice another one and also a Bus Safety Drill (Friday), so we will be prepared for upcoming field trips. I assure you that we consider how young our students are when we explain these practices, and we do our best to make them feel comfortable. However, if your child seems uneasy with anything practiced at school, please let the classroom teacher and/or me know right away. Safety! Safety! Safety! That's our motto!

DEDICATED DOLPHINS: Our 3rd grade group of service-minded students met for the first time on 8/29. 2nd graders interested in joining Middlefork's very own Student Council are invited to an introductory meeting on 9/5, during lunch recess in the Learning Center.

COMING UP:

- 9/12 PTO Ice Cream Social for Families New to D29, 6:00 @ Clarkson
- 9/13 Back-to-School Night
- 9/14 School Picture Day (forms to come)
- 9/17 Kindergarten Dismissal changes to 12:50 p.m.
- 9/28 September Birthday Lunch w/Dr. Greene (includes Kinder August B-days, too!)

MIDDLEFORK NEWS:

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

SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

RIDING BIKES TO SCHOOL

We love having students ride bikes to school SAFELY. Please remind your child that they need to

- **Walk bikes while on the property.** It is not as quick as they would like it to be, but it must be done to ensure safety on crowded sidewalks while cars are moving in and out of the lot.

- **Wear a helmet.**
- **Wait for adults to allow them to cross street intersections when leaving school.**

We also need drivers to be alert, off their phones and patient while our students are safely getting home. We have seen several distracted drivers and close calls in these opening days. Please work with us to ensure everyone's safety.

#D29CONNECT

In an effort to improve connections between students, students-teachers, teachers-teachers, and school-community, we have developed #D29Connect. This social-emotional learning initiative encompasses Foundations (school-wide behavior expectations), Community Education, Social Justice, Service Learning and Colleague connections. We will be rolling out different components throughout the year and updating the website at http://sunsetridge29.ss18.sharpschool.com/schools/sunset_ridge_school_4-8/_d29_connect. More information will be shared at the PTO meeting on September 11th and Parent Connections on September 12th.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Thank you for your patience with our gym uniform shortage. We are working with vendors to get the new orders in ASAP. Also, there have been some questions about the scoring for PE grades. The rubric can be found on Mrs. Mattera and Mr. Sislow's teacher pages and is posted in the gym for all students.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Vision and Hearing screening will be conducted on 9/13/18. Re-screening will be conducted on 9/27/18.

*Grade 6 parent reminder- State of Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination forms are required by October 15, 2018. This physical examination form must be dated after August 22, 2017 in order to comply with the state mandate and avoid exclusion from school.

* Students in grades 6-8 that will be participating in a sport must submit a completed physical, good through the entirety of the sport. Physicals are good for one school year from date of issue. Please remember to complete and sign the parent section.

*Reminder- turn in any allergy/asthma medications for your child ASAP.

*A parent in Grade 5 has treated their child for nits/lice- please check your child/ren in order to be pro-active.

For further information on any of the above please refer to the SRS website, Health Services/News/Letters.

Welcome back to school,
Linda Curry RN

TECH TALK

On Wednesday, September 5th, we invite all parents to attend a Technology presentation lead by Sheri Styczen, Director of Technology & Innovation before the Open House sessions begin. The presentations will begin at 5:00pm and 6:30pm. Come and learn how to navigate the new website,

how the district communicates with parents, what devices are used in the district, how we use social media and tech resources for parents. She is happy to answer questions you may have as well. We hope you can make it!

UPCOMING AT SRS:

9/3 NO SCHOOL

9/5 Curriculum Night

5:00 - Tech Talk in the Auditorium

5:30 pm - 7th and 8th grade

6:30 - Tech Talk in the Auditorium

7:00 pm - 4th, 5th, and 6th grades

9/10 NO SCHOOL

9/11 4th, 6th, and 8th grade MAP Testing begins

9/12 5th grade MAP Testing begins

9/13 Vision/Hearing Screening

9/14 Picture Day

9/17 7th grade MAP Testing begins

9/19 NO SCHOOL

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS: http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school_4-8_