



Flossmoor School District 161

21st Century Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent
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Administrative Offices

Ms. Frances A. LaBella,
Associate
Superintendent of
Business Operations

Ms. Amabel Crawford,
Director of
Learning and Instruction

Ms. Robin Latman,
Director of
Special Education

Flossmoor Hills Elementary School

3721 Beech Street
Flossmoor, IL 60422
708.647.7100

Heather Hill Elementary School

1439 Lawrence Crescent
Flossmoor, IL 60422
708.647.7200

Serena Hills Elementary School

255 Pleasant Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708.647.7300

Western Avenue Elementary School

940 Western Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422
708.647.7400

Mardell M. Parker Junior High School

2810 School Street
Flossmoor, IL 60422
708.647.5400

July 27, 2017

Dear District 161 Families,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the start of the 2017-2018 school year! In just a few weeks, the students will be back at work, focusing on exceeding their potential for success. Each new year is an opportunity for us to reflect on our practices to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our students and community. To that end, we are committed to the academic, social, and emotional growth of our students and we will provide learning experiences for children that are engaging and valuable. We will actively communicate and collaborate with our parents and community members to create an environment where we all work together to support our most important resource, our children. As we get started with the new year I want to share some exciting information with you about our fantastic school district.

Last spring, the Board of Education adopted new curriculum resources for grades K-8. Teachers and students in grade K-5 will use Bridges Math resources and students in grades 6-8 will use the Core Connections (CPM) Math program. We are excited to implement these new programs in order to strengthen the consistency, rigor, and standards alignment of our math instruction. We expect the new programs to challenge our students and to increase their achievement in mathematics. Our teachers will begin professional development from trained experts in both programs this summer and that will continue throughout the school year. We will share additional information and will hold parent events during the year to support learning at home, so keep an eye out for those resources.

We have been fortunate enough to add four very high quality educators to our already exceptional administrative team: Dr. Lisa Dallacqua, principal at Western Avenue Elementary School, Mr. Fred Hunter, principal at Parker Junior High School, Ms. Jennifer Hartmann, assistant principal at Parker Junior High School, and Mrs. Rebecca Williams, assistant principal at Parker Junior High School. All of our administrators have been hard at work preparing for the school year and they are eager to have the students return. I would like to invite you a wonderful back to school event where you can meet the new administrators and have some fun on a nice summer evening! On August 18th, please join us from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Flossmoor Park, before the Movie in the Park event, for a Meet and Greet and some refreshments. This is a great opportunity to wrap up the summer in preparation for the first day of school on Thursday, August 24th!

I am incredibly thankful to have the opportunity to serve the students, staff, and families in District 161. We are preparing to have a great start to the 2017-2018 school year and I look forward to seeing all of the students soon!

Sincerely,

Dana Smith, Ed.D.