



Flossmoor School District 161

21st Century Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Dr. Dana Smith,
Superintendent
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Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708.647.7030
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Administrative Offices

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

Ms. Amabel Crawford,
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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

May 14, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of District 161,

The Board of Education and staff members of Flossmoor District 161 are focused on providing high quality learning experiences to our students, in a safe and nurturing environment. We have high expectations for the behavior of students and adults and it is important that we are vigilant in upholding those expectations.

I am writing to you this afternoon to discuss a news story that was reported on Sunday, May 13th, about a physical altercation between a student and a bus aide and the aide's recent arrest on Friday, May 11th. The report stated the incident occurred last week, but this incident actually occurred on Friday, April 6th. When we first learned of the incident, we immediately worked to ensure a safe environment for our students and we demanded that both of the Paige Bus employees involved in this incident be immediately removed from District 161 bus routes. Paige Bus has confirmed that the bus aide and the bus driver have not worked with District 161 students since the incident. As soon as the student was secure and his family was contacted, we notified the Flossmoor Police Department and the Department of Children and Family Services. We also spoke with our students and sent a letter to the Parker families on that particular bus to notify them of the incident.

We take our students' safety very seriously and we will not stand for any employee losing control with a student, including the employee of a contractor. We encourage any student, parent, or staff member who becomes aware of unsafe actions by an employee, to bring their concerns to a teacher or school administrator for a prompt investigation.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact me at your convenience at 708-647-7030.

Sincerely,


Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent