

December 22, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a cold start to the winter season and our maintenance and custodial staff have done an exceptional job making sure our buildings are warm and dry and that the areas around the schools are safe for students and staff. Thank you for your effort to get students to school on these cold, wintry mornings.

Please mark your calendars for our spring assessment window. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a state assessment that all students in grades three through eight are required to take in the spring. District 100 students will be testing April 10th through April 28th, with the majority of testing being held during the first two weeks of the testing window. Illinois districts are accountable for testing every student and the results are used to report school and district performance at the state level. It is important that students are in attendance for PARCC testing. Please take this into consideration when making any plans that would result in students being absent from school during the testing period. Please contact the school principal if you have any questions regarding PARCC testing.

Over the past several months, I have shared information regarding the uncertainty of state funding and the inequitable funding formula that currently exists in the state of Illinois. This school year the district has made \$1.5 million in cuts to maintain a balanced budget and we anticipate the need for an additional \$1 million in cuts for the upcoming school year. In an effort to address the funding gap, the Board of Education voted last night to put a referendum on the ballot for the April, 2017 election that would yield approximately \$2 million in additional funding for District 100. A successful referendum will allow the district to strengthen educational programs, retain quality staff members, continue to offer after school activities and clubs, maintain the current level of preschool programs, and begin to provide a more financially stable environment for the future. Please look for more information in January regarding the referendum.

I hope all of our students and families have a wonderful holiday season and wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Mary Havis