



Joyce Carmine, Ed. D.
Superintendent

**PARK FOREST - CHICAGO HEIGHTS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 163**

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www.sd163.com

May 22, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, the Board of Education of Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 voted to reconfigure the school district making Algonquin School an early childhood center; Mohawk, Blackhawk, and 21st Century: kindergarten through third grade centers; and Forest Trail and Beacon Hill centers housing students of grades four through eight.

As in the past, all schools will offer the core curriculum with alignment to the Illinois State Standards. The exciting news is that the faces of Forest Trail and Beacon Hill will change, with each offering different enhancements to peak student interest and infuse a deeper and more challenging component within the regular curriculum. As mentioned in a previous communication, Forest Trail will offer a program in the arts, namely theater, music, and visual art. Eligible students will have additional opportunities for the performing arts through show choir and theater performances.

Beacon Hill will offer a program of student leadership for upper grade students and STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for all students. This exciting curriculum integrates hands on learning with technology and literacy in ways that motivate and excite students in areas such as alternative energy, robotics, and computer graphics. Eligible students will also be given opportunities for additional field learning experiences.

A series of meetings are scheduled for the upcoming weeks to provide parents and students with additional information regarding the curriculum at each of the schools. You can also access the District website at www.sd163.com. Select the District Reconfiguration link and view a PowerPoint presentation with pertinent information. As a reminder, the meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Algonquin School – May 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Forest Trail – May 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- 21st Century – May 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Beacon Hill – May 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Blackhawk – May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Mohawk – May 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Also unique to this project, is that students who qualify for special eligibility will have the option to choose their school based on their individual interests in learning. Attached you will find a copy of the assessment tool that the staff will use to evaluate your child's eligibility status for school choice.

21st Century Preparatory Center
240 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490
Fax (708) 747-0261

Algonquin Primary Center
170 Algonquin
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200
Fax (708) 503-2267

Beacon Hill Primary Center
401 Concord Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100
Fax (708) 283-2358

Blackhawk Intermediate Center
130 Blackhawk Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500
Fax (708) 481-0917

Mohawk Intermediate Center
301 Mohawk
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300
Fax (708) 748-9738

Forest Trail Middle School
215 Wilson Street
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600
Fax (708) 503-2297

“Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities”

We are asking that you discuss the two school options with your child and complete an application indicating your child's preference for his/her school assignment. **Please return the school choice application to your child's principal by May 27, 2014.** After all applications are received, they will be reviewed in conjunction with your child's eligibility status based on the attached rubric. The final selection will be made prior to June 6, 2014. All students who are eligible to choose their attendance center will be notified no later than June 10, 2014. Students who are not eligible to choose their attendance center will be assigned to either Forest Trail or Beacon Hill School. **Students who do not return an application by May 27, 2014 will be assigned to an attendance center selected on the basis of new transportation boundaries.**

The Board of Education, Administration, and staff are looking forward to unveiling this innovative program at the start of the 2014-15 school year! We are pleased and proud that we can offer our children a progressive learning experience that will continue to inspire and challenge each student's quest for knowledge.

I will look forward to meeting with you at the upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,



Joyce Carmine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

att: Assessment Tool
School Choice Application

Student Eligibility Rubric for		HR Teacher					Grade			BEA	BLK	MH	FT
		0 Points	1 Point	2 points	3 Points	4 points	5 Points	Evidence	Score	Score	Score	Score	
Work Ethic	Criteria												
	% of time Student completes quality class work on time.	Less than 75%	75% - 79%	80-84%	85-89%	90-94%	95-100%	Teacher Grade Book Score _____					
	% of time Student completes quality homework .	Less than 75%	75% - 79%	80-84%	85-89%	90-94%	95-100%	Teacher Grade Book Score _____					
	% of time Student returns evidence of at-home reading assignments (book report, reading log, etc).	Less than 75%	75% - 79%	80-84%	85-89%	90-94%	95-100%	At Home Reading log/report Score _____					
	Student demonstrates perseverance	Needs teacher support with all tasks/off-task most of the time.	Makes an effort to engage in tasks of mostly their choice.	Is sometimes engaged and devotes energy to lower level tasks.	Is often intellectually engaged and devotes energy to grade level tasks	Is intellectually engaged most of the time and devotes energy to grade level tasks	Is always intellectually engaged and devotes energy to rigorous tasks	Teacher recommendation Score _____					
Student's grade point average during the 1 st and 2 nd marking periods	1.99 or lower	2.0-2.49	2.5-2.99	3.0-3.49	3.5-3.9	4.0	District GPA Report Score _____						
Attendance Rate *Medical report documenting chronic illness such as: sickle cell, diabetes, or asthma.	Less than 85%	85-89%		90-94%			District Student Attendance Report Score _____						
Student's Behavior	Needs continuous redirection and /or has more than four referrals	Needs consistent redirection and is challenged behaviorally and/or has 3-4 referrals.	Needs frequent redirection in class and has 1-2 office referrals.	Demonstrates appropriate behavior for most of the time with reminders	Demonstrates appropriate behaviors/needs few reminders	Models appropriate behaviors/self directed	School Referral Database Score _____						
							Total Score						

Park Forest - Chicago Heights Public Schools

School District 163 – www.sd163.com

**2014-15 School Choice Application
In District**

Student Name _____

Home Address _____

Telephone: _____

Current School ___21st ___ Beacon Hill ___ Blackhawk ___ Mohawk ___ Forest Trail

Current Homeroom Teacher _____

Current Grade Level: ___3 ___4 ___5 ___6 ___7

My child is interested in attending: _____ Beacon Hill _____ Forest Trail

For the following reasons:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

For office use only:

Date received _____ By _____