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114 W 144th St.  
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# BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NEWS



SUMMER 2021

## Uniform Reminder

District 148 students are expected to come to school each day dressed in uniforms of navy skirts, jumpers or slacks worn with a belt, and white shirts or blouses with collars. Shirts must be tucked in. Navy or white socks or tights may be worn along with inexpensive gym shoes or solid-colored dress shoes. In warm weather, navy shorts that reach the knee may be worn. On cold weather days, students may wear navy or white sweaters or sweatshirts without hoods. Please refer to the District's website at district148.net for important dates that pertain to the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to email [feedback@district148.net](mailto:feedback@district148.net).

For additional District information visit  
District 148 on the Web at: [www.district148.net](http://www.district148.net)

## 2021-2022 School Registration

Online registration is available for Parents/Guardians to register their child/children for the 2021-2022 school year. The online process is quick and easy. A registration letter, also known as a snap code letter, will be provided to Parents/Guardians of all returning students. The registration letter contains a unique snap code and information regarding the online registration process. The snap code gives Parents/Guardians access to their child's/ children's online registration forms. Paper registration forms will not be available for the 2021-2022 school year. Online registration is available by visiting the District's website at <https://www.district148.net/registration/online-registration>.

Important information regarding registration includes:

- There will be no registration fees!
- Proof of residency is not required for returning\* District 148 students.
- Gym uniforms will be provided to students at no cost to families.

\*A returning student is defined as having been enrolled in District 148 on the last day of school, which was May 28, 2021, and no transfer was requested. Students new to the District and those who moved and are transferring to a new school within the District must complete the registration process and show proof of residency in-person from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 or from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Current Illinois physical, dental, eye examination forms and immunization records should also be provided on these registration dates.

The new school year begins with a full day of student attendance on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.  
Elementary School students will be in session from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Junior High School students will be in session from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Registration will take place at the school your child/children will attend this fall. Out-of-District placement students will register at District Office. Parents/Guardians of returning\* District 148 students can drop off their child's/children's current Illinois physical, dental, eye examination forms and immunization records at District Office during regular business hour until Monday, July 26, 2021. Parents/Guardians of new ECC students can sign up for a screening appointment at registration. Screenings will be from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. August 23-27, 2021. Anyone who will be three years old by September 1, 2021 can be registered/screened. Parents/Guardians who need to retrieve their snap code can do so by sending an email to: [registration@district148.net](mailto:registration@district148.net). Parents/Guardians also can call their child's/children's school office after Monday, July 26, 2021. School offices are currently closed for the summer.

## Find us on Social Media

District 148 continues to use various social media platforms to keep families informed. These various platforms allow the District to continue to strengthen our connection and interaction with students, parents/guardians, families and community members. We have added social media platforms to our communication toolbox. The District's Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram sites offer easy and convenient access to information and announcements. We encourage you to follow us on these social networks. After all, there is always something great happening in District 148!

- Facebook @doltonriverdalesd148
- LinkedIn-Dolton School District 148
- Twitter @dolton148
- Instagram @doltonsd148

### CONTACT

DISTRICT 148 BOARD:  
114 W 144th St.  
Riverdale, IL 60827

## Dates to Remember

Stay informed with events and important reminders by visiting District 148's website at district148.net for the 2021-2022 school year. Updates for upcoming events are available on the main page under District calendar. The District's full school year calendar is available under the Calendar tab on the main page.



You can follow  
District 148  
on Facebook,  
LinkedIn, Twitter  
and Instagram.

## A Message From the Superintendent



Greetings Dolton West School District 148 Community,  
Welcome to Summer 2021! School District 148 has successfully concluded a full school year of remote learning for our future scholars. 180 days of virtual connection for teachers and students is a time in all of our lives that we will never forget. This school year has been rewarding for some and challenging for others. The pandemic began in March 2020, which forced schools to change the normal practice of teaching. With no idea of how this school year was going to look, the District was tasked with planning for remote learning in the event the world was not able to return to in-person instruction. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the District was faced with preparing to educate our students with remote learning. This time has been a learning lesson for all. While the pandemic was not foreseen, WE learned that when faced with adversities, WE must push through and learn how to overcome such challenges. As the "PROUD" Superintendent of Schools for School District 148, I am pleased to say that the communities in which we serve have prevailed.

The distribution of technology to close the digital divide was an ongoing process from the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year to present. Families in the community were afforded hotspots in all homes for easy access to internet services. The District's Technology Team was available for technology support (phone and/or in-person) as needed. Accessibility to school administrators and staff during this time taught everyone that we could fully overcome this pandemic. It taught us that we could stay engaged with one another through technology that was utilized during remote learning. The District's goal is to implement remote learning days into future school years for days that may be deemed emergency or unsafe conditions. An unfortunate time of change brings forth new ways of doing things.

The District has planned a robust Summer Learning Academy for students that entails two days of in-person learning and two-days of remote learning. This academy will include enrichment activities such as music, art, and dancing. We are excited to introduce our students back to their normal school engagement.

As the world is shifting to reopen, School District 148 is planning to open our school doors for in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The District has prepared school buildings with many new protocols and procedures because of the pandemic. All buildings have been equipped with hand sanitizer stations throughout the buildings, sensor lights, air purifying systems for easy and clean air flow, motion water faucets in bathrooms, and more. School District 148 will continue to take precautions and follow the recommendations of the IDPH, CDC and Governor J.B. Pritzker to ensure the safety and health of all students, staff, parents, visitors, and vendors while in school buildings

Monthly committee meetings have been conducted via WebEx, which is accessible on the District's website at district148.net. I encourage all families to stay connected with District 148 by visiting the District's website and social media pages. Accessibility to attend monthly committee meetings will still be available. A calendar with meeting dates for all committees is available on the District's website.

The staff at School District 148 are anxiously preparing for the first day for students to return to class. As we continue to monitor the safe conditions of the world, please know that School District 148 will continue to follow safety recommendations from Governor J.B.Pritzker, IDPH, ISBE and CDC. One of the District's goals is to provide a quality education to all students in a safe environment. We are all in this together. We have made drastic strides and will continue to work towards returning to our normal way of living in the safest manner possible. I wish each of you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to welcoming Dolton West School District 148 families back in-person to the 2021-2022 school year.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Kevin J. Nohelty  
Superintendent of Schools

## From the Board President

Welcome to Summer 2021! The Board of Education is delighted that the 2020-2021 school year has concluded with its first full year of remote learning for all students. This is a task in which none of us would have imagined, but a task in which we prevailed. The nation experienced a test of time in which everyone's health was at risk. A time in which we all had to be still and pay close attention to a way of life that we never saw coming. This has been a scary time for all. The pandemic affected everyone in some way, shape or form. The Board of Education worked tirelessly and remained committed in the labor of ensuring that families received any and all resources for the continuity of their student(s) receiving a high-quality education in a remote setting. The Board of Education entrusted in a variety of proposals for various programs presented by the District's leadership to include educational growth, as well as mentoring for self-care of students during the pandemic. Committee meetings to conduct and continue school district business remained a priority with in-person meetings with social distancing guidelines, as well as the availability of virtual attendance to these meetings. This experience allowed the Board of Education to look through the lens of what the students and staff experienced on a daily basis. The 2020-2021 school year was a year of learning for all.

The Board of Education participated in various online forums and conferences with the Illinois Association of Schools Boards webinars. In the past, these meetings would have taken place in-person. The webinars provided a wealth of information on Board Member engagement during a pandemic, making decisions with budgetary items to save money during the pandemic, and resources to utilize during the pandemic. The Board's engagement in the online meetings was another indication that we were all in this together. The use of technology during this school year has proven that "WE" can accomplish great success within the confines of our homes.

This year, a virtual graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021 – 8th Grade Graduates was held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. This was the District's second year hosting a virtual graduation. The virtual event was a joyous day for the 8th grade graduates and families.

The Board of Education would like to welcome Dr. Shalonda Randle, who is a newly elected Board Member from the April 6, 2021 election. Dr. Randle is a former principal from Roosevelt School who brings an abundance of educational experience to this executive entity.

The Board of Education is grateful that the world is shifting into a positive direction as the District prepares for the return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. As we continue to strengthen the educational structure of School District 148, the Board of Education is reminded that none of this would be possible without the continued support of the residents of Dolton, Harvey, Riverdale and South Holland. Providing students a high-quality, rigorous and engaged learning environment is the priority of the Board of Education and its stakeholders. Community members are encouraged to stay informed with District 148 by visiting the District's website, social media pages and participating in committee meetings via in person and/or virtual attendance. The Board of Education represents the community and looks forward to your continued support and engagement. Wishing each of you a safe and healthy summer and we look forward to seeing District 148 students on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Respectfully,

Larry Lawrence



## District 148 Bridges the Digital Divide

During the 2020-2021 school year, District 148 deployed over 500 Chromebooks, over 1500 laptop computers and over 1400 hotspots to the students and families in our community! As a result of the safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, District 148 determined that remote instruction was the best way for our students and staff to be in school. However, for remote instruction to be effective, all of our students and staff needed computers connected to the internet. National studies have shown that students from Black and Brown communities and those undergoing the effects of poverty face the Digital Divide: the significant barriers to using the technology required in today's world from home. These barriers include the lack of access to devices such as Chromebooks and laptops, the lack of internet connection and the lack of experience needed to use devices and the internet to gain the full benefits of online instructional programs. At the start of this school year, District 148 addressed all these matters.

### All Hands on Deck!

In August of 2020, District Superintendent Dr. Kevin J. Nohely issued a call for All Hands on Deck! In order to get devices and hotspots into the hands of our students and families quickly, Dr. Nohely called for every department to help on deployment days. District administrators, building administrators, teachers and administrative support collaborated to make sure that all registered students received the equipment they needed to participate in remote instruction. After receiving their equipment, students and families received an initial training session from our experts in the Technology Department. They were shown how to properly operate their devices, how to connect their devices to the hotspot for internet service and how to receive ongoing support and service for their equipment. For those who were unable to attend or needed a refresher, the Technology Department provided technology tutorials posted to our website.

### Teachers Face the Digital Divide, Too

In addition to understanding the situation faced by our students, District 148 also addressed the needs of our teachers. For many staff members, the computer resources in their homes had to be dedicated to their own children who were also attending schools with remote instruction. To assist those teachers, District 148 deployed over 300 devices to our staff. Once all staff members had the equipment to successfully implement remote instruction, the District addressed another aspect of the Digital Divide: ensuring that our teachers had the tools to use the online resources available to them. Through the course of this school year, teachers learned a multitude of skills: how to conduct classes through Zoom; how to use Microsoft Teams to collect assignments and provide feedback; and how to use the online components of our Reading and Math curriculums effectively. Our staff then was able to demonstrate these skills to their students. By addressing the equipment needs of students and staff and developing their online capacities, District 148 took the final steps to bridging the Digital Divide in our community.



Parents and Students Receiving Training on Their New Computers and Hotspots

## Roosevelt School's New Assistant Principal Ms. Tiffany Bennett

I joined District 148 in 2005 as a 6th grade teacher at Franklin Elementary. The following year, I headed west to Roosevelt Junior High where I spent six wonderful years teaching 7th grade ELA. After obtaining a Masters in Reading and earning a Reading Specialist Certification in 2012, I took on the extremely busy but rewarding position of MTSS Facilitator. These professional experiences have prepared me for transition into the role of Assistant Principal of Roosevelt School. I am both excited and honored to serve Roosevelt School's students, parents, and staff in this capacity!

## 2020 - 2021 Retirees

District 148 would like to acknowledge four phenomenal staff members who will enter retirement at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. On behalf of the Board of Education, Cabinet, Administrators and staff, we would like to say "THANK YOU" for your hard work, dedication and years of service to the students, staff and community of Dolton West School District 148. Below is a statement from each retiree:

### Priscilla Koza:

My employment with District 148 began in June of 1992 as a school secretary at Washington School for five years. In 1997, I accepted a position in the Business Office as an Executive Assistant to the Business Manager. Throughout my years, I have worked in various capacities, each of them with diligence, integrity and pride. While I have enjoyed 29 years with District 148, I look forward to beginning a new chapter in my life. I will miss my District 148 family and will take many fond memories with me.



### Carol Miller:

August 2001--I was so excited to have been hired to teach at Lincoln Junior High. I completed a very intensive and challenging Teacher Alternative Certification Program through Governors State University. I was a part of their second cohort. I had my B.S. in Business from Northern Illinois University and had worked in the corporate environment but never in education.

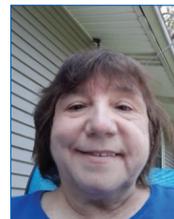


May 2021--Fast forward 20 years! I have taught 8th grade math, Math Acceleration, 6th grade math, 7th grade math, and full circle back to 8th grade math all at Lincoln. Over these years, I was very fortunate to have taught so many inquisitive, spirited, ambitious, and resilient students, partnered with such supportive parents and worked with the most amazing, dedicated, and compassionate staff and administrators. I am grateful to be retiring with such great memories and experiences. Thank-you Lincoln Avenue School and District 148.

### Anthea Morgan:

I joined District 148 in the Fall of 2017 as a Media Specialist for three schools: WJH, LJH and RJH. After my 1st year, I worked at WJH and LJH and have continued at these two schools ever since.

I've enjoyed my time with Junior High students and met a great group of teachers. I will miss the positive atmosphere at District 148.



### Gayle Planeto:

I began District 148 in 1991 as a teacher aide in the Intermediate Grades of Special Education at Roosevelt Elementary School. My mom was a 4th grade teacher at Franklin from 1971 - 1992. So, my first year and her last year were the same!

I enjoyed nine years at Roosevelt and loved working with the students. By the year 2000, the Technology Department was growing by leaps and bounds. There was a Director, a Network person, and a Technician. I was the 4th person hired in the burgeoning Technology Department.

I have enjoyed this incredible department for the last 21 years. I am very proud of the advancements of this department and have great affection and admiration for my co-workers. I will miss the everyday of working with these dedicated people. I will remember all of District 148 fondly. I thank the District for 30 great years!



## Message from the Deputy Superintendent

I am pleased to share the very significant accomplishments relevant to the work of the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Human Resources. This school year we developed a mission statement so as to remain focused on the overall goals of the department. The statement reads as follows:

The Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Human Resources believes that by implementing comprehensive approaches to improving the instructional practices within the district, staff engagement in the process will result in an increase in the academic achievement levels of the diverse population of students that we serve.

In alignment with our commitment to monitoring our progress toward reaching identified goals we also established indicators of success as well as evidence of success. I am pleased to report the following:

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Created systems of professional development throughout the district to support instructional practices at every level in the system
- Provided resources needed to deliver remote learning instruction
- Created protocols for the administering of the beginning of the year assessment for remote learning
- Established content committees
- Revamped the on-boarding process to include content focused professional development

I am also pleased to provide additional information as it relates to what the department has referred to as evidence of success and it has been as follows:

### EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

- Provided Summer Lesson Planning training for Math and ELA to teachers to ensure their preparedness for remote learning
- Led the development of the district-wide technology deployment plan in response to COVID-19
- Provided Math and ELA Grade Band Level Professional Developments for beginning of the year and established plans for on-going support throughout the 2020-2021 school year
- 100% participation of new teachers in New Teacher Orientation
- Created districtwide schedule to reflect social distancing protocols for on campus BOY Assessment
- Provided guidance and resources for At-Home Assessment Options
- Recorded professional development presentations from previous trainings that are used by instructional leaders and teachers for on-going support
- Reconvened the Math Committee
- Developed the program plan and successfully implemented the district's very first hybrid summer enrichment model.

### Summer Professional Development:

As we continue to support teachers in their growth and development throughout the month of July, the members of the District's Literacy Committee will convene twice in-person and once virtually for the purpose of continuing the work associated with preparing to have presented to the Board of Education a proposed textbook and curriculum adoption in the area of Reading, English/Language Arts.

In preparation for the summer work, I had the distinct honor of personally providing professional development to the members of the team. During the session that I conducted with them, there was a sharp focus on how to establish criteria for selecting a more culturally responsive reading curriculum.

The members of the Math Committee will also convene twice in-person during the month of July for the purpose of creating grade level yearly pacing guides for math instruction. Representatives from Curriculum Associates will be present during these meetings to support the team to ensure alignment within the scope and sequence of the math curriculum.

### Summer School:

The summer enrichment program has had a very positive start. I would like to thank everyone that was involved in making this happen. Nearly 70% of the student population that enrolled in the summer enrichment program has actually attended.

The addition of the STEAM program has also proven to be an extremely positive addition to the district's summer enrichment program. The staff at Northern Illinois University has provided for us a very comprehensive program with content and materials highly organized during each session. We will most certainly be able to glean from this experience our students' interest in STEAM education.

### Curriculum Committees:

#### Literacy Committee

The members of the District Literacy Committee have continued their work relevant to developing the background knowledge needed to address two goals in particular. One of the goals being the need to identify supplemental materials to be used to address any gaps in the existing literacy curriculum and (2) to begin the process of identifying key instructional components that we want to see addressed in the proposed curriculum which will be introduced to the Board of Education during the 2021-2022 academic year.

#### Math Committee

The members of the District's Math Committee will begin to establish themselves as the math leaders in their buildings. The Math Committee's goal for the 2021-2022 academic school year will focus on supporting teaching and learning in the classroom. To accomplish this goal, the members of the math committee will be conducting formal walkthroughs

during math instruction, utilizing a rubric to collect data during the classroom visits. This data will be used for the purpose of providing timely and relevant feedback to the classroom teacher as well as the building administration to inform instruction.



### Culturally Responsive Classroom Library Initiative:

Dolton West School District 148 officials are committed to increasing student access to more culturally responsive texts in every classroom. As a result, we are entering a partnership with Scholastic. This company understands the importance of engaging students with books that are relevant and responsive to students' backgrounds, interests and skills. In preparation for the selection and distribution of the books a professional learning meeting was held on Wednesday, April 21st with the administrators as well as all of the Media Specialists in the district. The purpose of the meeting was to deepen leaders' understanding of the best practices for implementing this initiative. Led by the National Director of Literacy for Scholastic Education and local Account Executive, our staff learned about the link between independent reading and student achievement and the research on the characteristics of effective classroom libraries. These strategies will inform and empower our district leaders and teachers to select engaging, culturally responsive texts that truly reflect our students' cultures, identities, interests and future selves. We are very much looking forward to watching the "classroom library make-overs" taking place across the district.

### Closing the Digital Divide:

Recognizing that closing the digital divide was extremely important to provide equity in education, the Board of Education approved the purchase of laptops and computers as well as hotspots for all District staff and students. To ensure the successful deployment of devices, the District set a robust schedule which began on August 5, 2020 and continued through new enrollments. District staff members assisted in this important endeavor of helping to close/mitigate the digital divide by volunteering to supervise deployment rooms to ensure a steady flow was maintained. By closing the digital divide we were able to have a successful year of remote teaching and learning.

Yours kindly,

Dr. Sonya Whitaker  
Deputy Superintendent of Schools