



Palos School District 118

8800 W. 119th St. | Palos Park, IL 60464 | 708-448-4800 | [www.palos118.org](http://www.palos118.org)

Dear Palos 118 Families,

On Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, our school community elected four new members to serve on the Palos 118 Board of Education. Please join me in welcoming Susan Szafranski, Mark Kelly, Jennifer Jensen, and Timothy Baker as they officially begin their new roles on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please also join me in thanking departing members Katie Thomason, Terry Heafey, Jamie Cantorna, and Don Jeanes for their service and dedication to our students and school community. Palos 118 has had a long tradition of outstanding board service, and our students have been and will continue to be the beneficiaries of the leadership of the dedicated women and men who volunteer countless hours to serve.

Today marks the end of National Assistant Principals Week. We are so fortunate to have three outstanding assistant principals serving the children of this community. Rose White (Palos West), Terri Dodds (Palos East), and Meagan Doornbos (Palos South) are student advocates who bring enthusiasm and professionalism to a very challenging position within our organization. Assistant principals are often thought of as disciplinarians, but our Palos 118 assistant principals are first and foremost student advocates. I can tell you firsthand our assistant principals are always looking for ways to improve services and expand opportunities for students. We are fortunate to have them, and if you get a moment today, please consider sending them a quick note of appreciation for all they do, particularly during the ongoing pandemic.

The school district has been monitoring closely the uptick in local positivity rates and some troubling news coming out of Michigan school systems. Since we left for spring break and our adaptive pause, local positivity rates have more than doubled. Thankfully our rates remain much lower compared to last fall. As we begin participating in the many activities we love but refrained from engaging in during the pandemic, let's all remember to take appropriate precautions and continue to work together to keep COVID-19 out of our classrooms and schools open for the remainder of the school year.

April 16<sup>th</sup> marks the end of the third quarter. In my message next week, I'll have information regarding what parents can expect for the remainder of the school year, updates on graduation at Palos South, and summer programming at Palos 118.

**This week's metrics:**

- **A return to Phase 3 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan**  
Suburban Cook County remains in Phase 4, which allows schools to conduct in-person instruction. Source: Governor's Office
- **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**  
We are unaware of any reported outbreaks in area schools. An increase in outbreaks is being reported in Michigan schools. Source: ISC-4 and media reports.
- **Confirmed Community Spread**  
Test Positivity is "minimal." New Cases per 100,000 is "substantial." New Cases are "substantial." Youth Case Increase is "moderate." The 7-day rolling positivity rate is  $\leq 8\%$ . The 14-day rolling positivity rate is  $\leq 8\%$ . Source: IDPH and Northwestern University
- **Directive from IDPH, CCDPH, ISBE, or the Governor's Office**  
No additional directives were issued this week.
- **District 118 Staffing**  
If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, visit the [employment page](#) of our website to see if you qualify and to fill out an online application.
- **COVID Dashboard Statistics**  
You can view our updated COVID Dashboard by visiting [www.palos118.org](http://www.palos118.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella  
Superintendent of Schools