



★ Committed to Excellence ★

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Philip Salemi, Superintendent

Superintendent's Corner - February

Dear District 92½ Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

I want to thank all of the staff members, students and parents for a smooth transition back from Winter Break. From the first day back everyone was very focused on engaging activities. All students in 1st - 8th grade took the mid-year MAP test. You should be receiving your student's mid-year scores soon. Mid-year testing is an excellent opportunity to check in on your student's progress. Now is an excellent time to reflect on past work and set new goals for the end of the year.

On January 24th I had the privilege of meeting with the Vision Development Team. This team is made up of staff members, board members, students, and parents. The objective of this team is to identify core values that show the diverse parts of our organization and align to our common goals. The team is then going to take those core values and turn them into a clear and concise vision statement. Finally, the team will make a recommendation to me, and I will present it to our Board of Education so that it can be considered for adoption. All of this work will lead us to a new five year Strategic Plan the Board and I will be working on next year. I am excited about this work because of all the stakeholders involved. I will be providing updates as we make progress.

You may have seen several emails from the principals and myself about the 5Essentials survey. If you have not done so already, the window is still open to take the survey. Please visit https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/?target_name=parent to complete the survey. The window closes February 15th. We know that with your busy schedules you may not always be able to come up to the school. The survey allows you to share your opinion with us. The information we receive from the survey will help us plan moving forward. Results should be made available sometime in May.

As the past week has taught us, we continue to battle the elements of a Chicago winter. It is essential to remind you of information on the emergency closing of school. Every effort will be made to keep schools open. However, in cases of extreme weather conditions, I will take action necessary to protect the health and safety of all students and personnel. In the event it is needed to close the schools, the District will post an emergency closing message on the District website (www.sd925.org) and utilize the District's phone and email emergency system so that all family homes should receive a phone call and email. It is imperative that you keep the school offices informed of all phone and email contact changes. Another resource to check for school closings is by going to the web address: <http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com> (search by "Facility Info" Westchester Public Schools). We will have an announcement on the makeup days for January 30th and January 31st soon. Please be on the lookout for separate notice.

We hope you have a safe, warm February. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at psalemi@sd925.org or call 708-670-1927.

Sincerely,

Philip Salemi
Superintendent