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CHALK TALK

Published as a public service to Dearborn Heights School District No. 7 families.

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WE ARE LOOKING GOOD, D7!!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year in Dearborn Heights School District No. 7. I am always filled with excitement as we work through the summer to prepare for a new school year. However, this one has me especially excited and proud to welcome everyone back. I'd like to welcome any new families to District 7 this year and make sure you know that we are thrilled to have you join our school community. District 7 is not perfect, but we strive for excellence daily. The District 7 staff is filled with the most caring and dedicated individuals. We are committed to working as a team in order to do what is best for our students.

When I said we are looking good, I meant it! If you have had an opportunity to drive past any of our schools, you probably noticed that our grounds have been given a "face-lift". All of our landscaping has been cleaned up with fresh mulch and plants. We also reconditioned all of our elementary baseball fields and the practice field next to Annapolis High School. In addition to the physical improvements around our buildings, we also have a new and improved website. We have worked hard to make the new website more user-friendly and packed it full of as much information as we can. Most, if not all, of the kinks should be worked out by the time school starts on September 3rd. Please check out the new website at www.district7.net if you have a chance.

We have a couple of new faces on our administration team this year. Our Business Manager, Sherry Kelly, actually joined our team in November of 2018. Since it was already well into the school year, she did not get a formal introduction. She has been a great addition to our team. We'd also like to welcome new Pardee Elementary Principal, Jonathan Ziaja (Zay-ja) to District 7 for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Ziaja is getting settled in and is excited to start the school year.

There are a couple of changes that are happening in District 7 that families should be aware of as we kick off the new school year. District 7 is a participant of the Michigan Department of Education – Community

Eligibility Provisions (CEP) program. This program provides a FREE breakfast and lunch to ALL District 7 students. Snack and concessions will still be available at a cost to our students, but the regular breakfast and lunch options will be available to all students at no cost. We do need ALL families to complete the Household Information Survey that was included in your start of school information packet. This form must be completed by ALL families in order for us to be able to continue the free breakfast and lunch program. Please fill out the survey and have your child return it to school with their other emergency information.

In addition to the change in our food services program, we have also made a change to our activity fee program for the district. For the 2019-2020 school year, we will not be charging our students an activity fee in order to participate in our athletics programs at the middle school and high school.

One final note of thanks to the O. W. Best families who have been so patient during the construction project to renovate the main entrance of the middle school. The new entrance is not only more secure, but creates a more comfortable environment for our students as they wait for school to start or to be picked up. The finished product is beautiful, and I look forward to you all seeing it this fall. We thank you, again, for your patience during the renovations that took much longer than expected.

School starts on September 3rd! We can't wait to welcome you all back from what we hope was a restful summer. Elementary class lists will be posted at the buildings on Friday, August 30th at 3:45pm. It's going to be a great year!

"Discover the D7 Difference"



Jennifer Mast
Superintendent of Schools

Visit D7 online at www.district7.net

Food Services



Research shows that students who receive proper nutrition do better in school. It is our goal to ensure that all students have access to a healthy breakfast and lunch while at school. District 7 has partnered with Sodexo USA, INC. to help facilitate this process.

This year, District 7 will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program as part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program initiative for the 2019-2020 school year. What this means is that there will be NO CHARGE to your student(s) for breakfast or lunch.

In order to receive funding for supplemental programs, we ask that ALL families fill out and sign the Household Information Survey. This will enable supplemental support and services for our students.

Online payments to Food Service Accounts can still be made to enable your student the opportunity to purchase ala carte and snack items. Payments must be made through MISTAR Parent Portal/Parent Connect, so that balance information is accurate. If you wish to make a payment to your child's food service account, go to: www.district7.net and select the "Students and Families" link to access Parent Portal/Parent Connect. You will need your PIN and Password. If you do not have this information, contact the office where your child attends school.

If you need further assistance please contact our Food Services Department at 313-203-3196 or Cindy Cook via email at cookcind@dhsd7.net.

Early Childhood Services Comprehensive Child Care



District 7 offers a comprehensive Child Care Program to meet the needs of working parents and their children. Our program targets social and cognitive skills and is based on a blend of strong curriculum-based activities and fun. Through structured centers, group activities, singing, playing and a great deal of fun, we work to prepare our young students for their next steps. Our school-age program provides activities for children, with adult supervision, in a relaxing, positive environment.

Child care registration will continue until all programs have been filled. You may register at the Child Care Office located at Madison School, 4950 Madison, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please register as soon as possible to ensure a successful program in the building of your choice. The program accepts Family Independent Agency (FIA) funding for children that are eligible. Please contact Debbie Haskell at the Child Care Office by email at haskelde@dhsd7.net or by telephone at (313) 203-1421 if you have any questions regarding programs.

District 7 offers the following child care programs:

Madison School

Preschool.....7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bedford, Polk and Pardee Elementary Schools

Before School.....7:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

After School.....3:17 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Great Start Readiness Program



GSRP is a comprehensive Pre-School Program that targets social and cognitive skills. The classes meet full days and run Monday through Thursday. Classes are taught by a certified teacher and class size is capped at 16. It is funded through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education and is free to eligible families. For more information and to check eligibility, call 313-203-1421.



Student Support Services in D7

Dearborn Heights District 7 is a quality school district with caring, dedicated staff members and a safe, structured, supportive learning environment. We are large enough to be able to offer a wide range of programs and opportunities, but small enough to provide individualized attention and support. We know our students, their needs and their goals, and we work to meet them in a caring, professional way.

Every school is served by a team of professional educators who work with the special needs of children, including: reading specialists (elementary), content specialists (secondary), special education teachers, administrators, speech and language therapists, social workers, psychologists, counselors and at-risk interventionists. These professionals, both individually and as a team, work cooperatively with teachers and parents to identify the special needs of students and to develop any needed accommodation plans to support student achievement.

For more information about our services please contact Stephanie Gagne, Director, or Leslie Davis, Administrative Assistant, at 313-203-3176.



Dearborn Hts. Virtual Academy (DHVA)

The Dearborn Heights Virtual Academy is a completely online high school that opened in September, 2010. This program is designed for students and families who find that traditional high school programs no longer meet their needs. Whether it is due to scheduling, course options, credit recovery, illness or just the drama of high school, students often find success in our program. Students are able to work from home and at their own pace. Courses are aligned with the Michigan Standards and will have the same rigor and challenge as traditionally delivered high school courses, which will lead to a high school diploma.

How many new students DHVA accepts is based on the number of openings we have. We accept new students during July and August for classes that begin in September. We open enrollment again in December for the winter term, if openings are available. Our fall semester begins the Tuesday after Labor Day and runs through the second week of January. Our winter semester begins the second week of January and runs through the third week of June. Please contact Dr. Lynn Wietecha, Director, at 313-203-1431 for more information.

Career Technical Education

Dearborn Heights District 7 has a strong Career Technical Education Program designed to meet the needs of all students and provide opportunities to learn marketable skills. Three other school districts (Crestwood School District, Westwood School District and Wyandotte School District) work with District 7 to offer a wide variety of career technical education. Many have articulation agreements with local business/colleges and offer college credit. Career technical offerings include:

- Design/CAD
- Management Support*
- Graphic Arts Technology
- Cisco Networking*
- Health Occupations
- Criminal Justice
- Child Care
- Construction
- JROTC

*Currently not scheduled for 2019-20 due to low enrollment.



District Curriculum

The highest level of learning that is guided by outstanding and committed teachers is what drives the District 7 curriculum. Linking the talents of administrators, teachers, parents and students, we develop curriculum, assess achievement, and use technology to design and expand learning for the future. If it's about quality education, it's happening at District 7!

District 7 K-12 curriculum is effectively aligned to state model curriculum recommendations. A strong academic program has been created and works as the foundation of the well-rounded curriculum. Courses provide challenge and enrichment to satisfy diverse student needs and assist students in discovering and developing their individual goals in life. All curriculum content areas are assessed in an ongoing, annual process to remain as current as possible and to ensure the effective delivery of teaching and learning. An interdisciplinary curriculum in which all content areas integrate with one another is a common goal. The ultimate outcome is to create multiple learning environments that connect schooling to real life and the world of work applications.

The local curriculum defines the outcomes to be achieved by all students and is based on the district's educational mission and the locally developed goals and objectives for students. District 7 has determined our own instructional programs for implementing the core curriculum, including the identification of courses and units of study, syllabus, time allocation and instructional support materials. All of our course content is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, Michigan Grade Level Expectations, and Michigan High School Content Expectations. In addition, we have started the process of aligning our science curriculum to the Next Generation Science Standards.

Public Notices

ADA Accessibility Notice / Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Dearborn Heights No. 7 Schools, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is committed to ensuring that communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others non-disabled individuals and will furnish appropriate aids and services where necessary to meet this commitment. ADA and Section 504 inquiries should be directed to Stephanie Gagne at gag-neste@dhsd7.net or (313) 203-1000.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Dearborn Heights No. 7 Schools prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability in any of its education programs, activities or employment. Inquiries and grievances regarding discrimination should be directed to Kevin Brock at brockkev@dhsd7.net or (313) 203-1000.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law that affords parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. They include the right to: inspect and review records; request an amendment to records; consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in student's records (except in instances where disclosure without consent is allowed); and file complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirement of FERPA. Direct inquiries to Kevin Brock at brockkev@dhsd7.net or (313) 203-1000.

AHERA Update

Dearborn Heights No. 7 Schools, as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), conducts ongoing surveillance and re-inspection programs for asbestos. Dearborn Heights No. 7 Schools has an ongoing operations and maintenance program to address the asbestos in the buildings owned and operated by the district. Direct inquiries to Jason Perkins at perkinja@dhsd7.net or (313) 203-3231.

Pesticide Application

Dearborn Heights School District No. 7 has adopted an Integrated Pesticide Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort. This program does not rely on routine applications to resolve problems. Pesticide notification information can also be obtained on our website at www.district7.net.

You will receive advanced notice of the application of a pesticide, other than bait or gel formulations, at your child's school. This advanced notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application. The law requires us to do this notification by using two methods. The first method required by the law is the posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are those entrances that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot. The second method we are going to use is the posting in a common area located by the main office of the school. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class US mail postmarked at least three (3) days before the application.

If you would like to be notified by mail, please contact Jason Perkins at perkinja@dhsd7.net or (313) 203-3231. Please provide your name, mailing address and what school your child attends.

In an emergency, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. You may review our Integrated Pesticide Management program or application records for your child's school by calling Mr. Perkins at 313-203-3231 or emailing him at perkinja@dhsd7.net. This number or email may also be used when school is not in regular session and during the summer months.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Jason Perkins, Director of Operations, at 313-203-3231.

Parent Resources

Parent Portal: Student Information Online

The MISTAR Parent Portal/Parent Connect is an informational resource made available to every family at no cost. This resource provides real-time information about your child's grades and attendance, class schedule, immunization record, and includes the balance and payment options for his/her food service account. Parent Portal/Parent Connect provides safe, secure and easy access to your child's school records. Visit www.district7.net and select the "Students and Families" link to access Parent Portal/Parent Connect. You will need your PIN and Password. If you do not have this information, contact the office where your child attends school.

PaySchools: Make Payments Online!

Dearborn Heights District 7 offers you the online convenience of our payment processing system, PaySchools, using VISA, Mastercard, Discover or e-checks. This program allows you to make most school related payments (child care, latchkey) online, at your convenience. Visit www.district7.net and select the "Students and Families" link to access Online Payments.

School Times

High School: Full Day: 7:50 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.
Half Day: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Middle School: Full Day: 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
Half Day: 8:00 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.

(on 9-3-19 only, O.W. Best: 8:00 am for grade 6,
9:00 am for grades 7 & 8)

Elementary Schools: Full Day: 8:20 a.m. to 3:17 p.m.
Half Day: 8:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



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District 7 Schools

DISCOVER THE **D7** DIFFERENCE

District Contacts and Phone Numbers

Administrative Offices

20629 Annapolis Street, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
313-203-1000 phone 313-278-1413 fax

Superintendent of Schools

Jennifer Mast..... 313-203-3180

Curriculum & Human Resources

Kevin Brock 313-203-3171

Business Office

Sherry Kelly 313-203-3173

Special Education

Stephanie Gagne..... 313-203-3176

Facilities & Maintenance

Jason Perkins 313-203-3231

Athletic Department

Scott Wiemer..... 313-203-3306

Buildings

Annapolis High School (Grades 9-12):

4650 Clippert St., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

313-203-3300 phone | 313-278-1238 fax

Cheryl Howard, Principal

O.W. Best Middle School (Grades 6-8):

22201 Powers St., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

313-203-3200 phone | 313-278-2470 fax

Aaron Mollett, Principal

Pardee Elementary School (Grades K-5):

4650 Pardee St., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

313-203-5600 phone | 313-292-3606 fax

Jonathan Ziaja, Principal

Polk Elementary School (Grades K-5):

4651 Polk St., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

313-203-0500 phone | 313-563-7189 fax

Claudia Portscheller, Principal

Bedford Elementary School (Grades K-5):

4650 Croissant St., Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

313-203-4100 phone | 313-278-1980 fax

Marcy Jouppe, Principal

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Details regarding past and upcoming Board of Education meetings can be found by going to

www.district7.net then District Information, then Board of Education, then Agendas and Board Briefs.

Dearborn Heights School District No. 7

2019-20 District Calendar

Please Note: This is a general district calendar. District Child Care/Latchkey/Lunch Programs begin Thursday, September 5th. Breakfast program begins Tuesday, September 3rd. Please check your child's school calendar for specific details/updates--or the district calendar at: <http://www.district7.net/calendar>

Dates

to

Remember



Tuesday, September 3, 2019	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12
Wednesday, September 4, 2019	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Thursday, September 5, 2019	FULL DAY OF SCHOOL K-12 - CHILD CARE/LATCHKEY BEGINS TODAY
Wednesday, September 11, 2019	Building Fall Open House – Bedford School, Polk School and Pardee School
Thursday, September 12, 2019	Building Fall Open House – OW Best Middle School
Wednesday, October 2, 2019	Student Count Day ~ Your child's attendance counts!
Thursday, October 3, 2019	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Friday, October 18, 2019	AHS Homecoming Parade/Football Game
Saturday, October 19, 2019	AHS Homecoming Dance
Tuesday, October 29, 2019	AHS Fall Music Concert
Thursday, October 31, 2019	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Tuesday, November 5, 2019	NO SCHOOL K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev. and Election Day ~ your vote counts!
Wednesday, November 13, 2019	Bedford/Polk/Pardee ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, November 14, 2019	Bedford/Polk/Pardee ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, November 14, 2019	AHS ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, November 21, 2019	OW Best ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, November 27, 2019	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12
November 28 & 29, 2019	NO SCHOOL K-12 – Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday, December 3, 2019	AHS Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, December 11, 2019	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Thursday, December 19, 2019	AHS Winter Music Concert
December 21, 2019-January 5, 2020	NO SCHOOL K-12 – Winter Break
Wednesday, January 15, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Monday, January 20, 2020	NO SCHOOL K-12 – MLK Jr. Observance
Wednesday, January 22, 2020	AHS ½ Day – Exams
Thursday, January 23, 2020	AHS ½ Day – Exams
Friday, January 24, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – End of Semester/AHS Exams
Sunday, February 2, 2020	AHS Senior Class Pancake Breakfast
Wednesday, February 5, 2020	Bedford/Polk/Pardee ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, February 6, 2020	Bedford/Polk/Pardee ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	Student Count Day ~ Your child's attendance counts!
Thursday, February 13, 2020	OW Best ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 17 & 18, 2020	NO SCHOOL K-12 – Mid Winter Break
Friday, February 21, 2020	AHS Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, February 26, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Wednesday, March 11, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Friday, April 3, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12
April 4 through 12, 2020	NO SCHOOL K-12 – Spring Break
Tuesday, April 14, 2020	9th & 12th GRADES ONLY NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, April 15, 2020	9th & 11th GRADES ONLY ½ DAY – Students Attend AM Classes and
Wednesday, April 15, 2020	10th & 12th GRADES ONLY ½ DAY – Students Attend PM Classes
Thursday, April 23, 2020	AHS ½ Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, May 13, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Staff Prof. Dev.
Wednesday, May 20, 2020	AHS Senior Awards Banquet
Thursday, May 21, 2020	AHS Spring Concert
Friday, May 22, 2020	NO SCHOOL K-12
Monday, May 25, 2020	NO SCHOOL K-12 – Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 3, 2020	AHS Graduation and Senior All-Night Party
Tuesday, June 9, 2020	AHS ½ Day – Exams
Wednesday, June 10, 2020	AHS ½ Day – Exams
Thursday, June 11, 2020	STUDENTS ATTEND AM ONLY K-12 – Last day of school/AHS Exams