



Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

242 South Orchard Drive
Park Forest, Illinois 60466
Phone: (708) 668-9400
www.sd163.com

March 5, 2024

We appreciate your investment in your child's education and want to share some information about state and federally-required assessments. Federal law requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to administer specific assessments to all students who attend public and charter schools in the state.

According to federal law:

- Students must take an achievement exam in reading/language arts and mathematics from third through eighth grade each year.
- Students take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in Illinois.

We encourage students to do their best on all assessments. Assessments help improve standards, curriculum, and instruction in the classroom. They also play an essential role in helping identify areas where schools need targeted support.

School districts must administer assessments to at least 95 percent of students and at least 95 percent of each student demographic group or face lower public school recognition status, which leads to increased state oversight and may put districts' state and federal funds at risk. To ensure that students do their best on these upcoming tests, we ask you to make a special effort to ensure that your child is at school promptly at 7:50 a.m. if they are eating breakfast and at 8:10 a.m. for regular attendance. Our students must arrive at school before 8:15 a.m. because once testing begins, they can enter the classroom after the testing session. Late students will need to take their makeup test(s) in another classroom on another day with a teacher they may not be familiar with. Testing under these conditions does not give your child the opportunity to perform at their highest academic potential.

It is essential for all students to:

- Come to school daily during the March 13-27, 2024 testing window.
- Arrive to school on time, rested, alert, and prepared to test.
- Listen carefully and follow test directions.
- Maintain good behavior to ensure that the classroom environment is conducive to testing.

- Do their best on all tests.

Reinforcing these expectations at home will remind students that we are all working toward the same goal: their success. If your child becomes ill during the testing period week and cannot attend school, please remember to call the school office and leave a message. Please make every effort to ensure your child knows that meeting these expectations for their success is essential to you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or one of the principals. Thank you for partnering with us.

Dr. Colbert, Ms. Gladstone, & Mrs. Nolen, Principal Team

21st Century School
240 S Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490

Algonquin School
170 Algonquin Street
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200

Barack Obama School
401 Concord Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100

Blackhawk School
130 Blackhawk Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500

Michelle Obama School
530 Lakewood Boulevard
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600

Mohawk School
301 Mohawk Street
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300

"Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities"