



Longfellow Longhorns

"A Great Place to Learn"

Rick Herrejon, Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

TAX LEVY APPROVED

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education approved the tax levy for 2016. School District 21 does not set the tax rate, but rather requests a levy (as a dollar amount) that is spread across all property owners in the District and is capped by state law. When a tax levy is created, a variety of factors are unknown, like the value of any new property that has been constructed within the district over the previous year. It is anticipated that the tax extension will be 0.98% higher than last year, which in part is a result of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 0.7%. An increase is used to pay for budgeted expenses, like contractual obligations with the staff members and outside vendors.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATORY REVIEW

CCSD21 follows a regular cycle to review all district programs and continue to strengthen learning opportunities for students. Last year, the Middle School Exploratory Program was reviewed, with a focus on Art, Career and Community Connections, and P.E. Input was received from more than 200 parents and 1500 middle school students. Two examples of areas that will be strengthened thanks to input received include developing a structured schedule to balance team, small group, and individual activities in P.E., and incorporating digital mediums in art.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

CCSD21 is on Facebook ([facebook.com/ccsd21](https://www.facebook.com/ccsd21)) and Twitter (@CCSD21). Links to each can be found at www.ccsd21.org.

NEXT MEETING

January 19, 2017 – 7:30 PM

Dear Longfellow Parents and Guardians,

I hope your holiday season was festive and your children enjoyed the time spent with loved ones. The end of the calendar year is always a good time to reflect on the year passed. This year one of my goals was to start corresponding to parents through school messenger. The idea is to bring parts of my day to parents, in sort of a diary form. To share experiences of what I do during some of the school days almost in real time. I hope you are enjoying the entries. The school messenger also allows for email recipients (parents) to respond. Please feel free to respond to anything I'm sharing. Eventually the messages might be grade-specific but for now, all Longfellow parents should receive all messages. If you are not receiving my messages, please call the school so we can put you on the email list. As always, thank you for your continued support and for giving me the opportunity to work with your children.

Rick Herrejon

Help Your Elementary Schooler 'Reset' and Get Back on Track

If you run into a problem with your computer program, you can often fix it by pushing the "reset" button. It gives you a chance for a fresh start and is an easy way to correct problems before they get out of hand.

It may be time to push the reset button on your child's school year as well. If her year is not going as well as you'd hoped, here are a few ways you can reset for the rest of the year:

Make change a family affair. If you've decided that your child needs to spend more time doing homework, make it quiet time for the whole family. You can work on paperwork or read while your child studies.

Replace bad habits. While it's hard to break a habit, it's much easier to put a different one in its place. If your child is in the habit of watching TV as soon as she walks in the door, suggest that she read for 30 minutes instead. She'll still have a chance to relax-but she will also strengthen her reading skills.

Get organized. This month, you can find lots of great-looking calendars available on sale. Look for one your child will enjoy using. Then help her get in the habit of writing down things like the day her book report is due. That can avoid last minute panic.

Celebrate success. Help your child see the link between her new habits and her results. "You studied for that test and got 9 out of 10 correct. That's great!"

The Parent Institute December 2015 Newsletter

Save the Date...

Portfolio Night is coming up on Wednesday, February 15th...you will get more information from your child's teacher regarding the night's events.

Notable Quotes

"If you want something you never had, you have to do something you've never done."

Dates & Events

January

1/16 No School
MLK Day

1/23 No School
Institute Day

1/31 2/3 Musical

February

2/1 Kindy Registration
4:00-6:30pm

2/15 Portfolio Night
4:00-8:00pm

2/20 No School
President's Day

2/24 PTO Bingo
Night

Kindergarten Registration 2017-18

Longfellow School will begin kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year on Wednesday, February 1st from 4:00-6:30pm. During this time, families may register their child for the next school year. Children who live in the Longfellow attendance area and will turn 5 years old by September 1, 2017 are eligible for kindergarten. Parents who will be new to Longfellow may also register their child for 1st grade any time after 2/1/17.

To register, families need to provide a certified copy of their child's birth certificate, as well as 3 forms of proof of full-time residency within the Longfellow School District 21 attendance area. Approved required documents include a property tax bill, mortgage document or lease agreement, as well as two other forms of proof of residency such as a driver's license and gas or other utility bill. Phone bills are not acceptable. All

registration forms can be found online at
https://www.d21.k12.il.us/parents/parents_index.html.

The State of Illinois requires the following prior to entrance into kindergarten:

- Physical examination
- Vision examination
- Dental examination
- Second varicella vaccination
- Second rubella vaccination
- Second mumps vaccination

Short Notes

REMINDER: Parents...It is our policy to have our students go outside as much as possible during the school day, even during the winter months.

In general, students are outside in the morning before school and again during the lunch recess unless the wind chill is below 0 degrees or other inclement weather exists. Parents are asked to dress their children in suitable outerwear. Students are allowed to play in the snow-covered areas as long as they have snow pants and snow boots. Also, don't forget to have your child bring in their gym shoes or other shoes if they come to school in their snow boots.

BE SAFE....BE RESPECTFUL...BE RESPONSIBLE

Health Office Notes

With the cold winter weather comes dry, chapped lips. Please send your child to school with chapstick. When students have their own chapstick, they do not need to leave the classroom and miss valuable instructional time to come to the health office.

