

February 13, 2020



Dear CCSD93 Community,

As you may have seen in CCSD93's *Enews* Friday, February 7, we introduced the concept of a morning in the community taking the place of Meet the Teacher events, along with several other calendar changes. **This message is to inform you that we will not be moving forward with the morning in the community on August 14 that was shared with you last week.**

The day was intended to increase our connection to our students, families and community. As we strive to be a more inclusive school district, the event was meant to spark parental involvement with all of our families, especially those who do not attend Meet the Teacher and do not and will not feel comfortable visiting our buildings for a variety of reasons. We believe strongly that family involvement in a student's educational experience is critical to their development and overall success. We were hopeful that being in our neighborhoods and meeting students and families where they are would establish a connection with families who are not already engaged in our schools and strengthen bonds with families who are.

Despite these intentions, it has become clear that the event meant to uplift and increase connections within our community has had the opposite effect. **As a result, we will revise August 14 to hold Meet the Teacher in our buildings, instead of spending the morning in the community, during the traditional times:**

- Early Childhood Center: 8:30-11:30 a.m. (by appointment)
- Middle School: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Elementary School: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Please know that this change does not remove or lessen our focus on providing equitable educational experiences for all students and families. Staff members on our Equity and Excellence Committee are already examining our systems, curriculum and instruction, employment and retainment, student voice and culture, and community and family engagement through the lens of creating more equitable experiences throughout the District to help all of our students and families have increased opportunities to know they are an equally vital part of the CCSD93 community.

As we seek to accomplish this, I ask you as a parent to consider lending your voice and your insights to our Equity and Excellence Committee. If you are interested in doing so, please fill out the form linked at <http://www.ccsd93.com/EandE>.

The rest of the new additions to our calendar will remain in place. We are still thrilled to offer meaningful changes that will better enable our students and staff members to hit the ground running as soon as the school year starts, and provide students with the opportunity to reflect on their education and make adjustments sooner than ever before. I thank the parents, staff members, and Board members who serve on CCSD93's District Leadership Team for their creativity and thinking first about what is best for kids in helping to develop the calendar.

Sincerely,

David H. Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
CCSD93

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Superintendent of Schools

Early Childhood Center

Carol Stream School

Cloverdale School

Elsie Johnson School

Heritage Lakes School

Roy DeShane School

Western Trails School

Jay Stream Middle School

Stratford Middle School