

LaGrange Highlands District 106

Superintendent's Newsletter -- Dr. Patricia Viniard

And now we welcome the
new year, full of things
that have never been.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Highlands Begin Search for Next Superintendent

The start of a new school year always brings a feeling of excitement for educators, but this one is especially poignant for me. In June, I announced my pending retirement, which will come at the conclusion of this school year (June, 2019). Serving as the superintendent of Highlands continues to be the greatest privilege of my professional career, and the year ahead is certain to be another exciting and successful one.

Your Board of Education is beginning the important process of selecting the next district leader. Because stakeholder feedback is very important to the Board, one of the first steps in the process will be the administration of a staff, parent, and community survey. The purpose of the survey will be to give community stakeholders the opportunity to share their perceptions regarding the traits and characteristics the next leader should possess. Please watch for the information about and a link to the survey, which will be sent within the next few weeks. Thank you, in advance, for completing the survey and sharing **your** thoughts!

The goal is to have the new superintendent selected by December or January, and this will allow a semester of transition time for him/her. I look forward to working with this individual and doing all I can to ensure a smooth and successful succession!

August/September "Quick Takes"

August 14

School Supply Kit Pick Up (2:30 to 4:30 p.m.)

August 15

*School Supply Kit Pick Up (5:00 to 7:00 p.m.)
Elementary (Gr. 1-4) New Family Orientation
(6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in LRC)*

August 21

*Kindergarten Social (3:45 to 4:15 p.m.)
Board of Education Meeting (7:00 p.m. in LRC)*

August 22

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS! ☺

August 23

*Fifth Grade Laptop Boot Camp (7:00 to 8:30 p.m.)
Board of Education Special Meeting (7:00 p.m.)*

August 27 – Elementary Picture Day

August 30

Elementary Curriculum Night (7:00 to 8:30 p.m.)

September 3

Labor Day – No School

September 5

Middle School Open House (7:00 to 8:30 p.m.)

September 14

Half-Day Student Attendance/PM Teacher Training

September 18 – 7:00 p.m. in LRC

Board of Education Meeting

September 26 – 9:05 a.m.

"Late Start" for Students

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A
HORNET

PARTICIPATION IN QUEST FOOD SERVICE INCREASES IN 2017-2018 – CONTINUED GROWTH SOUGHT

At the beginning of last year, we shared that despite receiving rave reviews, the number of students using our lunch food service provider, Quest, during its first two years in the district was very low. Also noted was our concern that the low participation rate would result in Quest dropping Highlands as a client. To gather information about parent needs and student preferences, Mr. Duback (Director of Operations/CSBO) surveyed parents in July, 2017. In response to this feedback, a number of changes were made (e.g., offering *a la carte* items when an entire meal not wanted). **As a result, student participation increased during the 2017-2018 school year, and we are anxious for this trend to continue! We encourage you to check out the offerings Quest provides, and consider having your child try Quest for some of his/her lunches!**



For more information, click on the “School Life” link on district website, then click on “Hot Lunch.”



HAVE YOU CONNECTED WITH LA GRANGE HIGHLANDS 106
ON SOCIAL MEDIA? STAY IN BETTER TOUCH
(EVENTS! REMINDERS! SHOUT OUTS! CELEBRATIONS!)
BY CONNECTING WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

BEGINNING-OF-THE-YEAR IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 👉 Follow all drop off and pick up procedures, as well as instructions from crossing guards!
- 👉 Stay off your cell phone in school zones—it is the law in Illinois!
- 👉 Make daily school attendance a priority and expectation for your children!



SUPPORT THE PTC AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION!

Highlands is very fortunate to have two AMAZING parent volunteer groups working on behalf of your child(ren) and the school community! The **EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** provides funding for teacher grants and student scholarships through family- and parent-focused events (e.g., Trivia Night, Dinner Dance, Spring/Fall Social, Chili Cook-off, Fun Run). The **PTC** brings the parents and school community together by providing a communication platform, volunteer opportunities, and coordination and financial support for student activities (e.g., Art Smart, Variety Show, Field Trips, Assemblies, Social Events, Teacher Reimbursement Program, Teacher Appreciation). Please do all you can to support these two groups!



Note: While the first Superintendent Newsletter is emailed home, future issues will be posted to Schoology. To continuing receiving these newsletters and other important updates, be sure you join Schoology! If you have any questions, or need any assistance, please contact your child's principal.

Here's to a Great School Year at Highlands!

Our responsibility to nurture, educate, and protect your child(ren) is one we approach with the utmost responsibly and pride. You know your child better than anyone, and you are your child's greatest advocate. We are honored to partner with you during your child's most formative and crucial years.

Thank you, in advance, for: helping us build and maintain excellent home-school communication; letting us know when you are pleased or impressed with something; and letting us know if you become concerned at any time. When you have a concern or complaint **PLEASE** reach out to the person(s) involved, so we may work together to resolve it quickly and completely!

*With Highlands' Pride,
Dr. Patricia Viniard*