

Pleasantdale School District 107

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Dr. Mark Fredisdorf, Superintendent**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

District Financial Position is Strong

There have been numerous reports in the media recently about school districts cutting programs and raising class sizes due to financial problems during the economic downturn. I am pleased to report that, due to sound fiscal planning by the Board of Education, no program cuts or class size increases are planned for the foreseeable future. On the contrary, the Board of Education decided to add an additional section of grade 2 to keep class sizes low. The Board also decided to eliminate registration fees beginning the 2011-12 school year. Finally, the State Board of Education gave Pleasantdale the highest recognition possible for an excellent financial profile.

Good News about Property Tax Relief

The Board approved the abatement of bonds ahead of schedule using fund balance. This action will reduce the tax rate by .07. For taxes paid in fall 2011, owners of a \$300,000 home will have their tax burden reduced by an estimated \$65.76. The reduction on a \$500,000 home is estimated to be \$112.40.

Skyward Family Access – Our New Portal to Student Information

Pleasantdale has transitioned to a new student information system called Skyward. This new web-based system replaces STI (I-Now). The new system upgrades the tools for collecting and storing required demographic information about students and teachers, builds schedules for students and staff, generates report cards, tracks health, attendance, behavior and athletic information, generates mailings, coordinates emergency notifications and much more.

Through the Skyward Family Access portal, parents and students will have access to an assortment of information including schedules, assignments, attendance, and grades. Throughout the year as implementation moves forward, the District will continue to add Family Access options allowing parents to view additional information. Before the start of school, all parents will be provided login information for Family Access. There will be detailed information forthcoming about Family Access setup. Training and support will be provided. Expect more information in the very near future about Pleasantdale's newest and exciting communication tool.

New Report Cards and Curriculum Improvements

Students and parents can look forward to new report cards in 2011-12. The revised report cards provide more detailed information about student learning including both academic and social skills. Parents will be getting more information about their children's progress than ever before. Teachers will also be giving improved assessments including unit and chapter tests. The

Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.

assessments are intended to better measure student progress in attaining curriculum outcomes. Expect more detailed information as school begins.

Anti-Bullying Events

Our efforts to deter bullying will increase this school year. Two important events for parents to attend are “Internet Safety—Cyber Bullying” on September 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and “Bullying Prevention Information Night with Jim Jordan” on October 3 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Both events will be held at the middle school. It is critical that the staff and parents work together to prevent bullying.

Join our Wonderful PTA!

Pleasantdale is truly blessed with an exceptional Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Because the Association does such a great job year after year of providing educational and recreational activities for our students, it is easy to take it for granted. I very much encourage you to become directly involved in our PTA. Your participation will help to ensure that our students continue to benefit from a strong school and home partnership.

Very truly yours,

Mark Fredisdorf
Superintendent