

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

MARCH, 2021

From the Desk of the Superintendent

*District #102
Board of
Education*

*Keith Knox,
President*

*Shannon Higdon,
Vice-President*

*Andrew Shockley
Secretary*

*Board Members:
Scott Buhl
Mike Therry
Kelly Vo
Ryan Williams*

As we prepared this newsletter a year ago, we had no idea what the next 12 months had in store for us. On March 13, 2020, we received notification that schools would be shut down the following week. What we thought might be a closure lasting a couple of weeks turned into a closure that lasted the remainder of the year. We did finally receive good news at the end of June informing schools that they could return to In-Person learning for the fall if a list of criteria was met. That list was overwhelming, but our administration and staff worked hard to get all of those safety guidelines in place so school could resume in August. Our students and staff have been excellent at staying focused on those safety procedures. With only a few bumps in the road along the way, we have been extremely pleased with how the year has progressed to date. We look forward to finishing the next few months of the year strong.

The big news for District 102 the last few months has been the announcement that the Board of Education is considering closing Rogers School at the end of the current school year and distributing the staff and students to vacant rooms at both Marquette and Georgetowne Schools for the 2021-22 school year. The district's declining enrollment is a key issue driving these discussions as the district's enrollment has decreased by more than 35% over the last decade. The current K-8 enrollment is less than 400 students compared to more than 620 K-8 students eight years ago. Small enrollment in the lower grade levels indicate that the downward trend in enrollment will continue. All three of our buildings are sitting and operating well under capacity, with several empty rooms scattered throughout each building. Even though the district's finances are solid, the pandemic has created statewide fiscal concerns that will likely have a negative impact on school funding for years to come. The consolidation of buildings from three to two would help the district save an estimated \$200,000 annually for years to come without negatively impacting class sizes or the programs the district offers its students. A possible lesser has been found for Rogers School. The District would continue to own and maintain the building, but it could remain open to be utilized for educational purposes by the potential lesser. The Board of Education held two public hearings at its January and February board meetings to allow citizens and staff the opportunity to voice their concerns or comments related to a possible consolidation of buildings.

In previous years, I have mentioned that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) annually gathers financial information on Illinois school districts to determine each district's financial strength. The purpose of this data gathering process is to identify those districts that are moving towards or are already in financial difficulty. The ISBE looks at the following information to determine a district's strength.

- Fund balance to revenue ratio
- Expenditure to revenue ratio
- Days cash on hand
- Percent of short term borrowing available
- Percent of long-term debt margin.

After reviewing each district's information, a financial designation profile score is calculated. Scores are accompanied by one of four ratings (listed from highest rating to lowest): Financial Recognition, Financial Review, Financial Early Warning and Financial Watch.

District 102 is proud to announce that, for the 13th consecutive year, the district has achieved "Financial Recognition" status. This recent designation is based on a review of District 102's finances from the 2019 fiscal year.



Pre-Kindergarten Screening



North Pekin - Marquette Heights School District #102 will conduct a spring screening for the B.E.A.R.S pre-kindergarten program.

The screening dates are Monday, May 17 and Tuesday, May 18, 2021. You may call for an appointment beginning April 12, 2021. **Proof of Residency must be provided before child is screened.**

The pre-kindergarten classes are held at Marquette Elementary School during the school year. The classes meet Monday through Friday for two and a half hours, either in the morning or afternoon. The classes are limited to 20 students per session. Students are invited to attend this class based on the screening results. The purpose of this class is to provide developmentally appropriate activities for students while preparing them for entrance into kindergarten.

All three and four year old children who reside in the district are eligible for screening. All children must be three by May 1, 2021 to qualify for this screening. Another screening for children, who will be three before school begins, will be held in August, 2021. If you would like to have your child screened, please call the Marquette School office (382-3612) to set an appointment beginning April 12, 2021.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up was held on Monday, February 22, 2021. Please contact Marquette School office if you missed the Kindergarten Round-Up. If you know of any child in the community that will turn 5 by September 1, please inform the parent to notify the school office at 309-382-3612. All children, who turn five years old on or before September 1, 2021, are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents or guardians of these children are invited to call Marquette School so their child can be placed on the Kindergarten class list.

Proof of Residency must be provided before your child can begin school.

You must bring the students' Certificate of Live Birth before your child begins school.

It is very important for the students to be pre-registered for kindergarten at this time to plan for fall classes.

Spring Break April 2-9

**GEORGETOWNE MIDDLE
SCHOOL
GRADUATION**
Wednesday
May 19, 2021
Time to be Determined



School Registration

All parents must register their children at:

GEORGETOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL !!

Registration will be on:

Thursday, July 29, 2021

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.



Voyages Summer Camp Georgetown Middle School



- ◆ June 2, 2021 through August 13, 2021
- ◆ Cost: \$125.00 per week per student
or \$28.00 per day
(1st child) \$105.00 per week or \$24.00 per day
(additional children).
- ◆ Available for students exiting grades Kindergarten through 6th grade this year.
- ◆ Come join the summer fun!
- ◆ There are many exciting daily activities!
- ◆ **Awesome field trips!**
- ◆ **Breakfast, lunch and snack included!**

Flyers will be sent home with students from school in late March/early April.



REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022

Registration will be held in the Georgetowne library. We are also registering students on-line. Listed below is some information that will help speed up the registration process. Please read it over and bring all the necessary information with you when you come to register.

ALL kindergarten and sixth grade students are required to have a physical examination upon entering school. The following information is what the health department requires for these students to be in compliance.

KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENTS

CHICKEN POX - TWO VACCINATIONS OR A DOCTOR'S LETTER INDICATING YOUR CHILD HAS HAD THE CHICKEN POX.

DPT - FOUR OR FIVE SHOTS WITH THE LAST ONE AFTER THE FOURTH BIRTHDAY

POLIO - THREE OR FOUR SHOTS WITH THE LAST ONE AFTER THE FOURTH BIRTHDAY

MMR - TWO SHOTS GIVEN AFTER THE CHILD IS 15 MONTHS OLD

LEAD SCREENING

VISION AND DENTAL EXAM FOR KINDERGARTEN

SIXTH GRADE ONLY

HEPATITIS B - THREE SHOTS WITH THE LAST ONE GIVEN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST ONE (IF NOT ALREADY RECEIVED)

Tdap - ONE TETANUS/DIPHTHERIA/ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACINE

MENINGOCOCCAL - ONE VACCINE ON OR AFTER 11TH BIRTHDAY

VARICELLA (chicken pox) - 2nd VACCINE OR PROOF OF DISEASE (IF NOT ALREADY RECEIVED)

DENTAL EXAMS FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN, 2 AND 6.

DIABETES SCREENING



OUT OF STATE STUDENTS

All out of state students need an Illinois physical. The requirements are the same for all immunizations.

Textbook fees for students at Marquette Elementary, Rogers Elementary and Georgetowne Middle School will be set this spring. Textbook fees should be paid at the time of registration. **A discount will be given for each student that is paid by September 17, 2021.**

At Georgetowne Middle School, an additional fee for electives or activities will also be assessed according to specific class assignments. If you need more information concerning needed supplies or materials, or the cost of these items, please contact the school office at 382-3456.

At Rogers and Marquette Elementary Schools, an additional activity fee for student magazines, assignment notebooks, recorders or journals will be assessed according to grade level. If you need more information concerning this activity fee, please contact Patty at Rogers Elementary School at 382-3401 or Teri at Marquette Elementary School at 382-3612.

DENTAL EXAMS

House Bill 752 now requires all children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades of any public, private, or parochial school to have a dental examination. See District webpage for more information www.dist102.org/dist102.



VISION EXAMS

Effective January 1, 2008, all Illinois children in kindergarten or upon first entry into an Illinois school beyond kindergarten are required to have an eye examination. This includes all public, private, and parochial schools. Each child is required to present proof of an eye examination by an optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations. See District webpage for more information www.dist102.org/dist102.



CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

All students are required to provide a Certificate of Live Birth. This is to be obtained through the courthouse of the county in which the child was born. The copy from the hospital is not considered a Certificate of Live Birth. Some students who do not have a birth certificate on file may be asked to obtain a **Certificate of Live Birth** as stated in the student handbook. **This must be turned in to the district no later than the first day of school.**

Kindergarten and 6th Grade Students

Be sure to bring a copy of your physical and immunizations to registration on Thursday, July 29, 2021. A diabetes screening must be included as a part of each health exam. The health care provider must document results of the diabetes risk assessment on the Child Health Examination form.

District Office
51 Yates Road
Marquette Heights
309-382-2172

Rogers Elementary
109 Rogers Road
Marquette Heights
309-382-3401

Georgetowne Middle
51 Yates Road
Marquette Heights
309-382-3456

Marquette Elementary
100 Joliet Road
Marquette Heights
309-382-3612

DISTRICT 102 SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Many community members, as well as parents, may not be aware of all the special services and programs offered by the North Pekin - Marquette Heights School District. Many of these programs, or services, are open to community members from ages three to twenty-one.

These services include special testing for three and four year olds who may have a speech or language problem, or if the parent feels there may be a concern because of the developmental progress of their child. In such a case, district personnel could evaluate the child for speech and language services, or possible placement in an early childhood program.

Students who are currently enrolled in the local schools also have access to the many special programs that the district provides. These programs include, but are not limited to, special education classes for learning disability students, classes for students with behavior problems, services for students with speech or language deficits, as well as programs for students with visual or physical disabilities.

In addition, the district also complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you, as a parent, feel your child needs special assistance in these areas, or any other area, please contact your local school office, to set up an appointment to discuss your concerns.

School Buses and the Law



In case you are not aware, it is **ILLEGAL** to pass a stopped school bus with its stop arm out if you are on a **divided road**, or if you are in one of the **school parking lots/drive ways**. The only time you may pass a stopped bus with its stop arm out is if you are on a **FOUR LANE** road! Drive safely and watch out for our students.

Enhance the Future Scholarship

The Enhance the Future Scholarship is for Pekin High School seniors who graduate during the 2020-21 school year (mid-year or end-of-year) who attended North Pekin-Marquette Heights School District 102 for, at least, six (6) years and who will be attending an accredited college, university or trade school. Students who attended District 102 Schools who still live within the District 102 boundaries, but will be graduating from a different high school may still apply for consideration. If chosen, a scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to recipients. Recipients are selected by a committee of District 102 current and/or retired staff members.

For individuals who would like to make a financial contribution to support this scholarship, any support is very much appreciated. Checks should be made to the Marquette Heights Men's Club. Please note "EFS" on the "For" line of the check.

Checks should be mailed to:

N. Pekin-Marquette Heights District 102
51 Yates Rd.
Marquette Heights, IL 61554
C/O Enhance the Future

The District 102 office will record and copy all checks received.

For questions, please contact Byron Sondgeroth, District 102 Superintendent, at (309) 382-2172.

