

# HAMMOND SCHOOLS OFFER

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# about

Excellence in learning. Success in life.

# SCH

MARCH 2015

SCHOOL CITY OF HAMMOND

## Dear Community Members



As you are aware, each year students are required to participate in the state mandated accountability testing. These are known as IREAD 3, WIDA, ISTEP+, and ECAs. The tests involve student performance at the 3rd grade and various other grade levels throughout the district.

This year's test has again been changed and the rigor, challenge and time involved are demanding and significant. It is important that you help to prepare your child for successful performance for the task that lies ahead.

Please help prepare your child in the following ways: ensure that your child is in school every day on time during the testing window, ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep during this time, and it is important that your child has breakfast either at home or at school. Please see that your child is in school on a daily basis to complete the testing, as an incomplete test counts as a failure, however if your child is ill we ask that you please keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of any illness. Encourage your child to do his or her best but do not add undue stress.

Listed to the right is the SCH testing window.

Respectfully,

Dr. Walter Watkins  
Superintendent  
School City of Hammond

## ISTEP+/ECA Assessment Windows

NAME OF ASSESSMENT	WINDOW BEGINS	WINDOW ENDS
ECA (Late Winter)	FEB 9	MAR 6
ECA (Spring)	APR 20	JUN 3
ECA (Summer)	JUN 18	JUL 30
WIDA	JAN 21	FEB 27
ISTEP+ Applied Skills	MAR 2	MAR 11
ISTEP+ - Choice/online	APR 27	MAY 15
IREAD-3	MAR 12	MAR 18

## Supporting Student Success



The Hammond Education Foundation is an organization of dedicated volunteers who are committed to supporting extraordinary learning experiences to help students succeed. As a philanthropic partner to the School City of Hammond, the HEF promotes inspired, creative teaching by:

- Funding innovative learning experiences
- Recognizing the educational accomplishments of students, educators and the community
- Supporting the School City of Hammond's continuous improvement efforts

For more information on how to support, volunteer, and contribute to student success in the School City of Hammond, please visit [www.hammondeducationfoundation.org](http://www.hammondeducationfoundation.org).

# about

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A RICH AND CHALLENGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

MAXIMIZING STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND COMMUNICATING  
CONSISTENTLY HIGH EXPECTATIONS

## BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES SCHOOL CITY OF HAMMOND

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About SCH is a quarterly publication created to inform the community about the outstanding programs and activities conducted in the Hammond Public Schools. The paper is printed in English however; it can be read in a parent's language of choice by going to the School City of Hammond website and selecting the translation option.

Acerca de SCH es una publicación trimestral creada para informar a la comunidad sobre los programas y actividades destacadas que son llevadas a cabo en las Escuelas Públicas de Hammond. El documento está impreso en inglés, sin embargo; se puede leer en el lenguaje que los padres elijan yendo al sitio de internet de las Escuelas Públicas de Hammond y seleccionando la opción de traducción.

## Congressman Visclosky Visits Lincoln Elementary for National School Lunch Week



On October 28, 2014 Congressman Peter Visclosky visited the Lion's Café at Lincoln Elementary School to help celebrate National School Lunch Week.

The Congressman toured the remodeled dining room and received a standing ovation from the students. He took the time to chat with students and staff in the cafeteria and dining room while observing the students selecting their colorful and delicious meals.

The Congressman was aware of the many changes in school meals and asked questions about the foods students selected and how the recent changes were received. The meals at Lincoln are well received with nearly eighty nine percent (89%) participating in the lunch program each day and forty eight percent (48%) receiving breakfast each morning. Lincoln, like most schools, in Hammond participates in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, After-School Snack Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Program.

The Congressman votes every five years to reauthorize funding for these programs and to make changes in laws that affect the programs. The programs are due to be reauthorized in 2015. 🍏

## SCH ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



## Hello! Hola! xin chào!

Greetings from the SCH's Language Development Program! The chief goal of the LDP (formerly known as the Bilingual Education Program) is simple: To support the language acquisition of over 2,000 English Learners (ELs). More than 50% of ELs come from Spanish speaking homes, but we also serve students from over 27 world languages including Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Did you know that even if a student comes to school primarily speaking a language other than English, he/she is still held accountable to meet the same academic standards as other students? Thus, the LDP encourages maintenance of a student's native language, but instruction is delivered in English – the target language.

Do you have questions about the program or how students are serviced at their individual schools? Contact your child's principal directly, or call the Language Development Department at 933-2400. 🍏



## SAFETY FOR STUDENTS



The SCH Transportation Department recognizes these drivers for driving a combined total of 81 years of accident free driving. Not pictured are 28 other drivers who have provided an additional 86 years of accident free driving. 🍏

## School City of Hammond Board Policy 8330

### STUDENT INFORMATION NOTIFICATION

According to the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA) any eligible student (18 years of age) and his/her parent or legal guardian may request pertinent educational information maintained in that student's educational file. You should contact your building principal for further information.

## School City of Hammond and the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana Partner to Rescue Food



The School City of Hammond and the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana have partnered to recycle food from our schools. They donate it to homeless shelters and soup kitchens in Hammond so that it does not go into the landfill. Instead of throwing all the uneaten produce, milk, yogurt, juice, and packaged grain items away, students will be asked to place unopened packaged food into bins. Hammond and the Food Bank were partnered through the efforts of Food Rescue, an Indiana non-for-profit company that has been connecting usable food from restaurants, groceries, and schools with charities since 2007.

Each Thursday, the Food Bank will collect the food from Harding, Jefferson, and O'Bannon Elementary Schools and distribute it to soup kitchens, food pantries, and other charities that the Food Bank serves in the Hammond community. Food collections will be logged so that the value in terms of numbers of meals donated can be tracked. After the K-12 Food Rescue program is running smoothly in the pilot schools it will be rolled out at all 22 of Hammond's school sites. Food Rescue's goal is to have all 2024 Indiana schools participating in K-12 Food Rescue by the end of 2017.



For other organizations thinking of recycling food, there are many benefits of partnership in the Food Rescue Program with the Food Bank

- Donations may be tax deductible.
- There is no liability to you under the Good Samaritan Food Donor Act of 1996.
- Food Bank will pick up your donation free of charge; no dumping or storage costs.
- Most importantly, you will be helping hungry men, women, and children by providing quality nutritious food.

For more information about the Hammond Food Rescue Program, The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana or Food Rescue contact individuals below:

**Julie Boettger, PhD, RD**  
Director of Food and Nutrition – School City of Hammond  
219.933.2400 x 1056  
jaboettger@hammond.k12.in.us

**Arleen Peterson**  
Executive Director – Food Bank of Northwest Indiana  
219.980.1777 | apeterson@foodbanknwi.org

**John Williamson**  
President – Food Rescue  
317.694.4006 | jw@foodrescue.net

## PREVENTING THE FLU

Flu is a serious respiratory virus. It affects the elderly, young children or anyone with other health problems.

It peaks between December and February.

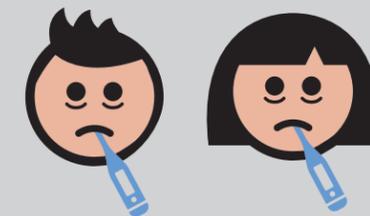
To prevent the spread of flu in our schools, we advise the following:

### STAY HOME IF YOU HAVE

- Fever greater than 100 degrees
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Frequent congested or croupy cough
- Feelings of fatigue, weakness or muscle aches
- Sore throat and headache

### PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE FLU & COLDS PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash hands frequently
- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Always clean and disinfect surfaces and objects commonly used



## MEASLES PROTECT YOURSELF

Measles is a highly contagious disease. The symptoms are fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny red spots begins at the head and spreads to the rest of the body.

It is spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus may last airborne for two hours. The virus is aggressive and will infect anyone not protected by the vaccine. Anyone not having two doses of the vaccine is at risk.

If you have received your measles vaccine or over the age of 55, it is not likely that you will have the disease. 🍏

THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST THE MEASLES IS TO BE VACCINATED