

Southeastern Community Unit School District 337

District Parent Announcements

July 1, 2013

REGISTRATION 2013

Registration packets will be mailed the week of July 22. If you have not received your registration packet by August 1, 2013, please contact the district office at 217 392 2172. Registration days and times will be:

- Tuesday, August 6 from 9:00-2:00
- Thursday, August 8 from 12:00-6:00
- Tuesday, August 13 from 9:00-2:00
- Thursday, August 15 from 12:00-6:00

All students (grades pre-k through 12) will register during these times at the junior/senior high school in Augusta.

OPENING DAYS OF SCHOOL

August		
16	Friday	Teacher Institute – NO SCHOOL
19	Monday	Teacher Institute – NO SCHOOL Open House – Elementary 5:00PM-7:00PM Jr/Sr High 6:00PM-8:00PM
20	Tuesday	First Day of School – 2:15 Dismissal
School will be dismissed at 2:15 PM August 20-30, 2013		

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School supplies for each grade can be found on the school website. The website address is www.southeastern337.com.

UNPAID LUNCH BILLS

All unpaid lunch bills need to be paid by Wednesday, July 10, 2013. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

BACKPACK PROJECT

Once again, the Living Faith Church in Bowen will conduct the Backpack Project. It will be August 4, 2013 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Living Faith Church in Bowen. The Backpack Project provides book bags, school supplies, etc. to students free of charge. In addition, the Living Faith Church, with the help of the community, has agreed to purchase all baby wipes, antibacterial wipes, kleenex, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and baggies for the elementary. In past years, these items were on the school supply list for each child. You will no longer find these items on your child's school supply list.

OPEN CERTIFIED POSITIONS FOR 2013-2014

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open position for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Physics and Chemistry Teacher (Part-time). Grades 9-12.

If interested, please **e-mail** a letter of application, resume, and a copy of your teaching certificate no later than Friday, July 19 to bcorrigan@southeastern337.com.

OPEN EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS FOR 2013-2014

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open position for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Assistant Junior High Boys Basketball
- Assistant 5/6 Boys Basketball
- Head Coach Junior High Track
- High School Science Club
- High School Play Sponsor

If interested, please **e-mail** a letter of application no later than Friday, July 19 to bcorrigan@southeastern337.com.

SPEED AND STRENGTH PROGRAM

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Athletic Boosters for providing the Speed and Strength program to our students. This is an incredible opportunity for our students. It is awesome driving up to the junior/senior high every morning and witnessing our student's dedication and commitment. It is this type of discipline, dedication, and commitment that will not only make our sports programs stronger, but will better prepare our students for success in life. There is a proven connection. Once again, I want to thank the Athletic Boosters, Jamie Flesner, and Jordan Harris for truly making a difference. P.S. Cyle Rigg, district athletic director, was asked whether this program violates any IHSA rules or regulations. Mr. Rigg checked again with the IHSA. It does not violate any IHSA rules or regulations.

SUBSTITUTE PAY

At the June 24, 2013 board meeting, the Board of Education increased the one day certified substitute pay from \$75 to \$80.

PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

It is important all physical, dental, and immunization requirements are met, and we have proper documentation prior to the start of school – August 20. According to the Illinois State Code, if a child does not present proof of health examination and immunizations by October 15th of a year in which such proof is required, the school district is required to suspend the child from school. This will be enforced. Thank you for your understanding and attention to this matter.

SCHOOL FINANCES

As of May, we are 92% into the fiscal year. We have received 98% of our budgeted revenue and have spent 90% of our budgeted expenditures. Our current fiscal year fund balance is -\$19,602. Our overall fund balance is \$3,719,718. One year ago it was \$3,962,980. Two years ago it was \$3,929,321.

ISAT SCORES

We have unofficially received our ISAT scores. As expected, there were significant drops in the percentages meeting and exceeding. We knew that this would occur when the state decided to raise the cut scores. It is important not to panic. This doesn't mean that your child knows less than they did last year or that our teachers did not get the job done. It simply means more is expected than before and "the test is a lot harder." Like always, we are expected to officially receive our ISAT scores at the start of school and will provide you with these scores during our October Parent-Teacher Conferences.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ISAT SCORES

Q. What changes are coming to the Illinois Standards Assessment Test (ISAT)?

A. The state is changing how the ISAT is scored by implementing higher expectations for elementary and middle school students under the new Common Core State Standards, which outline the skills and content our students must master at each grade level to continue on the path to college and career readiness (For more information on the Common Core, visit http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm). This change is similar to changing a grading scale from where 90-100 was considered an A to now 94-100 is considered an A.

Q. Why is it necessary to change how the ISAT is scored?

A. Illinois' previous expectations for our grade 3-8 students did not align to the new learning standards that are now focused on success in college and the workforce. Our high school test, the PSAE, however, includes the ACT and does provide a good indicator of college and career readiness. Therefore, the state is aligning to the ISAT with the PSAE to provide better information about college and career readiness expectations to educators, parents and students in elementary and middle school grades.

Q. How will my child's ISAT scores be affected?

A. Your student will have to score higher in order to meet or exceed standards. As a result, some students who previously met standards will now be classified as needing improvement. This shift in where students rank will likely be significant.

Q. What if my child's ISAT scores drop?

A. These new expectations do not mean that our students know less than they did before or are less capable than they were in previous years. Instead, it means that we are raising the bar on how well students are prepared to meet college and career readiness benchmarks. If you have concerns, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school administration. We'll be able to answer your questions and work with you to create a plan to accelerate your child's progress and ensure that he or she is ready for college and career by the end of high school.

Q. How will the new performance expectations benefit my child?

A. We will know sooner whether or not kids are on track for college and careers. We also will be able to provide the appropriate supports and interventions for students at an earlier point in their academic career, thus boosting a student's chances for success in college and the workforce.

Q. Why will performance expectations not change for the science assessments?

A. New science standards, the Next Generation Science Standards, are scheduled to be in final format in spring 2013. Similar to the changes with the Common Core standards, these standards will require changes to curriculum and instructional practices. The changes to the science standards will provide the opportunity to develop a rigorous assessment that incorporates the practices, cross-cutting content and disciplinary core ideas of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Q. Will schools still have to make Adequate Yearly Progress?

A. The state has submitted a comprehensive waiver application to the federal No Child Left Behind Act that proposes using multiple measures to evaluate public schools. The growth model will replace the current status determinations for Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind. Schools will instead be assessed on outcomes.

Q. How long will the state continue to use the ISAT?

A. The new performance expectations pave the way for the PARCC assessments to replace the ISAT in Math and English Language Arts. The transition is scheduled for the 2014-2015 school year and will include a computer-based assessment that will provide more timely results.

Q. How will the PARCC tests differ from the ISAT?

A. The PARCC assessments will align to the Common Core State Standards and will provide information to ensure students are mastering the appropriate skills and content benchmarks for college and careers on an annual basis. Unlike the ISAT, which is given once a year, the PARCC assessment will be administered more than once during the school year. Therefore, teachers will receive real-time information about how well their students are learning.

Q. How will my child benefit from the PARCC exams?

A. These assessments will provide teachers, parents and students a clearer, more detailed picture of students' strengths and areas that need improvement. Educators and parents will be able to tailor their attention to a student's individual needs. The PARCC assessments also give ISBE the opportunity to compare Illinois students' progress on a national scale and ensure that we are keeping pace with the goal of college and career readiness.

Q. Do other states use the PARCC tests?

A. The PARCC is a group of 23 states plus the Virgin Islands that are collaborating to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and Math based on college and career readiness. The PARCC states include Alabama, Arizona,

Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

Q. What resources are available to prepare for these changes?

A. The Illinois State Board of Education will send out an analysis of the 2012 ISAT scores later this school year using the new performance expectations. The comparison information will allow districts, schools and families to determine where their students stand in college and career readiness performance levels. After reviewing the data, educators and families will have better information and can provide additional supports for their students if needed.

FEES AND MEAL PRICES

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Registration Fees for ECE - Grade 6	40.00	42.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00
Registration Fees Grades 7 - 12	55.00	57.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
Optional Accident Insurance (ISDA)	60.00	60.00	60.00	70.00	70.00	Not Available
High School Football Insurance (ISDA)	110.00	110.00	125.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Driver's Education Fee	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Breakfast Fee for Pre-K - Grade 6	1.25	1.35	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Breakfast Fee for Grades 7 - 12	1.50	1.60	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Breakfast Fee for Adults	1.50	1.60	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
Lunch Fee for Pre-K - Grade 6	1.75	1.85	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.25
Lunch Fee for Grades 7 - 12	2.00	2.10	2.25	2.25	2.50	2.50
Lunch Fee for Adults	2.50	2.60	2.75	2.75	3.00	3.00
Reduced Breakfast - All Grades (State)	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Reduced Lunch - All Grades (State)	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Additional Milk	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35

The increase in the Lunch Fee for Pre-K through Grade 6 is a result of the federal government's Paid Lunch Equity Requirement (Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010).

JUNE BOARD MEETING ACTION SUMMARY

- Approved the agenda items as presented.
- Approved the minutes from the May 20, 2013 regular meeting and closed session.
- Approved the bills, financial statements, and activity funds.

- Approved the bid of Lewis Sunbeam (bread), a firm bid of Prairie Farms Dairy (milk), and the firm premium bid of West Central FS Petroleum (fuel) for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Approved the 2013-2014 registration and meal fees-as presented.
- Approved the non-certified salaries and substitute salaries for the 2013-2014 school year-as presented.
- Approved the prevailing wage ordinance for Hancock County.
- Approved the renewal rental of Henry Service Center for bus maintenance purposes.
- Authorized the superintendent to use a collection agency to pursue the collection of unpaid fees.
- Moved into closed session at 7:18 p.m. for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and student disciplinary case.
- Returned to open session.
- Approved the employment of Mike Owen in the position of *volunteer* assistant junior high softball coach for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Approved the employment of Devyn Miller in the position of elementary secretary for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Pamela Moreno in the position of part-time physics/chemistry teacher for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Jarod Clark in the position of junior high head track coach for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Approved the employment of Todd Fox in the position of high school varsity boys' basketball coach for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

D. Todd Fox
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