



Park Elementary News

ISD 423

Celebrating lifelong learning and building a school community that encourages learning, respect and communication.

Volume 2
September 30, 2019

Contact

Information

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Principal

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Health Office

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School Website

www.isd423.org

Hutchinson Bus Lines

320--234-0888

Important Dates

Sept 30-Oct 4—
Homecoming Week

October 2—Walk/Bike to
School Day & 2 hour late
start

October 7—PTO Meeting,
Park, 3:45pm

October 15—Flu Shot
Clinic, Park Elem 4-7pm

October 15-16—Fall
Conferences

October 16-18— No
School, MEA Break

October 23—Release
Time Begins

October 22—Bingo fun/
Title 1 Night

November 6th—2hr late
Start

November 6th—Retakes



BOND REFERENDUM FAST FACTS

VOTE ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

See pages 5-9 for Bond Referendum
Fast Facts and FAQ's .

[Click here](#) for more information.

Important Reminders

From the Park Elementary Office

If there is a change in plans for your student (getting picked up early for an appointment, change of transportation plans), **please send a note with your student.** Without a note, teachers are expected to send a child on the bus as usual. If you are needing your student to ride a different bus, provide an address of where they need to be dropped off. Have questions about what stop that would be? Call Hutchinson Bus Lines, at 320-234-0888 for assistance. In addition, we ask you notify both the school and the bus company when you have an address change. Thank you for your cooperation.

Conferences

Fall Conferences are **October 15 and 16th.**
[Click here](#) to select your conference date and
time. Please do so by **Tuesday, October 8th.**



PTO

Be in the Know



PTO is well underway for the 2019-2020 school year. Thanks to those parents/guardians who attended the first meeting. We hold our monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month, alternating between Park Elementary's Library and West Elementary's library, beginning at 3:45 PM. The upcoming meeting will be in the Park Elementary Library on Monday, October 7.

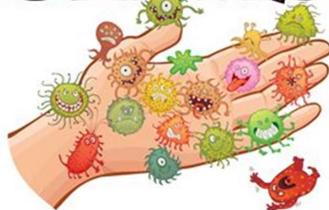
It is with great excitement that we announce the date for the first PTO Family Fun Night of the school year! On October 22nd, from 6:00-7:00 PM, we will be doing a fall favorite—BINGO! Look for more information on this family event very soon!

Notes from the Health Office

Get Ready for Flu Season

Antonia Barrick, ISD 423 District Nurse

COMBAT GERMS



Wipe down frequently touched areas with
DISINFECTANT WIPES

Start with Prevention/ Get your Family Flu Shots

A flu shot clinic is taking place on October 15th and 16th at Hutchinson Public Schools (in conjunction with conferences). Dates and locations are as follows:

A consent form is located on our school website or can be completed the day of. No appointments needed, just walk in!

- Tuesday, 10/15: Park Elementary and Middle School from 4:00-7:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/16: High School and West Elementary from 10:30 AM-2:00 PM

Here are some important things to keep in mind about the flu:

- Flu season runs from October through May in the United States; the highest cases typically occur from December through February.
- Younger children, especially those under five, are at highest risk of getting the flu due to their developing immune systems. While all family members should get a flu shot annually, it's especially important for children with chronic health conditions (asthma, diabetes, heart conditions, etc.) and family members of immunocompromised children to be vaccinated.

Recognizing Flu Symptoms:

- Fever of 100.°F or above
- Cough and/or sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headache and/or body aches
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea (more common in children)

...Continued in next column

Treating the Flu

- Most adults and school-aged children will get better without needing medical treatment. If you are concerned, please consult your healthcare provider.
- Keep the sick child/family member in a separate room, avoid contact with healthy family members, and designate one person as the caregiver. The caregiver should not be pregnant or someone with an immune disorder/chronic condition.
- Do NOT give aspirin to any child who might have the flu. Talk with your healthcare provider about which medicine they would advise for a fever/pain.
- Ensure plenty of rest and fluids, such as water, broths, sports drinks (per healthcare provider).
- Keep the student out of school/daycare until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Please seek medical care at once if any of these symptoms occur:

- Fast breathing or difficulty breathing
- Bluish skin or blue/purple lips
- Dehydration
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Being confused or not waking up/interacting
- Flu symptoms that improve but then return with a fever and worse cough
- Pain or pressure in the abdomen/chest
- Seizures

Learn more at www.flu.gov

Other Important Health Notices

Cough drops are not allowed at Park Elementary. Cough drops and other cough suppressants (i.e. suckers, mints, etc.) are not recommended because they are considered a choking hazard. Research shows that drinking water or use of liquid cough medicine (that is administered in the health office) is just as effective in helping with coughs.

If your child needs medication of any kind, it must be brought to the health office by a parent/guardian (this includes cough medicine). Proper paperwork needs to be completed by the health staff. **Please do not send any medication in your child's backpack.**

School Lyceums and Department Updates

Constitution Day Recognized

Local Lions Sponsored Booklets

Fifth graders congregated for a short program to honor Constitution Day on Friday, September 17th. Students heard from members of the Lion’s Club about our nation’s most treasured document. At the conclusion of the program, students received a handheld copy of the U.S. Constitution. Thank you to the Lions Club for volunteering your time and sponsoring the informative booklets.



Making Busses Safe

A School-Wide Program

Students at Park Elementary received bus training as their busses arrived during the first week of October. The goal of bus training is to promote a positive and peaceful environment on busses by decreasing inappropriate student behavior. A lesson was also given in the classroom. The goal is to create and sustain a safe and friendly atmosphere on busses. In addition, students also reviewed the procedure for evacuating the bus should an emergency make it necessary.

As a regular segment of the Daily Announcements at our school, bus and pedestrian safety tips are shared with all students.



Department Spotlight

EL Department

Our English Language (EL) department services students who are identified as English Learners. English language learners are students whose native language is not English. They may come from a home in which no English is spoken to others that are exposed to multiple languages. As such, the department works on meeting the varying needs of our students to help improve their English proficiency. To assist our certified EL educator in the EL classes are Mrs. Sakamoto and Mrs. Johnson. Both serve as translators and educational assistants (pictured below). They are each in their sixth year of service at Park Elementary.



In and Out of the Classroom

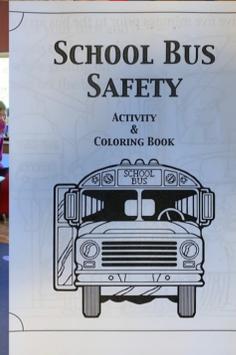
Connecting our Generations

A Memorable Service Project

Third graders from Mrs. Padrnos' class had the wonderful opportunity to work with senior citizens who reside at Prince of Peace. They worked on crafting Homecoming Windsocks! It was an enriching experience for both our students and the Prince of Peace residents! Pictured below are some snapshots from the day's activity.



Bus safety review with Mrs. Withers using Kahoot!



Homecoming Week

Buttons and sunglasses will be on sale this week; Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 8:35-9:00am (10:35-11:00am on Wed).

\$2 for a button and \$1 for sunglasses.

On Friday, October 4th, Park Elementary students will participate in a Homecoming pep-fest. Go Hutch Tigers!



Science Matters

Individual volcanoes were made in 5th grade science class





BOND REFERENDUM FAST FACTS

VOTE ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

CONNECT WITH US!



isd423.org



320-587-2860



info@isd423.org

THE NEED

The District studied numerous options to arrive at the most fiscally responsible project for the community and meet the needs of our students. The proposed facilities improvements will allow Hutchinson Public Schools to address current educational programming and facility needs for birth to grade 5 students.

Major components of the proposed improvements include:

- Renovations and infra-structure improvements necessary to transition Park Elementary to a 4th and 5th grade facility.
- Construction of a major building addition and interior modifications necessary to create a cohesive birth to grade 3 facility at the current West Elementary site, including a modern educational facility for Early Childhood Family Education.



THE PLAN

PARK ELEMENTARY

Major infrastructure improvements: windows, lighting, electrical, plumbing, heating, and cooling.

Increase student safety and improve traffic flow by separating parent and public traffic and bus drop-off and pick-up.

Upgrade and renovate the original 1938 portion of the facility to serve 4th and 5th graders, improving the classroom spaces and creating collaborative group learning areas.

Remove the 1956 portion of the facility where the most severe infrastructure needs and accessibility challenges exist.

WEST ELEMENTARY

Remodel and re-orientate the current footprint of West Elementary into appropriate learning space for birth to 1st grade students, including early childhood family education and special education.

Construct an addition to the existing building to provide 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms, collaboration areas, and associated support functions.

The addition will be configured and connected to the existing building to enable efficient access and the ability to share specialty learning spaces such as art, music and special education and support areas such as kitchen, cafeteria, and large motor spaces.

TAX IMPACT



Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Impact on Taxes Payable in 2020*	
		Annual	Monthly
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	\$81	\$7
	\$150,000	\$143	\$12
	\$200,000	\$205	\$17
Commercial/Industrial	\$50,000	\$85	\$7
	\$100,000	\$170	\$14
	\$250,000	\$481	\$40
Agricultural Homestead (average value per acre of land and buildings)	\$3,000	\$0.85	\$0.07
	\$5,000	\$1.42	\$0.12
	\$7,000	\$1.98	\$0.17
Agricultural Non-Homestead (average value per acre of land & buildings)	\$3,000	\$1.70	\$0.14
	\$5,000	\$2.83	\$0.24
	\$7,000	\$3.96	\$0.33

A residence with a market value of \$150,000 would see an estimated monthly increase of \$12.

TAX CALCULATOR

<http://bit.ly/2MMsVs6>

OR CALL 651-697-8522

AG2SCHOOL TAX CREDIT

Created in 2017, the Ag2School Tax Credit reduces the property tax for owners of agricultural land. This is a tax credit on all property classified as agricultural, excluding the house, garage, and one acre of land surrounding an agricultural homestead.

The 2019 Legislature passed legislation further reducing the property tax impact for owners of farmland to offset the cost of school building referendums. This means that the Ag2School property tax credit has increased to 50% for taxes payable in 2020, and it is slated to increase to 70% by 2023.

VOTING INFORMATION

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING

WHEN: Friday, September 20th - Monday, November 4th

ONLINE: <http://bit.ly/2NC4F5x>

HUTCHINSON CITY CENTER: 111 Hassan St SE
Hutchinson, MN 55350

ELECTION DAY

WHEN: Tuesday, November 5th | 7:00am-8:00pm

WHERE: Hutchinson Recreation Center
900 Harrington St SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350

CONNECT WITH US!

isd423.org

320-587-2860

info@isd423.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Bond Referendum - November 5, 2019

Q: Was there any input on this, or did the District come up with this plan on its own?

A: It was very important to the District to have this be a plan that was collaboratively developed. To ensure collaboration, the District involved many user groups in the planning process. The planning group consisted of teachers, staff, and community members who studied the District's birth through grade 5 education facility needs and helped determine how to best meet those needs. Additionally, the District facilitated multiple community surveys to seek input from community members to make sure the plan represented the community's wants and needs. The referendum question is the result of that input.

Q: What is the review process for this work? Is the Department of Education involved?

A: The District has provided the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) with all of the required documentation for the proposed improvements and referendum in the form of a "Review & Comment." MDE will review all submitted information to ensure that the project is both fiscally sound and educationally appropriate. Once complete MDE will notify the District of its review and its approval is published in the local paper prior to the referendum vote for confirmation by District residents.

Q: Will student safety and security be addressed in the projects?

A: Yes. There will be numerous improvements addressing the safety and security of our students at both West and Park Elementary. Our youngest students will no longer have to shuttle to another location to get on their bus to go home. Students will no longer have to load and unload busses on a city street as they do now. Vehicle separation and staff and visitor parking will also be addressed in the plan. Secure entries will be included as well as the latest in surveillance and security technologies. Safe and secure schools will be at the heart of the design process.

Q: What will the schools look like?

A: The schools have not been designed yet, so there is not a final image to share, only conceptual ideas at this time. Just as it was important to involve the many stakeholders during the planning efforts, it is equally important that many people be involved in the design of the projects. Once the referendum is successful, Design Planning Groups will be established (including community members, teachers, staff, and students) to work with the architects and administration in developing the design of the schools to make sure the designs reflect the values of the community.

Q: Will the community, staff, students, and others have input in the design process after the vote?

A: Absolutely they will. Approval of the facilities plan by voters on November 5 will authorize the detailed planning and design process to begin. The design process will involve interested community members, teachers, staff, and students to provide critical input related to specific needs within each space and within the facilities as a whole.

Q: Why is the District planning to continue to use an outdated 1938 school building (Park Elementary)?

A: First, the community values Park Elementary and has asked the District to continue to use it for educational purposes. The 1938 portion of the building is structurally sound. This portion of the building is cost effective to renovate. The 1956 addition to the building has the most severe infrastructure issues and is not cost effective to repair and renovate according to school facility experts. The plan includes enhancing and preserving the historical value and beauty of Park Elementary, while creating a modern 21st Century learning environment for students.

Q: I am hearing that there are already design plans finished for the school improvements. Is that true?

A: No, there are no design plans yet. Parameters and conceptual solutions have been developed as a means to establish a budget for the facility needs. This includes square footage for additions, number of rooms, quality of building systems, etc. as defined by the planning efforts of the stakeholder committees.

Q: What is the timeline for the project?

A: The plan is to start the design phase when the funding is approved by the voters. Current planning work done by the District, its stakeholder groups and its consultants only include general conceptual ideas and verification that items can fit in the space the District has available. Construction would start during the fall of 2020 and be completed by fall of 2022. It will be scheduled to minimize disruption to student learning to the extent possible.

Q: What is included in the referendum?

A: The proposed scope of work for Park Elementary includes new mechanical systems: electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling, lighting, and ventilation. The structure will get new windows, doors, and a roof. The 1956 portion of the building will be removed, and new entries will be built on the north side of the building.

At West Elementary a major building addition will be included to support grades two and three. Renovations within the current West Elementary structure will be focused around Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Preschool Education, and Early Childhood Special Education.

Q: How accurate are the cost estimates that were developed?

A: Detailed cost estimates have been developed for each component of the proposed referendum with the assistance of construction experts. Estimates were based on costs developed from local and regional cost indices and market conditions as well as current bid histories for work of comparable scope and size. The costs are considered to be “total project cost” and are inclusive of construction costs as well as necessary project-related costs such as design fees, permits, plan review fees, furniture and equipment, etc. A contingency factor has also been included in the current project cost estimates since market and economic variables are constantly changing.

Q: How is a bond referendum different from an operating levy?

A: Bonds are for building, and levies are for learning. Bond referendum proceeds can be used to build new buildings or complete major renovation projects. Levy referendum funds are used to finance learning (operational costs), by hiring teachers, paying utility costs, purchasing learning materials, etc. While both require voter support, the two different funding sources can only be used for the respective intent and are separate from one another.

Q: I own a \$150,000 home. What would be my increase in taxes?

A: It would be \$143 per year, or approximately \$12.00 per month. You can find the tax impact for your property through this link to the [“Property Tax Information website”](#).

Q: Why do other Districts have higher or lower tax impacts for similar priced projects?

A: The tax impact is based on many different factors. A fair comparison cannot easily be made between Districts. The tax impact is dependent on the structure of the bonds, other capital bonds already in place (or expiring), total tax capacity of that school district, and state equalization aid.

Q: Will the new Ag2School Tax Credit impact this bond referendum?

A: Yes. The Ag2School tax credit was enacted by the Minnesota Legislature in 2017. The Ag2School tax credit reduces the property tax for owners of agricultural land to offset the cost of school building referendums. This saving on agricultural property is paid by the State of Minnesota and is not passed onto other property tax payers in the District. The Ag2School tax credit will increase to 50% for taxes payable in 2020 and is scheduled to increase incrementally to 70% by 2023.

Q: Will there be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and hear information about the bond referendum?

A: Yes, there will be two community meetings. (Meeting dates, time and location to be determined.) If you have a group that would like information, please contact the District Office to schedule an informational presentation (phone: 320-587-2860 or email tina.vorlicek@isd423.org). If you are not able to attend these presentations, you are always welcome to call the District Office with your questions.

Q: Where can I get an absentee/early ballot?

A: Absentee/Early ballots will be available at the Hutchinson City Center located at 111 Hassan Street SE. Absentee ballots will be available from Friday, September 20 through Monday, November 4 during the following hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, November 2 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and November 4 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you have questions in regard to an absentee ballot, you can call the Hutchinson City Center at 320-234-4202. [Click here](#) for additional absentee voting information.

Q: How can I get involved with helping the referendum pass?

A: The District can only provide information about the referendum and the process that led to it. A separate independent citizen committee may be formed to promote the referendum and communicate why they believe it is important for the community.

Q: What will happen if the referendum fails?

A: This plan is the direct outcome of months of effort and development. As such, there is no plan B ready to be implemented. If the referendum fails, the District will need to go into planning again to determine the next course of action. What we can say is this:

- The needs won't go away. Physical conditions of the buildings will continue to age, or in some cases deteriorate and the District will need to find some way to address those issues.
- The time to address these issues is now – costs will only increase with time. If the District needs to go back to the community to ask for support on the same issue again, the costs will almost certainly be higher.



Walk & Bike to School Day



Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019

Walking School Bus Routes

Red Route Pickup Dropoff
Clinton/Merrill 9:55am 3:45pm

Clinton House Apartments

Lynn/5th 10:05am 3:35pm

Park n Go: Grace Lutheran

Blue Route Pickup Dropoff

Franklin/Linden 9:55am 3:45pm

Park n Go: WIC Thrift Store back parking

Franklin/5th 10:05am 3:35pm

Park n Go: Peace Lutheran

Green Route Pickup Dropoff

6th Ave/Jefferson 9:55am 3:45pm

Park n Go: Al's Carwash

2nd Ave/Jefferson 10:55am 3:35pm

Park n Go: Edward Jones/Cornerstone Mtg

Arrive to school at 10:25am

Leave from school 3:25pm

Park n Go locations are available for parent pickup/drop-off to enable kids outside of walking routes to join event.

Put on your walking shoes or grab your bike and join Police Chief Gifferson, Fire Chief Schumann, and other PowerUp volunteers as they lead a walking school bus to Park Elementary on Wednesday, October 2nd!

