



North Shore School District 112

Highland Park, Illinois

March 11, 2009

Dear District 112 Parent/Guardian,

As we plan our budgets and programs for the coming school years, District 112 has been reviewing the use of two of our most critical resources – instructional time with our students and funding for our programs. These reviews will result in program changes at the elementary school level in the first through fifth grade Spanish and physical education programs for the coming school years.

Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, North Shore School District 112 students in grades 1-8 will benefit from daily physical activity. The move toward daily physical activity in District 112 reflects the District's commitment to wellness and physical health, as well as recognition of the need to comply with an Illinois mandate for daily physical activity. According to research conducted by the National Association for Sports and Physical Education (NASPE), children with daily physical education exhibit better attendance, a more positive attitude to school and superior academic performance. Starting next school year, all first through fifth grade students' instructional day will include 30 minutes of physical education class. This compares to either two or three days a week of PE class currently.

In order to provide our students the opportunity for increased time for daily physical activity, the district engaged in a careful analysis of the students' daily and weekly schedules at each elementary building. In making this decision, the district reevaluated its elementary program offerings and decided to discontinue the 30-minute per week introductory Spanish language program. We will continue to offer the Spanish-English dual language two-way immersion program currently housed at Oak Terrace, Red Oak and Sherwood Schools and the enhanced middle school program at Northwood. As well, we will continue our middle school Spanish and French programs at Northwood, Edgewood and Elm Place. Although we have valued the opportunity to introduce our students to a foreign language early in their elementary experience, national studies suggest that the most effective elementary second language programs focusing on language acquisition require a minimum of 75 minutes of instruction per week. Therefore, the time previously devoted to elementary Spanish will be used to help meet the requirement for daily physical activity.

It is our goal to continue a high level of challenge, development and support for all students in District 112. We believe these changes will result in the best use of our resources. Thank you for your continued support of our staff and our schools.

Maureen L. Hager Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
North Shore School District 112