

Culver Community Update

Save the Date!

Thursday, February 8th
Thursday, February 15th

8th Grade Pictures
Parent Teacher Conferences
No School for Students
Teacher Institute Day
No School for Students

ParentSquare

We're excited to announce a new platform to improve communication between our school and families: ParentSquare!

ParentSquare gives you more control over how you receive and send messages with school staff. Choose from email, text, or in-app messaging to fit your preferences. Plus, *stay informed in your preferred language* – ParentSquare supports over 100 languages!

What to expect:

- In the coming weeks, you might see "ParentSquare" in the "Sent from" field of school emails.
- No action needed! You'll automatically receive school communications through ParentSquare.
- Visit the ParentSquare website (<https://www.parentsquare.com>) for more information.

Next week:

- Learn how to log in and explore ParentSquare's features in an upcoming email.
- While not mandatory, setting up a ParentSquare account allows you to:
 - Quickly view recent school updates.
 - Stay informed with a detailed school calendar.
 - Set your language preferences.
- We'll offer training sessions for parents. The first one is during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, February 15th. Join us!

We're eager to launch ParentSquare and hope you'll be early adopters! Together, we can create a more connected and informed school community.

Absence Reporting and Tardiness

As a reminder, if you need to report a student absence, please call our attendance line at 847-966-9280 ext 1118. As a matter of safety, please notify the school of absences in

advance of the school day. If a student is absent and we are not aware of the reason for the absence, our school nurse, Mrs. Morrissey, will be contacting the parent(s) and/or guardian(s).

Additionally, please make every attempt to have your child to school on time. Student late arrivals to the classroom are disruptive and delays the educational process. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

5Essentials Survey

We invite all parents to participate in the annual 5Essentials Survey. The 5Essentials Survey identifies five indicators that lead to improved outcomes for all students.

1. Effective Leaders
2. Collaborative Teachers
3. Involved Families
4. Supportive Environments
5. Ambitious Instruction

This survey generates valuable data that districts can use to guide their ongoing efforts to improve schools and to offer students an excellent education. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is administered online by [Chicago Impact](#) at the University of Chicago on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education. Data and indicators are a result from an anonymous administration of the survey instrument.

The survey is now open and will close on Friday, March 29th.

Link for parents to take the survey: <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

From the Health Office - Dental Form Information

Please see the [document](#) regarding dental exam forms.

In Case You Missed It ...

8th Grade Pictures

8th Grade picture day is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th. Each child will take four different poses. Two poses will be taken in dress clothes and two poses in graduation cap and gown. All pictures will be 3/4 body shots or less. Students should wear suitable dress attire and should NOT wear up-do hairstyles or hair accessories that will interfere with the wearing of the graduation cap. *We are also measuring for caps and gowns on picture day.*

There is no need to send any money on picture day. About two weeks after the pictures

are taken, we will send home a proof and order envelope for your approval. You may order pictures after seeing the proof. A variety of packages will be available. Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, March 14th.

Family Learning Night

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 13th from 5:30-7pm - Culver's annual Family Learning Night. Join us for engaging, valuable sessions for grades PreK-8. This evening is designed for families to attend with their children. Dinner and books provided! Please see our agenda [here](#). Please RSVP to Dr. Smolinski esmolinski@niles71.org or complete this [form](#).

February Parent/Teacher Conferences

February conferences take place Thursday, February 15th, from 11-6pm. There is no school this day. Our February Parent/Teacher conferences are by teacher or parent request. The portal for parent sign up opens at 4pm on Monday, February 5th. Please see sign up instructions [here](#). Please see conference locations [here](#).

Volunteer Training

Want to help in a Culver classroom? Chaperone a field trip? Come to our volunteer training. No need to RSVP. Just come to Culver for the training.

1. Thursday, February 15th - before Parent/Teacher Conferences - 10:30 - room 244

Reading Challenge Club

Students in grades 6-8 may create a team of 2-6 members and compete in the Reading Challenge, hosted by the Niles-Maine Public Library. The competitions will be held at the public library on Wednesday evenings in April. Practices/meetings will be held Wednesdays after school in room 131 from 3:00-4:00 starting on February 14 and ending on March 20. See [here](#) for more information. See [here](#) for the list of books in the challenge!

February Spirit Days

We love our Friday Spirit Days, sponsored by Student Council. Please see our February Spirit Day themes [here](#).

New Student Preschool Application for the 2024-2025 School Year

Niles ESD 71 will be accepting new student applications for the 2024-2025 Preschool For All program from **February 1st-March 21st**. Any incomplete or new applications submitted following March 21st will be added to the waitlist. All preschool families must

live in our Niles ESD 71 district boundaries and will have to complete the online application as well as the PFA Parent Form, consents and developmental questionnaires that are shared.

Kindergarten Registration for 2024-2025

Registration for incoming kindergarten students begins on Thursday, February 1st. All students who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2024, are kindergarten students.

If your child is currently enrolled in our preschool program, they are automatically enrolled for kindergarten. There is nothing you need to do at this time.

How do I register my child?

- Beginning Thursday, Feb. 1st, contact the front office at 847-966-9280 and provide the following:
 - Child's name and date of birth
 - Parents' name, email, phone number and address
- All incoming kindergarteners will participate in a kindergarten screening in late April.
- Parents will submit required registration paperwork, including:
 - Original birth certificate
 - Required state paperwork
 - Required district paperwork
 - Required proof of residency documentation

Vision/Hearing Information

Please see the [note](#) about our annual vision/hearing screenings.

ACCESS Testing for English Learning Students

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade who are identified as English Learners will begin taking the ACCESS test, an English language proficiency assessment, in mid-January. All assessments will be completed in February.

Culver School PTA!

See the updated PTA newsletter *attached* for information and updates!

Hope you enjoy the weekend!