

Culver Community Update

Save the Date!

Thursday, February 15th	Parent Teacher Conferences No School for Students
Friday, February 16th	Teacher Institute Day No School for Students
Monday, February 19th	No School

ParentSquare

You should have received a signup email for our new communication platform, ParentSquare. Although it is not required, we encourage every parent to login, review the platform, and establish language and notification preferences. There is also a free ParentSquare app available in all app stores.

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 own language – ParentSquare supports over 100 languages!

Setting up a ParentSquare account allows you to:

- Quickly view recent school updates.
- Stay informed with a detailed school calendar.
- Set your language preferences.
- Set your notification and communication preferences

Training for ParentSquare will be available during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, February 15th.

We're excited to launch ParentSquare and hope you'll be early adopters!

5Essentials

There will be an opportunity to take the 5Essentials survey during parent/teacher conferences next Thursday, January 15th.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is a tool that measures five key areas linked to student success: effective leadership, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environments, and ambitious instruction. By taking the survey, our school can gain valuable insights into our school's strengths and weaknesses in these areas. It will also help us develop targeted strategies to create a more positive learning environment for all students.

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/>

Lost and Found

We have many items in our lost and found. Please feel free to visit next Thursday, during Parent/Teacher Conferences, anytime from 11-6. All items will be in our front foyer. Items will be donated next weekend.

Niles Teen Center

Please see the two *attached* event ads at the Niles Teen Center - chess tournament and wellness-focused presentation.

In Case You Missed It...

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.

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

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](#).

Vision/Hearing Information

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

Culver School PTA!

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

Hope you enjoy the weekend!