



Joyce Carmine, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

242 South Orchard Drive
Park Forest, Illinois 60466
Phone: (708) 668-9400
Fax: (708) 748-7071
www.sd163.com

March 19, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child prepares for the transition to the 4th grade in the Fall of 2019, Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 is pleased to announce that we offer two school options, for students who are Eligible. The Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts or the Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM. Each school will offer different enhancements to peak student interest and infuse a deeper and more challenging component within the regular curriculum. All District schools will offer the core curriculum with alignment to the Illinois State Standards.

The Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts will offer a program in the arts that includes theater, music, and visual arts. Eligible students will have additional opportunities for the performing arts through show choir and theater performances. Go to <https://youtu.be/Xytws-V8V00> to learn more about the Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts.

The Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM will offer a program of student leadership for upper-grade students, STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for all students, as well as special programming in Horticulture. This exciting curriculum integrates hands-on learning with technology and literacy in ways that motivate and excite students in areas such as alternative energy, robotics, and communication media arts. Eligible students will also be given opportunities for additional field learning experiences. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/sd163ols> to learn more about the Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM.

Students who qualify for eligibility will have the option to choose their school based on their individual interests in learning. Attached you will find a copy of the eligibility rubric that the staff will use to evaluate your child's eligibility status for school choice, and a School Choice Application.

We are asking that you discuss the two school options with your child and complete an application indicating your child's preference for his/her school assignment. Your child's teacher is completing the eligibility rubric. **Please complete and return the school choice application to Tammy Graves at the District Office at 242 S. Orchard Drive, Park Forest, IL by Monday, May 6, 2019.** Your application will be reviewed in conjunction with your child's eligibility rubric. The final selection will be made by the Superintendent, and you will be notified no later than May

21st Century Primary Center
240 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490
Fax (708) 747-0261

Algonquin Primary Center
170 Algonquin
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200
Fax (708) 503-2267

Barack Obama School of
Leadership and STEM
401 Concord Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100
Fax (708) 283-2358

Blackhawk Primary Center
130 Blackhawk Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500
Fax (708) 481-0917

Mohawk Primary Center
301 Mohawk
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300
Fax (708) 748-9738

Michelle Obama School of
Technology and the Arts
215 Wilson Street
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600
Fax (708) 503-2297

"Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities"

20, 2019. Students who are not eligible to choose their attendance center will be assigned to either Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts or the Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM.

We are pleased and proud that we can offer our children a progressive learning experience that will continue to inspire and challenge each student's quest for knowledge.

Sincerely,

Joyce Carmine, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

att: School Choice Option Information
Eligibility Rubric
School Choice Application

SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

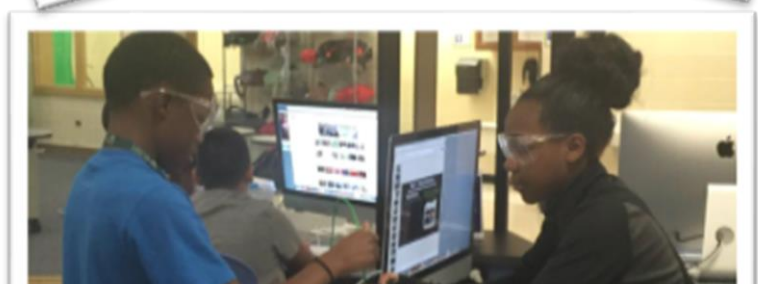
Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

Recognizes that the following beliefs are critical for consideration when making decisions regarding school and classroom selections:

- ✚ Each student is unique with an individual student profile based on academic and social strengths and needs, as well as the student's interests.
- ✚ Brain research suggests that the brain thrives on choice and challenge. Student choice is a strong motivational factor relating to school success.
- ✚ Students and parents must work together to ensure that students are responsible for their learning.

Various factors impact school success. These include:

- Student completes quality class work on time
 - Student completes quality homework
 - Student returns evidence of at-home reading assignments
 - Student demonstrates perseverance
 - Student maintains a 3.0 or higher grade point average
 - Student's attendance rate
 - Student's behavior
- ✚ Class size impacts school success. Space is also a consideration when making class assignments.
 - ✚ School stability is an important factor for student success in school.





Park Forest - Chicago Heights District 163

School District 163 – www.sd163.com

2019-2020 School Choice Application

Student Name _____

Home Address _____

Telephone: _____

Current School _____ 21st _____ Blackhawk _____ Mohawk

Current Homeroom Teacher _____

My child is interested in attending the school selected below for 4th grade:

Barack Obama School of Leadership an STEM

Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts

For the following reasons:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

For office use only:

Date received _____ By _____

| | Criteria | 0 Points | 1 Point | 2 points | 3 Points | 4 points | 5 Points | Evidence |
|-------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Work Ethic | % of time Student completes quality class work on time. | Less than 75% | 75% - 79% | 80-84% | 85-89% | 90-94% | 95-100% | Teacher Grade Book Score_____ |
| | % of time Student completes quality homework . | Less than 75% | 75% - 79% | 80-84% | 85-89% | 90-94% | 95-100% | Teacher Grade Book Score_____ |
| | % of time Student returns evidence of at-home reading assignments (book report, reading log, etc). | Less than 75% | 75% - 79% | 80-84% | 85-89% | 90-94% | 95-100% | At Home Reading log/report Score_____ |
| | Student demonstrates perseverance | Needs teacher support with all tasks/off-task most of the time. | Makes an effort to engage in tasks of mostly their choice. | Is sometimes engaged and devotes energy to lower level tasks. | Is often intellectually engaged and devotes energy to grade level tasks | Is intellectually engaged most of the time and devotes energy to grade level tasks | Is always intellectually engaged and devotes energy to rigorous tasks | Teacher recommendation Score_____ |
| | Student's grade point average during the 1 st and 2 nd marking periods | 1.99 or lower | 2.0-2.49 | 2.5-2.99 | 3.0-3.49 | 3.5-3.9 | 4.0 | District GPA Report Score_____ |
| | Attendance Rate *Medical report documenting chronic illness such as: sickle cell, diabetes, or asthma. | Less than 85% | 85-89% | | 90-94% | | 95% - 100% or absences as a result of a chronic illness * | District Student Attendance Report Score_____ |
| | Student's Behavior | Needs continuous redirection and /or has more than four referrals | Needs consistent redirection and is challenged behaviorally and/or has 3-4 referrals. | Needs frequent redirection in class and has 1-2 office referrals. | Demonstrates appropriate behavior for most of the time with reminders | Demonstrates appropriate behaviors/needs few reminders | Models appropriate behaviors/self directed | School Referral Database Score_____ |
| | | | | | | | | Total Score _____ |