



Joyce Carmine, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

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Park Forest, Illinois 60466
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www.sd163.com

March 12, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child prepares for the transition to the 4th grade in the Fall of 2018, Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 is pleased to announce that we offer two school options based on your child’s interest and eligibility. The Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts and 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://tinyurl.com/sd163mos> 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, and STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for all students. 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 Tuesday, May 1, 2018.** Your application will be reviewed in conjunction with your child’s eligibility rubric.

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”

The final selection will be made by the Superintendent, and you will be notified no later than June 1, 2018. 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.
Superintendent of Schools

att: School Choice Option Information
Eligibility Rubric
School Choice Application

SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

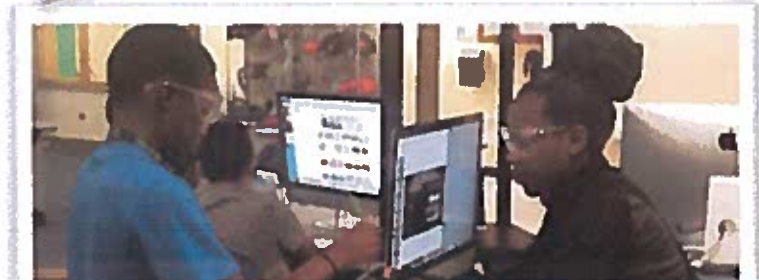
Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

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

2018-19 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 _____