

D211 POST: SCHAUMBURG STUDENTS HOLD STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE

Students from Schaumburg High School's Students Helping Others partnered with the Schaumburg High School Student Council to hold their first ever "Stuff the Bus" food drive November 11.

D211 POST: SCHAUMBURG SENIOR CROWNED NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS ILLINOIS TEEN



Schaumburg High School senior Courtney Larsen has been competing in pageants for nearly a decade. On September 26, she achieved a milestone when she was named the 2020 National American Miss Illinois Teen.

Larsen said she was shocked when announcement had been made.

“There were definitely tears shed,” she said. “I have never won a title before. I was so thrilled that I had finally accomplished my goal. I didn’t know how else to filter my emotions but to just cry.”

Due to COVID-19, this year’s pageant was handled remotely. Competitors submitted a resume, a video introduction, and an essay about a charity of their choice. Competitors then conducted an interview with a judge over Zoom. Larsen said the charity she chose to focus on was Life Goes On.

Each year, National American Miss Illinois Teen chooses a cause they will champion over the course of their reign. Larsen chose organ donation as her cause. She said it is a cause which has a personal connection.

“I’m very passionate about organ donation because my grandfather has been on the wait list for a kidney for the past six years,” she said. “Plus, since getting my driver’s license, I have heard a lot of strange misconceptions from my friends as they got theirs. Since then, I have become very passionate about teaching people what it means to save a life or eight through organ donation.”

She added that one of the biggest misconceptions she has heard was that signing up meant the donor had to give up an organ immediately.

“I think it’s important to understand that you will not give up anything until you pass away,” she said.

Larsen’s reign will run through July 2021, during which she will attend the national competition, perform hours of community service, and attend charity events and parades.



While the title does include a scholarship, Larsen said there are many benefits to the title.

“This will also look great on my college admissions essay,” she said. “But the biggest thing is that I will be able to meet other girls from around the country who are motivated to make a huge impact in their communities and the world. Being around them, I feel, will inspire me to do more as well.”

Larsen said that she would encourage girls and women of any age to participate in pageants.

“No matter your age, pageants will benefit you,” she said. “I believe they develop skills every woman needs to know growing up. I didn’t know I enjoyed public speaking before I did pageants. They also help build confidence that you will always use in future careers.”

Larsen will attend the National American Miss competition in November. Following graduation, she plans to attend Iowa State University where she will major in fashion design.

To learn more about organ donation visit lifegoeson.com.

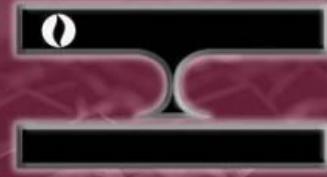
D211 POST: NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK (SLIDESHOW)

October 12-16, is National School Lunch Week. Throughout District 211 members of our food service department have continued to work to ensure that, even during remote learning, out students have access to stable meals. To date, District 211 has provided more than 1 million meals since the initial move to remote learning, and our food service staff continue to pack more meal bags every day while still providing normal meal service for teachers and staff members working in the schools.

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D211 POST: 30 DISTRICT 211

STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS



HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211
ANNOUNCES

NATIONAL MERIT
SEMIFINALISTS
FOR 2021

Last month, the National Merit Scholarship program released its list of the 2021 semifinalists in their 66th annual list.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Semifinalists are selected based on scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (P.S.A.T./N.M.S.Q.T.).

William Fremd High School students Nathan A. Arango, Ysabelle F. Buenavista, Cara A. Chang, Stella J. Chung, Gabriel K. Classon, Joshua P. Corrigan, Manas P. Gandhi, Natalia M. Gorecki, Allison Y. Kao, Anshul Kaushik, Sravya Konasani, Ethan Lin, Michelle Liu, Angela Ma, Mahima Malhotra, Gavin K. McCarthy, Gwendolyn R. Nicketta, David D. Phillips, Jessica W. Rao, Sufiya M. Shazia, Rachel Ye, Angelina J. Zheng, and William Zhong have been named semifinalists.

James B. Conant High School students Nicholas K. Chen, Martin G. Ferris, Rei Komura, Sanjana Rajesh, and Matthew Schmitt were selected as semifinalists.

MaryEtta M. Brigham from Palatine High School and Mia L. Vollkommer from Schaumburg High School have been named semifinalists.

D211 POST: DISTRICT 211 BEGINS AFTERNOON ACADEMIC SUPPORT SESSION



On August 24, Township High School District 211 began its Afternoon Academic Support Sessions. The sessions will allow students to sign up for limited, in-person education and study assistance.

Through the sessions, students can sign up for support in general areas such as math tutoring labs, reading and writing support or quiet studies; or they can sign up for sessions which focus on specialized content such as needing lab equipment or unique manufacturing equipment.

While a majority of the Afternoon Academic Support Sessions will be hosted virtually, there will be limited opportunities to schedule in-person sessions. The sessions will have a very limited number of seats available, so students are encouraged to sign up through SignUpGenius early.

In-person sessions will observe very strict health and safety guidelines. Every student who attends a session will be required to complete an online wellness survey prior to arriving at the school. Once at school, students will have their temperature checked to verify they are fever-free. Only students who have a scheduled session, have completed the wellness survey, and are fever-free will be allowed to enter the building. While in the building, all students will be

required to maintain appropriate social distancing and wear a face mask at all times.

District 211 transportation will have mid-day bus routes available for each session. Bus information can be found in the Infinite Campus parent and student portals. It is recommended that students report to their assigned stop 15 minutes after 4th period on the day of their scheduled sessions.

Any questions should be addressed to the student's team administrator or guidance counselor.

D211 POST: FOOD SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION TO PAIR UP FOR MEAL DELIVERY



| *Staff members load meal bags into the back of a District 211 school bus March 13, 2020.*

Following the decision by Township High School District 211 to begin the school year with remote learning, the food service and transportation departments have announced a plan for student meal deliveries.

Beginning August 13, District transportation will start delivering meal bags to students. Under the program, students can sign up for weekly meal deliveries by filling out the Google form [here](#). Once a student fills out the form, they will receive a response which will notify them of which day of the week is their delivery day. Each meal bag will contain five breakfasts and five lunches.

Meal bags will be available at no cost for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. All others can purchase the meal bags at a cost of \$21. Payments for meal bags can be made through [MySchoolBucks](#).

Prior to the start of the meal drop-off, District 211 will hold one additional curbside pick-up August 12 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bags will be available at a cost of \$21 for those who do not qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Pick-up locations for each school are listed below.

August 12 Meal Bag Pickup Locations:

Palatine High School – North side of the building near the bus hub

Fremd High School– Door 6 near the auditorium

Conant High School– Door 25 near the atrium entrance

Schaumburg High School– Door 4 near the bus parking

Hoffman Estates High School– Door 6 on the Northwest side of the building

D211 POST: DISTRICT 211 CREATES EQUITY TEAM



The Township High School District 211 Board of Education approved a motion to establish the creation of the District 211 Equity Team during their July 16, 2020 meeting. The team, which will be led by a core committee of staff members, students, parents, Board of Education liaisons and community members, will be responsible for a variety of tasks which will work to promote equity across the District.

In her statement to the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Lisa Small said, "District 211 has a strong history as a school community where concepts of equity are valued and integrated into the mindset, actions and daily interactions of every student, staff member and parent. We have been, and continue to be, aware of the necessity that we understand and respond to the ever-changing needs within both our school community and our broader world."

Among its responsibilities, the team will be tasked with including and affirming the voices of students, staff and families from our District community, defining the organizational priorities and practices that contribute to equity across District 211, analyzing qualitative and quantitative data to identify goals, metrics and accountability measures to ensure high levels of equity across District 211, and Creating a strategic equity plan that will drive short- and long-term systematic changes and improvements for our entire community.

The core committee will work through a 4-phase structure to create the District's Equity Plan. The phases, which begin August 2020 and run through June 2021 are:

- Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement – Beginning August 2020
- Phase 2: Research and Community Input (equity audits, focus groups, opportunities for community feedback) – Beginning October 2020

- Phase 3: Data Analysis and Application – Following Phase 2
- Phase 4: Development of Strategic Equity Plan – Drafted in Spring 2021

The core committee will present the District 211 Strategic Equity Plan to the Board of Education during the June 2021 meeting.