

Mohawk Parent News

September 2026



We are off to a Magnificent Start!

Our first two weeks of school have been very busy, but also incredibly meaningful and purposeful. Students have been hard at work learning, growing, and building positive relationships with their classmates and teachers. Each day, children are learning about our school-wide expectations, behaviors, and routines that help create a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment for everyone.

We ask that you take time to review the school handbook with your child. Reinforcing our school expectations at home and discussing the importance of making good choices each day will help

set your child up for success both academically and socially.

In addition, we cannot stress enough the importance of reading at home. Please make reading to and with your child a nightly routine. Just a few minutes of reading each evening can have a tremendous impact on your child's academic growth, vocabulary development, and love of learning. The home-school connection is essential to student success. When families and schools work together, children benefit greatly. Please help us ensure that learning continues even after your child leaves school each day by encouraging reading, discussing what they learned, and supporting positive habits at home.

Thank you for your partnership and for all you do to support your child's education. We are excited about the great year ahead!





New Team Members

Each year brings positive change, and this includes a few exciting additions and changes to our school staff. We are thrilled to welcome new team members who bring with them not only a



wealth of expertise but also a genuine passion for working with young children. Some of these individuals are new to our school district, while others are familiar faces who have served in various roles over the years. Regardless of their path here, each of our new team members shares a deep commitment to the academic success and well-being of our students. We encourage you to take a few moments to get to know our new (and returning) staff

members as they become an integral part of the Mohawk family!

New & Returning Staff members

Room 1 Ms. Falk (kdg)

Room 2 Mrs. Easton (kdg)

Room 3 Ms. L. Morgan (kdg)

Room 4 Mrs. Albright (2nd grade)

Room 5 Mrs. Mescall/Mrs. McLaughlin/Mr. Roberts (multi-grade)

Room 6 Mrs. Balentine (3rd grade)

Room 7 Ms. Pacewic (1st grade)

Room 8 Ms. Whitaker (3rd grade)

Room 9 Mrs. Wooten (3rd grade)

Room 10 Mrs. Williams (1st grade)

Room 11 Mrs. Nave (1st grade)

Room 12 Ms. Pruitt (2nd grade)

Room 13 Mrs. Will (Mrs. Jenkins, Ms. Ribel, Mrs. Goldfarb, Ms. Summerville)

Room 14 Ms. Wilson (2nd grade)

Room 15 Mrs. Woods/Ms. Lee & Ms. Destua

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Peggy

Building Assistants: Mrs. Davis & Ms. Daisy

Media Tech: Ms. Saunders

Specialists

Mrs. Alcumbrac (Psychologist)

Mrs. Frige (Social Worker)

Dr. Harmon (Speech Pathologist)

Mrs. Berg (Speech Pathologist)

Ms. Passmore (Resource Teacher)

Coach D (Physical Education Teacher)

Ms. Young-Bey (STEAM Facilitator)

Ms. Saunders (Media Tech Assistant)

Ms. Thomas (Music Teacher)

Ms. Collier (Interventionist)

Ms. Riebel (Interventionists)

Ms. Scott (ELL Teacher)

Mrs. Barcenas (ELL T.A.)

Ms. Jenkins (Interventionists)

Mrs. Goldfarb (Interventionists)

Ms. Summerville (Interventionists)

Mohawk Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Safety and Security

All schools in Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 are equipped with the Blue Point Alert System. Blue Point is a life-safety response system with components that look and function much like a fire alarm system but it is designed for police and medical emergencies. Activating the system will instantly alert police or paramedics in the event of a life-threatening emergency.

We have a long-term commitment to providing a safe learning environment for all who enter our doors and have installed the Blue Point Alert System to complement and enhance the safety and security measures we have in place.

The Blue Point System:

- Automates and accelerates emergency response
- Provides internal communications for our leadership team
- Improves situational awareness with real-time information for police or paramedics



As required by Illinois School Code and District 163 Board Policy, we will conduct a district-wide drill. The drill will involve the police department to ensure that we are as prepared as possible. In an effort to communicate appropriately to students, the District will regard this training as “blue

lockdown in the event there is a dangerous intruder.” Please be on the lookout for a letter that will come home with your child(ren) informing of more information and the date of the drill.



Please be advised that all doors are locked. This means all visitors to the school must be buzzed into the building. Visitors should park on Mohawk Street to enter the main office. This includes parents, guardians, vendors, and any other visitors to the school. This procedure is for the safety and welfare of all staff and students. If there is a change in dismissal for your child, we require a note from home or a phone call to Mrs. Peggy (668-9302) to confirm a change in transportation or dismissal.

Speaking of Safety

- Flip flop shoes are not allowed on the playground
- Earrings (for boys and girls) are only allowed in both ears
- Halter tops/back out tops/spaghetti straps are not allowed
- Lipstick and Make-up can only be worn by adults
- Weapons (or toy weapons) of any sort are not allowed



For the complete listing of school rules and expectations please review the parent handbook.

attendance **MATTERS**

every student • every day



This year, our School District will use Thrillshare and Class Dojo to communicate with parents. Thrillshare offers our school families access to the district and school newsletters and updates. I will also post important school information via Thrillshare at www.sd163.com to keep you and parents informed. An invitation will be necessary for parents to join your Class Dojo. Class Dojo provides an immediate connection to communicate with your school families. Every teacher is expected to have a class dojo page.

Our School Day:
8:15 a.m.–3:00p.m.

Breakfast Begins:
7:50a.m.

Early Dismissals
8:15a.m.-12:30p.m.



Help Your Child Do Well in School:

Build the Habit of Good Attendance



Did you know?

- Too many absences in preschool and elementary school can cause children to struggle socially and academically.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Missing 10% of school (2 days each month) can make it harder to learn to read and do basic math.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school — and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool and through elementary school so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important.



What you can do

- Set a **regular** bedtime and morning **routine**.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks **the night before**.
- **Keep** your child **healthy** and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Develop **backup plans** for getting to school if something comes up.
- **Monitor** your child's **absences**.
- Try to schedule **nonurgent medical appointments** and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems **anxious** about going to school, **talk to teachers**, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are **concerned** that your child may have a contagious illness, **call** your school nurse or health-care provider **for advice**. Ask the teacher for ideas to support missed learning time.

Lunchroom Menus



Breakfast Sept MOH.pdf

[Download](#)
393.0 KB



Lunch Sept MOH.pdf

[Download](#)
404.9 KB

Student Birthdays

In an effort to maximize learning time, we **do not permit classroom birthday parties**. If you would like to honor your child for his/her birthday you may send store bought cupcakes to the office (cupcakes are voluntarily). Please do not send pizza, cake, ice cream, balloons, nor treat bags. Each student will have their birthday acknowledged by receiving a birthday surprise from Dr. Chinn; and their name will be read on the announcements. Based upon classroom procedures, a small classroom celebration (singing, cupcakes; if donated by the family) may take place in the classroom.



Important Dates

9/1 Welcome September!!!

9/4 School-Wide Station Rotations

9/7 No School-Labor Day

9/8 iReady window opens

9/8 Brown Bag Assembly

9/8 12:30 Early Dismissal

9/14 Primary Schools **Hispanic Heritage Spirit Week**

9/17 Title I Mtg (5:30 pm-6:00 pm) & OpenHouse (6:00 pm-7:00 pm)

9/23 Scheduled Fire Drill

9/24 Student of the month assembly

9/24 Kindergarten Apple Orchard Fieldtrip

9/29 12:30 Early Dismissal/Parent/Teacher Conferences

A poster for an early dismissal event. At the top, there are illustrations of green scissors, a yellow crayon, and a stack of books. The text "Mohawk Primary Center" is in blue. Below it, "Early" is in large orange letters and "Dismissal" is in large blue cursive letters. To the left of "Dismissal" is a blue backpack and to the right is a red backpack. Below the title, there are two rows of colorful pencils. A red rounded rectangle in the center contains the text "12:30 p.m. September 8, 2026" in white. Below this, in smaller white text, is "(MAIN OFFICE 708.668.9302)" and "301 Mohawk St. Park Forest, IL 60466". At the bottom right, a red rounded rectangle contains the text "FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.sd163.COM" in white. There are also two paper clips on the left side.

Mohawk Primary Center

Early Dismissal

12:30 p.m.
September 8, 2026

(MAIN OFFICE 708.668.9302)
301 Mohawk St. Park Forest,
IL 60466

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
WWW.sd163.COM

A poster for a back-to-school open house. At the top, there are illustrations of a stack of books, a glue stick, a notepad, scissors, and another stack of books. The text "JOIN US FOR A" is in white. Below it, "Back To School" is in large, colorful, blocky letters. A yellow pencil is drawn horizontally across the middle. Below the pencil, "OPEN HOUSE" is in large, white, blocky letters. Underneath that, in smaller yellow text, is "COME MEET THE TEACHER & SEE THE CLASSROOM". A green horizontal line separates the header from the event details. Below the line, there are two columns of text. The left column has "Thursday" in white, "September 17, 2026" in green, and "Mohawk Library Title I mtg. 5:30 p.m." in white. The right column has "Mohawk Primary Center Gym" in white and "Open House 6pm-7pm" in white. There are two red apples, one on the left and one on the right, near the event details. At the bottom, there is a row of colorful pencils.

JOIN US FOR A

Back To School

OPEN HOUSE

COME MEET THE TEACHER & SEE THE CLASSROOM

Thursday September 17, 2026 Mohawk Library Title I mtg. 5:30 p.m.	Mohawk Primary Center Gym Open House 6pm-7pm
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Let's have a great
school year!



Mohawk Primary Center

Email: cchinn@sd163.com

Website: www.sd163.com

Location: [301 Mohawk Street, Park Forest, IL, USA](#)

Phone: 708 668-9300



Chrishawn Chinn

Chrishawn is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters