

Park Forest–Chicago Heights School District 163

Continuing To Build Positive & Effective Learning Communities



2023-2024 Parent/Student Calendar

21st Century Primary Center (Grades K - 3)

Mrs. Jennifer Gervase, *Principal*
240 S. Orchard Drive • Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490 • Fax (708) 395-2514
(708) 668-9450 to report absences

Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center (Pre-Kindergarten)

Mrs. Felice Hybert, *Principal*
170 Algonquin • Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200 • Fax (708) 395-2512
(708) 668-9250 to report absences

Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM (Grades 4 - 5)

Mrs. Lori Colbert, *Principal*
Ms. Danielle Gladstone, *Principal*
401 Concord Drive • Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100 • Fax (708) 395-2511
(708) 668-9150 to report absences

Blackhawk Primary Center (Grades K - 3)

Ms. Kelli Pumphrey, *Principal*
130 Blackhawk Drive • Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500 • Fax (708) 395-2517
(708) 668-9550 to report absences

Mohawk Primary Center (Grades K - 3)

Dr. Chrishawn Chinn, *Principal*
301 Mohawk • Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300 • Fax (708) 395-2513
(708) 668-9350 to report absences

Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts (Grades 6 - 8)

Dr. Taiyuan Banks, *Principal*
Dr. Felix Anderson, *Principal*
Mr. TJ Lee, *Assistant Principal*
530 Lakewood • Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600 • Fax (708) 395-2516
(708) 668-9650 to report absences

www.sdl63.com

Administrative Offices

242 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9400 • www.sdl63.com

Mission Statement

Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163 is committed to meeting the needs of our diverse student body and to promoting high educational standards by:

- differentiating instruction
- nurturing active, strategic and higher level thinking skills
- inspiring a love of lifelong learning

Belief Statement

We, the community and staff of the Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163, believe:

1. All children want to and can learn.
2. Education empowers the student to be a productive member of society.
3. High academic expectations are essential for excellence.
4. Children are the central focus of the District's educational processes and decisions.
5. Respecting each individual's worth is vital to a positive educational climate.
6. The multi-racial and multi-cultural experience is essential for the development of the total person and community.
7. A positive educational climate fosters high expectations and performance for all.
8. Each individual has a responsibility to contribute to a positive learning environment.
9. Education is a partnership based on the participation of the students, parents, staff, and community.
10. Students are influenced by adult role models.

Administration Center Hours

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Hours

Kindergarten – 8th Grade Students: 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Early Childhood Program Students:

8:15 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. • 12:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Full Day Pre-kindergarten 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163 Board of Education

Margaret McDannel, *President*

Allison R. McCray, *Vice President*

Kimberly Elmore-Perkins, *Secretary*

Jacqueline Jordan, *Assistant Secretary*

Dr. Christina Dupee, *Board Member*

Takesha Howard, *Board Member*

Walter L. Mosby III, *Board Member*

Administration Center

242 S. Orchard Drive • Park Forest, IL 60466

Dr. Joyce Carmine
Interim Superintendent
(708) 668-9427

Dr. Ericka Patterson
Associate Superintendent of Human Resources
(708) 668-9413

Dr. Regina Nottke
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
(708) 668-9434

Mr. David Ricker
Chief School Business Official
(708) 668-9400

Dr. Erika Johnson
Director of Instructional Services and Grants
(708) 668-9417

Ms. Valerie Valente
*Director of Instructional Services for Mathematics
and STEM Programs*
(708) 668-9454

Mr. Dion Wiley
IT Director
(708) 668-9409

Dr. Karen Burns

*Director of New Teacher Development and Student
Intervention Programming*
(708) 668-9406

Instructional Services

Mrs. Lori Colbert
Director of District Honors Program
(708) 668-9101

Transportation & Food Services

Mrs. Sandi Gordon
Manager
(708) 668-9425

Bullying Hotline

(708) 668-9638

MyPal - Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM:
<https://www.mypalschools.com/sd163midsch>

**MyPal - Michelle Obama School of Technology
and the Arts:**
<https://www.mypalschools.com/sd163jrhs>

Year at a Glance

August 17-18 Teacher Institute Days

August 21 First Day of School

September 4 Labor Day, No School

September 5 Michelle Open House, 6:30 pm
Early Release, 12:30 pm

September 6 Barack Open House, 6:30 pm

September 7 Blackhawk Open House, 6:00 pm

September 13 Algonquin Open House, 6:00 pm

September 19 Mohawk Open House, 6:00 pm

September 21 21st Open House, 6:00 pm

September 28 Teacher Institute Day

October 3 Early Release, 12:30 pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:00-4:00 pm

October 9 Columbus Day, No School

October 17 Early Release, 12:30 pm

October 20 1st Quarter Ends

November 7 Early Release, 12:30 pm

November 10 Veterans Day (observed), No School

November 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 2-8:00 pm

November 21 Parent/Teacher Conferences,
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

November 22-24 Fall Break, No School

December 12 Early Release, 12:30 pm

Dec. 25 - Jan. 5 Winter Break, No School

January 15 Martin Luther King Day, No School

January 16 Early Release, 12:30 pm

January 19 2nd Quarter Ends

February 6 Early Release, 12:30 pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-4:00 pm

February 19 Presidents' Day, No School

February 20 Early Release, 12:30 pm

March 1 Mid-Winter Break, No School

March 4 Casimir Pulaski Day, No School

March 12 Early Release, 12:30 pm

March 19 Teacher Institute Day

March 22 3rd Quarter Ends

March 29 Good Friday, No School

April 1-5 Spring Break, No School

April 16 Early Release, 12:30 pm

May 21 Early Release, 12:30 pm

May 23 8th Grade Graduation

May 27 Memorial Day, No School

May 31 Last Day of School, 4th Quarter Ends

June 19 Juneteenth, No School

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

AUGUST 2023

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Download these useful apps...  		1	2	3 Algonquin Preschool Screening	4 Algonquin Preschool Screening	5
6	7	8	9	10 Barack Parent Meeting 5:30 PM	11	12
13	14	15 Algonquin Preschool Screening	16	17 Teacher Institute	18 Teacher Institute	19
20	21 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	New Teacher Orientation				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Prepare a weekly schedule each Sunday before a school week. Update the schedule as the week goes on.			

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

SEPTEMBER 2023

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Contact your child's teacher via phone message or email at the start of the school year. Be certain you are added to a teacher's Class Dojo and or website; many teachers digitally provide helpful tips and reminders.					1 Mohawk Summer Packet Celebration Algonquin Preschool Screening	2
3	4 Labor Day No School	5 Early Release 12:30 PM Michelle Open House 6:30 PM	6 Barack Title I Meeting 6:00 PM Open House 6:30 PM Algonquin Early Childhood Network 5:30 PM	7 Blackhawk Title I Meeting 5:30 PM Open House 6:00 PM	8	9
10	11	12	13 Algonquin Title I Meeting 5:00 PM Open House 6:00 PM	14 Michelle Title I Meeting 5:00 PM	15 Blackhawk & 21st Summer Packet Celebration	16
17	18	19 Mohawk Title I Parent Academy Meeting 5:30 PM Open House 6:00 PM	20	21 21st Title I Meeting 5:30 PM Open House 6:00 PM	22	23
24	25 Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	26	27	28 Teacher Institute	29 Mohawk, Blackhawk & 21st Student of the Month Algonquin Family Play Group 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM	30

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

OCTOBER 2023

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Early Release 12:30 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00 - 4:00 PM	4	5	6 Algonquin Preschool Screening	7
8	9 Columbus Day No School	10	11	12 Barack Hispanic Heritage Celebration 6:30 PM Algonquin Early Childhood Network 5:30 PM	13	14
15	16	17 Early Release 12:30 PM	18	19	20 1st Quarter Ends	21
22	23 Board Meeting Education Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	24	25 Michelle Curriculum Night 6:00 PM	26 Barack Family Math Night 6:30 PM	27 Algonquin Family Play Group 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM Blackhawk & 21st Student of the Month	28
	Red Ribbon Week					
29	30 Mohawk Student of the Month	31 Algonquin, Mohawk, Blackhawk & 21st Character Day Halloween	<i>Have you signed in to Skyward? Have you signed up for Thrillshare Rooms? Please remember to check your child's grades regularly.</i> <i>Check out our live news feed #elevatingexcellence</i>			

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

NOVEMBER 2023

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Is your child completing all required i-Ready lessons?</i> <i>This is an important part of the math and ELA programs.</i>			1	2	3 Algonquin Preschool Screening	4
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends	6	7 Early Release 12:30 PM Algonquin Early Childhood Network 5:30 PM	8	9	10 Veteran's Day (Observed) No School	11
12	13 Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Primary Reading Night 6:00 PM	17 Barack Real Men Read/ Family Reading Night 6:30 PM Algonquin Family Play Group 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM	18
Anti-Bullying Week						
19	20 Parent/Teacher Conference 2:00 - 8:00 pm	21 Parent/Teacher Conference 8:00 am - 1:00 pm	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
Fall Break - Schools Closed						
26	27	28	29	30 Mohawk, Blackhawk & 21st Student of the Month	<i>Remember to schedule your Parent Teacher Conferences.</i>	

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

DECEMBER 2023

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please check the Live Feed section on the website or in the District 163 app for upcoming events.					1 Algonquin Preschool Screening	2
3	4	5	6	7 Barack STEM Night 6:30 PM Hanukkah Begins	8	9
10	11	12 Early Release 12:30 pm	13	14 21st Holiday Show 1:30 pm	15 Algonquin Holiday Show 9:30 am & 1:30 pm	16
17	18 Mohawk Holiday Show 1:30 pm Board Meeting Regular Session 7:00 pm	19 Blackhawk Holiday Show 1:30 pm	20 Barack Holiday Show 1:30 pm	21 Michelle Holiday Show 7:00 pm	22 Mohawk, Blackhawk & 21st Student of the Month	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	Winter Break - No School					

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

JANUARY 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
	Winter Break - No School					
7	8 School Resumes	9	10	11 Algonquin Early Childhood Network 5:30 PM	12 Algonquin Preschool Screening	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	16 Early Release 12:30 PM	17	18	19 2nd Quarter Ends	20
21	22 Michelle 7th Grade Federal Constitution Test Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	23	24	25 Michelle 7th/8th Grade Science Fair	26 21st Student of the Month Algonquin Family Play Group 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM	27
28	29 Mohawk Student of the Month	30	31 Blackhawk Student of the Month	<i>Help your child start off the new year with a "Kindness Matters" resolution.</i>		

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

FEBRUARY 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Black History Month</i> <i>Have you spent time reading and discussing the contributions of Black Americans?</i> <i>Sharing stories of our families is an important part of building family traditions in all ethnicities.</i>				1 Algonquin Early Childhood Network 5:30 PM	2 Algonquin Preschool Screening	3
4	5	6 Early Release 12:30 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00 - 4:00 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day No School	20 Early Release 12:30 PM	21	22 21st Black History Program 1:30 pm	23 Algonquin Black History Program 9:30 am & 1:30 pm	24
25	26 Board Meeting Education Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	27 Barack Black History Program	28 Mohawk Black History Program 1:30 pm Blackhawk Student of the Month	29 Blackhawk Black History Program 1:30 pm Mohawk & 21st Student of the Month		

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

MARCH 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Download this useful app  Check our live news feed...#elevatingexcellence					1 Mid-Winter Break No School	2
3	4 Casimir Pulaski Day No School	5	6	7 Primary Family Math Night 6:00 PM	8 Barack Women Working STEM Algonquin Preschool Screening	9
Dr. Suess Spirit Week						
10 Daylight Saving Time Starts	11	12 Early Release 12:30 PM	13	14 Algonquin Early Childhood Network/Title I Meeting 5:30 PM	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Teacher Institute	20	21	22 3rd Quarter Ends	23
24	25 Michelle 7th Grade IL Constitution Test Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	26	27	28 Algonquin Family Play Group 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM Mohawk, Blackhawk & 21st Student of the Month	29 Good Friday No School	30
31 Easter						

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

APRIL 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Spring Break – No School					
7	8 School Resumes	9	10	11 Algonquin Early Childhood Network 5:30 pm	12 Algonquin Preschool Screening	13
14	15	16 Early Release 12:30 pm	17	18	19 Barack Arts and Innovation Program	20
21	22 Primary Science Fair Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	23 3rd Grade Step-Up Day Blackhawk Title I Meeting 6:00 PM	24	25	26 Algonquin Family Play Group 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM Mohawk & 21st Student of the Month	27
28	29	30 Blackhawk Student of the Month	Spring Break is a great time to catch up on i-Ready, missing assignments and reading logs.			

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

MAY 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Allow children to make a household budget with you. When shopping, let them do price comparisons for the items that will be purchased.			1 Michelle Title I Meeting 5:00 PM	2	3 Algonquin Preschool Screening	4
5	6	7	8 Blackhawk 3rd Grade Spelling Bee	9 Barack Energy Fair Mohawk 3rd Grade Spelling Bee	10 Barack Title I Meeting 5:00 PM 21st Spelling Bee	11
Mental Health Awareness Week						
12 Mother's Day	13 21st Title I Meeting	14 Mohawk Title I Meeting 9:30 AM	15	16 Algonquin Preschool Step Up Day	17	18
19	20 Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm	21 Early Release 12:30 PM	22	23 Barack 5th Grade Step-Up Day Michelle 8th Grade Graduation 7:00 pm	24 21st Student of the Month Barack & 21st Field Day Algonquin Preschool Spring Celebration of Learning Mohawk Student of the Month	25
26	27 Memorial Day No School	28	29 Mohawk Field Day	30 Blackhawk Field Day Algonquin & Michelle Field Day Blackhawk Student of the Month	31 Last Day of School Before Emergency Days 4th Quarter Ends	

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

JUNE 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
How much time does your child spend reading? Help your children keep track of how they use their time for a week by creating a "time log."						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Emergency Days					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Father's Day			Juneteenth No School			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Board Meeting Finance Committee 6:00 pm Regular Session 7:00 pm					

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

July 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day No School	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Family Field Trips to the zoo, museum or farm can enhance background knowledge necessary for strong reading comprehension skills.		

21st Century Primary Center
(708) 668-9490
Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
(708) 668-9200
Barack Obama School
of Leadership and STEM
(708) 668-9100

AUGUST 2024

All weekday shaded areas are non-attendance days.

Blackhawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9500
Mohawk Primary Center
(708) 668-9300
Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
(708) 668-9600

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31