

DISTRICT UPDATE

Fall 2009

The Community Newsletter of Chicago Ridge
School District 127 ½

CHICAGO RIDGE PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT 127 ½
Building a future for children™



New faces in Chicago Ridge School District 127 ½

Ridge Central

welcomes Ms. Molly Gudewicz, Special Education, Ms. Gina Decker, Special Education, Ms. Jean Rehr, Occupational Therapist, Ms. Tricia Moran, (former physical education teacher at Lawn) Special Education, Ms. Eileen Wujcik, Social worker, Ms. Helene Valcarcel, library paraprofessional.



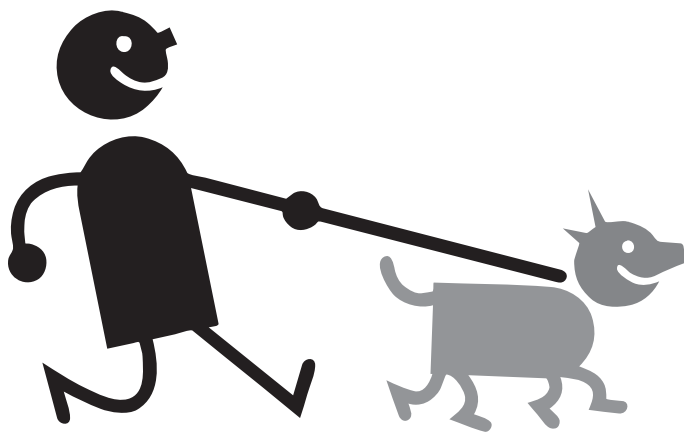
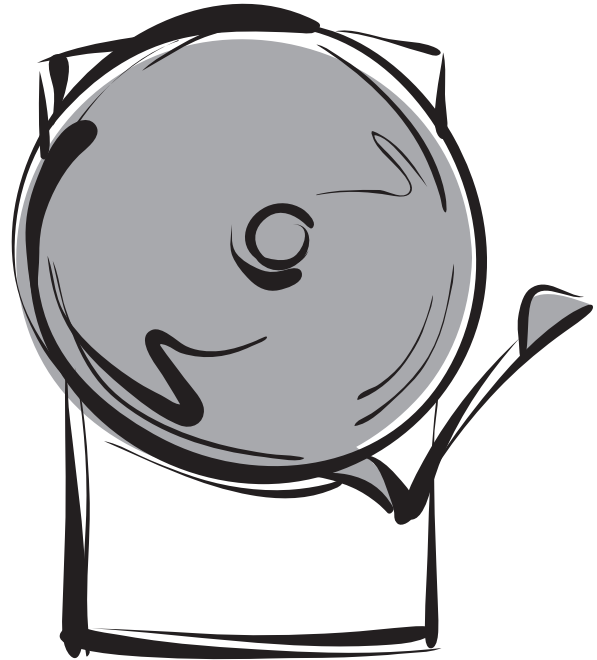
New to **Finley Jr. High School** are Ms. Emily Karrasch, English, Ms. Stacy Navis, Special Education, Ms. Leighanne Kaczmarek, English, Mr. Michael Donovan, Dean of Students.



Ridge Lawn introduces Mr. Graham Bourke, paraprofessional, Ms. Katie Insley, first grade, Ms. Nicole Bruno, kindergarten and Mr. Leland Wagner, physical education.

Alert Now

The district will continue to utilize the Alert Now System for communication throughout the school community. It is important to update any new phone numbers or e-mail addresses in order to receive the up-to-date information regarding events and school closings. Please send any new information to your child's school. For additional information: School closing announcements are broadcast on several radio and television stations. Included among these stations are: WGN 720 AM, WBBM 780 AM, WKSC 103.5 FM, and WGN TV to name just a few. On the web, closings are listed at <http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com/complete.html>



Pets and School

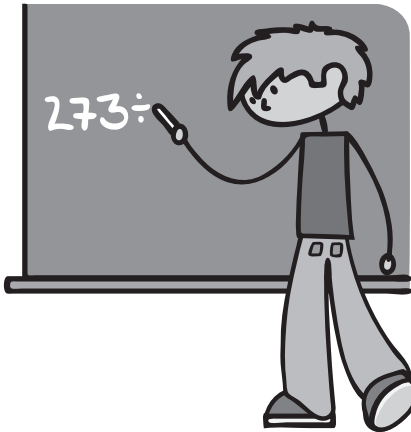
We ask that parents and guardians keep pets on leashes when walking students to and from school. We also ask that in keeping with student safety in mind that the pets are kept away from the doors of the schools so that students may enter and exit more easily.

Parent Guide to: Response to Intervention



Changes in the federal and state laws have directed schools to focus more on helping all children learn by addressing problems earlier within the general education setting. These new laws emphasize the importance of providing high quality, scientifically-based instruction and interventions and hold schools accountable for the adequate yearly progress of all students. This process of providing interventions to students who are at risk for academic or behavioral problems is called RTI (Response to Intervention). Staff members have participated in professional development workshops that will assist them in supporting the RTI interventions.

BENEFITS OF RTI



- Improves education for ALL Students
- Intervenes early
- Research-based instruction and behavioral support
- Universal screening of academics and behavior that determines level of interventions
- Multiple tiers with increasingly intensive interventions that match student needs
- Collaborative approach by school staff for development, implementation and monitoring of the intervention process
- Continuous monitoring of student progress during the interventions
- Allows teachers to know what works to improve students' skills

Key Terms to Know:

Universal Screening: procedure in which all students are given an academic screening test three times per year for the purpose of identifying those students in need of specialized interventions.

Progress monitoring: practice used to frequently assess a student's academic skills to determine effectiveness of an intervention.

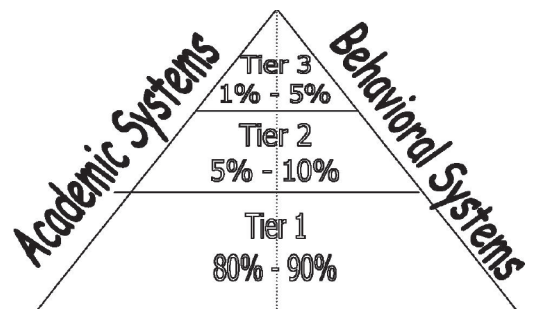
Scientific, Research-Based Intervention: a specific curriculum or educational intervention that research has proven to be effective

Tiered Instruction

Tier 1: The instruction that is given in the regular classroom and meets the needs of approximately 85% of students.

Tier 2: The instruction that is given in addition to the regular classroom. This could include small group instruction or remedial reading support.

Tier 3: Instruction is increased in intensity and tailored to meet the needs of individual students. This tier may determine if a child has a learning disability.



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SCHOOL DISTRICT 127½

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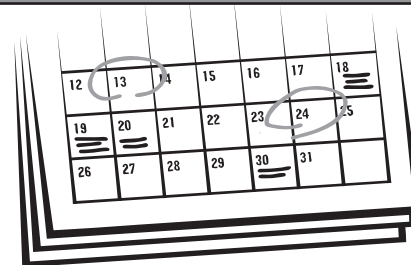
Dr. Joyce Kleinaitis
Superintendent of Schools



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DATES TO REMEMBER

November 25	Early Dismissal
November 26	Thanksgiving- No School
November 27	No School
December 3	Finley Jr. High Concert
December 8	School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 9	Winter Musical Ridge Central
December 18	Market Day
December 23	No School- Winter Break
January 6	School Resumes
January 12	School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 13	Lawn Art Show
January 18	No School Martin Luther King Birthday



February 2	Teacher Institute No School (Election Day) Please note: change in calendar
February 9	School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 1	No School Casimir Pulaski Day
March 2	ISAT testing begins
March 9	School Board Meeting- 7:00 p.m.
March 22 - 26	Spring Break

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