

Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

Children are our most precious possession.

December 2016

School Environment Matters

Flora School District will join the Illinois State Board of Education in the fifth statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers, and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. From November 16 through January 16, student, teachers, and parents will be asked to take a 25-minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment. This survey will serve as an opportunity for schools to reflect on progress since the last statewide implementation.

The Illinois 5 Essentials Survey provides a comprehensive picture of a school's organizational culture in an individualized report measuring five essentials critical for school success: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction.

Twenty years of research at the University of Chicago in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of the 5 Essentials were 10 times more likely to make substantial gains in improving student reading and math than schools that were weak on three or more Essentials. Those differences remained true even after controlling for student and school characteristics, including poverty, race, and gender.

We encourage all of our teachers, students, and parents to make their voices heard to impact change by completing the survey. In addition to the survey, we look forward to working with parents, students, and community members to continually improve. Please feel free to contact us with questions, input, and suggestions for improvement at jhackney@floraschools.com or 618-662-2412.

Important Upcoming Dates:

December 4th-High School Band Christmas Concert-2:00 p.m.

December 6th-Pre-K A.M. Christmas Program-9:00-FES

Pre-K P.M./Kindergarten Christmas Program-1:00-FES

December 9th-1st-2nd grade Christmas program-1:00-FES

December 13th-5th Grade/Junior High School Band/Chorus Christmas Concert-FHJHS-7:00 p.m.

December 14th-Board of Education Meeting-Unit Office-6:30 p.m.

December 16th-3rd-5th Grade Christmas Program-Flora Elementary-1:00 p.m.

December 21st-End of Second Quarter/Early Dismissal-2:00 p.m.

December 22nd-Beginning of Christmas Break