



*inspire...empower...nurture*

November 24, 2015

Dear District 155 Families and Students,

Over the last 18 months, D155, like all school districts across our nation, has closely monitored the national conversation about the transgender community and our schools. In our schools, faculty and staff work daily to preserve the dignity and safety of all our students. The purpose of this letter to our families and students is to briefly inform you how D155 is addressing transgender questions as they arise.

One of the most challenging issues facing our transgender students and our staff is the use of bathrooms and locker rooms. The U.S. Department of Education's position on students' access to the bathroom and locker room is very clear and states that a student has rights to use the locker room and bathroom of the student's affirmed gender identity.

As you may know, our neighboring high school district, Township High School District 211 in Palatine, has received national media attention based on its position on accommodations for its transgender students. The Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), a division of the U.S. Department of Education, issued an "enforcement letter" to District 211 earlier this month, clearly outlining its position on transgender students and school facility usage. We have included a link to the OCR's enforcement letter to District 211 which further details OCR's interpretation of federal civil rights laws and accommodating transgender students in schools. Click [here](#) to review the enforcement letter.

Based on OCR's position, when a D155 student communicates a request to use the bathroom or locker room of the student's affirmed gender identity, we will honor that request. Please note that D155 will accommodate this request for those transgender students who are actively transitioning or have completed their transition to their affirmed gender.

As a district we are working hard to protect the rights and privacy of all our students. In the next few days and weeks, district locker rooms will be equipped with a limited number of individual changing locations for any student who wishes additional privacy in the locker room. No one will be required to use a changing facility, but it will be provided for PE students and student athletes in our locker rooms.

If you have questions please contact Dr. Corey Tafoya, assistant superintendent of educational services, 815-455-8500 x1012 or Kimberly Dahlem, director of student services, 815-455-8500 x1011.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Johnnie Thomas  
Superintendent

CENTER FOR EDUCATION  
One South Virginia Road  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815 | 455-8500  
FAX 815 | 459-5022  
www.d155.org

Cary Grove High School  
Crystal Lake Central High School  
Crystal Lake South High School  
Prairie Ridge High School  
Haber Oaks Campus