September 9, 2011

Dear 8th Grade Parents/Guardians:

As we prepare to welcome your 8th grade students to District 127 next year, we want to make you aware of the testing date and procedure for administering the EXPLORE test to all incoming students.

The EXPLORE test is a precursor to the ACT test students take as a junior. The EXPLORE test has four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. Each test section is 30 minutes long. The student will receive sub scores for each section and an average or “composite” score, ranging from 1 to 28. Please encourage your son/daughter to take this test seriously, as it is a very important component in the placement process for high school.

We will hold the EXPLORE testing at both Grayslake Central and North High Schools on Saturday, October 22, 2011. We ask that all students arrive at GCHS and GNHS at 8:00 a.m. and that they bring a calculator and pencils. Testing should be complete around 11:30 a.m. and your student should be ready for pick-up then. If any students have Individualized Education Plans or have 504 Plan accommodations, those students should be finished testing by approximately 12:00 that morning. We will work with middle schools to identify those students who may need accommodations for the placement tests.

Students living north of Washington St. will attend Grayslake North High School and should report there for EXPLORE testing. Students living south of Washington St. will attend Grayslake Central High School and will take the EXPLORE test there. Where your student attends high school is determined by your address, not by the middle school he or she attends.

If a student is ill on October 22, we will have a make-up test date on Saturday, October 29. For the make-up only, all students will test at Grayslake North High School regardless of attendance zone. Be sure to check Grayslake Community High School web site for updates regarding EXPLORE testing. If you have questions, please contact Guidance Coordinators, Brian Moe at Central (847) 986-3300 or Loretta Salazar at North (847) 986-3100.

Thank you for your help and cooperation in this process.

Sincerely,

Rita Fischer
Director of Curriculum and Instruction