

October 2018

Volume 3, Issue 1



Hazel Crest School District 152½

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

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DISTRICT HOSTS BACK TO SCHOOL KICK-OFF



Hazel Crest School District 152½ hosted a back to school celebration on August 17th from 4pm - 6pm. The event, which was free to all in attendance, took place at the District Office, located at 1910 W 170th St in Hazel Crest. It was well attended by students and parents from both schools, as well as community members. Students received free backpacks and school supplies. In addition, there was free food, games, bouncy houses, and haircuts. Entertainment included music by a professional DJ and amazing acrobatics by the Jesse White Tumblers.



Please Welcome Our New District and School Administrators!



Dr. Denean Adams

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Denean Adams!

Dr. Adams brings over 25 years of educational experience to Hazel Crest School District 152½. Her credentials include a Doctorate in Education and an Illinois Superintendent Endorsement. Her leadership roles in education include serving as a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director, Coordinator, and Principal.

Dr. Adams plans to leverage her previous success, as well as her background and experience working with diverse student populations and diverse employee groups to facilitate further accomplishments in Hazel Crest School District 152½.



Ms. Linda Johnson-McClinton

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Linda Johnson-McClinton!

Ms. Johnson-McClinton has 22 years of experience in education which includes 5 years as an Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, 4 years as an Assistant Principal/Principal, and 13 years with Chicago Public Schools as a city-wide Area Reading Coach and a classroom teacher.

She is confident that she can provide the school administrators, teachers and staff in Hazel Crest School District 152½ with effective instructional guidance while managing and monitoring the multitude of systems. She plans to mentor and supervise staff using the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA), the College Readiness Standards and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), to ensure staff and students gain a stronger foundation in education as they move from good to great, which will be evidenced by student growth displayed on both local and state assessments.



Mr. RaShone Franklin

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new principal of Barack Obama Learning Academy, Mr. RaShone Franklin!

Mr. Franklin is an experienced building leader, with over 20 years of administrative experience. He prides himself in having phenomenal listening skills, as well as being a great communicator. He has served on many district level committees (from facilities to school improvement). During his tenure with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) he was able to make remarkable improvements in school climate and instruction, this was evidenced by receiving the network climate award in back to back years.

He believes he has the ability to bring out the best in everyone he works with. He is excited about the great things that will happen under his leadership at Barack Obama Learning Academy.

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Assistant Principal of Pod D at Barack Obama Learning Academy, Carole Davis!

Ms. Davis is a veteran teacher and urban educator. Her experience includes serving as a middle school lead teacher in English and Language Arts with Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Prior to her tenure with CPS, she served as Acting Assistant Principal and founding Director of Instruction at Catalyst Maria Charter School in Chicago.

Her career also includes spending several years as a founding teacher, Chair of the English department and Chair of the Instructional Leadership Team at the second campus of Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—West.

Ms. Davis has either taught or led a school since 2002; she is excited to serve the children of Hazel Crest School District 152½, as well as bring her educational skills and experience to the Hazel Crest School District 152½ administrative team.



Ms. Carole Davis

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Academic Dean of Barack Obama Learning Academy, Mr. Jason Battle!



Mr. Jason Battle

For the past two years, Mr. Battle has served as a middle school interventionist and writing teacher. In this role he has been instrumental in implementing a districtwide Restorative Justice Program, as well as Student Discipline Reform.

In addition to utilizing data in the discipline process and ensuring the safety of students, Mr. Battle has worked collaboratively with the Special Services Director to implement a Response To Intervention (RtI) Program to support at risk students. As a teacher, he taught middle school language arts and implemented a writing program that focused on improved student writing. Also, Mr. Battle has tutored elementary school students in reading, language arts, and math.

Mr. Battle is looking forward to using his experience and desire to work with children to improve the school climate and learning environment at Barack Obama Learning Academy.

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Assistant Principal of Pod D at Jesse White Learning Academy, Mr. Talaat McNeely!



Mr. Talaat McNeely

Mr. McNeely proudly served in the United States Army from 1998 - 2010, including a tour of duty as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most recently he served as a Dean of Students where he was given the charge of creating, implementing, and maintaining a positive school culture and climate for the staff and students.

Mr. McNeely has a passion for guiding and empowering students. It is the goal of Mr. McNeely to combine his vast range of military experience and years of experience in educational leadership to make a positive contribution to the Hazel Crest School District 152½ team and Jesse White Learning Academy.

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Assistant Principal of Pod C at Jesse White Learning Academy, Ms. Tiffanie Burton!

Most recently, Ms. Burton served as a middle school department chair and sixth/seventh grade English Language Arts instructor. She has also served as a middle school lead teacher and member of the Instructional Leadership Team, where she was an integral part of a collaborative force that assisted school administration and staff with implementing instructional practices that enhanced the teaching and learning process.

Her skills include, but are not limited to analyzing data to identify common trends and identify students' areas of strengths and weaknesses in order to differentiate and individualize instruction.

Her purpose as an educator and instructional leader is to enhance the learning experience of the students and prepare them to be successful in future endeavors and life. She believes she will complement the collaborative unit currently in place at Hazel Crest School District 152½.



Ms. Tiffanie Burton

Please join Hazel Crest School District 152½ in welcoming the new Academic Dean of Jesse White Learning Academy, Ms. Laticha Henry!



Ms. Laticha Henry

This school year marks Ms. Henry's 17th year in the field of education. Most recently she served as an Academic Advisor, working closely with the principal in carrying out the school's academic and behavior programs.

During her years of experience, she has worked as a College and Career Ready Instructional TOSA (teacher on special assignment). As a TOSA, she provided support, for the school building she was assigned, in the areas of curriculum, and professional development, instructional teaching support, implementations of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and assessment leadership in reading.

Her other leadership roles include: developing and implementing school improvement plans; serving as a professional development planner, facilitator, and presenter; and summer school site coordinator.

Ms. Henry is confident her experience and skills will be an asset to Hazel Crest School District 152½.

School Board Meetings
2018 -2019

October 15, 2018
November 19, 2018
December 17, 2018
January 22, 2019
February 19, 2019
March 18, 2019
April 15, 2019
May 20, 2019
June 17, 2019
July 15, 2019

**Board Meetings are held at:
Administrative Center
1910 W. 170th Street
Hazel Crest, IL 60429**

School Contact Information

Jesse White Learning Academy
16910 Western Avenue
Hazel Crest, IL 60429
Phone: (708) 825-2190



Barack Obama Learning Academy
16448 Park Avenue
Markham, IL 60428
Phone: (708) 825-2400



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SAVE THE DATES

October 5, 2018 – School Improvement Day – No Student Attendance
October 8, 2018 – Holiday – Columbus Day - No School
October 25, 2018 – Parent/Teacher Conference – (4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)
October 26, 2018 – Parent/Teacher Conference – No Student Attendance
November 12, 2018 – Holiday – Veterans' Day – No School
November 21-23, 2018 – Holiday – Thanksgiving Recess – No School
December 21, 2018 – School Improvement Day – No Student Attendance
December 24 - January 4, 2019 – WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL
January 7, 2019 – School Resumes