



Proviso East and West Math & Science Academies



Chief Innovation Officer
Dr. Bessie Karvelas

Director of Innovation
Cristin Chiganos

District IB Coordinator
Rebecca Tanaka

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

I hope you and your families are enjoying a wonderful summer and that you are recharged and ready to start an exciting new chapter in your education. I am delighted that you are part of the launch of our new District 209 Math and Science Academies - PEMSA and PWMSA - and I look forward to working with you and your children in my new role as Director of Innovation. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the leader for both Academies, having worked in the district for the past seven years as a department chair at PMSA. It is the goal of the Office of Innovation to not only offer unique learning opportunities, but to cultivate an environment that nurtures responsible, caring students, promotes cultural appreciation, and encourages positive decision-making.

We have been very busy this summer planning and preparing for your child. Each Academy has been awarded a cohesive learning space within Proviso East and Proviso West, and we have been working with both building managers to ensure that the set-up of each Academy classroom, (including furniture, equipment, and technology), is prepared accordingly. We have ordered brand new textbooks and novels, and we have assembled an all-star team of teachers who are ready to challenge and inspire our inaugural Class of 2024.

While we were hoping to welcome each and every one of you into our buildings under normal circumstances, we will be opening the 2020-2021 school year following a Remote Learning model. Teachers and students will start the year using Microsoft Teams as the main digital platform. Instructions for how to log into Microsoft Teams and access classes as well as information on how to reach our technical support team were included in a recent district mailer. After the first few weeks, the district will be transitioning to Schoology, a more comprehensive Learning Management System. Parents and students will receive training on how to access and navigate through this new system when it launches.

As we ready ourselves for a beginning like no other, know that our collective focus throughout the process will be to ensure that every student finds a way to stay **connected and engaged**. To that end, we want our families to stay connected too. Educational research supports the claim that parent/guardian involvement in a child's education increases student achievement. We therefore encourage you to impact your child's high school experience through participation in the Proviso East or West Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and by connecting with the Parent Center at your child's home school:

- Proviso East Parent Coordinator - Dr. Eva Kardaras; 708.202.1678; ekardaras@pths209.org
- Proviso West Parent Coordinator - Ms. Delinda Hyde; 708.2026240; dhyde@pths209.org

We look forward to you becoming active members of our school community and utilizing the parent support resources available to you.

This year we are welcoming Ms. Araceli Avila to District 209 (araceli.avila@pths209.org). She will be serving as the academic and social-emotional support counselor for PEMSA and PWMSA students. Ms. Avila is a licensed clinical professional counselor with a Master's Degree in Professional Counseling. She specializes in multi-cultural competency, and her past experience working with students and families in both clinical and school settings will make her a valuable asset to our freshmen as they transition and acclimate from middle school into the high school realm. We are delighted to have Ms. Avila join our team.

We want to thank those of you who submitted a video clip for our Academy Kick-Off Video Montage. The video can be seen on the Academies' webpage: www.pths209.org; click on Office of Innovation; then click on the tab for PEMSA/PWMSA. Here you will also find general updates and resources along with teacher bios for each Academy, which will be posted soon. In addition to staying informed via our Academy web page, you will receive a monthly PEMSA/PWMSA Family Newsletter. This will be your "one stop shop" to receive details about what is going in your child's classes, as we believe that consistent communication is essential to the success of your child.

Below is the class attendance schedule for Remote Learning, (also available on the D209 website). Students will have "live" virtual classes with their teachers via Microsoft Teams 3 days per week on the days and time slots indicated below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Early Bird 7:00 – 7:50	Early Bird 7:00 – 7:50	Period 1 8:00 – 8:40	Early Bird 7:00 – 7:50	Early Bird 7:00 – 7:50
Period 1 8:00 – 9:15	Period 2 8:00 – 9:15	Period 2 8:45 – 9:25	Period 1 8:00 – 9:15	Period 2 8:00 – 9:15
Period 3 9:20 – 10:35	Period 4 9:20 – 10:35	Period 3 9:30 – 10:10	Period 3 9:20 – 10:35	Period 4 9:20 – 10:35
Period 5 10:40 – 11:55	Period 6 10:40 – 11:55	Period 4 10:15 – 10:55	Period 5 10:40 – 11:55	Period 6 10:40 – 11:55
Period 7 12:00 – 1:15	Period 8 12:00 – 1:15	Period 5 11:00 – 11:40	Period 7 12:00 – 1:15	Period 8 12:00 – 1:15
Screen Break & Independent Work Time for students 1:15 – 2:30	Screen Break & Independent Work Time for students 1:15 – 2:30	Period 6 11:45 – 12:25	Screen Break & Independent Work Time for students 1:15 – 2:30	Screen Break & Independent Work Time for students 1:15 – 2:30
		Period 7 12:30 – 1:10		
		Period 8 1:15 – 1:55		
Learning support & Student Services 2:30 – 3:15	Learning support & Student Services 2:30 – 3:15	Professional Learning & planning for teachers 2:00 – 3:15	Learning support & Student Services 2:30 – 3:15	Learning support & Student Services 2:30 – 3:15

Please note the change in the school year start date for incoming freshmen. While Remote Learning for grades 10-12 will begin on August 17, 2020, **freshmen will officially begin on August 24, 2020**. During the week of 8/17-8/21, all incoming freshmen will visit their home school to pick up their textbooks; receive their school laptops and a copy of their individual course schedule; and have their picture taken for their student ID.

- **PEMSA freshmen** have been pre-assigned a day and time slot. They will receive this information via a phone call by a Proviso East team member. You can also call the Office of Innovation to verify your appointment at 708.835.5748.
- **PWMSA freshmen** should visit www.pths209.org/west to **SIGN UP** for their appointment. A pop-up message with a link for sign-up appears on the West website.

While I look forward to the time when we can safely and responsibly return to a normal setting, know that we are committed to maintaining high standards of excellence so that there will be no shortage of opportunities for your student to feel challenged on a daily basis. Together, along with the amazing faculty and staff at East and West, I know we will use our innovative and collaborative strategies to make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

Warmest Regards,

Cristin Chiganos

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