



Department of Linguistics and Diversity Parent Newsletter

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. Several changes have occurred over the summer. One change is the name of the department of English Learner Services, or sometimes called the department of Multilingual Services. The official name of the department is now the *Department of Linguistics & Diversity*. The goal in changing the name of the department is to stress the importance of diverse learners across the district. Diversity is more than knowing another language; it is accepting and seeing a person for who they are. It is creating a safe and healthy environment where all learners can see themselves achieving success.

From District 202 Superintendent Lane Abrell, in Response to an event that occurred over the summer, (posted June 3, 2020): District 202 proudly champions our diversity. Since 1990 our community has experienced tremendous racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic change. Racially, demographically, and socio-economically, today's District 202 is very similar to our society. We strive through our curriculum, hiring and professional development to encourage and support empathy and compassion for, and inclusion of people of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, and life experiences.

Last year, the school district created a diversity statement:

Plainfield District 202 is committed to building an equitable and inclusive educational community. Our district welcomes diversity in all of its many dimensions. We value students, families, and staff of varied backgrounds and encourage them to share their unique gifts to cultivate a rich educational experience. We are dedicated to creating a learning environment that exposes students to the value of differences, broadens their perspectives, and prepares them to shape the world.

The district also sees the hurt and pain that people of color are experiencing. The starting of protests over summer emphasized this fact and led to peaceful protests in Plainfield that highlight a community united. Law enforcement personnel, district employees, our assistant superintendent and our superintendent Dr. Abrell walked alongside student and adult community members from Plainfield and Naperville. Dr. Abrell also released powerful statements in reaction to events that occurred over the past months. To read these messages please click this [link](#). The gray box above contains an excerpt from one of his messages.

Founded in 2019, the district's Cultural Competency Committee meets to discuss and provide insight to reinforce inclusive practices. New for the 2020-2021 school year, each school site in District 202 has their own Cultural Competency Committee. Please expect to see more information about the Cultural Competency Committees from your schools and in the District CORE Newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact the director of Linguistics and Diversity at moshea@psd202.org to learn more or submit any questions.

Adult Education Classes

The district is offering online workshops, ESL, GED, and Computer classes for the 1st semester. After winter, there may be a chance to return to face-to-face adult education classes. Please look for more information regarding this matter in future newsletters or flyers. It is also not too late to register for high school equivalency (GED) and English classes for adults. Please see below for further information on how to register.

The department of Linguistics and Diversity is pleased to announce the creation of online computer classes for adults. Adults can receive guidance from an instructor as they complete learning modules to improve computer skills. Adults can select from a basic or intermediate/advanced level computer class. The basic level focuses on mini videos that show how to navigate different parts of the computer (like how to turn it on) and typing skills. The teacher may supplement lessons with projects to enhance your learning experience. The intermediate/advanced level shows adults how to earn a Google G suite certificate. The learning modules provide adults the needed training to apply for the G suite certificate, however the fee for the Google G Suite test is not covered by the district.

The computer classes are self-guided learning modules with a teacher available for support through office hours and supplementing your instruction. A placement test can determine which level of class is best for you.

Basic level classes meet Tuesday evenings starting September 22nd through December 5 from 5:30 pm-7:45 pm. Intermediate/advanced classes meet Thursdays evenings September 22nd through December 5 from 5:30 pm-7:45 pm. Plainfield District 202 ESL and bilingual parents who take any of the adult classes have the option to enroll in the Family Literacy Project which supports families on developing literacy skills, free tutoring for your student(s) and virtual or in-person field trips. The family literacy program hours are 7:45-8:15 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays online.

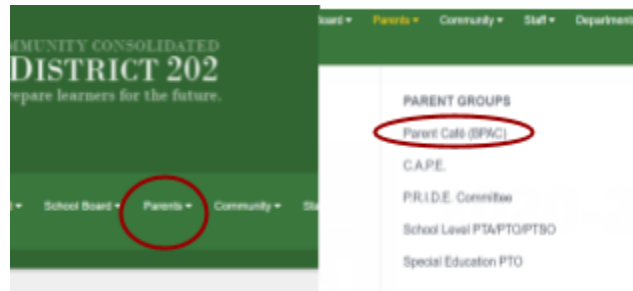
If you are interested in registering for any of the classes, please contact Oralia Guzman at 815-577-4011 or email: oguzman@psd202.org or contact Michelle O'Shea at 815-577-4018 or email: moshea@psd202.org





Workshops

Online workshops are found on the district webpage under parents, then parent groups, then Parent Cafe (BPAC). The first workshop, hosted in Spanish by psychologist Ferney Ramirez, stresses the importance of parents as educational partners and demonstrates some tips to teach your student. The recording of the video took place in the Spring, so some of the information has changed concerning remote learning. However, the techniques you will learn are very relevant such as tips to strengthen memory, recalling details and setting up guidance to learn. Please expect a new video posting on October 1st, November 1st, December 1st, and January 1st.



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Fall 2020
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Preferred Pronouns She/Her/Hers