

**Subject:** Spring Update

**From:** Mokena School District 159 <donotreply@mokena159.org>

**Date:** 3/14/2024, 9:03 AM

**To:** briscoea@mokena159.org

Dear Mokena Families,

Spring is upon us! Daylight savings time gives us more evening sun, and warmer weather is around the corner. I hope that your families are able to relax and enjoy the upcoming Spring break. When we return on April 2nd it will be a quick sprint to the end of the year. Before you know it we will be saying goodbye and good luck to our 8th graders on Sunday May 19th!

Online Kindergarten Enrollment is currently open for the 2024-2025 school year. The enrollment process is for students who are new to the district. Students who are currently attending our Early Start or Early Childhood programs are already enrolled and do not need to complete this process. For more information about our Kindergarten Program and the enrollment process please visit our [MES Kindergarten Enrollment Website](#). If you have questions regarding the enrollment process please call the Mokena Elementary School office at 708-342-4850.

In April registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open up for all students, including incoming Kindergarten students. Registration is the process of confirming student information and attendance for the 2024-2025 school year, and the collection of student fees. More information regarding registration will be sent out next month.

We are asking our community for their assistance in recognizing excellence through our Galaxy Award Program. The Mokena School District 159 Galaxy Award is a program to specially recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Mokena School District 159 employees, students, parents, and community members. This District 159 program is a partnership with the Mokena Educational Foundation (MEF) and the Mokena Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). Any employee, student or community member of District 159 is eligible to receive a Galaxy Award, and the nomination form can be submitted by any District 159 stakeholder. You can access the nomination form at this link: [GALAXY AWARD FORM](#)

This summer work will take place to turn the grounds between the elementary and intermediate schools into a play space for the students of Mokena Intermediate School. Part of this project consists of the retirement of the wooden Imagination Station playground. The playground, constructed in 1997 by community volunteers, has served the students of Mokena for 27 years! Parks of this type have a finite life span and we will be saddened to see it go, but we are excited for the opportunities our 4th and 5th graders will have to play in the new space. Work will begin once school is out, but we are planning a final Day of Play before then to celebrate the park and the memories created there. More information on this event will come out after Spring break.

Finally, I would like to ask our families to consider taking the 5 Essentials survey if you haven't done so already. This survey, conducted by the University of Chicago, helps provide us with feedback on our programs. In order for the District to receive data from the survey we must have at least 20% of families answer the survey at each school. We need your help! The survey takes approximately 10

minutes to complete. Please use this [LINK](#) to access the survey.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the Mokena Public Schools!

Dr. Mark Cohen, Superintendent

Mokena School District 159