As we enter the month of May I would like to take a moment to thank all of our teachers for making a positive impact on our students and inspiring all of us to be lifelong learners. Tuesday, May 3, 2022, is National Teacher Appreciation Day so be sure to thank a special teacher in your life!

As we approach the end of the school year, I wanted to share two updates.

First, with our two inclement weather days earlier this year, our new last day of student attendance for the elementary level (pre-k through grade 5) will be June 16, 2022.

Second, the month of May brings about our annual budget and Board of Education Trustee election. This year we have three propositions on the May 17, 2022 ballot, each of which have a **0% new tax levy impact on the community**! More information on the ballot and Board candidates can be found on our website at [https://www.opschools.org/domain/11](https://www.opschools.org/domain/11).

I wanted to spotlight the **Educational Facilities Capital Improvement Project** and the great opportunity this project will afford the District and community to build upon our excellence.

This project will allow us to invest in inclusive programming and access for all students. Ensuring that we are welcoming and inclusive is one of our main priorities as a District. As we continue to bring more inclusive programming into the District, we need to add physical space and infrastructure. This is why the addition at the middle school and the new inclusive playgrounds at each elementary building are necessary.

We also are investing in early childhood education by having a full grade level of pre-kindergarten in each of our elementary schools by the fall of 2026. Early intervention and education is the key to a solid educational foundation. To make this a possibility, we need to add additions to each elementary school to accommodate this additional grade level of students.

Finally, many portions of our buildings and complexes are well over 50 - 70 years old and need to be refurbished or replaced. This provides us with an opportunity to partner further with the community. As an example, the pool and fitness center addition at the high school will allow for community use before and after school hours. This would not be possible with the current pool and fitness area.

For further information, please visit [www.opschools.org/investinginourfuture](http://www.opschools.org/investinginourfuture).
See you at the vote on May 17 at Orchard Park High School between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., please use the Freeman Road Entrance. While you are there, pick up a chicken or rib dinner to support the Post Prom!