



# Tremont CUSD #702 High School Campus

June 27, 2013

District #702 Community:

Thank you for your continued support of our students and the programs they participate in daily. As mentioned in previous community meetings, it's still unclear exactly what level of funding can be expected from the State. Although Legislature has adjourned and a budget was passed funding this year's level (which is still 11% below a foundation level that keeps Illinois near the bottom in education spending), Governor Quinn has not signed off and can still use his amendatory veto to make adjustments. He has proposed further reductions in funding to schools.

We need to 'bridge the gap' that decreasing funding for our schools creates. We are planning an ambitious fundraising event that will impact our schools in a positive way, draw attention to the financial challenges created by decreased general state aid, and celebrate the beginning of the 2013-14 academic school year!

Our fundraising goal is \$200,000. This goal seems large, but we're hoping to secure corporate grants that will help us meet the target. The funds raised will go to the following places:

Grade School Security

To secure the grade school, we need to install air conditioning. It is no longer acceptable to have class room doors that are open to the exterior of the building to maintain a comfortable learning environment.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities enrich student experiences and provide learning opportunities that can't always be taught or replicated in the classroom. They are a source of community pride and be a carrot that will attract future families to the Tremont area. We have about 40 clubs, organizations and athletic teams in our district and they would *all* receive money from this fundraiser.

This alone will not solve our funding crisis as long as general state aid stays below the foundation level. We hope to see no further reductions in programs, student services, or staff but must find creative ways, like this fundraising event, to balance our budget so we are not spending at a deficit. For an extended explanation of the issues we are facing, visit my blog: <http://jeffhinmanblog.wordpress.com/>

We as a district are asking you to partner with us on **August 24, 2013** at an all-day fundraiser, Bridge the Gap. Only because of the support of our community and staff does this event have a chance to be successful. Here's how you can get involved...

Want to contribute? Monetary donations are being accepted in the Superintendent's Office, located at THS.

Mail Checks To: Office of the Superintendent 400 W. Pearl St. Tremont, IL 61568.

Want to volunteer? Call or Email Natalie Messersmith: 309.645.9374 | [Natalie@tremont702.org](mailto:Natalie@tremont702.org)

Further Event Details... <https://www.facebook.com/Tremont702BridgetheGap>

Enjoy your summer!  
Jeff Hinman, Superintendent