

May 2020

PRINCIPAL TO PARENT LETTER

Dear Parents,

First off, I want to begin by hoping that all of you are in good health and good spirits during this difficult time. While I am sure that most of you are keeping up to date with what is going on with all the various news outlets and daily briefs from our Mayor and Governor, I felt that you needed an update specific to IS 126. I urge everyone to check our website a few times a week as we are always updating it with remote learning resources and staff contact information. I also encourage you to monitor your child's progress on Pupil Path. If you have not registered or activated your pupil path account please do so ASAP as it is necessary to have an active account to keep informed and take part in our remote learning. If you need assistance with your pupil path account, please contact Ms. Danielle at 732-704-4780

I want to thank you for all the kind words and messages we received last week during Teacher Appreciation Week. As per your feedback, I will be updating my morning message daily now as well as having my Assistant Principals and maybe even teachers make the calls. I do understand that you have enough daily repetition with the Quarantine so I will try to give you a new message every morning. I also know that it becomes difficult to even know what day of the week it is so I will be starting my message with the date. We hope your children are having a positive experience with remote learning and I want to thank you for filling out the remote learning surveys as they provide us with invaluable feedback. Much has happened since our last newsletter so I have the following remote learning updates below.

Parent Teacher Conferences.

- Parent Teacher Conferences have already begun. All families will be receiving phone calls from a designated staff member.
- The phone calls are primarily wellness calls to see how your family is doing. Staff members have been instructed to have a conversation with their student as well as the parent and see how you are all doing. We want to hear your thoughts and make sure that you have whatever you need to participate and succeed with remote learning.
- These wellness calls will continue through May 22 so please be aware that a call is forthcoming. You will also have the opportunity to ask the staff to have other teachers call you if you want to speak to another teacher regarding your student's grade.

Grading Policy

- The DOE has announced a city wide grading policy for the end of the year.
- All parents should have received a letter from the DOE explaining the policy. The letter is on our website.

- To summarize students will receive a number grade for our 3rd marking period which for our school will be your child's grade for remote learning.
- The final and overall 2019-2020 grade will be a letter grade. Here is the excerpt from the letter.
- **Students receive final grades of "Meets Standards" (MT), "Needs Improvement" (N), or "Course in Progress" (NX), if additional time is needed to complete the course.**
- MT is equivalent to a grade of 76-100. N is equivalent to a 65-75. NX is equivalent to a 55 and that student will be invited to attend summer school which will most likely also be remote.

Access to the Building

- Families have inquired about their child retrieving items from their lockers. Currently, the DOE is restricting all access to the building for students. Once it is safe for this restriction to be lifted, we will notify our students/families so that arrangements can be made to visit the school to retrieve your personal items.

8th Grade Updates

- All 8th grade parents & students can check their MySchools account to see their High School acceptance letters and monitor their waitlist process. Those who have to choose between two offers or opt out have until the extended deadline of May 15th. You can reach out to Ms. Salcedo with any questions via pupil path or JSalcedo@schools.nyc.gov.
- I am happy to announce that we are planning an amazing virtual graduation for all 8th grade students, which will include a senior slide show. We want the student slide show to be a compilation of our seniors' favorite memories at IS 126 so students will be asked to make submissions of photos they would like to share. Teachers will be providing further instructions.
- We feel that having everything pre-recorded will minimize technology issue and allow you and your family to view the ceremony at your leisure.
- As previously communicated, families who paid for senior trip and/or senior prom will be fully refunded. Families who paid senior dues will receive a partial refund since the cap and gown order has been canceled. Students who paid dues will still be receiving their senior shirt, bag and yearbook. We ask for your patience as we are currently working on this so no refunds will be issued out until everything is settled.