



**UNIONDALE UNION FREE
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

933 GOODRICH STREET,
UNIONDALE, NY 11553-2499

Website:
<http://district.uniondaleschools.org>

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June 3rd, 2020

Dear Uniondale Families,

I hope this message finds you well. On Tuesday, June 2nd, the Board of Education appointed me as the Acting Superintendent of Schools during Dr. Lloyd's FMLA. I am humbled to be entrusted with this position, and I look forward to supporting all scholars and our families albeit during a global pandemic, economically challenging times and social unrest. It is an honor to lead our District through this critical time in our nation's history. History has taught us that during critical times righteousness and justice always prevail and that caring people are charged to speak out against racism and the racist rhetoric meant to divide us. As a result, I am moved to share my thoughts on the recent murders of black men and women, including the shooting deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and the inhumane asphyxiation of George Floyd.

These incidents are a grim reminder of our country's responsibility to recognize unearned privileges bestowed upon some as well as the economic and social disparities that negatively impact others. We have seen the lack of humane treatment that literally closes doors and figuratively cuts the breathing passages of human beings in our country. We are reminded that we as a nation must do better for all our children. In Uniondale our values are rooted in equity, allowing us to see that institutional biases in our country that promote the oppression of disenfranchised and marginalized people are still at work. We must now come together as a learning community to offer understanding, acceptance and support to our families as we navigate the compounded grief our community has dealt with. As the Acting Superintendent, I must stand against inequity and injustice and implore our community to speak in a unified voice against such blatant injustice. As such, I have begun formulating a Culturally Responsive Task Force whose role will be to re-engage our local police department with our community in demand for Respect, Relevance and Improved Race Relations. Expect to hear more in the coming weeks regarding our District plans to address this issue.

As we prepare to end our school year, we are aware you have anxiously awaited the decisions that are critical to the end of the academic year. Based on an earlier Executive Order from the Governor mandating that school districts continue remote learning instruction throughout the month of April, we have adjusted the official last day of our academic school year for scholars. **The last day is Wednesday, June 17th. Remote learning assignments will end on Friday, June 12th, for high school scholars. Monday, June 15th and Tuesday, June 16th will be used for scholars to submit outstanding assignments.**

Additionally, each school has worked on procedures for locker and classroom clean out along with the dates. Each building principal will contact parents to share this information. I would also like to highlight that the Uniondale School District is



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operating under a 'do no harm' grading policy for the third trimester and fourth quarter. This strategy allows teachers to take into account the hardships scholars faced during the pandemic. Elementary scholars will therefore receive a narrative for the third trimester and at the secondary level, scholars may not receive a grade lower than 60 for the fourth quarter. The final grade will be an average of four quarters.

Our summer remote learning academy will be opened to all scholars and will be conducted from Monday, June 29th through Thursday, July 30th. The program will run Mon-Thurs from 8-12 for elementary and middle school and 7:30-1:15 for high school. Similarly, we will be hosting our Newcomers Program as well as our Extended School Year Program. All scholars will receive a mandatory Math and ELA summer academic assignment to be submitted in the fall. Furthermore, we will continue to provide meals to our scholars and will maintain our program for the children of emergency personnel and essential workers.

Finally, we have confirmed plans for our Moving Up and Graduation ceremonies. There will be a combination of virtual ceremonies as well as special events such as car drive-ups, that will be personal to each school.

Our high school is fine tuning their plans to celebrate the historic class of 2020! We are planning a Graduation Weekend and we are happy to report that the plan includes an opportunity for your child to participate in a **Car-mencement** that will take place on June 27th and 28th. Scholars will receive their diploma and will be presented with a wonderful photo opportunity that can include parents and guardians alike, to commemorate our scholars' time here in Uniondale. Graduation Weekend will conclude with our virtual graduation on June 29th. We continue to work with a variety of agencies regarding what is allowable to provide our graduates the most memorable experience possible. The safety of our scholars, staff and parents remain a priority and we must adhere to the laws as dictated by the New York State Government. We ask that you be patient and that you please keep in mind that we all want our scholars to have the opportunity to be celebrated. They mean the world to us and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

Finally, I wish to leave you with a reminder from the great Maya Angelou "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it." I wish to take this time to wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer; please visit the district's website at district.uniondaleschools.org for updates regarding the future of the school district as it pertains to this pandemic.

In Service for Children,


Rhonda Taylor

Acting Superintendent of Schools