

District Update: April 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this week's update finds you and your family well.

At Monday's Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education, district participation in a county-wide partnership with SCOPE Educational Services for child care services was approved. This arrangement, provides parents and guardians who are first responders or health care providers with child care coverage while they are at work. It is a service that will be free of charge in appreciation for the selfless service these people are providing during the COVID-19 pandemic when schools and after-care programs are closed. First responders and health care providers can register by visiting www.scopeonline.us. See the words, "Click Here for SCOPE Emergency Child Care." The host site is Rhame Avenue School, 100 Rhame Ave, East Rockaway, NY 11518. It begins Thursday, April 2.

Now that the Governor's Executive Order has extended our work from home period until April 15th, we are working with our teachers to develop the next phase of distance learning for all students. Below are a few important updates.

Early Elementary Digital Learning

Our early elementary grade students (Pre K through Grade 2), were provided with print material such as books, workbooks, and other documents sent home via backpack. We recognize that our students have engaged in this print work over the past two-weeks, and are in need of new learning materials. In addition to digital learning, our teachers will continue to provide the students with learning activities that do not require the use of a computer. New learning for our Pre K through Grade 2 students will continue to be communicated via each teacher's webpage.

Technology-Based Learning

The District continues to use a variety of technology-based solutions to ensure students continue their academic work while at home. We recognize that these are challenging times for our students and their parents, as many households are sharing computing devices to complete schoolwork, while parents are working from home. We understand that parents are making requests of both administrators and teachers regarding the need for additional computing devices. This is not possible. We suggest that families create schedules to share their home device(s). Please note that the District's technology-based solutions (iReady, myON, Google Classroom, etc.) can also be accessed using a smartphone.

Quarter Three Reporting (LOMS)

The third quarter for LOMS students is scheduled to end on Wednesday, April 8th. Due to the extended school closure, LOMS teachers will provide a third-quarter grade, for students in grades 5-8. This grade follows the District's Grading Policy, considering only exams, quizzes, and other formative assessments such as projects, presentations, etc completed through Friday,

March 13, 2020. We acknowledge that students may have missing assignments, tests and quizzes that will be difficult to be made-up, submitted, and graded. Therefore, we will not expect that LOMS students submit missed assignments at this time. Given the current set of circumstances, no child's grades and/or academic standing will be impacted by the extended school closure. Although students' digital assignments will not be computed into their quarter-three achievement grades, students' active participation via digital learning, will be factored into their "effort" grade.

The Island Park UFSD will continue to provide our parents and students with all pertinent information throughout this quickly evolving situation. We remind parents and students to contact teachers via the District's email system using the code words "virtual hand raise" for any questions or concerns related to digital assignments. Our support staff, guidance counselor, school social workers, and school psychologists are also available to assist our families during these uncertain times. We hope that you and your loved ones remain in good health. We look forward to the having our schools, halls, classrooms and instructional spaces filled with our faculty, staff and most of all our students!

Together we are better!

Fond regards,

Vincent Randazzo
Assistant Superintendent
Island Park UFSD

Rosmarie Bovino
Superintendent of Schools
Island Park UFSD

Enclosure: Emergency Child Care Letter