

**Supt's Message: Tues, April 7, 2020**

Dear Parents and School Community,

I hope that you continue to stay safe and that you are well. I want to begin with a few community service updates. Last week we launched a Child Care Program for health care and first responders. This is in conjunction with East Rockaway UFSD at the Rhame Avenue School and SCOPE Educational Services of Nassau County. In addition, we are participating in an important survey with the NYS Office of Family and Children for all other parents who are considered essential workers and are in need of child care assistance. Information about each of these programs is posted on our website.

Last week, we resumed our food service grab and go program for students who are eligible for Free or Reduced Price meals. One of our middle school students shared her feelings of appreciation and words of thanksgiving in a drawing she presented to our food service staff members. We were all moved by her thoughtfulness.



To ensure that you are kept up-to-date and have the opportunity to hear from a variety of voices with different pieces of news and points of view, a new schedule of communications is in place. Postings on our district website and Facebook pages will be as follows:

- Mondays: Board of Education
- Tuesdays: Superintendent of Schools
- Wednesdays: Assistant Superintendent
- Thursdays: Director of Pupil Personnel Services
- Fridays: FXH and LOMS Principals

Just as we have all been doing our part to flatten the curve of COVID-19, I encourage every family to do their part by taking ten minutes to ensure that the Island Park community, local municipalities, and State government get the federal monies needed by completing the 2020 Census. The census is conducted only once every ten years. At this time, the federal government tries to count every American, regardless of their citizenship status.

The 2020 Census count determines the federal funds that schools receive each year for programs and services that students and young children need. These programs include but are not limited to technology education, special education, pre-kindergarten education, childcare, after-school care as well as free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.

Funding for federal disaster planning and public health programs is also derived from the count. Here in Island Park, we have relied on federal funds to recover damages and to benefit from public health assistance following devastating hurricanes and nor'easters. We need to have this financial assistance continue in the future.

Obtaining a true count through the census will also help ensure that New York State has the representation it needs in Congress. We are one of ten states that might lose a seat in the House of Representatives due to declining population. Let us make sure everyone is counted so that everyone can be represented.

It is critical that Island Park families get their fair share. Please help us by completing the census at <https://my2020census.gov>.

My continued best wishes are with you and your family as we continue to work together, while apart!

Warmest regards,

Rosmarie T. Bovino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools