

## Superintendent's Message: April 21, 2020

Dear Parents and School Community,

As we mark our sixth week of distance learning, I am working with administrators and teachers on a plan that will move us into our next phase of distance learning. Through the “listening and learning” we have been involved in—each and every week—the Board, administrators and teachers have received meaningful feedback from you and your children. Through this, we have become keenly aware that students miss their teachers, they miss the excitement of experiential and hands-on new learning, and they miss hours of being with classmates and friends. Our principals and teachers have been reaching out through emails, calls, and videos as well as spirit week activities to keep the connection between school and home both lively and meaningful. They have been also using a variety of teaching materials and strategies to meet students’ needs so that learning that occurred from September through mid-March could be solidified. They have spent the last two weeks moving forward with new learning.

Though the Governor has closed schools through mid-May, we know we have an obligation to be prepared for schools to remain closed longer. (Including this week, ten weeks of school remain. That’s two and a half months, which is a long time!) We also must be able to return to school at a moment’s notice and hit the road running the instant doors open. To this end, the next stage of learning must embrace, equally, new content and concepts as well as new means by which teachers make connections and communicate with students and parents.

Tonight, at our Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education (7:00 PM), I will be presenting an outline of our new plan for “Continuity of Learning: Phase Two” to the Board. Mr. Randazzo will be explaining our plan for “Grading during Extended School Closure.” It will focus on last quarter progress monitoring and grading (for the middle school students) and last trimester progress monitoring and grading (for the elementary school students). Our combined PowerPoint presentations will be posted tonight. We will also have them posted tomorrow morning with all other COVID-19 communications. We welcome you to login to the Board Meeting through our website (see BoardDocs) for our Student of the Month recognition awards (February and March), which will be followed by the superintendents’ two reports (about 7:30 PM) as well as general news and business actions. As always, there is a Public Be Heard component of the meeting in which we welcome your questions. You can participate through the email address [PublicBeHeard@islandparkschools.org](mailto:PublicBeHeard@islandparkschools.org) or through the virtual hand raise function in Webex (be sure you have the Cisco app or software downloaded to your device). Mr. Randazzo’s letter to you tomorrow will summarize highlights from tonight’s Board meeting presentation.

My continued best wishes to you and your family for good health and happiness.

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