

Superintendent's Message: May 20, 2020

Dear Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

As we look forward to a nice warm weekend, thoughts about the meaning of Memorial Day, students' milestone events in June, report cards, and the last day of school come to mind. I hope that by sharing some of this information with you now, we will be able to enjoy all that we can as much as possible.

Memorial Day, which is Monday, May 25 is a National Holiday; thoughts of those who have served and continue to serve our country remain in our hearts. Recollections of past Memorial Day parades throughout the Village and our students' marching band experiences with the community provide solace during this time when we cannot walk arm-in-arm together in unity as Americans. Nonetheless, we stand united in our care for one another during this difficult time.

All school offices are officially closed on Memorial Day and there will be no school assignments for that day. Families collecting Grab and Go Meals will receive two days' worth of meals on Friday, May 22, when they pick-up during the hours of 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Lincoln Orens Middle School.

As you know, this year we provided instruction during the scheduled Spring Break (April 9-17) as required pursuant to an Order of the Governor. As a result, and consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 202.28, the last day on which student instruction will be provided this year will be Monday, June 15. This will be followed by a Superintendent's Conference Day for teachers on Tuesday, June 16. These final days complete our 183-day school year. (Our district runs three days longer than the 180-day State Education Department minimum.) The June 15 date for the last day of instruction for Island Park students coincides with that of Long Beach High School so it is great for families that we are on the same page. (To date, West Hempstead High School has not completed their end-of-year calendar. Parents should watch the WHUFSD website for information.)

Knowing now when the school year concludes enables us to reconsider several key dates for end-of-year milestone events that will be conducted virtually online as noted below:

- Teacher Tenure & Retirees' Recognition Meeting) Mon, Jun 15, 7 PM (Board Meeting)
- 7th Grade NYC Trip Th, May 28, 10 AM
- 8th Grade Washington Trip Fri, May 29, 10 AM
- National Junior Honor Society Induction Tu, June 2, 7 PM
- 7th and 8th Grades' Awards Th, June 11, 7 PM
- Kindergarten Moving Up Fri, June 12, 9:30 AM
- 4th Grade Moving Up Ceremony Mon, June 15, 9:30 AM
- Pre- K Moving Up Mon, June 15, 11:30 AM
- Report Cards (Pre-K to Grade 8) Mon, June 15, Noon

We continue to hold out hope that the 8th Grade Graduation will be held in-person at the Lincoln Orens Middle School. The tentative date for this is Tuesday, August 18 at 7 PM.

In addition, principals will be contacting parents about dates on which school bus drivers and monitors will be collecting district-owned instruments, books, and computer devices from them as well as how drop-offs of contents from students' lockers, desks, and cubbies will occur. This will be a new type of door-to-door service that we hope will enable us to work with families while keeping everyone safe. Our goal is to ensure students work productively with teachers for as long as possible. Therefore, the collections and drop-offs will not occur until mid-June.

Similarly, principals will be contacting teachers regarding their staggered schedules for the remaining work that has to be done to close up of classrooms in preparation for summer work. Mr. Randazzo will be developing a Professional Development survey for teachers that will guide summer learning and preparation for our new blended learning model in the fall. We will also be scheduling a date to work with our Faculty-Administrators Forum Committee regarding Superintendent's Conference Day on June 16.

Thank you, one and all, for your understanding, cooperation, and support throughout this period. I intend to do everything I can to continue to make the next several weeks of instruction as important as ever for students, while plans for their special events are finalized.

Parents are encouraged to share suggestions, questions, or concerns with your child's teacher. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to do the same with Ms. Cameron, Dr. Hoffman, or Mr. Russum. Mr. Randazzo and I will work closely with everyone to ensure we cover all bases when it comes to meeting our students' needs and our employees' interests.

With fondest regards,

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