

Tick, tock....

We are approaching what I call the time for a "Full Court Press," as those familiar with basketball understand the meaning. It is the time when every ounce of energy, everything we have, everything we know, is committed to doing well on the NYS exams. I know, many of you are really tired of hearing about exams. For better or worse, that is how we are judged. You as parents also give serious attention to exam scores when you look at high schools and colleges.

I am pleased that all staff is fully engaged in addressing the skills and strategies needed to do well. We are doubling our efforts to ensure that all children who are supposed to attend Saturday Academy do attend. We are monitoring daily attendance and as always, call parents when a child is absent. Principals are monitoring teachers' lesson plans and actual classroom lessons. Allow me to remind you that we are partners and your children, their teachers and I count on you. Homework is every night, don't accept excuses. All children should be reading every night, no exceptions. Mathematics is to be studied every night, no exceptions. Saturday and Sunday are excellent opportunities to spend more time studying math and reading. I recall being told as a child, "when you're finished with your homework, pick up a book and read," and, "when you're finished reading, read something else." Of course I complained and fussed. Obviously it worked out for me.

I never made the decision to be a teacher to have my kids judged by a test. All I ever wanted to do was change the world, to make it better. As a NYC principal for many years, I quickly learned that my school and my effectiveness as a principal would be judged by "the test." I was incredibly blessed when I was chosen to serve as a consultant to develop our first charter application and then selected to be the founding principal of Icahn Charter School 1. My amazing and brilliant teaching staff (now Icahn principals and supervisors) brought us to first place in test results year, after year, after year. For the last few years, we have been in second place in all of NYC.

It's interesting that although we are in second place, we have more graduates gaining acceptance to specialized high schools, private schools, boarding schools and parochial high schools- many on scholarships. We have been reported in numerous articles, featured on several tv shows and have three schools awarded the National Blue Ribbon, signifying the best schools in the nation. Oh yes, more than 22,000 parents applied last year to our annual lottery. 22,000 parents!!!!

All that being said, we are a public school that must follow the rules and take the test. Our charter requirement is that our children take the test and we must score high to remain open. At the very least, charter schools are expected to have results higher than any other schools in the same district. Your partnership played a most significant role in our progress to date.

For your child, for your school, and yes, for me, I ask you to double your efforts in making sure we continue to do well.

As always, thank you for your wonderful children.

Respectfully,

Jeff Litt





DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRESS REPORTS

- #3 Monday, February 13, 2017
Parent / Teacher Conferences
- #4 Monday, April 3, 2017
- #5 Thursday, June 8, 2017
- #6 Friday, July 14, 2017



School Calendar!

Icahn Charter Schools 2016-2017

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Monday-Friday | Feb. 20- 24 | Midwinter Recess (including Washington's Birthday & Lincoln's Birthday) (Schools Closed) |
| Monday-the following Tuesday | April 10-18 | Spring Recess (Passover & Good Friday) (Schools Closed) |
| Monday-Friday | May 29 -June 2 | Memorial Week (Schools Closed) Staff & students return on Monday, June 5th |
| Monday | June 26 | Eid al-Fitr (Schools Closed) |
| Monday | July 4 | Independence Day (schools Closed) |
| Friday | July 14 | Last Day for Students and Staff (12:00 p.m. Dismissal) |

“...My commitment is here. I will not be going to Washington to serve as the United States Secretary of Education.”



IMPORTANT DATES



NEW YORK STATE EXAMS... 2016-2017

ELA NYS Exams

March 28-30 2017... ELA Grades 3-8

NYSESLAT Speaking

April 10—May 19, 2017

Math NYS Exams

May 2—4, 2017 ... Math Grades 3-8

NYSESLAT Listening, Reading & Writing

May 8—19, 2017

NYS Science Performance

May 24-26, 2017 ... Grades 4 & 8

NYS Science Written

June 5, 2017 ... Grades 4 & 8

IOWA Exams

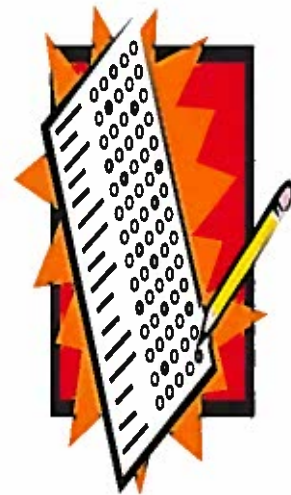
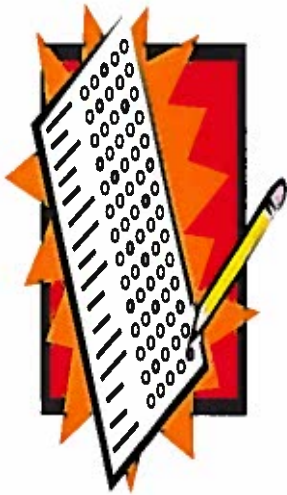
June 6—16, 2017

Algebra 1 Regents

June 15, 2017

Living Environment

June 16, 2017



Remaining Saturday Academy Scheduled for 2016-2017

Saturday, January 7, 21, 28, 2017

Saturday, February 4, 11, 2017

Saturday, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017

April 1, 22, 29, 2017

Dear Partners...

HAS YOUR CHILD READ TO YOU TODAY?



It All Adds Up When Your Child Studies Math!!!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please remember to mark your calendar Monday, February 13, 2017 for afternoon and evening Parent / Teacher Conference.

As always, your child's teacher will provide you with a specific time to avoid the need to stand on line.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you need to change the time of your appointment. You will receive your child's Progress Report at the conference.



THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

Icahn Charter School #5 under the leadership of Principal, Lawford Cunningham, has been selected as our latest school to be awarded the **National Blue Ribbon Award** by the United States Department of Education for their overall academic excellence. The **National Blue Ribbon** award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities, where students master challenging content.

I am very proud that we now have three **National Blue Ribbon** schools, representing 43% of our schools as award winners.

Congratulations to Mr. Cunningham and his incredible staff and most importantly to the students and their families.



39 School Days Before the New York State ELA Exam!!!

ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #1

As the year progresses, Icahn Charter School #1 continues the fast paced momentum of being active participants in the learning experience. The LeAP program is in full stride as the students are engaged in hands-on art experiences. Take a moment to view the animal study projects decorating the Lower School walls. At the Upper School acceptances into high schools are arriving! We anxiously await the arrival of more good news.



ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #2

Student representatives from Icahn Charter School #2 were invited to attend the SUNY Trustees Committee Meeting on January 5, 2017 in Manhattan, New York. Students were able to speak with Trustees and found the experience exceptionally worthwhile. Icahn #2 received a full five year renewal at this meeting.



ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #3

Parent involvement comes when a true partnership exists between schools and families. It is our school's mission to create this partnership to ensure the success of all Icahn 3 students. There are so many exciting initiatives happening this year at Icahn Charter School 3. Parents and students in grades K-2 participated in an engaging workshop about our independent reading program called 100 Book Challenge. There was a parent workshop for third grade parents to learn more about the Common Core State Standards and strategies to prepare and help their children be successful on the New York State English Language Arts examination. For math, parents in grades K-8 met with their children's teachers to learn how to use the Eureka Math Parent Handbook to assist their children with their homework. Also, everyone enjoyed our Family Math Workshop where students and parents engaged in math games to strengthen their children's math skills. During the Title 1 Parent Meeting, parents learned about our Targeted Assistance programs and how they support their children in mathematics and literacy. We look forward to seeing all parents participate in our parent workshops.



ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #4

On December 19th, the Icahn 4 community came together to celebrate the holidays and being awarded a National Blue Ribbon School. Each grade performed a song to bring holiday cheer to a crowd of over 500 family members and friends who came out to cheer them on. Each family received a Christmas ornament with the National Blue Ribbon seal to commemorate this joyous event. Although it was a lot of work, both the staff and students were pleased with their wonderful performance and all parents wanted to know is "when is the next show"!



Icahn Charter School 4's seventh grade class co-taught by Ms. Coburn and Mr. Katz, is honored to have been selected to become NYC Junior Ambassadors. The NYC Junior Ambassadors (NYCJA) program empowers students to become global ambassadors involved in actively addressing the pressing challenges of the world. Students direct their learning and engagement with the NYCJA program by learning about the structure and function of the UN and then determining a global issue that they, as NYC seventh graders, will actively address. As part of the NYC Junior Ambassadors, our students have already begun learning about the history, structure, and function of the United Nations. Students have begun exploring some of the issues facing our world through a series of different learning experiences such as research, group presentations, and Security Council simulations. Our students have researched and discussed issues such as the organs of the United Nations, and historic peacekeeping efforts in Iraq, Haiti, East Timor, and Somalia. In their Security Council simulations, our seventh graders have also researched the Syrian civil war, the resulting refugee crisis, and the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria and other UN member nations. To see the amazingly talented students of Icahn Charter School 4, please log on to www.icahncharterschool4.org!



ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #5

ICS #5 is approaching the 100th Day of School, which means that we are about half way to the end of the school year. As always, we are steam rolling through the curriculum, and your child needs your undivided attention. Here are a list of ways to support the school and your child: continue to ensure completion and correctness of your child's homework, attend ALL meetings/workshops, and keep the lines of communication on-going between you and your child's teacher(s). Also, please be certain that your child is present at ALL intervention programs he/she was recommended to attend, for example, Saturday Academy, Targeted Assistance, and before and after school tutoring.

Lastly, both teachers and administration are here to support you in anyway possible. We are a phone call or email away. Please continuously check our school's website for upcoming events, and the latest school news. The link is www.icahncharterschool5.org."



ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #6

On Thursday, January 5th Ms. Morrison, several students and I attended a very important meeting at the SUNY Global Center in Manhattan. The meeting was hosted by our authorizer, The Charter School Institute regarding our renewal. I am pleased to announce that the committee granted our school a full term renewal of five years. This could not have been achieved without the commitment of our teachers, network support staff, and parents. Their dedication and support throughout this educational journey have been an integral part of our academic progress. Most importantly, I want to thank the children for all their hard work and for believing in themselves each and every day they come to school. I am so proud of each and every Icahn 6 student for all they have achieved thus far. I know our students will continue to work very hard which will lead to further successful outcomes in the future.



ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #7

Our students continue to strive for excellence. As a school community we seek to provide our students with rewarding school experiences each day. From a mobile dental unit, Smiles New York, that came in to provide free oral care to our students to our LEAP program specialist who works with our scholars to create wonderful works of art using the Core Knowledge curriculum, our students are given a well-rounded education. Our teachers in grades 3–5 are diligently working to prepare our students for the New York State ELA

and Math examinations. Each day the students learn and practice new skills and strategies that will help them do their best when the tests arrive. Believe it or not we only have about 8 weeks left before the ELA exams! Although we may be anxious, we are confident that we will do well because of our knowledgeable teaching staff and supportive parents just like you.





In Memory of our Wonderful Student
KYLA DIAMOND DORSEY-WILLIAMS,
Student of Icahn #3

“One of us was called home, but remains in
our hearts and minds always.”

Jeff Litt



Icahn Charter Schools

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Jeff Litt, Superintendent
Daniel Garcia, Deputy Superintendent
Richard Santiago, Deputy Superintendent

YES WE CAN!!!!...AND YES WE DID!!!



Our Mission

The Icahn Charter Schools, using the Core Knowledge curriculum developed by E.D. Hirsh, will provide students with a rigorous academic program offered in an extended day/year setting. Students will graduate armed with the skills and knowledge to participate successfully in the most rigorous academic environments, and will have a sense of personal community responsibility!

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Daniel Garcia, Deputy Superintendent
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Icahn Charter School #2
Ms. Brenda Carrasquillo-Silen
Icahn Charter School #3
Ms. Marcy Glattstein
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Ms. Michelle Allen
Icahn Charter School #5
Mr. Lawford Cunningham
Icahn Charter School #6
Mr. Brian Geelan
Icahn Charter School #7
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To be Determined
Icahn Charter School #2
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