

***Onward and Upward...***

**D**ear Parents/Guardian:

I am certain that parents are grateful that the summer is finally over and that children are back in school. The Icahn staff is truly excited about the new school year and was most eager for the children to arrive. Following Labor Day, all teachers were involved in professional development workshops for four consecutive days. Those of you who also have children in the New York City system are aware that Department of Education teachers had only one day to receive any professional development and also set up their classrooms. Professional development at the Icahn Charter Schools is seen as critical, to high student achievement.

You will recall, the annual ELA and mathematics state testing that our children had last Spring, I am very pleased to report that the Icahn Charter Schools showed a significant improvement in both ELA and mathematics. I should recognize that Icahn Charter School #7 had the highest percentage of gains in both ELA and mathematics.

You are most probably aware that on both the city and state level, the policy of the NYSED Commissioner and the NYC Chancellor is that teachers are not responsible for student achievement. I ask that you think of that policy very carefully. We are being told that the people responsible for instruction are not responsible for the results of their instructional program. I know of no other profession where the provider of a service is not accountable for their performance. All charter schools, are in fact, accountable for student outcomes and in some cases a charter school lost its charter due to low student achievement.

Our network of schools has all but one school "fully matured," now providing classes up to eighth grade; Icahn Charter School #7 has just begun a seventh grade. We are very grateful that we were able to gain another Department of Education building for them to eventually provide our educational program to grades 5-8.

You will hear from your children about our new science program. Beginning this semester we will be using Amplify Science. Science has been a main focus area for me personally. I believe that science, perhaps more than any subject, is found to be exciting for the children and serves as a great motivation. I have therefore, directed that each school have an hands on Science Lab.

Technology plays a major role in all Icahn schools. We have therefore, provided every child with their own Chrome Book Computer. I sincerely doubt that there are any schools who provide technology to the student to the extent that we do. I ask parents to please be mindful that this was a major expense for us and that you join us in instructing your child that it is their responsibility to take care of the computer as well as all school materials.

On behalf of the entire Icahn Charter School staff, I wish you a successful and happy school year. Please remember, we are here for you.

As Always, thank you for your wonderful children.

Jeff Litt, Superintendent

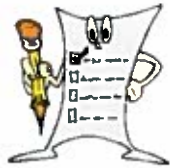




# **DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRESS REPORTS**



- #1** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 - Parent/teacher Conference
- #2** Thursday, December 20, 2018
- #3** Friday, March 1, 2019 - Parent/teacher Conference
- #4** Friday, April 12, 2019
- #5** Friday, June 7, 2019
- #6** Friday, July 5, 2019



## **New York State Exams...** **2018-2019**



### **ELA NYS Exams**

Tuesday - Thursday, April 2-4, 2019... ELA Grades 3-8

### **NYSESLAT Speaking**

Monday, April 8 - Friday, May 17, 2019

### **Math NYS Exams**

Wednesday - Friday, May 1- 3, 2019 ... Math Grades 3-8

### **NYSESLAT Listening, Reading & Writing**

Monday, May 6-17, 2019

### **NYS Science Performance**

Wednesday, May 22-Friday, May 31, 2019 ... Grades 4 & 8

### **NYS Science Written**

Monday, June 3, 2019 ... Grades 4 & 8

### **New York State Algebra Regents**

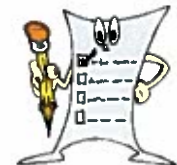
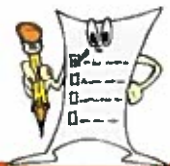
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 ... Grade 8

### **New York State Living Environment Regents**

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 ... Grade 8

### **New York State World Language Assessment**

June 2019 ... Grade 8 (TBD)





**Icahn Charter Schools  
2018-2019  
School Calendar**

Monday	October 8	Columbus Day (Schools Closed)
Tuesday	November 6	Election Day (No Classes) All staff report for Professional Development
Monday	November 12	Veteran's Day (Schools Closed)
Thursday - Friday	November 22 & 23	Thanksgiving Recess (Schools Closed)
Monday through the following Tuesday	December 24 – January 1	Winter Recess including Christmas and New Years All staff and students return on Wednesday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Monday	January 21	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Schools Closed)
Tuesday	February 5	Lunar New Year (Schools Closed)
Monday - Friday	February 18-22	Midwinter Recess (includes Washington's Birthday & Lincoln's Birthday) (Schools Closed)
Friday - Friday	April 19- 26	Spring Recess (including Good Friday & Passover) (Schools Closed) Staff & Students return April 29 <sup>th</sup>
Monday	May 27	Memorial Day (Schools closed)
Tuesday	June 4	Eid al-Fitr (Schools Closed)
Thursday	July 4	Independence Day (Schools Closed)
Friday	July 5	Last Day for Students and School Staff. (12:00 p.m. Dismissal) Network staff, principals/office staff/staff developers & security report.

## LOOK WHO JOINED THE ICAHN NETWORK IN 2018-2019

ICS #1	ICS #2	ICS #3	ICS #4	ICS #5	ICS #6	ICS #7
Kayla Martinez, 6th grade teacher	Halimah Clark, teacher	Vanessa Cotto, Office Aide	Kimberly Belifore, Art teacher	Anthony Conway, Teacher	Joseph Arena, Physical Ed	Jesse Brody, 4th grade teacher
Gabriel Perez, social studies teacher	Samantha Bredy, 2nd grade teacher	Matthew Lynch, 4th grade teacher	Deborah Filippo, Teacher	Kristin Quitori, teacher	Sarah Embabi, 1st grade teacher	Nicolle Hernandez, ELA teacher
Tashay Wright, 1st grade teacher	Angela Gentile, English teacher	Shelby Silvestri, TA/math	Robbin Vails, Teacher	Tiffany Lande, Guidance Counselor	Karina Espino, Math teacher	Evelyn Suero-Garcia, Spanish teacher
Anna-Nicole Vazquez, teacher	Kelsey Stockton, teacher	Nicole Howard, ELA TA	Oishi Gomes, Teacher	Taylor Meyer, 3rd grade teacher	Mehwish Noreen-Hamilton, Kindergarten teacher	Linda Martin, Math teacher
Carolyn Christiano, TA teacher	Mariellen McLaughlin, 6th grade teacher	Maureen Lynch, 4th grade teacher	Lesley Shearer, ELA teacher	Nicholas Robilotto, Teacher	Michale Okulski, ELA teacher	Charles Noviello, Social Studies teacher
Sofia Yasmin, Guidance Counselor	Desiree Salerno, ELA -Math 7-8	Demi Dunn, 4th grade teacher		Amanda Ciliberto, 5th grade teacher	Caitlyn Torres, ELA TA	Angelica Torres, Office Aide
Gina Minnella, kindergarten teacher	Christine Favre, 4th grade teacher	Ellen Pressler, science cluster		Juan Cardenas, ELA / TA	Daniella Palumbo, TA teacher	Sierra Simmons, ELA/TA
Maud Nau-Thenor, teacher		Jeffrey Hahn, Math teacher		Ellen Tenenbaum, 3rd grade teacher	Komal Thapa, TA teacher	Brianna Tartt-Taylor, 5th grade teacher
Nakea Morris, Office Aide		Brianah Frazer, Para		Adrian Morillo, Math TA	Kyla Williams, Para	Jasmine Reid, Office Aide
Bonny Sahouin, science teacher				Martha White, 2nd grade teacher		Sharon Bruskenwicz, 2nd grade social studies teacher
Jamie Ham, Art teacher				Jennifer Appel, 4th grade teacher		Peter Pellegrino, teacher
				Vanessa Watts, Setts		
				Jennifer Frome, History teacher		
				Elizabeth Gahrman, ELA TA		
				Brittany Figueroa, Para		
				Arielle Lupo, Para		



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #1

Let me start by officially welcoming all of you to the 2018-2019 school year! Summer has come and gone, so now it's back to the regular routine of coming to school daily and learning the many exciting changes to follow.

I can't wait for all to see the wonderful happenings that both our faculty and students will be sharing. Anything from Project Base Learning to insightful writing assignments on various topics. Our parents will get the opportunity to preview what's to come throughout the year at our annual Back to School night on September 25th, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Once more, I am honored to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff, OUR well-rounded students, and last, but certainly not least, you, OUR wonderful parents.

This summer our teachers were busy attending Professional Development trainings and are now fully prepared to implement new strategies to differentiate the instruction for all of our students' needs. We have already hit the ground running by looking closely at data from state test scores, I-Ready, and MClass. These programs help us determine which students will be enrolled in our targeted assistance programs as well as after school tutoring classes.

I encourage you to visit our school website ([www.icahncharterschool1.org](http://www.icahncharterschool1.org)) often. This will serve as a resource tool for all upcoming events and important reminders, including teacher webpages and important assessments

Once more, I look forward in partnering with you throughout the year.

## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #2

### Back to School Parent Orientation

During the week of September 12, Icahn 2 started the 2018-19 School Year, by welcoming back our students and parents. The Icahn 2 Staff members at grade levels K-6 hosted open houses in their classrooms. This was an opportunity for teachers, to share an overview of the curriculum, as well as student expectations for the coming year. The parents were busy taking notes during these sessions and getting important information about the academics performance criteria for the current grade.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Subject Teachers met with parents and students and took the opportunity to discuss: the overview of the year, the grading system and the expectations to ensure a successful school year. Ms. Mastromonaco, the Guidance Counselor, also addressed the parents in preparation for High School selection process for their 8th Grade and to equip the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students for the Middle School experience.

Our parent orientation session sets the stage for other parent meetings and workshops throughout the year.



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #3

Icahn #3 is excited to launch its STEAM program for the 2018-19 school year. Students will tackle real-world issues and apply design thinking while collaborating with their peers. Students will begin this journey by utilizing Lego bricks and coding software to enhance the science curriculum. Imagine students designing their own canal system and controlling the opening and closing of the gates from their Chromebook as they explore flooding in fourth grade. We look forward to giving our students the power to create and command their own robotic Lego creatures, vehicles, machines and inventions. Come and learn about this program and others at our Curriculum Night on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #4

### WE Day UN 2018

WE Day is an unparalleled, inspirational stadium-sized experience that brings together world-renowned speakers and performers with stands packed with young social innovators to honor their contributions and kick-start another year of change. But you can't buy a ticket to WE Day. You have to earn it. Ms. Coburn's NYC Junior Ambassadors earned their tickets by taking action on the issues that matter most to them. More than 50 of our NYC Junior Ambassadors will be attending this year's WE Day UN event on September 26th!

### Generation Citizen

How can our students develop a deep understanding of civics and government? Through action. This year, Icahn Charter School 4's middle school social studies curriculum will be extended by Generation Citizen, an action civics program that utilizes college students as democracy coaches. Democracy coaches lead students to identify civic issues that matter to them, and work to make change!

NYC Family Fair - Know Your Neighborhood Resources Did you know that New Yorkers can use SNAP/ EBT to buy fresh fruits and veggies at farmers markets? Or that you could rent a free Wi-Fi hotspot (or even accessories for a job interview) at the library? Our neighborhoods and communities are full of amazing resources. This year, Icahn 4 is committing time to helping families keep current with all of the opportunities around them through a kick-off fair and a family resources website. Look for more information coming soon!



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #5

Icahn 5 is pleased to welcome back families to what will definitely be an exciting 2018-19. We are starting strong with a new, interactive science program and a hands-on math program. We are also strengthening our commitment to our rich Core Knowledge Social Studies curriculum for all students. There will be many opportunities for students to work across topics to deepen their knowledge and skills. Icahn 5 also welcomes several new faces on staff! We are thrilled for our new teachers to get to know our amazing students and families as we start this new school year. Together, with families, students, and staff, the 2018-2019 school year will not only be successful, but one filled with new and exciting learning opportunities.



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #6

Icahn Charter School #6 is off to a fantastic start for the 2018-2019 school year! We are ecstatic to host our first 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and look forward to all the continued conversations surrounding High School! We welcome new staff members in the elementary and middle school that have immediately impacted our students and school. We will host our Back to School Night on two consecutive days, Wednesday, October 3, 2018 (Elementary School- Fulton Ave.) and Thursday, October 4, 2018 (Middle School- Mansion St.) We hope to see you there! You will have the opportunity to learn about our most current curriculums, technology opportunities and use in the classrooms, and various “need to knows” for the school year. Icahn 6 students and staff are eager to achieve, and we appreciate all of our families for their continued support and commitment to our school! In the words of the great Dr. Seuss, “Your off to Great Places Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so..... get on your way.”





## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL # 7

Welcome to another new and exciting year at Icahn Charter School 7! We are a school committed to our mission of preparing our students to achieve their highest potential in all areas of their lives. We were thrilled this year to have opened our new middle school building on Seward Avenue in the Bronx. Our leadership team and teachers were dedicated and worked tirelessly to make sure that our Middle School was up and ready for our students' return in September. During our Back to School Night, our parents were able to tour our new building and get a sense of the programs and activities the Icahn 7 team has planned for the year.

This year Icahn 7's focus continues to be on the academic and social growth of our students. We continue to utilize google classroom as a means to integrate technology into our lessons. All students have access to their own Google Chrome Books to use throughout the school day. We have also added a robotics and coding program to our curriculum and we are in the process of finalizing our plans for a music theory and development program at Icahn 7.

As a school community we are excited about what the future has in store for us this year. I look forward to the continued partnership between you, our parents, and our school community.



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### Saturday Academy - 2018-2019

As you know, there are several support programs to ensure that all students are brought to grade level or above on both New York State ELA exam & mathematics exam. If your child is invited to participate in our after school tutorial program or Saturday Academy, he /she **must attend**.

<b>November 2018:</b>	<b>November 17th</b>
<b>December 2018:</b>	<b>December 1st, December 8th, December 15th</b>
<b>January 2019:</b>	<b>January 5th , January 12th , January 19th, January 26th</b>
<b>February 2019:</b>	<b>February 2nd, February 9th,</b>
<b>March 2019:</b>	<b>March 2nd, March 9th, March 16th, March 23rd, (ELA only) March 30th, (ELA only)</b>
<b>April 2019:</b>	<b>April 6th, (math only) April 13th, (math only)</b>





## 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*

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

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TBD

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Daniel Garcia, Deputy Superintendent

Richard Santiago, Deputy Superintendent

Kaitlyn O'Connor, Director of Curriculum  
& Instruction