

**D**ear Parents/guardians:

I hope by this time, you are all well aware of how important you and your children are to me personally, and the entire Icahn staff. I firmly believe that our principals, teachers and support staff treat our children not as students, but as their own. We must always remember the awesome responsibility that the Icahn staff has. We teach, guide, mentor and advise.

The holiday season brings us joy as we celebrate with family and friends. It is particularly an exciting time for children, not just for the gifts they may receive but, most importantly the feeling of peace and love unlike any other time of the year. Our children have that same feeling of love, peace and security each day while in school. More than any place else, we are family.

No matter what holiday you celebrate at this time - Christmas, Kwanzaa, Three Kings, Hanukkah or any other holiday, I wish every parent, every grandparent and every child a joyous holiday season and a most happy and healthy New Year.

I thank our tremendously dedicated staff for their tireless efforts everyday throughout the year. I thank our parents for their continued support, confidence and trust.

As always, thank you for your wonderful children.

Jeff Litt  
Superintendent



## ***DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRESS REPORTS***



- #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)



# School Calendar!

## Icahn Charter Schools 2018-2019 School Calendar

Monday through the following Tuesday	December 24 – January 1	Winter Recess including Christmas and New Years <b>All staff and students return on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
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.



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #1

It is hard to believe that 2018 is coming to a close in just a few weeks. On behalf of the all staff members at Icahn 1, I would like to thank you for helping to create a wonderful, collaborative safe haven for all of our students. During my daily walk through, it is clear to see how much growth our students have made since the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Students are digging deep into texts, having meaningful discussions with their classmates, asking each other thought provoking questions, and of course persevering through complex, multi step story problems in math.

All of our intervention programs are up and running, so if you child is flagged for Saturday Academy, and/or tutoring, they **MUST** attend.

As always, please continue to support and encourage your child to do his/her very best. The future at Icahn 1 is very bright. With all hands on deck, we could accomplish a lot more.

Happy holidays from the staff at Icahn Charter School 1.



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #2

This November our Icahn 2 students: Eva U., Tanvir M., Sebastian O. Leila G., and Jasmine A. continued their Thanksgiving tradition of organizing a food drive for the needy. The students made posters and announcements to their fellow peers regarding this cause and promoted a sense of community and compassion amongst the students and faculty. Eva U. stated: "From October 24 to November 16, at Icahn2 we hosted a food drive for City Harvest, an organization that works to "rescue" food for the 1.4 million New Yorkers who suffer from hunger. These people are deserving folks just like us but cannot afford to have three good meals in a day. There are children just like us who go to school hungry. Icahn 2 students have taken steps to help stop this prevalent problem. Thanks to your generous donations, Icahn 2 is doing their part in the community." Students collected 700 pounds.



### ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #3

It has been an exciting few months at Icahn Charter School 3! We have launched many different programs into our curriculum such as robotics, dance and art to provide opportunities to inspire students to explore their interests and enhance their critical thinking skills. In our robotics program, the students use technology and engineering to work through the creative process in a team to build a functioning robot that solves a real world problem. Students in grades 3 through 6 will be competing in our first ever Robotics Competition on December 19th.

During the competition, teams will program their robots on command to accomplish various tasks such as a tug of war and moving objects onto specific targets. In grades 3 and 4, students have started the dance movement program. During the month of December, they will be studying different forms of dance such as ballet and modern dance. Students are learning the different techniques and terms associated within different genres of dance. In LEAP, students in grades K-2 are receiving art education to foster creativity and collaboration within different art mediums. We look forward to continuing these programs and expanding to others throughout this school year!



### ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #4

After our visit from Core Knowledge board members on November 1st, an invitation was extended to Icahn 4 to present at their annual board meeting. Ms. Bevilacqua, chair of the Core Knowledge board, wanted the rest of the board to hear from a principal who had both experience and success implementing Core Knowledge as well as provide input regarding their new and exciting curriculum resources. Besides the honor of presenting in front of the board, I had the added pleasure of meeting the father of Core Knowledge himself; Dr. E.D. Hirsch!

**Content and Skill Guidelines for Grades K-8**



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #5

With great joy, I send season's greetings to the entire Icahn family. This year has been both wonderful and exciting thus far. Our students are working extremely hard in their classes. Icahn 5's teachers are truly dedicated to the craft of teaching and to their students. Teachers are taking on many new and exciting methods with which to engage and challenge their students. Teachers and students are digging deeply into texts with close reading strategies and learning new ways to creatively solve math story problems. I believe this New Year will bring many new attainable challenges for your child.

We recently enjoyed a visit from the Cosmic Planetarium and we look forward to many other enriching experiences and trips. Our middle school students have begun their second successful year of the American Debate Team, and we anticipate them, again, bringing home the top prize.

As always, we need your support in ensuring that homework is completed daily, students are studying to pass ALL their exams, ALL intervention programs are being attended, and that open communication between you--the parents-- and teachers remains open.



On behalf of the entire Icahn Charter School 5,  
we wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season.



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL #6

There are many exciting new initiatives happening at Icahn Charter School 6. Parent involvement is best developed when a true partnership exists between schools and families. To engage families with the great happenings at Icahn 6, parents will visit classrooms this month to celebrate the great work of the Icahn 6 students. Additionally, parents will participate in meaningful literacy and math activities to learn concepts that can be reinforced at home.

We are excited to introduce another initiative, called "Awareness Day." The purpose of "Awareness Day" is to foster a sense of unity, friendship and positive energy within the school environment while discussing monthly core values.

School libraries at Icahn 6 are engaged in the implementation of the New York State Learning Standards, as teachers of information literacy, helping students become proficient of content in all formats. School librarians, Ms. Russell and Ms. Lewis, are bringing literacy to life! At the lower school, guest author, Sherry Duskey Rinker, discussed her book, *Tiny and the Big Dig*. Students from K-2 enjoyed the interactive read-aloud and received copies of her book.

Storytelling residency program at the middle school has been a hit! Storyteller LuAnn Adams is working with the 5th grade students to discover a memorable moment of their lives, share their experiences and discuss what they have learned from it through writing and public speaking.

Debates are a wonderful, high-interest way to teach a number of skills to students. They provide students with the ability to research a topic, work as a team, practice public speaking, and use critical thinking skills. Icahn 6 middle schoolers are participating in programs such as Agape Debate and Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial to practice debating skills.

I look forward to sharing other enrichment programs that will propel Icahn 6 to new heights.

May I wish you a wonderful holiday and I look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year, as we aim to make 2019 our best year yet!



## ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL # 7

Icahn Charter School 7 students continue to strive for excellence. As a school community we seek to provide our students with rewarding 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 work with our scholars to create wonderful works of art using the Core Knowledge curriculum, our students are given a well-rounded education.

We launched a few new programs this year. We began a robotics program called Robofun. Robofun's scratch coding and game design program trains students on how to design their own video-games using Scratch, a software developed by MIT media lab. Students learn how to think like programmers, use logic, and piece together different codes to make their characters move, jump, and interact with their environments. We are also anticipating the opening of our new library in the elementary school building in January 2019.

We have also started some new school events this year. These school events were designed to build our school community and to make us stronger and more cohesive as a team. We launched our Awareness Day celebrations in which students acknowledged and learn more about important causes like Anti-Bullying Month, International Persons of Disability Day and World Kindness day. Students were allowed to wear specific colored shirts to commemorate these special days. We also had our first annual Fall Harvest Celebration in which our parents prepared culturally inspired dishes and shared them with the students in one great Icahn 7 Thanksgiving Feast. The students had a great time learning about and eating special dishes from around the world.



### 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>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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