April 4, 2020

Parents and guardians of District 22 students,

I hope you are well and safe during these difficult and unprecedented times. As we completed week two of remote learning, I can share with you that teachers and principals are diligently working to prepare engaging work for our students. I am in communication with Principals at least three times a day to check on instruction, attendance and most importantly, that every member of our community is safe. We have had our share of victims due to the virus and my prayers are with those individuals and their families.

Remote learning is a new experience for everyone involved. As educators, we have always infused technology into lessons, but remote learning is different. A teacher has to find the balance of direct and independent work. Students have to be engaged to learn new material and work independently based on teacher feedback. Parents have to support and guide students, especially the young ones, as they manage their time and complete tasks. Please keep in mind that based on technological capabilities, schools may have chosen different platforms to conduct remote learning. Regardless of the programs, the state standards and curriculum are being followed. The words I have shared over and over have been “patience and flexibility.” As the days go by, the routines will be set, and it all should get easier.

Speaking of routines….it is important to keep routines since children do best when they follow an orderly day. Parents, please make sure that we include physical movement and socialization as part of the routines. Children should not work on the technological devices all day without some movement. It may walking around the home, doing some push ups or stretch exercises, whatever you choose, as long as you include physical activities for them. Even more importantly, to alleviate their stress, include some quiet time when they can relax.
You may have heard by now that remote learning will continue throughout the Spring Recess. Letters will be sent home by your child’s principal. Kindly look for that letter. The Chancellor has explained that any student or staff member who observes the holidays such as Passover or Good Friday may do so. The DOE will be providing teachers with additional guidance to include in their work during Spring Recess including virtual educational resources such as museums, libraries and cultural institutions.

Please reach out to my Parent liaisons, Linda Dalton L.Dalton@schools.nyc.gov and Heather Fiorica HFiorica@schools.nyc.gov, if you have any questions, concerns or need some extra resources for your child as we navigate through these uncharted waters.

I wish you health and peace. Stay safe.

Julia Bove  
Superintendent