



PS 197
Kings Highway Academy
1599 East 22nd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11210
Phone: (718) 377-7890
Fax: (718) 377-7505

Rosemarie Barbieri Nicoletti
Principal

Anne Marie Corrado
Assistant Principal

October 20, 2020

Dear Families,

We do not know whether Blended students will be in person or all students will remain fully remote after October 21, 2020. This decision will be up to the Chancellor and the Mayor. I am writing to share some recent important items that are available at this time for the 2020-2021 school year.

I OPT IN FROM FULLY REMOTE TO BLENDED INSTRUCTION

- The first opt-in window is Oct 26 - 30 for full time remote students to request to opt in to blended learning.
- Principals must plan for students returning to in person instruction in order to ensure that all protocols for social distancing are adhered to.
- Families will be notified of schedule updates or changes by Monday November 9, 2020.
- Students that opt in will begin blended learning on November 16.

II ELECTION DAY

- Election day, Tuesday November 3, 2020, will be a fully remote instructional day for all students.
- Students are expected to participate in their Google Classrooms.

III PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY

- Thursday, November 5, 2020 will be PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY and a half day for all students.
- Student dismissal will be 11:00 AM.
- Conferences will be held virtually from 12 Noon to 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM.
- Schedules will be set up for meetings. It will be extremely important for families to be prompt.

IV REPORT CARD TRIMESTER SCHEDULE

- This year, we will be transitioning to a Trimester Report Card Schedule.
- Report cards will be distributed on **12/11/20, 4/2/21 and 6/25/21**.
- This will ensure that teachers have sufficient data to provide fair and accurate report card grades for your child.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will focus on students' current performance and progress, and what the expectations are for the upcoming December Report Card to be on grade level and on track for promotion to the next grade.

V STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- ❑ Students must participate in synchronous or asynchronous lessons and submit classwork assignments during the school day in order to be considered present for that day. The school day is between 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM.
- ❑ Work submitted after that time will be accepted, but will not qualify for the student to be marked present for that day.

VI STUDENT REMOTE WORKSPACE FOR OPTIMUM LEARNING AT HOME

- ❑ It is very important for your child to have a designated workspace at home where they can attend to both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) assignments.
- ❑ Desk or table (rather than a couch or bed) and upright chair.
- ❑ School supplies, ie., books, paper, pencils/pens only. No toys or items that can be a distraction.
- ❑ For Google Meets, to maximize learning, make sure your child is in a quiet space, seated upright with the camera on and mic off. Have your child eat before or after, not during. Be on time.
- ❑ Parents should allow children to complete work independently, not do it for them.
- ❑ Parents should not help their child complete assessments as these are meant to drive instruction.

VII INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT, CORE PROGRAMS

- ❑ **I-READY** is a new program we recently purchased. It is a diagnostic and instructional program. It consists of an initial assessment followed by a series of prescriptive individualized assignments designed to build strategies and skills for individual students.
- ❑ **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR FAMILIES TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO DO THIS WORK COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY.** As the assignments are completely targeted to address the needs of individual students, it is important that families not prompt or support the students during the assessment. Consider it like going to a doctor for a prescription. It is important that your child receive the correct prescribed assignment to build his or her skills.
- ❑ Please click on the following link and view the I-Ready Family Video:
[I-Ready Family Video](#)

TEACHERS COLLEGE READING AND WRITING ASSESSMENTS

- ❑ We will be administering Teachers College Assessments virtually this year. Again, I emphasize the importance of allowing your child to do these assessments with the teacher, **WITHOUT PROMPTING AND SUPPORT.** This will be the basis for the student's reading level and assignment and instruction moving forward. Data has shown that the amount of time students spend reading **JUST RIGHT** books is directly related to their rate of progress.

TCRWP FAMILY WORKSHOP

- ❑ Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 11:00 AM
- ❑ Families Make a World of Difference to Kids as Readers and Writers: Families as Partners. Supporting Joyful Literacy (with workshops in Spanish).
- ❑ We have a limited number of tickets for this family workshop. Email VVolpert@schools.nyc.gov if you wish to attend.

ENVISIONS2 MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENTS

- ❑ We will continue to administer end of unit assessments to the students. In addition, we will be using I-Ready assessments to support the acquisition of skills and strategies in Mathematics.
- ❑ Of course, we know how important it is for families to support their child's learning and we encourage you to do so. At the same time, listen to your child's teacher to know when it is important for him or her to complete work independently so the teacher knows what skills and strategies to teach.

AMPLIFY, PASSPORT TO SOCIAL STUDIES, SANFORD HARMONY

- ❑ We will continue with the AMPLIFY Program for Science.
- ❑ For Social Studies we are continuing with the PASSPORT TO SOCIAL STUDIES Program.
- ❑ Assessments in Science and Social Studies will be based on classwork, homework, projects submitted and related unit tests.
- ❑ Social Emotional Learning has taken on a new meaning with our current circumstances. It is a very important part of our curriculum. We incorporate activities from SANFORD HARMONY each morning.

VIII NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

- ❑ Wednesday November 11 - VETERAN'S DAY
- ❑ Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

If you have any questions, you may share them with our PTA executive board or Parent Coordinator in advance of our next PTA and Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6 PM.

Please remember that it remains extremely important to continue to follow all protocols to stay healthy.

Sincerely yours,

Rosemarie B. Nicoletti

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Principal