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## A Community Update from the Superintendent of Schools

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March 20, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

I hope that you are all doing well during this challenging time of social-distancing and are finding positive moments with your families. Our students have started to re-engage in their academics and regain a certain amount of normalcy. While I understand the difficulties involved with social-distancing, we must continue to follow all official recommendations. To that end, please be advised that all Irvington UFSD facilities are closed. This includes playgrounds, fields and the track. As much as we value exercise, it cannot be done in groups or on District property. **Parents, please do your part by keeping our students from congregating!**

### **Learn from Home Update:**

On Wednesday, March 25th, we are looking forward to launching the next phase of our learn-from-home initiative. At that time, student learning will shift from a focus on maintaining knowledge and skill to one that is designed to advance learning in alignment with District curricula. Your children's teachers will be actively involved in supporting learning and communicating with you and them. Daily student participation is required, as it is equated to school attendance. This Monday, each school will provide you with specific directions and expectations.

### **Virtual Professional Learning:**

I have been so impressed with our teachers' continued level of dedication and all of the time that they have put into their preparation for this *new and* unexpected world of teaching and learning. Their commitment to supporting their students is second to none. This week the District was thrilled to host Virtual Professional Learning Days. Through these experiences, our teachers participated in numerous workshops on technological tools, instructional strategies and distance learning techniques. There were also numerous virtual planning meetings within each school, grade level and department to support our students continued academic growth.

### **Meal Distribution:**

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be distributed from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, Monday - Friday at Main Street School and at Tarrytown Crossing/Tallyrand. All Irvington UFSD students are eligible to receive a grab-and-go style meal free of charge.

### **Future Closures & Spring Break:**

No decision has been made yet by the Governor or Westchester County Executive as to whether schools will continue to be closed. However, parents are encouraged to continue to plan for long-term school closures. While no official guidance has been provided by the appropriate officials, I do believe that Irvington will have its scheduled spring break (free of teaching and learning). More information will be shared once confirming guidance is received.

**District News:**

I am pleased to announce that Susan Lockhart is joining the IUFSD family as the Interim Assistant Director of PPS. Ms. Lockhart will begin Monday and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience having served as a Director of PPS for many years. We are confident that she and Ms. Krieger will make a great team to support our needs in Irvington. Welcome Ms. Lockhart!

In my effort to provide as much communication to the school community as possible, I am pleased to announce that in the coming week I am going to begin hosting regular Facebook live sessions. During these brief events, I will provide updates from across the District and share some insights on new developments. For more information, please stay connected with IUFSD on Facebook.

As always, I extend my personal best wishes to you and your families. Please stay well and ***practice social-distancing.***

Every student, every day,

Kris

Dr. Kris Harrison  
Superintendent of Schools

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