



An Important Update from the Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

I hope this message finds you all well and healthy, having enjoyed the Mother's Day holiday weekend. The purpose of my letter today is to provide you with important District news and updates on events. Please take time to review this entire email and then monitor your email in the coming days for follow-up communications from your child(ren)'s school(s).

School Calendar:

Governor Cuomo recently issued an executive order that provided clarity on the school calendar requirements for the current school year. Based on his executive orders and subsequent legal guidance, school districts must remain in session all weekdays through June 7th exclusive of Memorial Day, which is a federal holiday. Due to the fact that our schools were in/will be in session for previously scheduled vacation periods (Spring Break and May 22nd), we will have exceeded the required number of school days. As a result, the 2019-20 District calendar will be modified with excess days deducted from the end of the school year. The Board of Education will adopt a revised calendar at a future meeting that will reflect this adjustment and details will be promptly communicated with the school community.

Memorial Day Weekend:

The Board-adopted 2019-20 District calendar provided for a four-day weekend to celebrate Memorial Day. This will be modified based upon the Governor's executive orders. Distance learning will continue on Friday, May 22nd, but the District will be closed on Monday, May 25th. However, for Friday, May 22nd, each school will change the pace of learning by providing a series of self-directed, enriching learning experiences for its students. As with all assignments students are expected to engage in this distance work. Specific information on these learning experiences will be communicated by school principals. Each school will resume its regular distance learning schedule on Tuesday, May 26th.

Pick Up of Personal Belongings:

Now that all schools in New York have been physically closed for the balance of this school year, in the coming weeks each school will facilitate opportunities for personal belongings to be picked up. Each school will communicate its plan directly to families. However, it is important to note that we have carefully crafted plans to ensure everyone's health and safety. In keeping with all recommended guidelines, those participating in this opportunity must wear face masks. Therefore, it is essential that you review the related, school-based communications for specific details. Please note that the opportunities that will be provided will occur on different days or at different times to ensure that there are no conflicts for families who have children in more than one school.

Budget Vote and Board Election:

The budget vote and BOE election will be facilitated by absentee ballots for only this year. Ballots and budget information will be forthcoming via regular mail

service. Many budget-related materials can also be found on the [District website](#).

This year there will be an uncontested election for BOE trustees to fill three, three-year terms commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. The candidates for these positions are:

Brian Friedman
Maura Gedid
Jayne Wissner

Health and Wellness Moment:

To continue to support your health and well-being, we are pleased to provide another mediation video that was developed by community member Jennifer Monness. This video is available free of charge to all members of the school community. We encourage you to take advantage of this resource by participating in a relaxing meditation session by [clicking here](#) and entering the password: 1rvMedit@tion to gain access to the video. Finally, if you or your family has any needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school counselor or the IUFSD school social worker, Gina Menendez, at Gina.Menendez@IrvingtonSchools.org.

Finally, I would like to remind you to join me on Wednesday, May 27th at 12:00 pm for my weekly [Facebook Live](#) session where I will provide additional updates on District news.

Take good care,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

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