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## An Update from the Superintendent of Schools

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May 20, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

Today, I write to share important news regarding the 2019-20 District calendar and to provide a few important reminders.

In my community letter last week, I shared that the 2019-20 District calendar was to be modified to ensure the District's compliance with employment contract requirements and to avoid the significant costs associated with exceeding the contractual length of the school year. At last night's Board of Education meeting, the Board adopted a revised calendar that deducts seven days from the end of June; this will account for the seven days that school was in session that was originally scheduled as vacation. As a result, the official final student day is now Tuesday, June 16, 2020. To view the revised calendar, [please click here](#). Also, please be reminded that the District will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day and there will be no distance learning.

As the weather continues to get warmer and the days get longer, we are itching to get out and about. Like you, my family and I are eager to be active and venture beyond our homes. While it is positive to see how the government is beginning to loosen the restrictions placed across the State, it is essential that we continue to comply with all necessary social distancing guidelines. Unfortunately, I continue to get many reports and in some cases have seen myself, instances of social gatherings and students playing with other children with whom they don't reside. We all want to see our children with their friends and engaging in in-person social experiences. However, I request that you continue to demonstrate the incredible patience and resiliency that the vast majority of the community has demonstrated during the pandemic by continuing to practice social distancing. While we don't know for certain how we will be able to operate our schools come this fall, our actions now will have an impact on that reality. So, with the hope of a traditional school experience in September, please... please respect the requirements that have been placed upon us and we will keep our fingers crossed that many more restrictions will be lifted in the coming weeks.

Over the past two months, distance learning has become a part of our daily lives. With this in mind, I want to take the opportunity to provide some reminders associated with virtual class etiquette. I ask that all parents please remind their child(ren) of the following:

- Mute microphones when not speaking
- Turn off all other media (TV, music, games, etc.) while participating in a class
- Remove items of distraction from learning spaces (toys, phones, etc.)
- Refrain from moving the device around during learning sessions
- Always be prepared for learning sessions and join meets on time
- Taking photos or video recordings of classes, students and teachers is not permitted and violates the Code of Conduct

Thank you for your continued support on these important topics. Through our students' cooperation, we will be able to facilitate effective learning experiences and protect the privacy of others.

For our wellness moment this week, please take a few minutes to participate in this week's meditation session by [clicking here](#) and entering the password Med1t@tionLabs! to gain access.

I sincerely hope you are able to enjoy the long Memorial Day weekend by relaxing and enjoying the time with your family. Additionally, let's all take a moment on this important holiday to honor those who were lost while serving our country. In doing so, if you or your children identify any unique approaches to celebrating Memorial Day during this time of social distancing, please feel free to share photos or videos that we could post on the [District Instagram page](#) by emailing [IrvingtonSpirit@IrvingtonSchools.org](mailto:IrvingtonSpirit@IrvingtonSchools.org). Also, please remember to join me for my weekly [Facebook Live](#) broadcast Wednesday, May 27th, 12:00 pm.

All my best,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison  
Superintendent of Schools

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