



Irvington UFSD Announces Extended School Closures

March 16, 2020

Dear Irvington School District Families,

Today, Westchester County Executive, George Latimer, declared a state of emergency due to the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Included in his executive orders was the closure of all Westchester County schools for 14 days. The intention of this closure is to help mitigate the spread of the virus in our schools. Therefore, the Irvington schools will have an extended closure through March 31, 2020. At present, this information is subject to change based upon ongoing updates.

Additionally, as the details of the State and Federal strategy addressing the coronavirus continue to emerge, their recommendations are likely to change. Therefore, families should prepare for the potential of longer school closures. As a result of this, we ask for your continued flexibility and patience. *Information regarding any potential changes to this year's District calendar will be shared in the near future* as our current priority is to focus on providing on-going learning for our students and supporting the well-being of our school community.

In the Irvington schools, we remain dedicated to serving the educational needs of our students. In doing so, we have developed the plans outlined below to support student learning while they are at home. Please be reminded that during the school closures, all athletic and extracurricular activities are canceled.

Learning from Home

From March 18th through March 24th, teachers will be providing learning activities designed to maintain current levels of academic skill. A separate communication will be sent from each building outlining school-level plans.

On Wednesday, March 25th, instruction in new material may begin via a more comprehensive learn-from-home approach. On this date, we are planning to shift from maintaining learning to moving students forward with the established curriculum. Students will be expected to engage in learning each day through a variety of activities that may include live as well as asynchronous instruction. Attendance will be tracked through participation and completion of assignments. Specific information about accessing these lessons will be provided by each building in advance of March 25th.

Families should check that they have a device and internet access to ensure that students can fully participate in distance learning. If you have any concerns, please reach out to your building principal via email for assistance.

School Nutrition Program

The District will establish two locations for Food Services Distribution: in Irvington, the Main Street School parking lot and in Tarrytown, in the Tarrytown Crossing/Tallyrand parking lot near the playground. Beginning on Wednesday, food will be available for a “Grab and Go” pickup between 9:30 am - 11:30 am. As of this time, we are planning on cold food only. Families may pick up both breakfast and lunch at the same time. Parents may pick up for their children, but must know the student number as we are required to track food distribution. Food will be available for free for all Irvington UFSD students. Aramark, the District’s food services provider, will be supplying the food which will comply with the required components to meet National School Lunch guidelines. We will look to publish the revised daily menu on our website in the near future. Please note that during the food-distribution hours, congregating will be strongly discouraged. Students and families are asked to pick up the day’s food and return home. This request is not intended to dampen spirits, but rather to encourage social-distancing and prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

We recognize that home-based learning is not a replacement for face-to-face instruction, but it does provide an opportunity for students to continue to be engaged in their learning during this time of crisis. If you have any questions related to your child’s home-based learning, please email their teacher and/or principal. Technological questions can be directed to the District’s student technology help desk from www.tinyurl.com/irvchromebookissues.

We also recognize that students and families may need emotional support during this very difficult time. If you are experiencing anxiety or stress and you feel you need support, please call the Department of Community Mental Health office at (914) 995-1900. In addition, the District’s mental health professionals will be available to support you and your children. Counselors and psychologists can be reached via email or you may call Gail Krieger at (914)269-5440.

As always, we sincerely appreciate your continued support and understanding. Together we will get through this challenging time due to the strength of our partnership as a school community.

Very truly yours,

Kris

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