



A Personal Message from Dr. Harrison

April 2, 2020

Dear IUFSD Partners,

I think that we can all agree that these have been incredibly challenging times for all of us. Over recent weeks, we have all been demonstrating our flexibility and our ability to navigate each obstacle before us. In the schools, we are adapting to the shift to home-based learning and we will continue to make adjustments that will benefit our students. However, we know that parents are playing a critical role in supporting student learning. I want to thank you for your partnership and let you know that I recognize that this is challenging for you too. While we are all likely expecting the current closure to be extended further, I am confident that our home-based learning will continue to evolve and become more natural for everyone.

Aside from our teachers guiding home-based learning and the District continuing to offer daily breakfast and lunch to all students and providing child care for families who are first responders and medical professionals, I want to share that we are here for you, to assist in whatever way we can. Just yesterday, Gina Menedez, Social Worker, sent a letter to you that included a number of valuable resources. However, that listing cannot possibly cover each challenge that you may face. So, if a need arises and you are unable to or unsure of the best way to resolve it, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to answer the questions that you have or connect you with a resource that can help.

Also, the New York State Office of Family and Children's Services is conducting a survey of parents' needs in New York State and they need your help. They are asking that you complete the [survey linked here](#). Responses go directly to the New York State Office of Family and Children's Services and the Regional Child Care Centers. No replies are seen by anyone in the school district.

In the coming days and weeks, please be sure to take good care of yourself and your family: eat well, get plenty of rest and exercise. While we are limited to being home and have to be mindful of the [social-distancing requirements](#), we can still find ways to care for our minds, our spirits and our health. To support our minds and spirits, I invite you to take advantage of free on-demand meditation sessions that are being offered to you in a partnership between the Irvington UFSD and community member, Jennifer Monness. The sessions are for Irvington families only! To access these meditation videos, please [follow this link](#) and enter the password SpringMedLab. You can use the videos as many times as you would like.

Finally, I invite you to join me on Friday, April 3rd at 12 pm for my next Facebook Live broadcast. You can tune in on the [District's Facebook page](#).

Until then, please accept my best wishes, be well and keep up that Bulldog spirit.

Every student, every day,

Kris

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