

ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 215 MAIN STREET • ISLIP, NEW YORK 11751 • (631) 650-8240 • FAX (631) 650-8218

CHRISTOPHER SMALLEY, Ed.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

CONNECTED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students,

Over the past few weeks, we have begun to develop a plan to implement connected educational experiences in the event our schools are closed for any prolonged period of time. The plans are based on real-time guidance from NY State. The Islip School District professional learning community, made up of administrators and teachers, has redirected and focused all of its efforts on the development of these plans.

As we roll out learning opportunities intended to take place at home, we are quite mindful that not all of our students have access to the same types of technology (laptops, iPads, Wifi, etc.). When possible, we will create hard copies of anything we send electronically and have that available for pick up in our district. More information on that is coming as we move along. While we have set up learning experiences that will extend through April 1st, we recognize that our plans can change at any time.

We are trying to make things as easy as possible to understand right now so please forgive us if any of this information may be too long, or in some cases, not long enough. Please review the goals we think are relevant for this week and next week. **Additional information will be sent out tomorrow from your building principal. That will include additional information about this letter and more grade specific information on learning experiences.**

Goals for families/students from now until Friday March 20

1) Addressing our Social and Emotional Wellbeing

First and foremost, we cannot underestimate the impact this current health crisis has on the social and emotional wellbeing of our children, families, community, and staff. As adults, we too are all working through various levels of uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. The most immediate goal for everyone right now should be to focus on the wellbeing of each other and our family units.

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2) *Make sure you can log into the Parent Portal*

The Parent Portal provides student ID #'s, grades, a student's schedule and a list of all of the student's teachers. For secondary students, the portal provides a gradebook view that shows assignments.

You can access the portal by navigating to:

<https://icampus.islipufsd.org/campus/portal/Islip.jsp> or through the Islip Public School website. If you have any difficulties logging into the portal please click on the "forgot username" or "forgot password" link on the portal log in screen. If you do not have an account or are still unable to access the parent portal using these links please email mfinlay@islipufsd.org.

Students in the High School and Middle School can log onto the Student Portal using the following criteria:

- Student's Username is their 9 digit ID number
- Password is the student's first name initial, student's last name initial and student's birthdate. (example: John Smith - student ID 900000012 with a birthdate of January 15, 1997 - Username: 900000012, Password: js011597)

3) *Make sure you can log into Clever*

Students and parents can access Clever at home by navigating to <http://clever.com/in/islipufsd> on the Islip Public Schools website. After you log into Clever you will see all of the websites, instruction apps, and teacher generated links. To get into Clever you will need a student's 9 digit ID. This information can be found on the Parent Portal. Please take some time to navigate through Clever and try working with some of the websites and apps that are available.

4) *Kindergarten through 4th Grade Students/Families without Wifi access*

Kindergarten through 4th grade students can pick up packets of information at the Islip High School Main Office entrance. These packets are only for students without Wifi at this time. Students with Wifi access will not be expected to print out packets at home so if you do not have a printer, but have Wifi, there is no need for one of these packets. Packets will be available for pickup on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 from 8:00AM-11:00AM at the front entrance of the Islip High School.

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Goals for families/students from March 23rd until April 1st

Beginning on Monday, March 23rd, all teachers will be contacting parents and/or students via email or *Remind* with assignments and projects. The goal for families and students will be to engage with their teachers and work on the assignments or projects that are being given. While we begin to provide teaching and learning experiences in this way, we are aware that not every scenario has been worked out. All questions regarding teaching and learning should be directed to your child's teacher. Establishing a line of communication with your teachers and the school district is one of the most important aspects of these connected educational experiences right now. All of our administrators and coordinators are available as well via email. Our ability to retrieve phone message at this point is extremely limited. While the teachers will be checking their emails regularly, they too could be limited in their ability to offer instant feedback.

Lastly, we are willing to do whatever we can to provide a teaching and learning environment under these new circumstances. As stated above, the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and community is of the utmost importance. While the school district provides learning opportunities in this new way, there is simply no way of knowing how everything will proceed. Aside from any structure we can offer as a district, we are also promoting listening to music, making art, drawing, reading books, playing board games, dancing, playing outside, singing, learning to juggle, embracing family time, and simply stealing some unexpected time right now to sit in peace and think about who we are.

Sincerely,



Christopher Smalley, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction