

Dear Ridgewood Families:

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Today, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Although in-person learning has been suspended for the remainder of the year, I assure you our entire staff remains committed to learning and engaging with all students through remote learning, as well as continuing with our food distribution program.

Like you, we are saddened by the reality that our school community will not be able to reconvene in person this school year due to this public health crisis. So many of you have worked so hard to learn and grow in both the classroom and in extracurricular activities that today's announcement may feel like a step back.

However, the final chapter of this school year hasn't been written yet. These past few weeks have proven our school community is more resilient, more capable and more compassionate than maybe what we previously realized. I'm confident our collective strength will shine through during the remainder of the school year, and we will emerge even stronger.

Since we will not be in the building for the rest of the school year, here are some essential end of year processes we will implement.

SENIORS:

Last Day of Classes: Thursday, May 21, 2010

Graduation: A group of seniors have been meeting with Mr. Uhle and Ms. Tan to create the best possible experience, given these times. That being said, they have decided NOT to have a virtual ceremony on May 26. We will have graduation on July 28, pending any further orders by the Governor.

Prom: The senior class council, along with the advisor, Ms. Zajac, are working to postpone prom to a date, yet to be determined, in July. The group is working with the venue to solidify the new date.

Awards/Cap & Gown/Band Equipment/Tech Return/Library Resources/Athletic Equipment: Seniors, who have earned awards that would have been presented at the May 14th Award Ceremony, will receive their awards when they collect their cap and gown. They will also collect any materials left in their lockers. During this collection time, students will also be required to return all school equipment, books, and library resources. An individualized list with these items that need to be returned will be emailed home. We will use the band area on the East side of the building as the drive-up area to drop off and collect materials. The schedule for collection and dissemination of all materials will be provided at the beginning of May.

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors:

Last Day of Classes: Friday, May 29, 2020

Locker Clean Out: When the stay-at-home order is removed, students will be able to access their lockers (hallway and PE) to remove any belongings.

Athletic/Band Equipment Collection: Students will be contacted with a time and date to drop off their materials. We will use the Band room access on the East side of the building for drop-off.

Books and Library Materials Collection: These items will be checked out in your child's name and will need to be returned when we begin school in August.

Extended School Year/Summer School: This year, extended school year/ summer school will be designed for those students who received Not Met (NM's) for any of their courses. This program will be done remotely. Students will be expected to have regular check-ins with a teacher.

Session 1: June 8-25, 2020

Session 2: July 6-23, 2020

Extended school year will be staffed with certified teachers to assist students in meeting course essentials. Students who need additional time will be enrolled in extended school year and assigned an advisor. The advisor will assist students in navigating their remaining work (course essentials). We are planning for a similar Remote/E-Learning structure for Extended School Year. For students in need of ESY, more information will be provided towards the end of May.

Summer Camps: Based on the stay-at-home order and the continuation of remote learning, we have not made any decision as to whether or not we will be able to offer summer camps.

Address Verification: Families should have received a postcard this week to begin the online address verification and registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Please begin the process at your earliest convenience.

I know this is not the school year that any of us imagined, but I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with this unprecedented situation together. This period of Remote Learning offers us new ways to learn and grow, and out of this Pandemic, we will emerge stronger. Plans will be underway soon for the return to in-person learning next school year.

It's important we continue to work together and support our students. I can't thank you enough for all that you are doing as we all work together through this.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kelsall