



*Innovation • Inspiration • Excellence for All*

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April 1, 2020

**Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Educators and Staff,

Over the past several weeks COVID-19 has challenged each of us personally and professionally. It has been difficult for everyone in our learning community, especially our students. Because of social distancing everyone had developed new routines that include remote instruction and communications which have now become the norm. We have a critically important role in maintaining stability in this community not only for our 27,000 children and their families, also for the entire Yonkers community.

On March 27, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.11, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to flatten the curve on the spread of this virus. By this order, Governor Cuomo extended the time schools will closed through April 15. He made clear that to avoid a reduction in school aid, schools must use any and all scheduled vacation days to continue distance learning and distribution and availability of meals and childcare. On March 28, 2020, the Deputy Secretary of Education confirmed that this order requires these essential services to continue over the upcoming school break.

Therefore, as required by Executive Order 202.11, **the District is unable to go forward with Spring Recess as scheduled** for Monday, April 6 through Monday, April 13, 2020. Our employees must continue the implementation of distance teaching and learning, remote related services to students and maintaining records of student and family engagement. In addition, we must provide Grab N Go breakfast and lunch and childcare.

**Yonkers Public Schools will be operational Monday, April 6 through Monday, April 13, 2020.** Teachers, support staff, administrators and civil service employees are required to be available following the agreements with the bargaining units. We also acknowledge and respect the religious days that are coming up during this period. Employees who may need to take day(s) off due to religious observation(s) are required to place their request in AESOP or report their absence to their supervisor.

As of this date, school buildings will remain closed to students and staff through Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Thank you for the work so many of you have devoted to this challenging distance learning environment. Your passion for quality education, as well as your devotion to our students and respect for our families continues to drive the work. Together, we will get through these difficult times cannot be repeated enough.

Sincerely,



Edwin M. Quezada

C: President Rev. Steve Lopez, Vice President Judith Ramos Meier and  
Trustees of the Board of Education