

**Letter from Superintendent Dr. Lisa Brady**  
**Parent/Community Update**  
**May 1, 2020**

Dear Parents and Community,

**Today, Governor Cuomo announced what most everyone has long suspected - that schools in New York State will remain closed for the duration of the academic year.** There are still many unanswered questions including when the school year formally ends, now that schools are not bound by parameters such as Regents Rating Day - the traditional date which demarcates the end of the school year. We also still have no guidance from the State Department of Education about when the school year officially concludes, but anticipate that this information will be shared with school districts sooner rather than later. There are teacher contract obligations for all school districts which need to be considered and may vary from district to district.

This past week, the Chancellor, Board of Regents, and Interim Commissioner of Education announced the formation of a New York State Task Force comprised of health professionals, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and students to begin discussions about the many issues surrounding the reopening of schools - whenever that may be. In Dobbs Ferry, we have already begun these discussions with our administrative staff, in conjunction with our safety and security consultants. The areas of impact are mind-numbing when we start to identify them and any school reopenings would be a far cry from our traditional ideas of school. There are questions about summer school, which remain unanswered, and the Governor has promised information about summer programs by the end of this month.

Additionally, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has announced the cancellation of the spring sports season and the forming of a task force to analyze the potential impact of COVID-19 on the fall sports season. We know this is yet another disappointment for our student-athletes and families.

Now that a final determination has been made about the closing of schools for the remainder of the school year, decisions about High School graduation, senior awards programs, and stepping up ceremonies for Springhurst and the Middle School will need to be made. All of these milestones are being reenvisioned for our students and families. We have a District full of creative, innovative staff, students, and families and I am confident that we will design experiences and memories that, although very different, will still last a lifetime. Information from our principals will be shared with parents in the weeks ahead.

During this time of extended closure, we continue our meal distribution program and childcare program for healthcare workers and emergency responders. We have distributed over 6,000 meals to Dobbs Ferry families and our distribution site at the MS/HS Commons remains open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Childcare questions can be sent to me directly at [bradyl@dfsd.org](mailto:bradyl@dfsd.org).

As we process this news about the school closure and end of the year activities and events, it is important to remember all of those who have suffered so much since the beginning of the pandemic. It is also important to recognize the extraordinary efforts of millions of Americans and those right here in our own community who continue to bring joy and light into the lives of our neighbors and friends with incredible acts of kindness and caring. Our students and staff are working hard to do their part. You can check out our Facebook pages, Instagram pages, and website for a full catalog of things that will be sure to bring a smile to your face.

I will continue to keep parents and community members abreast of new information as we receive it. In the meantime, enjoy what promises to be a lovely weekend ahead.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Brady*, Ed.D.  
Superintendent