



Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD



Continuity, Creativity, Compassion and Gratitude

AS THE WORLD BATTLES COVID-19, SCHOOL COMMUNITY RALLIES

Hicksville students have been rising to the challenge of remote learning, with support from their teachers, their school district, and, of course, their parents.

Once schools officially closed on March 16, administration and faculty worked together to develop a comprehensive plan to keep students engaged with an exciting and diverse palette of learning experiences.

Grade 6-12 teachers have been creating and delivering lessons using Google Classroom as a primary platform. K-5 teachers have been developing lessons and using resources such as Go Math!, Reading Street and Seesaw, among others.

Teachers have been providing prerecorded lessons for their students and making direct contact through phone and email. Secondary students can also connect with their teachers through daily audio office hours using Google Meets.

Teachers have also been

participating in professional development to enhance their proficiency on the digital platforms being used.

“During this unprecedented time, everyone is doing their part,” Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman said. “I commend our staff for their work to ensure continuity of education. I applaud our students for the discipline they have demonstrated in leading their own learning. Our parents, many of whom have had to balance professional obligations while helping their children learn at home, should be saluted, as well as our parent groups that have gone to great lengths to see that student work is celebrated, even though we cannot honor them in person.”

The Board of Education also conducts its business virtually. Information on attending meetings virtually through Google Meets is posted to the district website in advance at www.hicksvillepublicschools.org.

The Hicksville Public School District sends our deepest sympathies to all who have lost a loved one during this unprecedented crisis. Our hearts go out to you. We can only hope that the warm messages of support and promise by our students and faculty can shine some light into the lives of everyone.



Continuity of Learning (and Normalcy)

Coming Together for Students

Principals and faculty at every school have been sending video messages to their students, reminding them that they miss them and that they are there for them.

Throughout the district, schools have been coming up with creative ways to maintain normalcy and stay connected. Once its traditional career day was canceled, Hicksville High School worked with Career Day Inc. to provide a two-day virtual career day via Google Meet. Each of the eight hourlong sessions welcomed more than 20 students.

"We were happy to give our students an opportunity to hear from professionals in different careers and allow them to share how they were able to achieve success," Hicksville High School Principal Ray Williams said.

The East Street School PTA did its part by hosting a virtual Spirit Week, for which students participated in a new, fun activity

each day. They also conducted a virtual talent show, asking students to send videos of themselves doing magic tricks, dancing or singing.

"We plan to keep posting an activity each week our school is closed so that students keep in touch," East Street PTA Vice President Lauren Morgante said. "We want to provide a little bit of normalcy to students."

Fork Lane School teacher, Nancy Ruisi, who is retiring this year, was distraught over not being able to spend her final months on the job with her students. She decided to drive by the homes of all 27 of her students for a safe greeting to let them know how much she misses them and cares about them.

At Lee Avenue School, fifth graders have been busy reading the book, "Wonder." Teachers have been marveling over the thoughtful posters of kindness created by their students as a response to their reading.

Social-Emotional Support

Schools have been providing proactive social-emotional support tools to students, trying to maintain normalcy. Psychologists and social workers continue to provide weekly phone counseling to students they had been seeing and remain available to all families as needed. The district website also lists valuable resources on

its "Community and Mental Health" page to assist families, conveniently found on the homepage at www.hicksvillepublicschools.org.

"It is important that as we strive to maintain high levels of instruction, we also support the mental well-being of our students and our staff," Middle School Assistant Principal Benjamin Tagney

said. "As a community, we must all do our best to stay positive and hopeful."

Hicksville Middle School Assistant Principal, Dr. Barbara Mrozik, has been creating weekly words of wisdom videos to share with the community as well, and the middle school has been conducting "brain break" activities promoting mindfulness.



Creative Expression

In addition to the many works of art students are submitting to their teachers, the district launched a Creative Expression Project to showcase students' talents on the district website, giving them a platform to show their appreciation for all that's being done during the crisis. Video performances and artwork containing messages of

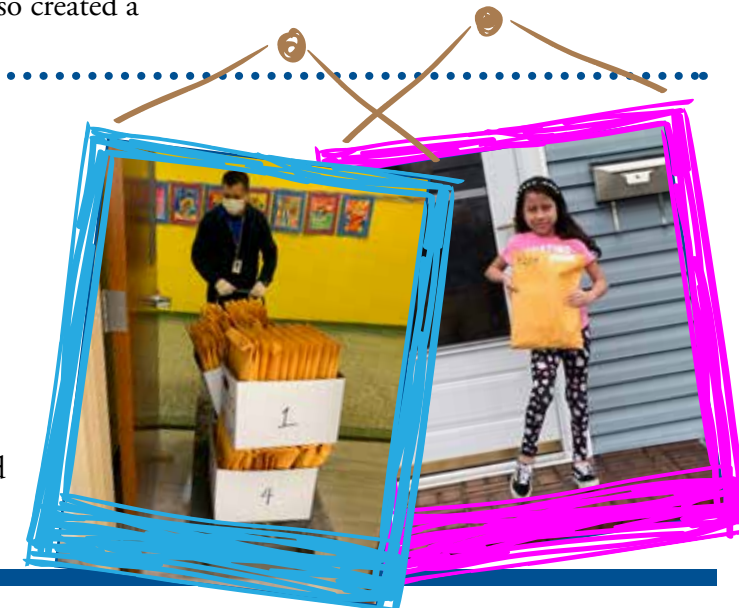
thanks to front-line workers, get well wishes to those battling the coronavirus and inspirational messages of hope are lighting up the gallery, also found on the district homepage. Additionally, the PTA Council held an online virtual coloring contest in celebration of the April religious holidays. The district Fine Arts department also created a

playlist of uplifting songs to share with families.

Schools have also been sharing their students' creative projects through the district's Twitter and Instagram accounts and also using those platforms to share video messages to tell students how much they miss them.

ENSURING CONNECTIVITY

Once it became evident that remote learning would be in place for a while, the district took steps to ensure every family had access to a digital device to stay connected and participate. Throughout this crisis, as of May 1, district personnel delivered nearly 700 devices to the doorsteps of Hicksville students.



THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administration Building
200 Division Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

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The district launched a mobile app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app features push notifications, directory and contact information, calendars, lunch menus and information on late buses, extra help and more – all at your fingertips. This includes updates related to the COVID-19 crisis.

FEEDING and Caring

Once schools were shuttered, the district put into effect a grab-and-go meal service to distribute breakfast and lunch to residents 18 and under. Meals are offered five days a week, with weekend meals distributed on Fridays. Hicksville Middle School and Burns Avenue, East Street and Old Country elementary schools are the pickup locations (8 a.m.-12 p.m. weekdays).

Some Hicksville High School alums also volunteered their time to help and show their appreciation. Krisha Advani, Jesse and Simran Kohli, and Rhea and Rohan Manjrekar worked together to write thank-you notes and raise money to fill and deliver 500 snack bags to front-line workers.

The district also participates in the SCOPE Emergency Child Care Program, which offers tuition-free child care to families of workers identified as essential during the pandemic response. Children of first responders and medical service providers, transit workers and other workers deemed essential by the state may attend these programs. The program is taking place at Old Country Road Elementary School from 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Registration information is available online at scopeonline.us.

