

Dear Floral Park Bellerose Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has closed schools through the end of the school year. As we look back to March when the closures began, we can say that we have ALL COME A LONG WAY in understanding and implementing learning remotely. Our teachers have been working non-stop to learn the on-line versions of our programs, the platforms they are posting assignments to, how to do - "takes and re-takes" of audio and video recordings as well as having "face to face" time, just to name a few. Our administrators are working feverishly behind the scenes to support our staff. If you remember, we began this journey by sending home hard copy packets of work. As of last week, April 27th, the Floral Park Bellerose District moved into Phase III, of the Continuity of Learning Plan.

At this point, students have been provided with content area (reading, writing, math, social studies and science) assignments, support and related service assignments and the specialty area corner is available on the website. Our Phase III Learning Plan, includes video and audio recordings for direct instruction and "face to face" time with our students. I am sure you are experiencing many versions of our "face to face" interactions: large group, small group and individual. Our teachers are all making thoughtful decisions as they determine how to best meet the needs of our students. Our teachers, the students and of course you, the parents/guardians are doing amazing things!

Over the past few weeks our administration has been involved in many conversations with teachers about grading and report cards. Our focus since we began the remote learning was to provide quality feedback to our students and that will remain an essential piece of the learning process. Teachers will continue to provide this necessary information until the end of the school year. Students are expected to complete their assignments (barring health concerns or extenuating circumstances). Our teachers will continue to provide focused instruction and we know students will continue to learn.

With regard to the report cards, we will be leaving the standards-based grading boxes (1-4) blank, as well as the indicators (+ and -) for our K-4 students. Each student will receive a narrative referencing their online participation in instruction and individualized comments regarding their learning. Our 5th and 6th grade students have been and will continue to receive a combination of feedback and grades on their assignments. Therefore, our teachers will be posting standards-based grading in the content areas only and the indicators (+ and -) will be blank. Additionally, similar to the K-4, a narrative will also be provided. We understand that there are MANY factors that impact student's learning throughout this time period. Our teachers are flexible and sensitive to the individual needs of all of our students.

The district will be working diligently to develop a variety of measures and strategies for the upcoming school year to determine where students are with reference to academics and social/emotional needs. Our number one priority is and will remain student success and safety.

Just a reminder to check our website for information on our breakfast and lunch programs, technology assistance, our specialty area corner and soon to come, a link for resources to support families at home.

Be well!

Sincerely,

Juli Mulcahy

Juli Mulcahy Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Student Services