

Elementary Town Hall

Frequently Asked Questions



Thank you to all West Irondequoit families who were able to participate in the online survey or Facebook Live Town Hall on April 21st. Below is a list of the FAQs.

What are the plans for the start of next school year?

Regardless of the length of building closure, we will be prepared at the start of next school year to provide appropriate instruction to students, as we always have. We have a range of diagnostic and common assessments at each grade level that will help us understand students' strengths and areas of needs as they begin the school year. This information will help teachers and staff provide targeted instruction based on needs. We have already begun to revise curriculum documents and scope/sequences based on the impact of the building closures.

What are the plans for upcoming milestone events?

As we continue to receive updates from the state regarding our length of building closures, we have been making alternative plans for upcoming events to the best of our ability.

At the K-3 level, the following updates are available:

- Kindergarten and Third Grade Moving Up Recognitions- our teams are working to create experiences for our students to celebrate these important milestone events virtually.
- Music and Physical Education teachers are working to create experiences that celebrate annual events such as Flag Day and Sports Day. Depending on the length of the closure, these events may be held virtually.
- Kindergarten Screening: We are looking at alternative ways to create experiences in which we can provide our incoming kindergartners with an introduction to school. More details will follow.

At the 4-6 level, the following updates are available:

- Outdoor Ed: We are currently investigating how to still have this experience for our 6th graders, working with teachers, staff and community members to problem-solve.
- 3rd to 4th and 6th to 7th grade transitions: Counselors between our K-3, 4-6 and 7-8 buildings are working to coordinate experiences where students can virtually tour the buildings in an effort to become familiar with the new school and structure.

Classroom teachers and building principals will reach out with additional details as we approach these exciting milestone events, as well as inform students and families of the cancellation of any events.

Can we offer more opportunity for teacher-led instruction/interaction?

As we move more deeply into this closure, staff and students become more comfortable with remote learning. We started with providing materials, moved to delivering instruction and now we are in the process of transitioning to authentic distance learning. We continue to work

with our teachers to develop what this looks like and think about the continued professional development teachers need to execute more teacher-led instruction and interaction with students. Teacher-led experiences could include pre-recorded instructional mini-lessons or videos, narrated PowerPoints and/or screencasts or Zoom lessons and meetings.

What are the plans for grading? How will students receive feedback?

For grades 5-6 a 3rd quarter report card will be available on Infinite Campus Parent Portal on Thursday, April 30th. Grades K-4 will have no 3rd quarter report card and will receive one final report card at the end of the year based on the essential standards focused on during the 4th quarter. Essential Standards are priority standards that have been streamlined due to the COVID-19 situation. In the next week, more information will be provided to K-4 parents/guardians about the specific grade-level standards. For more grading details, click [here](#).

Feedback will be a key tool in distance learning. Teachers and staff will continue to provide feedback to students during the closure through a variety of methods such as guided instruction, email, Schoology (or other platform) discussion threads, annotated rubrics or checklist, peer feedback, etc. Each teacher has the autonomy to decide which form of feedback works best for their classroom and students.

How can we continue to streamline communication and instruction across grade levels, content areas and buildings to promote consistency and clarity?

We have been working to streamline communication as best as we can for students and families. As a reminder, classroom teachers send out at-home learning for the upcoming week on Fridays, and service providers send out at-home learning on Wednesdays. If you haven't already, please visit your child's school webpage for additional communication and resources. We are hoping to upload some information to the webpages in lieu of sending additional emails. Building webpages can be found [here](#).

How can we continue to support and streamline our use of educational technology?

We recognize there is an abundance of digital resources available and, that often, this can feel overwhelming. We continue to work together to streamline and simplify as much as possible.

As stated at the Town Hall, we have been able to pool devices together in an effort to provide a laptop for each of our second graders. Our leadership team, in conjunction with our technology team, have worked tirelessly to prepare these additional devices to be sent home to our families. Second-grade laptops can be picked up at your child's school on Wednesday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to see the pickup schedule by school.

We understand that at kindergarten and first grade, this still doesn't provide our students with 1:1 devices. However, we have already had two materials pick-ups and will provide more as the need arises and depending on the length of the closure.

One question at the Town Hall was whether laptops will need to be returned in June. We are working with our district technology team to determine needs regarding reimaging of devices and will have more details as we move closer to the end of the school year.

What are the plans for summer support?

At this time we are problem-solving through the different scenarios of what our K-6 Summer Lab and Extended School Year (ESY) programs might look like. We realize social distancing measures may still be in place, so we both program structures are likely to look and feel different than previous years. As we finalize plans, we will reach out to the families of students who may attend the Summer Lab or ESY programs with specific details.

If schools stay closed, how will students get their materials?

Much like the laptop deployments for grades 3-6 or resource pick-ups for grades K-2, if school buildings remained closed, we will coordinate the pick-up of the materials still in their classrooms and lockers. Medications should have already been picked up, but if you are still in need of your child's medications, please work with your building principal for access.

What are the plans for CSE meetings?

CSE meetings have continued to occur virtually. They are in the process of being rescheduled in this manner and if you are not sure of your child's CSE date, please reach out to Student Services or your building principal.