



NB Community Connection

“Invisible threads are the strongest ties.”

Friedrich Nietzsche

March 26, 2020

Dear North Bellmore Community,

Now more than ever, we are reminded that we are all connected by an invisible string that binds us, and although we are apart, our connection remains united and strong. The NB administration, faculty, staff, and I continue to establish and implement modes of communication that will keep us connected and in touch with our families. Please view our website at www.northbellmoreschools.org, join us on Twitter @NBUFFSDPride, and check your email regularly for updates. Be on the lookout for communication from teachers and administrators on a regular basis through outlets such as social media, video and audio conferencing, the Remind app, email, telephonically, etc. Remember, we love to hear from our families and students; keep the pictures and posts coming!

Person to person contact, through conversation and other modalities, will strengthen our invisible thread and further deepen the connection we have established as a community. In addition, we are keenly aware of the struggle to balance the bombardment of information coming from news outlets, schools and social media, while practicing social distancing to protect ourselves, loved ones and fellow community members. We are striving to streamline communication with families so that we do not add to the communication overload. With this in mind, the following highlights are provided for your convenience.

Parent Teacher Conferences: On March 19, a community update included information regarding Parent-Teacher Conferences (see District homepage). Parents are invited, but not required, to email their child’s teacher to schedule a Parent-Teacher Conference, which will be conducted via telephone on April 1. It’s okay if you do not require a conference at this time--your child’s teacher will be in touch throughout the closure.

Home Learning Plan Phase 3: We are prepared to introduce a student and family friendly digital platform called *Seesaw*. While we have a robust platform in Office365, we decided to provide the community with a platform that allows more independence, with easier navigation from home for parents and students. Please note that some of our teachers are utilizing other digital platforms, and we support and encourage their continued use. Our rollout of the Home Learning Plan has been thoughtfully conceived and is being executed with scaffolding in mind. Information regarding your child’s digital platform account will be forthcoming.

Special Education: Services, CSE meetings, EIT meetings, and Annual Reviews are being scheduled. Your child’s service providers will be in touch. Please see Ms. Eskew’s email dated March 19, 2020 for complete details about Special Education service requirements (see District homepage).

Gradings: Parents have inquired as to how the District will handle grading if the closure is further extended. Superintendents of elementary students are discussing this topic. I will communicate with parents when I have information to share. Be assured that parents should not be concerned about children being retained or “left back”; the district will meet our learners where they are and proceed accordingly.

In partnership,
Marie Testa
Superintendent of Schools