



Lafayette Academy

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Brian Zager, Principal



Greetings Parents and Guardians,

Day 12 has arrived and who is to know whether this will be day 12 out of 28, or day 12 out of 70. 28 days will take us to April 29th which is when the Governor stated schools will be closed until (different than initial date of April 20th), and 70 days will have taken us to the end of June. I want you to know that the Lafayette Academy staff is hoping for the 28 days, preparing for the 70, and regardless of which one.... we will be there for our children. We continue to work around the clock building our capacity and utilization of new technology in order to provide the best lessons possible. Teachers are meeting weekly by departments (ELA Dept, Science Dept, etc.), by grade teams (6th grade teachers, 7th grade teachers, etc.), and with me EVERY DAY in the morning. We are looking at some of the data starting to come in from the surveys and having discussions on what actions to take moving forward. Continue to reach out to us with any concerns. Please make sure to read the announcements below (as well as in prior parent letters) to make sure this ship can run as smoothly as possible. The kids are doing great, you are doing great, and together we will get through this and come out stronger.

Announcements

Attendance

As we abruptly venture into this new world, the New York City Department of Education is continuing to try to find the best way to make a “new normal” for all 1,800 schools -- not an easy task. One of the most important things to establish first is that students are present and learning. It is for this reason that we are creating a new Google Classroom specifically for student attendance. It will include a daily check in form in which they mark their name and class. This will mark them present, and it is with this information that we will take attendance with the DOE central office. PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILDREN TO CHECK IN EACH MORNING BY FILLING OUT THE ATTENDANCE FORM. For those who did complete their work but forgot to submit their attendance form for the day, there will be an “Attendance Correction” link at our website lafayetteacademynyc.com.

Report Cards – MySchools

Report cards for the 3rd quarter have come out and are posted on your child’s MySchools account. We understand that the last couple of weeks of the 3rd quarter was the start of remote learning, and we have taken that into account. We understand your child’s dedication to their education, and we know they put in effort to finish every semester strong, building their grades to the last day.

Regents

The NYS Board of Regents just cancelled the end of the school year Regents Exams. We are waiting on additional guidance as to what this means for our students. We have 8th grade students ready to take and pass the Algebra, Living Environment, and L.O.T.E regents. I will share updated information with you

as it comes out. What MAY happen is that children get credit for the class and take the exams in the next school year; however, we are not sure. Therefore, we are going to continue teaching our children the Regents curriculum in order to prepare for the exams.

Office Hours

Throughout the weeks I've been popping in on office hours, saying hello to some of our children, and hearing some great conversations. PLEASE make sure your children take advantage of office hours for any assistance or questions they have. EVERY teacher will be online and available for at least an hour EVERY day. Please utilize us as a resource, we may not be able to mandate your student's participation in live streaming instruction, but many of us are live for office hours in Google Meet.

Instructions

After speaking with some of your children's teachers, we are reaching out to you for some help. We are not physically there to make sure that students are reading the instructions for assignments, so we may need to call upon you for assistance as someone who is in the proximity of the kids. The first request is that you remind your children to not just open up assignments, but to click on the tab in Google Classroom that says "Instructions" in each class's page. We have noticed that some students are doing things incorrectly because they are skipping this step and we'd like to prevent this from happening. Have your kids walk you through how they approach assignments to see if they know to check the instructions. The second request is below.

Screencastify

Many teachers are using Screencastify to video tape themselves while presenting slides and important information. It is an amazing resource for our children to get as close to real class instructional delivery as we are currently able to provide. Teachers are finding that students are going straight to activities and then asking questions about things that were in the teacher videos. Push your children to watch the lessons their teachers provide to them. They can pause and rewind if needed, and then move on to the assignments.

Spring Break and Lessons

As you may or may not know, Spring Break has been CANCELLED. The Governor has called upon us to work for the 9th and 10th of April, and the week of the 13th - 17th. To continue to keep our students inside and engaged, we will be providing instruction during the above mentioned dates. Instruction may look a little different, as it was going to be time off and we want to make sure the students are not too disappointed or overwhelmed with their work loads. We may be delivering lessons that are less content based and more creative. More to come on that.

Surveys

Surveys have been sent out to both you and your children. We at Lafayette Academy are dedicated to improving remote learning for our students, and hearing from our families is essential. Please make sure to fill out the survey and have your children fill out theirs.