

August 24, 2020

Dear iSchool Families:

This is the August edition of the NYC iSchool iNotes. The next edition will be the 1st of the 2020-2021 school year and it will be sent out in September.

We wanted to take a moment to announce that Devek Singh will not be returning for the 2020-2021 school year. We are definitely sad to see him go, greatly appreciate the incredible hard work and effort that he put in to ensuring the success of all iSchool students, and wish them the best of luck next year as he takes on a full time English teaching position at another high school.

We would also like to take a moment to introduce you to two new additions to the iSchool's 2020-2021 faculty. We hope that you will join us in welcoming the following teachers:

- **Karina Almonte (Guidance)** was born and raised in New York City in a very culturally diverse community. For the past five years she has been supporting and guiding students to become their best selves at a New York City high school. While working, Karina graduated from CCNY with a psychology major and, most recently, received her Masters degree in counseling from Teachers College. When not working in schools, Karina loves to travel, paint, and feel helpful!
- **Karen Zheng (Special Education)** grew up in New York City and is very excited to join the iSchool! Ms. Zheng was an Urban Teacher Resident this past school year at a middle school in Queens. She previously taught yoga for 5 years and worked at several nonprofits in NYC. She enjoys reading and bubble tea.

We hope that you are enjoying the last few weeks of your summer vacation and that everyone is getting excited to start school!

Please take your time when reading the rest of the iNotes as there is a lot of important information.

Topic of the Month: *The 2020-2021 School Year*

We are excited to let you know that our Superintendent, the District Review Team, and the Central Review Team have approved the School Programming Model that we submitted for hybrid learning. We had to make a few tweaks to the one that we presented to families a few weeks ago, but we will be emailing students what days and times they will be scheduled to be in the building later today.

While we are glad that we now have a schedule to work with, there are still many unknowns about the fall. As of today, the NYC Department of Education has not yet released the 2020-2021 calendar and so we do not, officially, know when the first day of school will be (though there is a tentative September 10th start date). Throughout the summer we have been working hard to plan for the fall while adhering to the DOE guidelines and policies that continue to be announced. As always, we want to make sure that we are being as transparent as possible around our decision-making and that we are addressing questions and concerns from students/parents. In order to do that **we have scheduled grade-level Zoom meetings for students and parents/guardians on the following dates** *(please only attend the meeting for your grade level)*:

- Class of 2024 – Tuesday, September 1st at 2 PM (zoom link will be emailed out 15-30 minutes prior to the meeting time)
- Class of 2023 – Wednesday, September 2nd at 2PM (zoom link will be emailed out 15-30 minutes prior to the meeting time)
- Class of 2022 – Thursday, September 3rd at 2 PM (zoom link will be emailed out 15-30 minutes prior to the meeting time)
- Class of 2021 – Friday, September 4th at 2 PM (zoom link will be emailed out 15-30 minutes prior to the meeting time)

We are hopeful that there will be many fewer uncertainties by September 1st so that we can share with you all the most up to date and concrete information we have. We look forward to seeing you all on the above dates to share our plans and our thinking with you and to answer any questions that you may have.

We have also attached the most recent letter from the Chancellor to this email.

NEWS & REMINDERS...

- **The online scheduling form for the 1st quarter is now closed.** We will be reviewing each student's course selections to be sure that all students are taking the courses they need to make progress towards graduation. Students will receive an e-mail prior to the 1st day of school with a list of the 1st quarter courses they are enrolled in. Please note that although we always do our best to ensure all students take the courses that interest them, it is not possible for every student to enroll in their first choice of classes all the time. Questions about scheduling should be e-mailed to Ms. Coleridge (kcoleridge@nycischool.org).

- **Help us achieve our goal this year!** Every year all students are required to submit a lunch form either electronically or by returning a paper copy. Last year, 91% of our families submitted lunch forms. This year we are hoping that, at least, 95% of families will submit their lunch form. Starting August 1st, you can complete the lunch form online by visiting <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>. The school lunch form is also used to award fee waivers for students planning on taking AP exams, SATs, or SAT Subject Tests during this school year. Students who do not submit lunch forms are ineligible for fee waivers. If you have questions about completing the lunch form, please email Mr. Lau at jlau@nycischool.org.