

September 16, 2020

Dear iSchool Families:

This is the first issue of the 2020-2021 iNotes. This newsletter will be e-mailed out to the entire iSchool community bi-weekly (or twice a month). We had a wonderful first day of orientation and we want to take a moment to welcome the Class of 2024 and their families! We are very much looking forward to a fantastic year!

As you all know, last year we had our ninth graduating class (YAY)!!! While the Department of Education will be announcing our *official* graduation rate later this year, we have estimated a 99% graduation rate!! If you're interested in knowing where the Class of 2020 students were accepted, and which colleges they will be attending, please see the ["Class of 2020 College Acceptances" document](#).

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

Topic of the Month: *Orientation*

As you know, for the rest of this week all iSchool students will be participating in orientation activities. While we always spend the first couple of days of the school year having our students participate in orientation activities, we know that it was more important this year that these take place. Here's what iSchool students can expect this week:

Advisory Time – Every day this week will start and end with advisory. Advisory is the foundation of everything that we do at the iSchool and the role of advisor is the most important role that our staff take on. During the advisory sessions this week there will be team-building activities, a lesson on trauma where students will be asked to think about the past six months, and an activity where we will go over the remote learning expectations for the 1st quarter.

Courageous Conversations Town Hall – Each grade will participate in a grade-wide town hall where they will have courageous conversations, in breakout rooms, about race.

Diagnostic Assessments – It's extremely important to us that we know where our students are when they enter our classrooms in order for us to tailor our instruction to best meet their needs. In order to do that, students will be completing both a math and English diagnostic. The diagnostics will be posted to the student's math and English course page and students have been given time in their schedules to complete them on their own.

Meet Your Teacher – We wanted to give all of our students an opportunity to get to meet their Q1 teachers in a more relaxed setting before the quarter starts. During the "Meet Your Teacher" sessions the teachers will be sharing a bit about themselves and answering some fun questions to allow their students to see more about the inner workings of their brain (for example, "Is cereal a soup?").

We hope that these three days provide an opportunity for our students to get to see each other, make new friends, and ease back in to school.

NEWS & REMINDERS...

- **Course supplies** – We know that a small number of our Q1 courses will require students to have very specific supplies or books at home with them. We will be scheduling a day next week for students to come by to pick up these supplies and teachers will be reaching out to impacted students by the end of this week once the day and time have been finalized.
- **Q1 student schedules will be emailed out to students this Friday, September 18th.** Students who have questions about their schedules can reach out to Ms. Coleridge at 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.