

November 16, 2020

Dear iSchool Families:

This is the fifth issue of the 2020-2021 iNotes.

The 1st quarter will end this Friday, November 20th. Including today there are now 5 school days and 5 office hours left in the 1st quarter. We hope that our students are all working to show mastery of the material that they are learning in their courses. If students need help organizing their time, understanding the course material, or managing their work, they should reach out to their advisor or teachers A.S.A.P.

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

Topic of the Month: *Student-Led Conferences*

In the next two weeks all iSchool parents/guardians will be receiving invitations from their child's advisor to participate in a student-led conference that will be taking place remotely from Wednesday, December 2nd through Tuesday, December 9th. The goals of student-led conferences are for students to take responsibility for their academics and for students to understand that grades at the iSchool are a reflection of mastery of course materials – grades are not given! Please note that parents/guardians will receive their child's 1st quarter Report Card at this conference.

In order to achieve these goals, the process for conferences is as follows:

- Conferences are led by the students; the child's parent/guardian and advisor are present
- Prior to the conference, advisors gather information from their advisees' teachers to share during the conference
- Preparation for the conferences takes in place in our advisory sessions and students follow these steps:
 1. Students receive their grades and analyze them (look at strengths and weaknesses and the reasons for the grades)
 2. Students then create a script for their conference (goals for the following quarter are created)
 3. Students then lead the conference with their parent/guardian and advisor

In the years we have been doing student-led conferences, we have seen a change in how students perceive grades and their responsibility in earning them. It is a learning process and it does take time for students to develop these important reflection skills.

We understand that, after seeing final grades, some parents/guardians might also like to speak with their child's teachers about specific courses or grades. If, after you attend the student-led conference, you have specific questions regarding your child in a course, we encourage you to e-mail your child's teacher to schedule a Zoom meeting or phone conference. As always,

parents/guardians should reach out to teachers whenever they have a question or concern about a specific course or grade.

NEWS & REMINDERS...

- **Scheduling Update:** All students will receive a PDF of their Q2 schedule by the end of this week. Those students who are scheduled to come into the school building for Q2 will receive an email from me this Friday, November 20th, with some details about what next week will look like.
- **Remote Learning Device Update:** As you may have already heard, the city is purchasing an additional 100,000 LTE-enabled iPads for the DOE to distribute to schools for remote and blended learning. While the estimated timeline for delivery of these devices is the next 8–10 weeks, families who still need a device should fill out the [Remote Learning Device \(RLD\) Request Form](#), if they have not yet done so.
- **Mental Health Resource:** The education of our students is certainly important to us, but so is their mental health. Our amazing Guidance Counselors, Ms. Almonte and Ms. Colon, have created a Counseling Google Classroom: CounselLINK and would like you to join them: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjQ4NTAzNzYxMjZa?cjc=spgdhad>

Once you are in the Google Classroom you can navigate their classwork tab (they promise it's not classwork) and find many new counseling groups and open counseling sessions.