

December 3, 2020

Dear iSchool Families:

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

We're excited to be hosting student-led conferences this week and to get to see all of our students and their families to be able to talk about 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and set goals for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

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

**Topic of the Month:** *What We're Thankful For*

The NYC iSchool is a pretty amazing and unique and special place with a phenomenal, dedicated, and hard-working staff. With Thanksgiving last week, we thought we'd take a moment to hear from our staff what they're thankful for.

"I'm thankful for the thoughtful community of learners who I get to work with every day as well as my family." - Ms. Bailey

"More time to appreciate the people in my life and the beauty of nature." – Ms. Turso

"I am thankful how welcoming the iSchool community has been to the college office interns. I am also thankful for Ms. Beck and all of our seniors for being open and receptive to us." – Ms. Capellan

"I'm thankful that the iSchool community helps me to see a future filled with possibility, light, and love--even now (especially now!), when it would be tempting to gravitate toward darkness and despair." – Mr. Jones

"I'm thankful for my wonderful students who keep showing up everyday to make art in these very trying times: you all inspire me so much! And I'm thankful for my amazing iSchool colleagues, who have been there for me during this past year -- it means so much." – Ms. Smith

"I am thankful to work at a school where the staff and students value more than just their own lives, culture, and emotions." – Mr. Kim

"I'm so thankful for my little family's health and happiness, and grateful to have had the company of my amazing partner and baby in these isolating times. I couldn't ask for a more supportive, compassionate, and communicative school community than the iSchool's. " – Ms. Almonte

"I am thankful I work at a school that is continually dedicated to being there for our students, in the best of times, and in the not so best of times. " – Ms. Coleridge

"I am especially grateful for my family and friends this year! 2020 has been a crazy year but the silver lining is that I've been able to slow down and appreciate the people in my life. Part of that community is the iSchool community! I've been so impressed with how everyone has come together to navigate school closures and all the ways that both staff and students are showing up. I truly cannot imagine working anywhere else during a pandemic!" – Ms. Klimowicz

"I am thankful for the essential workers that provide the food and services we all needed during the pandemic and, I am thankful for the little things like a good meal or TV show to share at home with my family. I am thankful to work at the ISchool where everyone did their best to accommodate students coming in the building and in our online classes and advisory. Can't wait to see everyone back in person one day." – Ms. Strassler

"I'm thankful for my family's continued health and that we have been able to help our neighbors during this difficult year. " – Dr. Snyder

"I'm thankful to be working with a staff that supports me across the board. I am also very thankful for all the lessons the iSchool students have taught me. " – Mr. Whittaker

"I am thankful for my family and friends and all the support and love they give me. I'm also thankful to have a place to call home. This year I am extra thankful to work at the iSchool, both student and staff are such a great group of people making a transition into a new school such a better experience. " – Ms. Almonte

## NEWS & REMINDERS...

- **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.