



April 13, 2020

“I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.’”

— **Muhammad Ali**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am humbled by the work of our teachers as they have jumped in committed to the continuous learning of our students and themselves. The entire IHSNO community has rallied together, ensuring the well-being of each other. I am thankful to parents and community members who have reached out to express their appreciation for the work that our teachers and staff are doing during school closure.

As many of you are aware, there have been updates over the past week. There are a few things I want to firm up:

- The stay-at-home order has been extended through April 30, 2020 and may be extended again.
- The US Department of Education granted Louisiana LEAP 2025 waiver.
- School Performance Scores will not be generated this year.
- Spring Break is April 13-17, 2020.

Spring Break is April 10-17, 2020, for students. At this time, many students, parents, and employees need downtime as they have spent the past stressful weeks dealing with the challenges we are all facing. I am confident the time away will serve each of us invaluable, giving us all time to recuperate and rejuvenate.

I thank our teachers for their commitment to our students and their continuing to teach during this unprecedented time. Our teachers have had their challenges at their homes and with their families, and they have continued to press forward to ensure our students remain engaged in learning. Our teachers have reached out to students and parents, knowing that these connections are critical for student’s growth, development, and well-being.

I am sure you have questions and concerns. As our teachers and administrative staff continue learning through this process, we are open to your thoughts and input. I appreciate those who have candidly provided feedback. It is because of your feedback, we have been able to make changes



that benefit the entire IHSNO community. Please know that we are working to meet the needs of all students and ensure they have the tools they need to progress academically. And knowing that our employees are dealing with problems in their lives, response times may be a bit delayed. Please be patient as we go through these challenges together. Our focus remains on providing continued learning and rigorous standards.

Our goal is during this time is to meet the needs of each student. While we understand the stressors this time present, we do not intend to add stress to our students or our parents. Our goal is to be a support and provide ongoing and honest communications with parents and students. Distant learning is not intended to replace the teacher by shifting the burden on the family; however, we will rely on parents and guardians during this time to help us better understand student progress. Student learning and progress require a healthy home and school partnership. This partnership helps us keep students moving forward in challenging times.

RESOURCES

Free Online Coding for classes for Students:

[Operation Spark](#), a non-profit dedicated to changing lives by advancing technological skills in today's students and adults, is offering a FREE daily live, online "Hour of Code" to Orleans Parish public school students in grades 4-8, beginning Monday, April 20. The course will meet for two consecutive weeks, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration is going on now through Wednesday, April 8. To ensure a spot for your child, go to <https://bit.ly/opsparkehourofcode> for registration. The minimum tech requirements are a laptop, desktop, or Chromebook, and a stable internet connection.

US Census

Every person in the United States matter and each member of our community needs to be counted. The [US Census](#) helps to ensure each community is appropriately represented. The only way we can ensure this is for each household to complete the [census](#). We need your help to ensure our community is accurately represented. Your [response](#) determines which resources are brought to our community.

Please remain home, be safe, and vigilant. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sean Wilson, sean.wilson@ihsnola.org

CEO/ Head of School



“Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.”

Buddha