



April 13, 2020

“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”
— **Malcolm Forbes**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems so long ago the school building was open to students and teachers. The past few weeks have proven challenging. And with the challenge we have taken advantage of the opportunity provided – delivering education through technology and at a distance. Distance education has always been a part of the learning landscape with few students and teachers taking advantage of it. Most recently everyone at IHSNO is involved in distance learning. We are making the most of the learning opportunity and believe that we can best serve our students with consistent and on-going communication.

Governor Edwards’ Proclamation 47 JBE 2020 extended school building closure for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The proclamation states, “all public-school systems...shall close facilities to students for the duration of the 2019-2020 academic calendar year.” The Louisiana Department of Education agrees with the Governor’s decision to close school buildings for the remainder of the school year. Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Education is firm that students in grades 9th through 11th will receive a grade of A - F based on the student’s work production.

Every student is required to participate in learning during this time. For students to get a passing grade they must complete class assignments to accurately and to the best of their ability. Communication with the teacher is critical to ensure the student understands the assignment. Beginning Monday, April 20, 2020, teachers are available from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional times can be scheduled with individual teachers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has called for great amounts of learning in a short period of time. And at this speed of change we tend to experience additional stress. Our school social workers and counselors are available to help during this time. Take the opportunity to reach out to Ms. Denise James (denise.james@ihsnola.org), 11th & 12th grade Counselor, Ms. Nykesha Kyle (nakeisha.kyle@ihsnola.org), Social Worker, Mr. Rufus McGee (rufus.mcgee@ihsnola.org), 9th and 10th Grade Counselor, and Ms. Rosara Ortiz-Riley (rosara.ortiz-riley@ihsnola.org), Social Worker. They are available to help our students acclimate and stay healthy.



The IHSNO building will remain closed to students, teachers, and non-essential personnel for the remainder of the school year. Instruction will continue through the end of the school year, May 20, 2020. LEAP testing is suspended for this school year. All students taking a LEAP assessment for the first time will not have to take the assessment this school year. The Louisiana Department of Education has not provided guidance about LEAP retakes. We will notify students and parents when LEAP retake guidance is complete.

Please ensure your student is actively engaged in learning with their teachers. Our desire is for all students to move to next grade and graduate timely. This school year ends May 20, 2020, and final exams are May 14-20. It is imperative that students complete all work and frequently communicate with their teachers to ensure they have a successful school year. Successfully managing this school year requires constant and ongoing communication.

Reminders:

- The Stay-at-Home Order extended through May 15, 2020
- Spring Break is April 13-17, 2020
- Instruction resumes April 20, 2020
- May 14-20: Final Exams

US Census

The [US Census](#) helps to ensure each community is appropriately represented. The only way we can ensure our community has the necessary resources is for each household to complete the [census](#). We need your help to ensure our community is accurately represented. Your [response](#) determines which resources remain and 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

“Education must not simply teach work – it must teach life.”

W. E. B. Du Bois