



May 17, 2020

*“The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.”*  
— **Abraham Lincoln**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In the weeks following the school’s closure, I invited parents, students, faculty, staff, and community members to share their thoughts about things IHSNO needed to consider as we responded to COVID-19 and prepare for the future. The top thoughts were about the safety of everyone, continuing to educate students, and being mindful of the challenges everyone is facing. You can view the exchange [results](#) by [clicking](#) here.

Hearing your thoughts allowed us to ensure communications were on-going. We were able to provide laptops and internet devices to those students who needed them. We mailed out learning packets to students who requested packets. We attempted to make contact with all students and families – the nurse, social workers, and counselors checking on students periodically.

Additionally, when we realized that the school building would remain closed for the remainder of the year, we asked how we could honor our seniors. And as such, our seniors will get to experience parts of their ceremony live and other parts virtually. Though this is not an ideal situation, we want to celebrate our seniors, and they deserve it. We are confident that the plans will honor them, the rights of passage, and give them fond memories for years to come. This [link](#) is a view of some of the great work IHSNO students are doing.

In all of this, I want to say thank you to our parents for providing feedback that is helping us make IHSNO better. At times we may not agree, yet we hold the same aims of providing quality education to each student, preparing them for the journey ahead.

We have help for students, and our team of Social Workers and Counselors are available. Take the opportunity to reach out to Ms. Denise James ([denise.james@ihsnola.org](mailto:denise.james@ihsnola.org)), 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>-grade Counselor, Mr. Rufus McGee ([rufus.mcgee@ihsnola.org](mailto:rufus.mcgee@ihsnola.org)), 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>-Grade Counselor, Ms. Rosara Ortiz-Riley ([rosara.ortiz-riley@ihsnola.org](mailto:rosara.ortiz-riley@ihsnola.org)), Social Worker, and Ms. Nykesha Kyle ([nakeisha.kyle@ihsnola.org](mailto:nakeisha.kyle@ihsnola.org)), Social Worker. They are available to help our students and their families.

**URGENT:** The state of Louisiana is extending EBT benefits to all families who attend schools participating in the Community feeding program. All IHSNO families are eligible for the



Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer ([P-EBT](#)) program because your student attends IHSNO. The [application](#) goes live Monday, May 18, 2020.

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

Sincerely,

Sean Wilson, [sean.wilson@ihsnola.org](mailto:sean.wilson@ihsnola.org)  
CEO/ Head of School

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

**W. E. B. Du Bois**

To support your success as a teacher and an employee at IHSNO, what coaching, professional development, equipment, and resources do you need in order to provide your students with high quality instruction next school year?