

Special Education Parent Update **June, 2020**

Dear Parents,

We have had so many opportunities to learn and grow together as a community in this most unique academic year. While the 2019-2020 school year has not been without challenges, we have, together, chartered new territory in the provision of services, in ways to stay connected, and in digging deep to find the resiliency and patience we all so badly needed during this time.

It seems that every time I begin a final update for you the picture changes. However, time and tide wait for no one, and we find ourselves closing the school year in just a matter of days. I look forward to supervising a meaningful summer program and **hopefully** seeing everyone in person as we open the 2020-2021 school year in September.

We are grateful for the feedback we have received in your phone calls, emails and in response to our survey. Please continue to provide your thoughts and feedback in the months ahead. They help shape our programs and understand better your child's needs.

Summer Programs

There have been two Executive Orders from Governor Cuomo that have affected the direction of our Summer Program planning. The first, which came out in May, directed all school related Summer Programs to be run remotely. As a result, as we have published in the Superintendent's Parent letter, all enrichment and remediation programs held in 2020 will be held remotely. Please see the description of these programs via the link that follows:

 [Rockville Centre Summer Programs 2020 \(1\).docx](#)

In response to the COVID 19 school closure, the K-8 Enrichment program has been revised to, include course offerings that are focused on academic skill review. These classes are offered in addition to our typical enrichment class offerings, They are offered every other day by grade level, and will include a review the essential standards and skills of the grade level your child has just completed. In addition, we have added two reading classes, one focused on foundational reading skills for children in grades K and 1 and the other on interventions for intermediate grade students. A new program, High School Summer Academic Seminars, offered to students at the secondary level, will allow students completing high school level coursework an opportunity to review essential skills, before moving on to subsequent coursework.

Registration for these programs will open early next week. Details on how to register your child for these programs will be sent with the registration link. As always, we will continue to run the Bridge Program, for students with disabilities entering sixth, seventh and eighth grade. This program was started several years ago to help Middle School students in their transition to secondary level coursework. Parents of children recommended by their schools and registered for this program by my office, have been contacted.

Finally, remediation programs for High School and Middle school students who have not successfully passed their courses will also be held this summer. Please note, if your child has not passed courses, which would typically end in a regents exam, they must remediate these classes over the summer to earn regents credit. There will be no August administration of the regents and therefore, successfully completing the summer program will allow them to earn credit for the course they just completed. If they do not attend the summer program, they will be enrolled in the course in the fall and will be required to repeat the course and take the regents exam in January or June of 2021.

We are pleased to offer these substantive and enriching opportunities. If you have any questions about these summer program offerings, please contact me at 255-8928, nleahy@rvcschools.org, or the Summer Program Principal, Keith Eckert, keckert@rvcschools.org.

The second Executive Order, which was announced last Friday evening, permits school districts to run summer programs for students with disabilities (IEP driven extended school year special class programs and related services) in person. The special education department is encouraging the provision of in person related services, if at all possible and if mutually agreed upon. However, we also must respect each individual provider's and family's decision, based on their particular circumstances and vulnerabilities, on how the services will be provided. We will work together to make that decision, and look forward to the eventual return to in person services for all, soon! The plans for our special class in-district program are ongoing. I will be hosting google meets with the families of children involved in these programs on Monday, June 15, and look forward to providing specific details of where that planning stands.

Collaboration Portal

We are resending this information on the Collaboration portal to remind you about how you will be receiving your finalized IEPs this summer. Frontline Direct, the system we use to manage IEPs and related documents has developed a portal to safely transfer IEPs, PWNs and other related documents, electronically., while school district offices are closed. The Rockville Centre Special Education department used this portal to share documents, which are password protected, electronically. The access code to view the documents that are sent to you are the first three letters of the student's last name (upper case) followed by his/her date of birth in mmddyyyy format. Example: LEA04032005. Note: if the student has fewer than three letters in his/her last name, the last name in its entirety is included with date of birth.

During the current school closure, all documents were and will continue to be sent using this portal, regardless of whether you had previously opted to receive documents electronically. Thank you for understanding this necessary change in order to ensure the efficient transfer of documents. If you wish to update or provide a new email address, please submit that information to Lisa Davis, ldavis@rvcschools.org. or Debbie Petersen, dpetersen@rvcschools.org.

Please note, if you are unable to access electronic documents, please contact the Special Education Department for assistance.

Remote OT/PT Services

In this period of remote learning, our occupational and physical therapists have found creative ways to fully engage your children and model exercises and therapies. Obviously, nothing replaces the time we have with our children in the school house, but I wanted to share a couple of examples of your children rising to the occasion in their PT and OT sessions!

This provider gave Mom the suggestion to use shoes under training wheels so her son could ride indoors in bad weather! Worked like a charm! So that takes care of the Peloton bike. Another or 20 more home versions of gym equipment and we're good to go!



During this Zoom "treatment", Mom shared her daughter's work in an outdoor obstacle course. The tree pose in the obstacle course was because they were also celebrating "Earth Day" that week at the elementary schools and the therapist asked the children to include their favorite nature pose.

Congratulations Seniors!

Congratulations to our graduates who will enjoy one of the most memorable graduations in history. We wish them the very best as they pursue their post-secondary plans and we will miss them very much. Our graduating class has worked very hard to earn their diplomas and prepare themselves for the road ahead. We are so proud of them...working very hard to prepare themselves for the road ahead. Whatever the path, we wish them, and you much happiness. They face some uncertainties as they leave us in 2020, but please know that we will always be here to help with the transition process. As you have been made aware, services through OPWDD and ACCESS are available to your graduating young adults. If you have not taken advantage of

meeting with ACCESS to discuss these opportunities, please contact my office. All graduating seniors receive an exit summary, which coupled with their last IEP, will provide important information as they work with post-secondary settings to arrange for accommodations and support on campus or in the workplace. Please ensure that your graduating senior retains this information and, as we have done in our transition classes, talk with them about the importance of self-advocacy as they move into their post-secondary settings.

Congratulations on achieving this exciting milestone!

We will see some of you this summer and others this fall and look forward to that very much. I will keep you apprised of any major announcements by state or local officials regarding the provision of services. Never hesitate to reach out. We hope you enjoy a peaceful, warm and relaxing summer!

Warm Regards,

Noreen Leahy