

March 27, 2020

### Rockville Centre UFSD Special Education and Related Service Update #3

Dear Parents,

As our school closure continues, the provision of remote Special Education instruction and related services continues to evolve. The teachers and related service providers have worked tirelessly to ensure that they have made connections with all of our children and are standing by to support them in their remote learning platforms. Please see the information below for the most recent updates related to the provision of Special Education services in Rockville Centre as well as updates on State and Federal guidance.

#### Distance Learning-Thank you Teachers and Related Service Providers!

- As stated, our special education and pupil personnel staff members, including teachers, psychologists, counselors, social workers, nurses, speech teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and teachers of the vision and hearing impaired are continuing to work very hard to develop ways in which our students may receive instructional and emotional support and IEP driven services during this time.
- At the outset of our closure general education and special education students were provided with instructional materials and resources via hard copy packets or through google classroom. Special Education teachers reviewed these learning resources to help differentiate learning materials and make recommendations for support.
- This week special education teachers and related service providers (K-3) received training on the SeeSaw remote learning platform. If they serve as integrated co-teaching partners in inclusion classroom, they will be listed as a co-teacher on the SeeSaw platform. As such, they are able to post activities for individual students with disabilities and differentiate learning opportunities. Google classroom is used by teachers in Grades 4-12.
- We have met remotely with teachers providing IEP mandated specialized reading support to discuss ways in which this reading support will be provided as well. Teachers have been asked to make contact with each of these children and their families to finalize arrangements for this support, whether that be through online programs, or face to face on line platforms. Several of the reading programs we use have made available to us, online resources, which teachers can access. In other cases, we are in the process of purchasing online subscriptions. All this to say that we are making every effort to provide specialized reading support that parallels, as best we can, that which your child would have received in school.
- As previously stated, we are developing plans for special education teachers and related service providers, to provide specialized instruction and some services directly via online platforms. Parent permission for video access, should the teacher provide such learning support, will be required. **If you have not already returned your parent permission**

**form, please email it to your child's special education teacher as soon as possible.**

Direct face to face learning support will not take place in the same frequency or duration as occurs in school. However, teachers using these platforms will do so to support your children on an individual or small group basis based on their needs. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or provider if you have questions or concerns.

### Annual Review Meetings

- As previously announced, in Rockville Centre, all CSE meetings will take place as scheduled. Staff attending the CSE will be utilizing the Google Hangouts Meet App. Parents and anyone attending the CSE that is not a Rockville Centre staff member will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting via telephone, desktop or iPad. Please contact Dr. Noreen Leahy, [nleahy@rvcschools.org](mailto:nleahy@rvcschools.org), Dr. Orly Gadon, [ogadon@rvcschools.org](mailto:ogadon@rvcschools.org) or Ms. Elaine Jung, [ejung@rvcschools.org](mailto:ejung@rvcschools.org) if you have any concerns about the conduct of your annual review.
- For those who have not yet had their annual review meeting, an invitation to the meeting will be sent to you, via email, from your building level or Central CSE Chairperson prior to the start of the meeting. This email invitation will offer both an on-line and telephone connection option.
- All documents must be made available, so please contact the psychologist conducting your meeting to ensure you have access to all necessary documentation.

### New York State Assessments

Please be advised that the New York State Education Department has suspended the administration of the following state assessments for the 2019-2020 school year:

3-8 State Testing (ELA and Math)  
New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)

No decisions have been made regarding Regents Assessments to date.

### Assistive Technology and other Tech Support

We have reached out to our Assistive Technology consultants, Erin Sheehan (Assistive Technology) and Christina Boudin (Communication devices) to ensure continuity in assistive technology support. Dr. Gadon is coordinating the remote AT support, so please reach out to her, [ogadon@rvcschools.org](mailto:ogadon@rvcschools.org) if you need tech support from Erin or communication device support from Christina. Erin is also supporting our special education teachers and related service providers in accessing remote learning platforms and programs to provide face to face online learning support.

The District has made available ipads to all students, most recently including students in grade K-2. These ipads were distributed on Thursday and Friday of this week. If you are having any issues with your child's district provided device, please contact your child's special education teacher or me directly. In addition, if you have not requested a device for your child in grades K-2, and require one, please, email that request to [devicerequest@rvcschools.org](mailto:devicerequest@rvcschools.org) no later than Monday morning, March 30, 2020.

We continue to carefully monitor the impact of this closure on all students, and in particular those with unique learning, behavioral and emotional needs. Please reach out to central office, building administration, teachers and providers if you need to talk, have questions or want to express any concerns. Please see the District website for information on Mental Health and Social Emotional support for your children during this most unique time.

Most importantly, we thank you for all that you are doing to support your children's needs. I have asked our staff to stay in close contact with students and their families and we ask you to stay in close contact with your child's special education teacher. Together we will provide the academic and emotional support our children deserve.

Warm Regards,

*Dr. Noreen Leahy*  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
*Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education*