

May 4, 2020

Rockville Centre UFSD Special Education and Related Service Update #6

Dear Parents,

Warm wishes to you and your families. As you are aware, Governor Cuomo announced the continued closure of schools through the end of the current school year. This was, of course, disappointing news to us as we have missed our students and families very much and wish to bring them back to our school buildings as soon as it is safe to do so. We look forward to that day!

Fortunately, the teachers of students with disabilities and related service providers have, from very early on in the closure, understood their essential role in providing the support necessary for students to access their remote curriculums and replicate IEP services to the extent practicable and possible. The District will continue to provide this remote learning and support. We have appreciated your help in facilitating these education and related service sessions.

Please see the information below related to the provision of Special Education services in Rockville Centre through the next period of our extended closure, as well as updates to State and Federal guidance.

Parenting Students with Disabilities during COVID 19 Health Crisis

The Rockville Centre Northwell Behavioral Health Center is offering the following interactive sessions via zoom to help answer your questions and concerns regarding your children's social and emotional well-being at this time.

Parenting Your Student with Special Learning Needs during COVID May 5th at 8:00 P.M.

Please join Cohen Children's Medical Center's child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Zoya Popivker on this special webinar session and learn about how to best support your child with special learning needs, including autism, ADHD, learning disabilities during the COVID pandemic.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91579404154>

Meeting ID: 915 7940 4154

Call in +19292056099 ID:91579404154#

Parenting Your Teenager during the COVID Pandemic May 12th at 8 P.M.

Please join Cohen Children's Medical Center's licensed mental health counselor Ariana Metalia and child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Vera Feuer on this special webinar session and learn about how to best support your teen during the COVID pandemic.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99219421362>
Meeting ID: 992 1942 1362
Call in +19292056099 ID:99219421362#

We are excited to announce that Northwell has hired the permanent psychiatrist who will be assigned to the clinic, **Dr. Zoya Popivker**, who is an available resource to the consortium districts on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Collaboration Portal

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 will be using this portal to share documents, which will be password protected, electronically. The access code to view the documents that are sent to you will be 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 will 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.

Attached Collaboration Portal Info

Summer Programs and Services

In his briefing on May 1, 2020, the Governor stated that he will be deciding on Summer programs and services related to schools no later than the end of May. Until then, as previously stated, we are working very hard on planning our Summer Program, including special education services, mindful of the additional support many of our students may require and our need to consider options for alternative programs. We will provide you with updates as plans become solidified.

Distance Learning

All special education and related services will continue to be offered routinely and according to IEP mandates and student needs. **Special Education teachers will work closely with general education classroom and content teachers as they begin to provide more interactive learning to all students.** Special education teachers will take note of the assignments and instruction that is provided by general education and content teachers and provide support

accordingly. Specialized reading, counseling, speech, OT and PT services will continue according to the schedule you have established.

We encourage you to continue to reach out to your child's special education teacher, building administrators or to us at central office if your child needs more support, technology assistance and help coordinating the many resources that have been provided to you during the closure. And thank you for your patience.

Reevaluations

We are repeating this important information regarding the reevaluations of students with disabilities, which are required by law every three years. Although not required, we conduct updated psychoeducational testing as a part of this evaluation. As we have previously reported such evaluations, which require in person face to face interactions, cannot be conducted. Therefore, any child due for a reevaluation who was not evaluated before the closure will be reevaluated through a complete records review based on documentation from previous testing, academic progress, progress monitoring of goals, and other evaluations. Psychologists will also consult with teachers, related service providers, and other team members as part of the comprehensive review. The summaries of the reevaluations conducted in this way will be discussed with you at the annual reviews and documented in IEPs. While consent is not necessary for this records review, your building psychologists will be discussing the process and results with you.

There may be some students, for a variety of reasons, for whom we require more extensive testing, including face to face evaluations. In these cases, a records review will be conducted, but we will follow up with in person evaluations when we return to our buildings. If you have any questions about the reevaluation process, please consult your school's building psychologist, Dr. Orly Gadon, ogadon@rvcschools.org, or Ms. Elaine Jung, ejung@rvcschools.org.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Noreen Leahy

Assistant Superintendent

Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education