Collaboration, Unity, Equity #CUEup!
Superintendent’s Monthly Report
November 2020

Giving Thanks!
Although Thanksgiving is a historically celebrated day, it is important that we give thanks each and every day. We give thanks for our Westbury community, our families, our staff, our Board of Education and most importantly our magnificent students. We want to acknowledge the support of our Westbury community, families, leaders, teachers, teacher assistants, facilities, safety, nutrition, clerical staff and most importantly, our students. This year has taught us that we will persevere through collaboration in unity for equity. #CUEup

We give thanks for a school district that provides our students with opportunities that strengthen their path to prosperity. We value our staff that opens its heart, soul and mind on a daily basis while serving as role models for our children. We give thanks for leveraging the richness of our diversity as a tool for acceptance, equity and establishing high expectations. When we use our space effectively to improve the quality of the education for a generation, there is nothing that can stop progress and innovation. Please take precaution during this Thanksgiving holiday. Governor Cuomo stated the following in his latest brief: I love you so much, I am not going to see you.

Welcome!
We would like to welcome Dr. Thomas DeNicola as our new Director of Instructional Technology and Chief Information Officer. Dr. DeNicola comes to us with a wealth of experience in the area of instructional technology and ensuring that we can access critical data to drive the district’s mission and vision.

Transforming our Digital World of Teaching and Learning

The board approved the purchase of 4,024 devices to support the district in implementing a 1:1 initiative and provide our students with access to technology. Unfortunately, based on the demand for technology devices, our order has been delayed several times. Fortunately, the district has reviewed alternatives and has secured 947 laptops to be delivered next week and 540 are scheduled to arrive towards the end of November or beginning of December. We will keep you abreast of the dates and distribution in TIERs:

- Students that do not have any access to remote learning.
- Students that have limited access due to having multiple siblings.
- All other students in need of technology.
The district has also secured WIFI access to ensure that our families and students have access in their homes. This means that ALL families and students have access to WIFI.

- If you have a device that has been loaned out this school year (2020-2021), please look for optimum to connect.
- If you have a device that was loaned between March 2020 - June 2020 OR they have their own device and want access to WIFI, they will need to bring in the device so that the Tech Team can access the devices' MAC address to provide the access to the laptop.

This information, as well as the procedure for technical support, can be accessed via our website in multiple ways:

- **Homepage**: under Technology Support and under Headlines and Features.
- **Each of the buildings’ webpages**: under Headlines and Features.
- A [webpage](hyperlinked) has been dedicated to this topic so that it can be translated into multiple languages using our website’s **Translate feature**.

In support of our staff and families, the district has engaged in ongoing Professional Learning and Family Engagement sessions to inform our continuous instructional practice. We understand that the fluid nature of this pandemic may change our course from hybrid instruction to 100% remote instruction within a days’ notice. The topics and learning experiences include: Social Emotional Learning, varied software, simultaneous teaching aligned to our instructional focus areas: Unpacking the Learning Targets, continual checks for understanding with targeted feedback, high student engagement, challenging higher-order questions and differentiated teaching strategies and learning activities. Our clerical staff was engaged in the first session of professional learning in the areas of Cultural and Sustainable Practices, provided by ERASE RACISM.

**Family and Community Engagement**

It is time for our Parent/Teacher conferences which is a critical time for practitioners and families to engage in a deep conversation related to our children. In order to support our families with discussions related to student achievement, we have posted tip sheets from the Harvard Family Research Project onto our district website. Please visit [Parent-Teacher-Conference-Tip-Sheets-For-Principals-Teachers-and-Parents](#).

Each school implemented procedures on how to schedule their families to meet with their teachers. All conferences will be held virtually for the health and safety of all. In an effort to strengthen our partnership with our families and community, we have been proudly presenting workshops through our Family Learning Academy. During the months of October and November we have been presenting workshops focused on supporting our families with extending the classroom into our homes. We have been presenting sessions bi-weekly, addressing grade specific needs, how to create a learning space in the home, how to navigate our Website and engage in their Google Classroom. Our next session will be taking place December 7th, 8th, and 9th focusing of mental health and mindfulness.

- **Family and Community Cafes**
  - Our Family and Community Engagement Advisory Council (FACE) will be meeting virtually on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 to review what we have accomplished so far to support our families throughout these unprecedented times and plan our next steps by identifying focus areas of interest. We will also discuss the Family and Community Cafes which were in the planning stages and scheduled for last school year then cancelled due to the pandemic.
  - **Engaging Through the Arts**
  - **Career Development for the Future**
  - **“STEAM” Fest**
Grab n Go Meal Program

Please remember that our Grab and Go meal program continues to serve our students and families at the Park Avenue School, Drexel Avenue School and Dryden Street School. The distribution is held at each of the schools from 8am-12pm. This will continue during the week that we are 100% remote teaching and learning.

COVID 19 Update

Below is the local COVID data available as of November 17 at 5pm. NYSDOH data is updated daily at 5pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nassau County</th>
<th>Tested</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>7-day Avg.</th>
<th>Cases /100K pp</th>
<th>Hospitalized on L.I.</th>
<th>ICU on L.I.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4, 2020 (First day of school)</td>
<td>6,642</td>
<td>1.6% (107)</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>~2.5</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16, 2020</td>
<td>11,575</td>
<td>3.5% (406)</td>
<td>3.1%*</td>
<td>~13.2</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Positive Results by County: https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard

The current data indicates we are at a critical point. Today is the 7th consecutive day that Nassau County’s 7-day average positivity rate is above 2.5% and the 4th consecutive day it is above 3.0%. If the County average remains above 2.5% for 10 consecutive days, then the County will be designated a Yellow Micro Cluster Zone. This will occur on Friday, November 20, if the County numbers remain consistent.

Micro Cluster Zone Status

Micro Cluster Zones are determined based on the 7-day average positivity rate and the number of positive cases per 100K residents. The three zones are Red, Orange, and Yellow.

Red: If 7-day avg. >4% for 10 days, and 10+ Pos./100K pp.
Schools close and shift to 100% Remote Learning

Orange: If 7-day avg. >3% for 10 days, and 10+ Pos./100K pp.
Schools close and shift to 100% Remote Learning

Yellow: If 7-day avg. >2.5% for 10 days, and 10+ Pos./100K pp.
Schools Close and shift to 100% Remote Learning

Schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation. If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone’s current 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue. If the results of the testing are higher than the yellow zone’s current seven-day positivity rate, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.

(The current guidance as of 11/14 @ 9:00pm)

The implications for schools in a micro cluster zone and the requirements for testing changed several times since last week. The Governor’s office will continue to update their guidance based on data trends.

Cluster Zone Maps, Address Lookup, and Guidance: https://forward.ny.gov/