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

Opening of Schools

While the pandemic has presented many challenges, the strength in unity is what defines us in Westbury. Our commitment to collaboration has made our reopening of schools the most rewarding experience. We knew that the health and safety of our staff, students and families were critical to our first day. For that reason, we invested in personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies and disinfecting machines, installation of additional hand sanitizers, wellness shields for our staff and students, and a commitment to a 1:1 technology initiative. We began the year by providing our young Kindergarten scholars with IPADS and our 1st graders scholars with Chromebooks. We are hopeful that our Chromebook for every student will arrive within the timeframe presented to the community, in October. Based on the worldwide overwhelming request for technology during the pandemic, the Chromebook may be delayed. The district is seeking alternatives to provide our families with the resources necessary for learning.

Under the circumstances, the first week in September has proven to be the most unique and successful commencement of the school year. Our convocation experience certainly touched on our theme for this year reflecting collaboration, unity and equity. Our President of the Board began with some historical context, moving to the Little Engine that Could, finalizing with let’s go “make some good trouble” (Congressman Lewis). This was followed by our keynote speaker and illustrious alumni Olusola Babalola who provided an inspirational message of courage and commitment to embracing change and equity from Harvard University. Her message is a tribute to her family’s commitment to a tradition of excellence and her experiences of an extraordinary staff.

I thank our leadership team and the entire staff for their commitment to excellence and ensuring that we were prepared for our students on the first day of schools. We absolutely LOVE of our staff! They have welcomed our students with air hugs and a smile while practicing the 3W’s: Wearing their masks, Washing their hands, and Watching their distance.

Our Five Year Strategic Plan has grounded us on four domains: Strong Curriculum and Instruction, Culturally Responsive and Sustainable Practices, Family and Community Engagement, and Finance and Facilities. will continue to support the upward mobility of student achievement by supporting creative interdisciplinary lessons that allow students to explore, ask critical questions, and become problem solvers. We will continue to explore the complexities of analyzing data through our Data Wise protocols and support our students through the power of literacy. The district is committed to our continued professional learning communities to create a culture of 21st Digital Citizens and collaborate to achieve academic excellence from Pre-K to High School graduation.
Family and Community Engagement
Through our Family and Community Engagement, we are collaborating with our partners and staff to present a series of virtual family Cafes as we embrace and transform teaching and learning in a hybrid or 100% remote setting. The goal is to support the transition for learning from the classroom to the home and back to the classroom by empowering our families. Below are some of the topics being presented that were as a result of the feedback provided by our students, families and staff. As we continue to transform, more topics will be presented through our cafes.

- **How to Support Extending the Classroom into the Home**
  - Special Learning Space in the Home
  - Remote Learning Etiquette
- **Empowering Families in the Learning Process**
  - Staying Informed: Navigating the District Website
  - Embracing the New way of Teaching and Learning
    - Digital Learning Tools
    - Digital Devices (Chromebook, iPads)
  - Monitoring Your Child’s Progress through Multiple Digital Tools

**NOTICE TO WESTBURY UFSD PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

THIS IS A NOTICE TO REMIND PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Update your contact information (telephone and email address) with your child’s school(s)
  - Log on every day, on time, whether hybrid or 100% remote
  - Students must wear masks while riding the bus and in school
  - Online Etiquette (quiet and appropriate learning location)
- Meals are still available at Park Avenue School and Drexel Avenue School

Remember to follow the 3 W’s
- Wear your mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance

*CUEup! Westbury*
*Collaboration, Unity and Equity*
*Honoring Traditions Embracing Innovation*
*Changing the Narrative through our Hearts and Souls*