

Dear Museum School Family,

I write today with the hope that you and your family are all doing well and are making the best of this situation as humanly possible. I understand first hand what each of you is going through as you attempt to navigate the sometimes choppy waters caused by everyone being home at one time - and by everyone being home all the time. Weather is on the way that will draw us outdoors; however please, when you do venture out, practice all the measures needed to keep you, your family and community safe as we again begin to move through public spaces.

It's been a while since you've heard from me personally, but I've made sure that through Mr. Lowy, guidance counselors, Pupil Path and the PTA that each of you has received all pertinent information that you need to make informed decisions about your child and to express any concerns you might have. It has been an ordeal for me. My home and the two next to me were deprived of wifi service for fifteen days while the new condominium on our corner had to undergo complete wifi rewiring. What a mess, and trying to play catch up on my work and the three classes I'm teaching has been an adventure. I do apologize for the long absence.

I want to bring you up to date about some information that you've received concerning end of year grades. Each of you should by now be aware of the new grading policy worked out by the state to be in place and to accommodate student life during Covid-19 and remote learning. It's important that you read this document carefully as it details your parental rights as a result of Covid-19 and your child's grades. The document was sent through Pupil Path, which means it is available to you in several languages. There are questions that the city has posed to the state and that our district has posed to the city that are still outstanding, but resolution is expected soon. At that time I will schedule a virtual meeting available to all parents as well as a follow-up email. Please stay informed and contact me, Mr. Lowy or your child's guidance counselor with any questions.

At this time there is no definitive word about summer school.

Speaking of guidance, as of today Ms. Ortiz, our senior counselor, is on maternity leave, and Ms. Williams, our guidance counselor for grades 9 - 11 has been transitioning with Ms. Ortiz since we went on remote, and Ms. Williams is fully aware of and able to handle all of the seniors' issues as we transition into their graduation.

I'd like to say a few words about graduation as it stands right now. Ms. Ortiz recently conducted a full survey of all seniors concerning their wishes for graduation. The results showed that the majority of seniors want a graduation where they will speak directly into a camera for a brief period to say goodbye and to share their favorite Museum School memory. They chose to do this without cap and gown, but rather to get reimbursed for any senior dues they may have already paid with the exception of the fee for their senior hoodie. It is my hope that seniors will choose to dress up a bit more than the t-shirts and jeans we normally see, but students will be welcome to have parents or a family member with them as they speak. Family pets or younger siblings are also welcome to be the student's on-camera "guest," but only the senior will speak. The students were given all options in the survey, and the school was willing to go along with

whatever choice they made due to Covid-19. However, graduation is a rite that the school confers upon the senior class, and yet we wanted, especially under these conditions, for the students' wishes to be heard. We certainly understand how Covid-19 has affected the finances of families and the desire of students and their families to save money, and this is the choice students voiced, and frankly they are excited by the opportunity to say something before they go. Their moment will be documented on a DVD much like the one we show at our live graduation while parents wait for the seniors to march in. All four grades meet in a virtual advisory with the guidance counselors every week, and Ms. Ortiz assures me the seniors are committed to the choice that they have made.

Online learning will close in early June for new material, and the remainder of the year will be devoted to students making up any missing work needed for them to pass their classes. You will be informed of that date as soon as it is discussed with teachers, but in the meantime please make sure you visit Pupil Path to see what work is still outstanding and then work with your child to make sure work is completed. Contact the teacher to ascertain which work is most essential to be made up. A short time ago we sent you a connection to Stuyvesant High School that would enable your student to sign up for tutoring from Stuyvesant students who are members of their Arista Society. Please continue to take advantage of this valuable connection. While on this topic I'm proud to crow over one of our students, sophomore Ellie Kogan. Ellie read the notice about Stuyvesant and noticed that the school was also providing contact to the elderly in senior residences and wanted to join Stuyvesant in bringing cheer to senior citizens. She contacted Stuyvesant and was welcomed aboard to become one of the Stuyvesant "angels" who call the elderly and brighten their day. Kudos to Ellie as we cheer her generosity of spirit and look forward to Ellie establishing such an organization at Museum School. Brava!

Ramadan began on the evening of 23 April and will continue through 23 May. Many of our Muslim students and their families are fasting and observing all of the religious devotions of the season and celebration of the Quran. I'd like to personally wish you all good things as we move through the month.

To everyone in our Museum family, yes, love does always win, and I am so grateful for and love each of you. You are always in my heart and on my mind.

Be well,

Dusty