March 12, 2020

Dear Stuyvesant Community,

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our shared priority. As concerns about the seriousness of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) rise, we want you to know that we are keeping up with current events and preparing Stuyvesant for every possible contingency. We have a building response team that meets daily. We share developing information, discuss the concerns and needs of the parents, staff and students and continue to plan along with direction from the NYC Department of Education.

Please understand that the decision about if and when to move to online learning in lieu of school attendance for all students is not at the discretion of individual schools at this time. My cabinet and I will participate in a webinar tomorrow morning, and this should provide us with further guidelines for moving forward. This is an evolving situation, and I will continue to update you in real time.

In the meantime, we are taking all precautions and safety measures possible. Our custodial staff has installed extra soap and paper towel dispensers in restrooms, check water temperatures daily, and replenish supplies continually throughout the day. Antibacterial hand sanitizer stations have been placed at key locations throughout the school and are refilled continuously. Posters detailing protection against the spread of COVID-19 and precautions to take in covering coughs, sneezes, etc. are on display throughout the school and on restroom doors. Daily announcements are made to remind students of preventative measures. Protocols are in place for students and staff members if they fall ill in school/work, and the nurse has specific instructions and supplies from the Department of Health. Direction has been given that anyone who is out sick must not return to school until they are 72 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication. This is a change from the usual 24-hour guideline.

In-person parent teacher conferences are cancelled. We will, instead, conduct conferences over the phone. We will send an email explaining the process shortly. Classroom parent observations that were scheduled for Friday, March 20 are cancelled. The PA Faculty Reception is also cancelled. I have asked all teachers who can cancel or postpone school trips to do so. We will also cancel and possibly reschedule the musical showcase scheduled for March 25. The Alumni mentoring program is cancelled as well. I have asked for a moratorium of testing to begin on Monday, March 16 and continue for two weeks. We will reassess the situation at that point in time. I have also instructed teachers to accept late assignments for students whose parents/guardians provide notes for their absences.

We are committed to the safety of our students and staff and our community. I will continue to send updates as they are available and have them posted on www.stuy.edu. Parents may reach out to Ms. Ingram at ringram3@schools.nyc.gov and by phone at 212-312-4800 ext. 2731.

Thank you for your understanding during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Eric Contreras