



## Lindenhurst Union Free School District

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Daniel E. Giordano  
Superintendent of Schools

March 17, 2020

To the Lindenhurst Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I know that this is an unprecedented circumstance that we all find ourselves in, and I am proud of the way that we as a community have worked together to navigate this mandatory closure. It is during difficult times that we demonstrate our strength as a community, and I have witnessed this first-hand these past few days in the actions and responses of our staff, service providers and greater school community.

For many of our students, school is not only a source of education, but a source of healthy nutrition. As such, Aramark, the district's lunch service provider, has been preparing meals in the high school cafeteria for all grade level students, not just those who receive free and reduced lunch services. The meals are bagged for curbside pick-up in the back of the Lindenhurst High School by the cafeteria doors when you enter using the Charles Street entrance to the high school off Indiana Avenue. No students are permitted inside the building and Aramark has a roster of all Lindenhurst students. Recipients need only to provide their name in order to pick up a meal between the hours of 8 am and 10 am. This service has already proven to be beneficial to many of our district families.

Additionally, we understand that for many first responders and medical personnel, childcare has been a major concern. SCOPE Education Services is pleased to provide emergency extended school age care to currently enrolled SCOPE families in the district and **first responders and medical personnel in the school district** during this difficult time. Registration is limited and information can be found on the district website at [www.lindenhurstschools.org](http://www.lindenhurstschools.org).

In order to minimize the disruption to student learning during this mandated closure, the Lindenhurst teachers will provide distance learning beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Each teacher will be responsible for emailing parents/students to provide information regarding the programs, lessons and alternate methods of instruction they plan to use. **For this reason, it is imperative that you log onto the Parent Portal and confirm that your contact information is up to date.**

Please note that guidance counselors, school social workers and school psychologists will contact the parents of the students they serve via email. Should you require the assistance of your student's guidance counselor or service provider, you can email them directly by using their first name initial coupled with their last name and @lufsd.org.

The survey you completed last week provided crucial information for the district regarding the technological needs of our students and staff. In response to the results obtained, the district began the process of proactively addressing those needs and as such, all students and staff are better prepared to move forward with instruction now that we find ourselves in a state of mandatory shut down. I would like to thank the members of our technology team and all members of the district staff who have assisted in preparing us for this next phase of learning. Working together we will be able to keep our students connected to learning.

Recognizing that all families may not have equitable access to internet resources, Altice/Cablevision has announced that it will provide noncustomers with students in grades K-12 or college access to the internet free for the next 60 days. This is applicable to any new customer household within the Altice/Cablevision footprint coverage zone.



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If you would like to receive more information about this, or to sign up free, please contact 866-200-9522. On behalf of our school district, I thank Altice/Cablevision for this opportunity and hope that it further allows all our families to remain connected during these unprecedented times.

For your convenience on the district website, you will find a link to a section called **Resources and Information Re: COVID-19**. You can access this site under the Parent/Students section of the homepage, as well as through a news story on the homepage with the same title.

This webpage contains all of my previous messaging, as well as resources to benefit the greater community and additional information about the virus itself. Additionally, the website will contain **resources pertaining to student instruction** such as **How to Log on to Classlink**, a list of approved district instructional tools and information regarding technical support you may need throughout this process.

If you are having an issue with a Chromebook, WiFi or logging into Classlink you can contact the district's Network Operations Center at 631-867-3094 between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm. **Please note that this number will not provide assistance with instructional inquiries and will not be answered after 4pm.**

It bears repeating that this decision to implement an emergency executive order was not made lightly by the County Executive; however, it was deemed necessary given the nature of the virus spreading throughout the county.

The best method to ensure that this remains the case is to not take this school closure lightly. This is not a school holiday. This is a community effort and an opportunity to practice the "social distancing" that the CDC has urged all Americans to undergo.

The local government has given this directive with the intention that community members would stay home, avoid crowds and limit activities so as to avoid the spread of COVID-19. I encourage you all to take this social distancing effort seriously and stay connected through phone calls, Facetime, emails and social media, etc.

It is important that we think to provide social and emotional support for one another during this unprecedented and challenging time, especially to those whom we know are among the vulnerable population who may be feeling frightened or alone. Let's continue to be there for the members of the Lindenhurst community, but let's do it in a way that maintains health and safety.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Daniel Giordano  
Superintendent of Schools