

April 13, 2020

Dear Ascend Families,

The past four weeks have been unlike anything we have ever gone through. In this short amount of time we have had to close our buildings and transition to a remote learning environment until at least May 15th. Based on this weekend's discussion between the Mayor and the Governor, a much longer closure seems highly possible.

All Ascend school facilities remain closed and remote learning will continue until further notice. Scheduled spring break, professional development days and holidays will continue as scheduled for each school.

We know that your family is eager to learn when and if classroom-based learning will resume this school year. Unfortunately, we don't have that answer to provide just yet. We look forward to seeing your student back at school as soon as we can safely accommodate them and will provide ample notification when we have a date. Until that time, we will continue to maximize remote learning opportunities and you can expect more detailed communication about extended remote learning plans later this week.



Finally, a note about cybersecurity. Last week, the New York City Department of Education banned the use of Zoom video conference software due to cybersecurity issues. Please note that Ascend does not use Zoom for student interactions. The three platforms we use (Google Classroom, RingCentral Meetings, and Cisco WebEx) all meet high legal and professional standards for security and privacy. Creating a safe learning environment for your student remains our top priority and we will continue to partner only with vendors who meet the highest industry standards.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and support of your child's education. We are committed to keeping you informed with new developments and additional plans. Please continue to stay safe.

With best wishes,

Lisa Margosian
Interim Chief Executive Officer