Good evening, IS289 families,

In case you’re interested in seeing some of the “adventures” students engaged in during Spring Intersession, here’s a peek into the middle school mind…

* Monday: ([6th grade padlet](https://padlet.com/hfreyman/hbulags7qwu8pyfz), [7th grade padlet](https://padlet.com/jbrogan4/77hj1wvbecndq71w), [8th grade padlet](https://padlet.com/cdizebba/8w6fto60qduf2r09))
* Tuesday:  ([School Padlet](https://math289.padlet.org/cng11/2atchwtztno8yi72))
* Wednesday ([8th Grade](https://padlet.com/jmaricle/vacation), [7th Grade](https://padlet.com/mmannino/vacation), [6th Grade](https://padlet.com/bgordon9/vacation))
* Thursday (Where in [the world](https://padlet.com/mtoddnyc/SpringBreakMap2020) would you like to go?)
* Friday ([School Padlet](https://padlet.com/rsalinas16/28vh6zigv41lln3h))

*Academic Expectations for April:*

We’re shifting away from emergency-online instruction toward sustainable-online instruction during these next two weeks.  Expect more surveys and multiple town halls, along with pilot programs, schedules, and lessons this week as we collect data to inform our practices.  We’ve added a “Wellness Wednesday” for upper grade students to catch up on work, do surveys, meet with their partners, do enrichment activities, or engage in academic coaching and related services.  Meanwhile, faculty will be planning new lessons, assessing student work, learning new digital platforms, meeting with some of their coachees, and meeting with their colleagues. During these next two weeks, expect student workloads to decrease and quality of student work to increase as we try new ways of decreasing screen time for students, improving their work output, and assessing their work.

*Here are the announcements for this week:*

1. **Request a device**: If you want to [request a device](https://coronavirus.schools.nyc/RemoteLearningDevices) (or call 718-935-5100) from the DoE, you must do so *by Wednesday, April 22*.  If you request a device, please also email Anne ([aalbright@is289.org](mailto:aalbright@is289.org)).  Anne can confirm the request was received and is complete. Unfortunately, she cannot make the DOE send devices out any faster. For more information, [go here](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learn-at-home/ipad-distribution) or email Anne.
2. **Access to food:** In addition to [Grab and Go Meals](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/free-meals) from the DOE, there are other ways the city can help with food insecurity [here](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww1.nyc.gov%2Fassets%2Fdsny%2Fcontact%2Fservices%2FCOVID-19FoodAssistance.shtml&data=02%7C01%7Czozkan%40schools.nyc.gov%7Cbea56fdb640449ddc44608d7e3071b57%7C18492cb7ef45456185710c42e5f7ac07%7C0%7C0%7C637227491973501291&sdata=a1ezivqAB3%2BHQBMgt%2FDfhS0HPpuJblALrGH%2F1NCS%2FhE%3D&reserved=0).
3. **“Mark as Done,” otherwise the assignment is “Missing”:** We are learning that students need to click "Mark as Done," in the Google Classroom, after they complete an assignment, including the daily attendance survey.  If they don't do that, it shows up in the Parent Update Email you receive from Google Classroom - even if the student completed the sign-in survey.
4. **Chancellor’s Special Education Notice:** ([English](https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/parent-letterce51f470fc1149da971dc046f1fa2682.pdf), [Chinese](https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/31272-chinese-parent-letter_students-with-disabilities_4-15-20_.pdf), [Spanish](https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/31272-spanish-parent-letter_students-with-disabilities_4-15-20_.pdf)) There is an updated FAQ and detailed information for families whose children have an IEP.
5. **Suggested Student Schedules:** ([6th grade](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yv9dRi65a5DDGZQ7rsGTUZMho66mkitx/view?usp=sharing), [7th & 8th grades](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rqmixlwvRfORSHYGmu23hIotyNXqYgp0eIwcftZ-uEU/edit?usp=sharing))  Please remember that these schedules are provided in an effort to support families who are creating routines for their children.  They are meant to be flexible, not rigid. We’re piloting a new way of doing things with the sixth grade program this week; here is the [6th grade morning meeting list.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cG5zYM0x64XAieGKvrevG3kEv3bjJOMR/view?usp=sharing) Meanwhile, the other grades have tried to keep things close to what it was before spring break.
6. **Save the date - May 7 at 6pm:** The PTA’s of Salk School of Science and IS 289, invite you to a virtual parent workshop with Mary Ehrenworth,  May 7th at 6 pm. Details to follow! Dr. Ehrenworth is Senior Deputy Director of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, a global literacy think tank at Columbia University and is the author of dozens of books, including *Essential Research Skills for Teens*, co-authored with our own 7th grade Social Studies teacher, Marc Todd.

Details on our town halls for parents will be emailed separately by the PTA.  See you soon!

Sincerely,

Zeynep