Dear BASE families,

In response to the questions we have been getting from you, we have put together this FAQ document.

If you still have questions, or would like to speak with someone from BASE about your son or daughter, please call our Google Voice BASE office number: 845-576-2263. Or, you can email support@bronxsoftware.org.

This document has many links to digital resources. If you are reading this document on paper you can find these links on our website (www.bronxsoftware.org), or you can email or call us, and we will get you the information you are looking for.

How to reach us

BASE office phone number: 845-576-2263
BASE general email: support@bronxsoftware.org
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When will schools reopen?

Mayor De Blasio and NYC Schools Chancellor Carranza announced that NYC schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year. There have been no official announcements yet about summer school or September.

If a student left something in the building that they need (like a backpack), you or they can email support@bronxsoftware.org, and we can retrieve it for them.
How is the school keeping track of attendance during distance learning?

Every day students receive via email a link to the daily attendance form. The form can always be found here. It is a quick survey where students check in and let us know that they are ready to work on their assignments.

Students have until 11:59pm to submit their attendance, though we encourage that this process be completed before then in order for staff to be aware of your child's attendance in case your child needs support with the assignments.

Your child's attendance is being reported to DOE, and counts for their official attendance record.

What work should my child be doing?

Most importantly, students must check their BASE email every single day.

Teachers are using Google Classroom to share assignments with students, and to host discussions, post instructional videos and other resources. Every student has been invited into the Google Classroom for each class using the student's bronxsoftware.org email.

Each grade level sends out a “student launchpad” every week to students. This online document is accessible to students and parents. Each one lists every class and the assignments that are due that week, including reminders of upcoming things like quizzes and projects. The launchpad has links to the different classes’ Google Classroom page. Links to these launchpads are sent out via Kinvo every Tuesday morning.

Each grade team has developed a weekly schedule. If you are reading this online, you can see those schedules here: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

(If you are reading this on paper, please email support@bronxsoftware.org and we will email you your child's schedule.)
How is the school providing services to students with IEPs?

We are committed to continuing the services your child was receiving before we transitioned to remote learning, including related services like counseling and speech. We’ve set up plans for providing related services remotely, and teachers are collaborating to make sure that students receive services in their academic classes. We understand that remote learning presents unique challenges and opportunities for our students, and we are making sure that students’ diverse learning needs are met in this new environment.

What about IEPs, IEP meetings and evaluations?

IEPs will continue to inform our work, and any scheduled meeting will take place by phone.

As part of every student’s IEP, our team has developed an individualized Remote Learning Plan:

- Remote Learning plans can be adjusted over time, based on what teachers, related-service providers, families, and students learn through this experience, and after consultation with you. The purpose of the consultation is to discuss what your child needs in order to engage in remote instruction (including any modifications) and how services will be provided.
- Remote Learning plans should be made / updated with attention to how much screen time your child can sustain, whether or not you want your child’s services and instruction to include a video component for some or all of their sessions, and whether the frequency and duration you initially agreed to is working.
- Remote Learning plans will make sure your child is receiving the services and support they need, while also giving you and your family any flexibility you may need during this difficult time.

What are the school’s supports for English Language Learners?

We are committed to continuing services your child was receiving before we transitioned to remote learning. We recognize that language support is vital to learning new content in all settings, and perhaps especially in remote learning. Many of the same instructional approaches we use in face-to-face learning will be available in remote learning. These include:

- One-to-one and small group support for language learners;
● Use of a variety of instructional materials, including video, to support learning;
● Opportunities to develop language skills in authentic, meaningful activities like discussion.

Our ENL teachers, Gabriella and Wen, will continue to work with teachers (including co-teaching ELA and other classes and co-designing learning materials in all classes) to make sure that students are receiving high levels of support.

We will be planning and hosting information sessions for families of language learners to provide further information and answer any questions.

What is going to happen with the Regents exams?

The New York State Board of Regents, who administer the exams and set graduation requirements, announced that all June and August Regents exams are canceled. That means students who intended to take any June 2020 Regents may be eligible for a June 2020 Regents exemption. An exemption (waiver) means the exam will be counted as complete for graduation purposes, even though the student didn’t take it.

This exemption applies to:

● Any student currently enrolled in a course that culminates in a June Regents exam, and who earns credit in the course.
● Any student currently enrolled in a course that culminates in a June Regents exam and who does not earn credit by the end of the school year, but returns for summer school to make up the failed course credit. Such students will be granted the exemption in August 2020.
● Any student who was previously enrolled in a course leading to a Regents exam, has earned course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents exam but was intending to take the test in June to achieve a passing score.

Although the Regents exams have been cancelled, students must still complete their required coursework in order to receive credits towards graduation.

My child is supposed to graduate this spring! What is going to happen?
We are working hard to make sure every one of our seniors graduates this June. That means earning all credits, and completing the exit portfolio (the project that used to be called the Senior Capstone).

Regents exams have been cancelled (see question 5), so exams are no longer a hurdle for seniors who were missing them - as long as they pass their classes.

In April the College and Career Access Team (CAT) will be meeting with every senior to do a transcript review to ensure students are on track. We'll be in touch with families as well.

Regarding graduation ceremonies, we expect that social distancing guidelines will prevent us from having a traditional graduation ceremony, our Senior Awards dinner, and other senior celebrations. We understand this is a big loss for students, families, and the school community, and we are going to do all we can to celebrate the achievement of our seniors.

This June, we will use technology like Google Meet or Zoom to hold a senior awards event and a graduation ceremony. We are working with staff and partners to coordinate the distribution of caps and gowns, diplomas, and other graduation materials to families. We are also exploring ways of using remote technology to hold events like our prom.

Once we are able to be together again, we will schedule a second graduation ceremony for graduates and families. This will take place over a holiday when students and families are likely to be home from college, off work, and otherwise free to participate.

Will I be refunded money I put toward senior dues, prom and the senior trip?

We are in the process of refunding all senior trip and prom money that was brought in by students.

Senior dues are more complicated, as they include senior sweatshirts, yearbooks and diploma cases, all of which have already been purchased. We are still waiting to see what will happen with caps and gowns.

More information will be coming soon about senior dues.
How can I support my child staying on track with school work this spring?

Families play a critical role in students’ success, now more than ever. There are many specific things families can do to support our students. Here are some we strongly recommend:

Provide structure
- Check in with your child daily, and review the class launchpad together. (Launchpads are described in question 3, above.) Talk with your child about what is due, and what is coming up.
- Help your child set a schedule for the weekdays and weekends. There are many apps available for setting schedules, including calendly, Google Keep, and Slack.

Help your child keep track of the school schedule
The more you know about your child's schedule, the better you can support them. Once you are familiar with their schedule, ask questions like, “I know your math teacher has office hours later - you are going to join, right?”

You can see all student schedules here: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

(If you are reading this on paper, please email support@bronxsoftware.org and we will email you your child's schedule.)

Encourage exercise
There are many exercises we can all be doing, even staying inside. Think about sit-ups and push-ups and jumping jacks as well as calming practices like meditation and yoga.

Reach out to us
If you would like to reach out, you can always contact your child's teachers by email. If you are not sure who your child's teachers are, please email support@bronxsoftware.org or call our new office number: 845-576-2263.

Talk to your child about Covid-19
Provide accurate information from reliable sources like the Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

My child is behind in credits, and was supposed to take PM school classes to get caught up - is that still happening?
PM school is being offered in all 4 core academic subjects plus health to 11th & 12th grade students. As they do every year, the counseling team has identified all students in those grades who are behind in credits for graduation. These students have been scheduled for additional classes. Once they complete them, they will earn those credits.

If you have questions about PM school classes, please call the new school number: 845-576-2263, email support@bronxsoftware.org.

The PM school schedule is as follows:
- English classes: Wednesdays 2:45-3:45pm
- Science classes: Wednesdays 2:45-3:45pm
- Math classes Thursdays 2:45-3:45pm
- Social studies classes: Friday 3 -4:15pm
- Health classes: Tuesdays 2:45-3:45pm

SYEP is canceled. Are there any employment or internships happening at BASE this spring or summer?

While spring internships are currently cancelled, there are still several businesses that are currently hiring and summer internships that are accepting applications. Some of these opportunities can be found here. Additionally, here is a list of postsecondary options and explorations for students and families. Lists can be overwhelming but there are people that can support:

- Jon Mannion, WBL Coordinator: Please reach out to Jon for questions about work based learning, internships, TOPS, SYEP, career preparation or careers generally at: jon@bronxsoftware.org
- Cilqui Grant, CUNY Intern: Cilqui is working to support students one on one to complete applications. Please have students reach out to her to schedule a virtual support session at cgrant@heretohere.org.

I need help getting enough food for my family - can BASE help?

The school building is open every weekday from 7:30am-1:30pm, and kitchen staff are providing breakfast and lunch. Anyone can go - it doesn't have to be a student.

Here is a list of Bronx restaurants who are making free meals for the community.
We have also created a list of community resources that includes food support, mental health, education and other important resources.

We need help with our computer or internet. What can we do? Please email support@bronxsoftware.org, and we will make sure to get your question to the right person.