



March 22, 2020

Dear BASE families,

First off, I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and healthy. This is a scary time for all of us, and the BASE community has been keeping you all in our thoughts. Out of necessity we are keeping physical distance for the foreseeable future. BASE is a special community, though, and I believe with total confidence that the students, staff and families will continue to support each other in every way possible. If you need anything, let us know: you can reach the team at support@bronxsoftware.org, or you can reach me at ben@bronxsoftware.org.

You should all be aware that this past Monday March 16, we received a letter from the chancellor stating that someone in the Dodge Campus tested positive for Covid-19. You can see the letter in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

Our understanding is that the last day this person was in the building was Monday March 9. The building was disinfected that evening as part of the regular cleaning schedule, and the department has not notified us of any additional cases. Please take precautions: as we've all been advised, please seek medical attention if you or a family member has any of the symptoms of Covid-19: coughing, fever, shortness of breath.

Supports for students and families

Even though the building is closed, our entire team is still here to support students and families. Our teachers, administration, counselors, social workers, College Access Team and Transformative Justice Team are all ready to do whatever we can to help. Students and families of students can reach out to support@bronxsoftware.org and we will make sure the right person gets back to you.

We have also put together [this list of resources](#), which includes counseling centers, places to get food for families that need it, and other community support.

Technology and Internet access for students

This past week the BASE team has been busy preparing for the transition to distance learning, which will last as long as schools are closed. The Office Team and Support Team have been calling every family to make sure all students have access to a computer and internet.

If your son or daughter does not have a computer or Internet, and you haven't let us know already, please send an email to support@bronxsoftware.org. If you need Internet access you can also [see this page](#), which has information on ways to get access. For any student who still doesn't have Internet access after trying these options, our partner iMentor is working to get hotspots to families. More information is coming!

The plan for distance learning

On Monday all grade teams will be beginning distance learning for all classes. Students must be checking their BASE emails daily! Students have already received invitations for teachers to join Google Classrooms. Each grade team is developing a weekly schedule that will be shared with families. Our goal for this coming week is to get every student onto every class through Google Classroom, share with them the plan and our expectations, and for students to begin distance learning. These expectations will be shared with families as well, early next week.

Please note, students should set aside 5 to 6 hours every day for school work, but students will not have every class every day.

Grades

Marking period 1 ended last Friday, and we will be posting grades for all students on PupilPath and sending out progress reports next week.

We are exploring different grading policies for the current marking period, and we will keep you updated as we learn more and make decisions for the community.

Regents exams in June

New York State has not yet given guidance on how Regents exams will be affected by school closures. As soon as we learn anything we will share it.

Graduation for seniors

The success of all our students is of the utmost importance to us, and we are doing everything we can to keep seniors on track for graduation. Students who keep up with classes and were already on track to graduate will still graduate. We still plan to offer “PM school” classes to seniors who are behind on credits and need to catch up to graduate this year. For seniors who still need Regents exams to graduate, we are waiting for New York State to give us guidance.

The 12th grade team and the counseling team has been reaching out to students about graduation planning. If you have questions or concerns please email support@bronxsoftware.org.

We’re all looking forward to a time when this is behind us, and we can return to a more regular sense of community. In the meantime, be safe, and let us know when you need anything.

Best always,



Ben Grossman, Principal
Bronx Academy for Software Engineering