

Friends,

I hope you have managed to find some time to get some sunshine today. We have received a lot of feedback regarding the Distance Learning program and its positive impact on maintaining normalcy and comfort during this difficult time. We remain very grateful to our teachers who have worked extremely hard to adapt to this new type of instruction within such a short time. I am indeed very lucky to work with such high caliber individuals.

That said, next week will also be our 4th week of Distance Learning, and we feel a well-deserved break is due for our students, teachers and their families. The one thing that my colleagues in other schools have universally indicated is the surprisingly frenetic, and tiring, pace of remote learning. It is a good time to "press pause", and to do what's necessary to chart our course for the remainder of the year.

With that said, please note that we will continue to honor our spring break as planned, beginning on Thursday, 4/8. We are cognizant of the fact that a large number of our families will be celebrating religious observances, as well as facing their own unique circumstances, and wanted to be sure that this week was utilized in the manner in which you choose. However, to maintain the continuity of our program, all of our K-8 teachers will be available for "Virtual Office Hours", at least 2-3 times each, between Monday, 4/13 and Thursday, 4/16. Teachers will be posting their availability by Wednesday of next week.

As the learning curve for remote learning has been dramatically different from one student, and one family to the next, we hope to utilize this time to catch up as necessary by offering valuable extra help time, enrichment, and to focus on any long term assignments that may be pending. Nothing new will be introduced with the hope of reinforcing concepts that have been presented in recent weeks. We feel this extra effort will be beneficial in ensuring that there are no gaps in student learning due to the circumstances at hand. No student should fall behind. Finally, we are encouraging all families to take advantage of the tremendous wealth of online resources that have been gathered, all available through [The Bridges Academy website](#).

In anticipation of extending our closure past April 20th, we will be resuming a 5-day schedule after that time. More information on subsequent plans will be forthcoming as the situation continues to evolve.

At this point, we also wish to send our sincere thanks to all of the healthcare workers and first responders who are working so diligently to keep us all well. Additionally, please remember to follow the outlined social distancing practices that will help to flatten the curve. The more we all can do to support this critical effort, the better.

With each passing day, I appreciate this community more and more. Please know that we remain committed to supporting each of our families through this difficult time and look forward to coming together again soon.

In peace,

Steve

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Stephen E. Rubenacker
Head of School

The Bridges Academy
339 Snedecor Ave West Islip, NY, 11795
631-358-5035
631-677-3900 Fax
561-329-6787
<http://www.thebridgesacademy.net/>

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