2020-21 Parent Newsletter #4

Happy holidays from the JKO staff!!!
Peace and joy to you and your family this holiday season.
• Please reach out to me if you have not registered for Pupilpath (Online grading system) and/or if you have not registered for you DOE Myschools account.
• Please email me the Covid 19 consent forms; this is mandatory for all blended learning students prior to them attending school.
• The 2nd marking period ends this Friday, December 4th. Report cards will be available via Pupilpath and will via parent/student Myschools DOE accounts. Please have your child check their progress on Pupilpath and check in with their teachers regarding any concerns about grades prior to the end of the marking period.
• We will conduct virtual grade level assemblies this month; 9/12 grade after school on December 17th and 10/11 after school on December 18th. Among other things, students who achieved honor roll status during the first marking period will be given awards.
• There is no school on Thursday, December 24th, to Friday, January 1st because of winter recess.
• Our next PTA meeting will take place virtually at 5 pm on Monday, December 7th. We will email a Zoom invite to parents by the end of this week. Stay tuned!
• If your child received an NX as a grade during the spring or summer semesters she/he has until January to make up the work in order to receive the credit. It is imperative that all students with a previous NX grade make up the work as soon as possible. The opportunity to make up the work will not exist after January and the class may be required for any waived state exams the state may offer in the future.
• We encourage that any student with an IEP who is currently 100% remote change to blended in person learning.
• As you all may have heard by now, the Mayor and Chancellor have announced that all learning will be done remotely until further notice. All students must log onto classes synchronously during the period the lesson takes place.
• The Chancellor also announced the following:

Students in grades 6 through 12 (outside of District 75 schools) will continue to learn remotely until further notice.

Mandatory Weekly Testing: To ensure schools remain a safe and health place to learn, all schools will have 20% of students and staff tested on a weekly basis. Scheduling and logistics for testing will be shared with you prior to your test administration day each week.

Student Consent: All students are required to provide consent for testing by December 7 or by their first scheduled in-person learning day. If a student arrives on their first day of in-person without a consent form in hand or submitted online, the school will call their parent or guardian that day to collect consent immediately.

- Families can submit consent using NYCSA or this updated consent form. Please note that even if parents previously provided consent, we are asking them to submit again to ensure they have the updated consent form for their child that reflects
the requirement for weekly testing in your school. Note that the consent form was updated on Wednesday, October 14 to reflect this change.

- Students who need a medical exemption (available for all students) or disability-based exemption (available for students with IEPs) will be able to submit separate forms for approval.
- Students without consent and who do not have medical exemption or disability-based exemption will be moved to fully remote instruction.

- Below please find the fall semester tutoring schedule. We encourage all students to take advantage of all tutoring being offered.

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A message from Mr. Williams (Assistant Principal)

- The Equity Team will begin its work to facilitate "academic equity" for the students of JKO. The team will be reflecting upon the goals of the 2019-2020 school year and looking to implement (and if necessary, revise) them this year. Student surveys will be distributed to get information about AP class enrollment, "Pre AP course support", and opportunities for Sophomore and Freshmen "trials" (a preview of the expectations of AP caliber work).
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- HAPPY THANKSGIVING! I hope you all had a restful and safe Thanksgiving with your families.
- The close of the 2nd Marking Period is fast approaching on December 4th. Please remind your child to turn in any outstanding assignments and contact their teachers if they need assistance.
- Please have your child schedule a one on one academic meeting with me. This meeting is important to ensure they are on track academically with their progress towards graduation. The meeting may take place over the phone or via zoom.
- Make sure to keep track of your child’s progress in their classes by logging on to https://pupilpath.skedula.com/. If you do not have an account you may contact me or Ms. Bernabel, the Parent Coordinator, to receive your registration code.
- Students who received an NX code in any course during the Spring or Summer 2020 semesters, should be completing their course requirements in order to receive a passing grade on their transcript. Students have until January 2021 to complete the course for credit. Failure to complete the course will result in a failing grade. Please contact me for more information.
- *Freshman and Sophomores* should begin to scout and research colleges/universities they would like to attend after high school.
  *Juniors* should continue their college search and create their lists for next school year to apply.
  *Seniors* should be beginning/finishing their FAFSA, NYS TAP, and College applications.
- Please check PupilPath daily for important announcements and emails pertaining to your child!

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance: NVega11@schools.nyc.gov
On November 25, JKO celebrated Native American Heritage month with a virtual assembly performance by the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers! (It was supposed to be a live event in our theater....but circumstances changed.) This event was made possible through the partnership between Lotus Music & Dance and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

We were honored to celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the incomparable Thunderbird American Indian Dancers. The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers was established in 1963 and is the longest running resident New York City Native American Dance Company. Their performances feature a diversity of dance forms that reflect the group’s multicultural tribal membership. Their mission is to preserve and perpetuate American Indian cultures and promote a more realistic understanding of Native American cultures through their performances and events. The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers have performed at countless venues in New York City and they tour internationally. A big THANK YOU to Ms. DeGregorio for spearheading this event!!!

To view the entire performance click on the following link: https://youtu.be/o-KVogDzl3U
On November 17th, Vanessa Alcordo (Senior) appeared on Fox News at 5 pm and 10 pm. She was being interviewed as a mentee in our very successful mentoring program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters. A BIG thank you to the wonderful Ms. Milan who runs this program. To view the interview click on the following link:

From Ms. Vega-Beltran:

Please check out the link below regarding Cameron Rice’s, JKO Alumni, first on screen appearance!

https://youtu.be/6iKPxfjJBY
On Monday, November 2nd, Mr. Colon’s classes attended a virtual Get Out the Vote fieldtrip led by the District. Guest speakers included NYC Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams. Thank you to Mr. Colon for spearheading the JKO student trip. Our very own, Kayla Duran, was one of the students who asked Mr. Williams questions regarding the aftermath on the elections; "Do you think there will be rioting or unrest after the election." This was an unbelievably impressive event…a BIG thank you to Chris Lagares, from the District Team, for spearheading this event. Below are some screenshots compliments of Mr. Colon:
Kayla Duran
Opener
Meliki Hurd
Student Equity Leader
Professional Performing Arts School
Free Lyrics
In the chat, Share a line that resonates with you.

Guest Speakers

Jerome Foster II  Randi V. Garcia  Santiago Mayer  Sophia Shapiro

Get Out The Vote Rally  10/30 & 11/2

This is a non-partisan event.
The presence of our guest speakers is not an endorsement by the NYC DOE, the Superintendent's Office, The League of Women Voters, or Prom At The Polls of any candidate.
Along the lines of *Get Out The Vote*, one of our very own former students (Class of 2003), Jennifer Gutierrez, was running for City Council for District 34. We are proud to continue to produce the future leaders of our city, state, and country. See below: