

03.21.2020. Weekend voice message sent to parents

Good Morning LAMS Family Members,

This is Ms. Ponella the principal of Louis Armstrong Middle School with your weekend news.

As we transition into our new way of teaching, learning and communication, I want to let you know how proud I am of our amazing teachers and staff. For three days, they have all worked together to learn how to develop google classrooms, learning platforms and have standards based lessons ready for your children to begin class on Monday. This was no easy task and we are still learning. Here at LAMS, one of our greatest strengths is coming together to work together to overcome obstacles and do what's best for our students and families. During this time, we need to remember to be patient, stay calm and practice forgiveness.

To help keep you informed, all my voice messages, notices, updates will be posted on the school website at www.armstrong227q.com. I will also be sending messages via Pupil Path. If you haven't signed up for pupil path, you can email Ms. Cataldo at DVigoritoCataldo@schools.nyc.gov. for guidance and help. Pupil Path is an essential platform to communicate with your child's teachers during this time.

During this time, it is important that your child maintains a schedule. Remote learning will begin on Monday at 8:30AM and your child will be following their regular school week schedule. Their schedules are posted on Pupil Path. By Monday, your child should have heard from their teachers with instructions to sign into their new google classrooms to be ready for learning. While your child is learning at home, it's important to establish good routines for them and provide the best learning environment as possible. As best as possible, you want to limit distractions, make a space for learning, keep to breaks such as lunch and recess, allow them to respectfully interact with friends via video chats, remember to schedule in some fun, keep sleep schedules and most importantly don't let your children treat this as a vacation. They are still in school.

If you do not have a laptop for your child to use, can go to: www.coronavirus.schools.nyc/RemoteLearningDevice. Also, let their teachers know if you are waiting for a laptop.

I'm sure Monday may present some glitches. However, I am confident that by working together, keeping calm and practicing patience we will come out stronger than ever and by the end of the week, we will have established a new routine for our students and families. LAMS has always risen above the storms and we will continue to do so. We are a family and we need each other during these difficult times.

Remember to practice social distancing, wash your hands regularly, call and check in on our seniors and vulnerable populations and embrace this time with your family. Hopefully, we will never see a time as this again, but we can use it to build stronger relationships with each other and our family. Stay safe.

I'd like to also thank all of our health care professionals, first responders and essential workers for being on the front lines and providing the very needed services during this time. We couldn't do it without you.

This is Ms. Ponella signing off from LAMS, where what happens here will change the world.