

03.29.2020 Voice message sent to parents at 7:00PM

Good Evening LAMS Family Members,

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

We made it! We completed our first week of remote learning together! With only three days of rapid training, all of our teachers were able to deliver their lessons remotely to your children. I'm so proud of all their efforts to engage your children in rich lessons. We are still learning how to navigate many of the technological aspects of teaching. With over 1 million NYC students on line at the same time, google classrooms have crashed numerous times and other tech issues have surfaced. I truly appreciate your patience, keeping calm and practicing forgiveness.

I'd like to thank you for the encouraging emails and words of thanks and praise for our teachers and staff. We are truly a strong family united together, continuing to work together to bring your children quality lessons. While your child is learning, it is important that they complete their work by themselves. Productive struggle is part of learning. Also, the google classroom was set up as a virtual classroom between the teacher and the students. If you have questions for their teachers, please email them - joining the class is a distraction and interrupts learning from the others. I appreciate you following these norms. Also, if you requested a laptop for your child hasn't been able to join class, please let your child teachers know.

I'm happy to announce, we have a new way for you to speak directly to our secretaries if you need to get in touch with staff members or need information. They will be able to direct your questions to the proper personnel. They will be available from 9:00AM till 2:30PM to answer your calls. The phone numbers are as follows: For English you can call: Ms. Barrett at 914-481-3777 and Ms. Cifka-Bozzo at 914-481-3128. For Spanish, you can call Ms. Cruz at 914-481-2955. You can also reach our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Cataldo at 914-481-3730. This information will

be posted to our website. We also plan on reaching out to each home to check in to see how we can support you during this time. We need each other and we are here to help support you.

Again, thanks to our first responders for all you are doing to keep us safe and the sacrifice you are making. We couldn't do this without you.

Always remember, to keep inside, wash your hands frequently, make sure your child is doing their work and take this opportunity to build stronger relationships. My prayers and thoughts are with all of you and along with my staff, we miss your children dearly.

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