



9-17-2021

Dear Parents,

I wanted to give you another post Ida update. It was so wonderful to be able to reopen this week and have all of our students back on campus. Being surrounded by children is refreshing because they have an unintentional and uncanny way of bringing humor and joy to any situation. Children are unfiltered, refreshingly honest, and can lighten up any day. I know that they have certainly been a blessing to me during these challenging times of dealing with restoration and construction companies, insurance adjusters, repairs, and inspections.

As I've communicated before, ICS was very fortunate in that our damage was not as extensive as many others; however, we have had our share of roof damage and water intrusion as well as new issues that have developed since the initial impact of the storm. You may notice, or your children may have mentioned that we have been walking around campus with visitors inspecting the school. Although it will be a lengthy process, I am pleased to report that we are progressing along with restoring and repairing our campus.

In terms of the school days missed, we are committed to making sure that our students receive all of the required instructional time for the school year. Prek3-7th grade students missed a total of 11 days. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) requires 175 days and 330 minutes per day of instructional time. Our initial school calendar had 177 days and our school day consists of 390 minutes per day of instructional time (excludes lunch and recess). This is 60 minutes extra, per day, of instruction time than required by LDOE. This 60 minutes extra per day equals 7 days. Therefore, since we already have 7 extra days built into our daily schedule, we will add back in 4 full days and also revise another 2 days from half days to full days. This will essentially build back in 5 days for a total of 12 days (including the 7 extra days- 60 minutes per day). I am thankful that we at ICS have this much built-in extra instructional minutes because in speaking with parents I know that many families have vacations planned during Christmas, Mardi Gras and Easter breaks. Additionally, many of you expressed to me how important this family time is, especially given all that we have been through this year with the pandemic and Hurricane Ida.

You will note in the attached revised calendar that we will now attend school on Monday, November 8th. We will return from Christmas holiday on Monday, January 3rd instead of Wednesday, January 5th, and we will return to school on the Monday following the Crawfish Cook-off, Monday, March 28th. Additionally, for good measure and to have

some cushion, we have made both December 22nd and May 20th full days instead of half days. We did this because as I'm sure you are aware, we are still in hurricane season and cannot predict what may come. On the revised calendar, please notice that the 1st quarter and 2nd quarter time frames have been adjusted. Progress reports, parent-teacher conferences and report cards have all been moved accordingly.

The Nursery through Prek2 missed 9 days. Since this division of our school falls under our daycare license and operates a little differently in that making up instructional time is not really applicable, we will be issuing a credit for the 9 days missed from daycare. If your child attends daycare in the summer, this credit will be applied to the summer session. If your child does not attend in the summer months, the credit will be applied to the 2022-23 school year.

Aftercare credit will be distributed as follows: September aftercare fee will be half of the normal charge. If you already paid September in full, then you will pay only half of the October rate. If you have any questions, please talk to Mrs. Rawle about your monthly aftercare charge.

I know that this is a lot of information, but I want to continue to keep you apprised of our Hurricane Ida recovery. Additionally, we will begin a disaster recovery drive to help the many in our community who were devastated by this storm. Please see the attached flyer. If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to contact me. You, your families, and our westbank community remain in our prayers!

In Christ,

Kim DiMarco