



Illinois School for the Deaf

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Letter from the Desk of the Superintendent

June 3, 2020

Dear ISD Community & Friends:

On March 16, 2020, we had no idea our lives were about to be drastically changed. ISD sent home all of our students due to COVID-19. As we waited for further guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), the administration and educators jumped into high gear preparing for students to work remotely. Remote learning proved to be a challenge and frustrating for many students and their families but adding our students' communication struggles on top of it proved to be a monumental task. ISD educators rose to the challenge. Students received paper and pencil assignments through the mail. Communication and lessons also happened through various on-line apps such as See Saw, zoom, and google classroom. Students returned their work using the self-address stamped envelopes that ISD provided.

The pandemic was not something we had prepared for in the past. We quickly learned we were not prepared for remote learning to happen basically overnight. ISD administrators have met numerous times to address this issue. We have applied for several grants to purchase the necessary items to assist both educators and students while learning remotely.

At this time, we still do not know when Illinois will transition into phase 4 of the Governor's Restore Illinois plan. Phase 4 will allow schools to reopen. Therefore, we established a committee of administrators and educators to be prepared for whatever happens in August. We are working on various scenarios that could happen including continued remote learning, delayed start, and a hybrid of remote and in-person learning. Please check our website and Facebook page for future updates.

I hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Julee M. Nist, M.Ed., Ed.S.
ISD Superintendent

A residential school for students who are deaf and hard of hearing operated by
the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

*Accredited by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf and
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*