

Dear YCS Families,

What a roller coaster ride of a school year this has been. While there were twists and turns, you put your trust in us and believed that we always had our students', your childrens' safety and success at the forefront.

The past 16 months have required us to face the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in our school, the NYC community, the country, and the world. In addition, we have witnessed senseless deaths and horrific acts of violence against individuals due to race, culture and political views. Through it all, we came together to support our students, community, and each other.

As a school, we will continue to ground our work in the YCS core values: kindness, honesty, respect and responsibility, to recognize our responsibility to stand-up and speak out against inequity, racism and violence when we see it. It's our goal to raise children to be self-aware, racially conscious students who feel empowered to use their own voices to dismantle systems of racism and work towards a more equitable world. We will continue to push ourselves and our spheres of influence to model for our students what it means to be agents of change.

I want to thank our amazing PTA Executive Board for hosting multiple events to support community building during a time when we needed it most. Thank you to all of our YCS families for continuing to support our mission to provide our students with the strategies to take responsibility for their learning by continuously engaging them in rigorous and creative learning experiences, whether remotely or in-person.

Congratulations to our fifth graders who graduated on June 18th. While it was a small ceremony, it allowed us to celebrate in a special way, something they truly deserved. We are so proud of our graduating class and send them off knowing that they are ready for their next adventure.

This summer, you can best support your child's continued academic and social developmental success by reading every day, observing and recording daily observations and practicing math skills acquired throughout the year. Talk to your children about how they are feeling about returning to school in September. Discuss any questions or concerns they may have about returning to a full school building- open dialogue is a powerful tool.

For the past few years we have integrated the RULER Social Emotional Learning program into our daily practice. RULER teaches five key skills of emotional intelligence:

- Recognizing** emotions in one's self and others.
- Understanding** the causes and consequences of emotions.
- Labeling** emotions accurately.
- Expressing** emotions appropriately.
- Regulating** emotions effectively.

Over the school year, our staff, students and families have and will continue to engage in this thoughtful work, increasing community understanding. Students engage in exercises that reflect this work and it is most effective when families partner with us and use RULER specific tools at home as well.

<https://yorkvillecommunityschool.org/curriculum-enrichment/social-emotional-learning/>

I continue to be inspired by the community we have built and maintained. We have worked together, supporting each other through onerous times, ensuring that we always had a smile to share.

We hope that you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you for the 2021-2022 school year!

Yours Truly,

Samantha

A Few Reminders

Report cards will be available online at <https://mystudent.nyc/> on **June 25th**.

Regular dismissal on Friday, June 25th.

New classes for the 2021-2022 school year- Families will find out their child's new class assignment in September via email. Class assignments will also be available on the first day of school. There will only be in-person learning, no remote option will be available.

Information about our school can be found online at www.yorkvillecommunityschool.org.

Have a great summer!!!!

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

- Eleanor Roosevelt