

February 5, 2021

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

We hope that this email finds you all well.

As you know, February is Black History Month. While its origins date back to 1915, the United States has formally celebrated the achievements and recognized the contributions Black people have had in the forming of our nation since 1976. While we do celebrate these contributions year round, Black History Month provides us an opportunity to pause and be deliberate in our discussions around said achievements, and to take the time to better understand Black culture as well.

This year, in addition to our teachers highlighting the accomplishments, contributions, and prominent Black figures responsible for breaking through numerous barriers, and in the process creating history, we are working to educate ourselves. As a faculty, we are sharing information daily around Black culture and history so that we can deepen our own understandings. Here are some examples of what the faculty recently shared: [A Visual History of Iconic Black Hairstyles](#), from one of my favorite poets, Nikkie Giovanni, [BLK History Month](#), and [Nina Simone's 'Lovely, Precious Dream' For Black Children](#).

As educators, our dream is to cultivate a learning community that transcends the walls of our schools. To this end, we hope that you will join us in exploring the rich, and sometimes overlooked historical contributions of Black Americans, both this month and beyond. Hopefully, you can find a moment to pause, read something, have a conversation with a friend, and simply reflect. If you come across something that moves you, please do not hesitate to share it with us.

Below is our A/B rotation for next week. Also enclosed in this email is a letter outlining the upcoming course selection process for students transitioning from grade 7 to 8, as the grade 8 students received correspondence from AHS last week regarding the upcoming course selection process for the grade 8 to grade 9 transition.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Stay warm,

Dave and Kristina

Schedule for the week:

8- A Day	9- B Day	10- A Day	11 - A Day	12- B-Day
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Dear AMS Families:

The course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year begins shortly, as outlined below. Our focus is on students making informed decisions about their courses as they transition to grade 8 next year.

Students are in the midst of discussions with their current teachers about the levels and courses that require a recommendation. Our two content areas that involve level placements are English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Teachers will submit those recommendations via PowerSchool, and students will work with their school counselor, Ms. Boland, (dates below) to input their course requests in their PowerSchool portal. If students have questions about the courses or levels they're signing up for, they should first speak with their current teacher, and then with their school counselor. The timeline for course registration is outlined below.

7th to 8th Timeline (AMS)		
Date	Task	Responsible
Feb. 17	8th grade recommendations due	AMS Teachers
Mar. 1-5	8th grade course request input	Boland/Students
Mar. 12	Override deadline	AMS Families

- **Not later than March 12** - Any questions about your student's level recommendation for ELA and math should be directed to your student's current teacher. If a conversation is needed after that initial one, please then contact Cara Boland, their school counselor.
- **By June 1** - Students receive confirmation of courses and levels for the 2021-2022 school year. This will not be the student's schedule.

Please note that our administrative and counseling teams work tirelessly to meet as many course requests as we can; at times, our staffing levels and master schedule constraints impede our ability to meet every request.

Please reach out to us with any questions- looking forward to planning for a great 8th grade year for your students!

David Kimball and Kristina Wallace
AMS Administration