



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

October 2, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

This is our last day of teaching and learning in our hybrid model. We want to thank all of our students, families, and teachers, for their flexibility and patience throughout this time. Again, while this was a learning experience for all of us, its overall success is predicated on the collaboration and communication that flowed between all of us.

As we prepare for our full return next week, we want you to know that we are still paying close attention to how we continue to implement our COVID-19 mitigation efforts with fidelity. Our number one goal is always the health and safety of our students and staff. We feel the weight of the responsibility every day, and continue to look for ways to improve our practices.

Also, a huge thank you to our families for working with us to shift our traffic pattern these last two days. In addition, thank you to our PTO for the suggestion in the shifted traffic pattern- we (and the commuters along West Avon Road) greatly appreciated it! This adjustment has allowed our buses to move in and out of AMS faster and has made our family drop off area much more efficient. Our hope is that this subtle change will help us alleviate some of the traffic congestion that may come up when we have our full student body return next week, which will ultimately increase the number of parents dropping off and picking up students. One important note- please do not pass other parents in the drop off/pick up area as their students are unloading and please do not make any U-Turns/K-Turns in the main driveway or drop off area. Please proceed through the traffic pattern and exit with all other vehicles.

If you feel that it is a viable option for you and your family, we do suggest that you have your student take the bus. It is one of the few ways we can decrease the number of automobiles moving in and out of the school parking lot. Again, like all things in this environment, we understand that it is a personal choice, and we respect and support whichever decision you feel is best for you and your family.

The option for full remote learning still remains. If you are interested in shifting your student to or from full remote learning, please email your student's school counselor and the administrative team.

In this week's correspondence, there are four new items of importance:

1. Full reopening- Monday October 5th
2. Cellphones, earbuds, and headphones
3. Course requests vs. Schedules
4. Principal's Advisory Council

Finally, today (October 2nd) is National School Custodian Day, and we would be remiss if we did not recognize and thank our amazing custodial crew at AMS! In the midst of an unprecedented year, our custodial team has ensured that our students, faculty, and staff are

entering the most pristine, disinfected, and safe building each day, to ensure that our focus can remain on teaching and learning. Thank you to Jeff, Ben, Jason, Eddie, and Steve for all that you do behind the scenes to support our school community!

Stay well,

Dave Kimball
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Principal

Kristina Wallace
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Assistant Principal

New Items:

Schedule for the week:

<p>5- A Day Cohort 1 & 2 in person Remote Cohort-remote</p>	<p>6 - B Day Cohort 1 & 2 in person Remote Cohort-remote</p>	<p>7 - A Day Cohort 1 & 2 in person Remote Cohort-remote</p>	<p>8 - A Day Cohort 1 & 2 in person Remote Cohort-remote</p>	<p>9- B Day Cohort 1 & 2 in person Remote Cohort-remote</p>
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- We will follow the In School Learning Schedule (page 1) in the [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#) this week

Cell Phones, earbuds, and headphones

- For the last two years, AMS has implemented a no cellphone policy. Students were asked to keep their cellphones in their lockers, along with other belongings. This proved to be an effective strategy, as texts and other social media notifications were a constant distraction to the learning taking place in class. With students not being able to access their lockers this year, it means that their backpacks are with them, as well as their cellphones. This temptation is a bit too much for most students. With that being said, on Monday we will remind students that their phones should be put away in their backpacks, and if they need access to a phone they can request to go to the main office. As in the past, if a student is caught using their phone during school hours, it will be confiscated and relinquished to a parent or guardian. We ask that you take a moment to discuss this with your student, as we will do the same on Monday.
- Earbuds and headphones are not allowed to be worn without permission. Having them in use while moving through the school is a safety hazard, as students are unable to hear possible announcements and our directions in the case of an emergency.

Full Reopening Plan

- [AMS Full Reopening Plan](#) was shared with families this summer.
- All of our reopening planning was done with the intention of a full, five day in person, reopening. Our mitigation efforts have been put in place with that intention, from the beginning, to ensure that we are prepared to welcome our students in five days per week as of October 5th.
- Students who have opted for remote learning and families who decide that they would prefer that their student transition to remote learning will continue to have that option.

Course Requests vs. Schedules

- We have received a number of questions in the opening month of school about the way student schedules are developed and the difference between a course request and a scheduled course.

- Students input a number of course requests during the course selection process, with the guidance of their school counselor, as they prepare for the following school year.
- Students will always be placed into their core classes (ELA, math, social studies, science) and the remainder of their schedule will be individualized to them, based on a number of factors and constraints.
- If your student did not end up falling into a course that they requested, there is a reason why that is the case. At this point in the year, student schedules are not able to be adjusted. If you have specific questions about why your student did not end up in a class they requested, please reach out to their school counselor.

Principal's Advisory Council

- Please review this [letter](#) with your student in regards to the 2020-2021 Principal's Advisory Council.

Previously Shared Documents:

Chromebooks/Headphones

- Students need to be sure to bring their charged chromebook to school each day, to each class.
- If students have headphones at home that they can bring with them to school to use during class, that would be really helpful!

Desk Shields

- It is critical that our students continue to remember their desk shields each day. In addition, it is important for students to be as careful as possible with the shields, to ensure that they do not unintentionally break.

Field Hockey and Cross-Country Drop-off (second request)

- Do not drop students off for field hockey or cross-country in the driveway to AMS. Utilize the parent pick up/drop off area to drop your students off for after school athletics. Stopping in the parent pick up line in the main entrance driveway holds up traffic for our buses to be able to get into AMS. Also, we witnessed three possible accidents this week because of parents initiating three-point turns in the entrance into oncoming cars and buses. An accident of this type will block our entire entrance and create a complete stop to our dismissal procedures. Thank you to those families who have helped us with this, and we strongly urge others to follow their lead. Thank you again for your attention to this matter.

Student Drop-off and Pick Up at Luke's/Sunshine Market

- It is critical to your students' safety to **not** drop off or pick up your students at Luke's/Sunshine Market- this practice is dangerous and not supported by AMS.
- Students coming and going from Luke's to AMS have to cross over a grassy hill, which gets quite icy during the winter months, and then have to cross through the parent drop off/pick up parking lot, without a designated crosswalk. There are many cars moving through that area of the parking lot in the morning and afternoon- your students' safety is most important to us and we are asking, again, to not use Luke's for pick up/drop off.

Buses (Students can only take their assigned bus to and from school)

- Students are not allowed to switch buses to be dropped off at a friend's house.
- Cohorted busing is a mitigation effort, and no such requests will be granted by the school or the bus company.

Bell Schedule

- The bell schedule that appears in PowerSchool is approximate, as we are running five simultaneous (team specific) bell schedules this year, and PowerSchool only allows for one bell schedule to be loaded for attendance purposes.
- Teams have provided their students with the bell schedule specific to their team, with staggered passing times, and students should be following their team specific bell schedule throughout their in-person and remote learning days.
- There are some situations where a student's arrival to class, coming from a unified arts or world language class, does not completely line up with the team's bell schedule. We are asking our teachers to be mindful of this, to not mark a student absent or tardy if this is the case, and asking our students to be responsible about their timeliness to class if they are navigating this circumstance.

Student Conduct

- [2020-2021 APS Remote Learning Student Conduct & Protocols](#)
- Please review the Remote Learning Student Conduct and Protocols with your child; our teachers will also be sharing these out in class to remind students of our expectation for their conduct and engagement while they are learning remotely.
- In order to build and maintain a safe learning environment, while in person or remote, it is critical that students use technology appropriately and are not using their cell phone throughout the school day (specifically not taking photos or videos of their google meet sessions), exhibiting behavior remotely that is consistent with our in person expectations, and using the chat feature in google meet for school related questions and appropriate language.

AMS School Picture Days

- Remote Learners - Wednesday, October 7
- Picture Retake Day- Thursday, October 29
- Click on the below link to prepay online before picture day:
 - <https://bit.ly/3bicSvD>
 - Web Password: 8A8U8S5R

Team Information

- Team Websites: <https://www.avon.k12.ct.us/ams-home/academics/team-pages>
- Teachers' email addresses can be found in our [faculty and staff directory](#).
- Team Leaders:
 - Diamond Team- Patrick Linton (plinton@avon.k12.ct.us)
 - Emerald Team- John Mason (jmason@avon.k12.ct.us)
 - Ruby Team- Lisa Cleveland (lcleveland@avon.k12.ct.us)
 - Amethyst Team- Nicole Gresh (ngresh@avon.k12.ct.us)
 - Sapphire Team- Gene Macy (gmacy@avon.k12.ct.us)
 - Unified Arts- Kim Moretti (kmoretti@avon.k12.ct.us)
 - Special Education- Chris Meehan (cmeehan@avon.k12.ct.us)

Sports:

- Please visit Mr. Post's website for more information: [Mr. Post's Athletics Website](#)
- As for our fall sports, we will run cross country and field hockey. Here is a link to our most current plan: [AMS Fall Sports Plan 2020](#). As with everything else, this is a fluid plan. Therefore, as the CIAC or the Farmington Valley Health District puts out updated guidance, we will revisit and adjust our plan accordingly.