



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

October 30, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

Once again we hope this correspondence finds everyone well. It looks like today was a reminder from Mother Nature that a shift in weather is upon us. Also, as you know, this was the first week AMS had to implement our quarantining protocols. We just want to once again thank all our families for their support. We acknowledge that such news brings the pandemic closer to home. We want to again assure you that we are continuing to implement our mitigation strategies to the highest level possible to ensure a safe, in person, learning environment at AMS. We will continue to ask for your partnership and support in reminding your students of the safety protocols and procedures that we have in place (masks, shields, social distancing, mask wearing for the duration of the bus ride) for the safety of our entire community.

On a bright note, the Halloween costumes were incredible. With all that everyone has to contend with, to see kids simply be kids is a thrill for all of our staff. Your children, our students, are the bright spots in all that we do. Thank you again for sharing them with us.

This week, we just have a few new points of interest:

- Pick-up and Drop-off
- Backpacks and winter gear
- Parent Teacher Conferences- Thursday and Friday
- End of Marking Period 1- Thursday

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.

Stay well,

Dave Kimball
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Principal

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Assistant Principal

New Items:

Schedule for the week:

2 A Day	3 - Election Day No School	4- B Day	5 - A Day Half Day- Parent Conferences	6- B Day Half Day- Parent Conferences
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- We will follow the In School Learning Schedule (page 1) and the Early Dismissal Schedule (page 1) in the [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#) this week

Pick-up and Drop-off

Since the start of our school year, we have continually made efforts to create a safe and efficient arrival and departure schedule for students and families. We thank you for your patience, your partnership, and your waves and laughs as you drive by us as we stand in the rain, or like today, a little bit of snow. We know the weather will get colder, and the weather will do whatever it wants to do. And while our times for arrival and departure have gotten better, there is still one aspect that we cannot seem to remedy: **parents' vehicles pulling all the way up to the end of the sidewalk**. So, this is our last plea, as we have come to realize it lies in the hands of our families.

When you stop short in the line to drop off your student, it stops all the cars behind you from moving forward, thus prolonging the time it takes for pick-up and drop-off, as the ripple effect travels all the way back to W. Avon Road, where our buses get stuck in stopped traffic. Ms. Wallace constantly stands with a bright yellow fluorescent vest at the edge of where cars should pull forward to. Mr. Kimball often is in an orange jacket waving people on to pull forward. Today, we were accompanied by an additional staff member with a fluorescent yellow vest and air traffic controller light sticks to gain attention to where families can pull up to. Yet still, our efforts were more than often fruitless. Maybe you can't see us, the weather blurred your vision, or you had not had your cup of coffee. We hope it is the latter.

We have made pleas in the past, with visuals and directions. Our PTO has sent out a plea as well. At this point, it is truly up to you. We will be outside greeting our students rain, shine, snow, you name it. Though we are sure that you would prefer to not spend additional time in our parking lot or on West Avon Road.

One last request on this topic. Please do not yell at us as we wave you on. Like you, we get up every day to do the best we can by our students and staff. We are equal opportunity wavers. We wave to sedans, hybrids, trucks, minivans, and SUV's. We do not target one automobile over another, nor do we purposely wave you on in inclement weather because we want to see your child walk an extra 10 seconds in the rain. Our goal is to ensure the safe and efficient arrival and departure of all students. When such interactions happen, they often happen with

students present, or within earshot. This is behavior we would not model for our students, and would prefer not to have to engage with in front of them. We all have bad days, we just want to remind you that we are here to help and partner with you.

Backpacks

With winter creeping in, we want to revisit student backpacks. We are still trying to find a way to use our lockers. We have figured out cleaning, and assignments, though we are hitting dead ends on logistics. While we continue to find a solution that does not draw heavily on losing instructional minutes, and can be done in a safe social distancing maner, we are going to pause momentarily and shift to backpacks as one possible solution.

We are in the months where students will require winter coats. Without lockers, they will most likely be holding on to them, along with other items throughout the day. We ask that you take a moment to analyze the contents of your students backpack, and see if they need everything they have in them. We plan to do the same with them here at AMS. the vast majority of materials are digital, and many students have access to digital copies of our textbooks, so there is no need for such items to move back and forth from school and home, except for the small ELA novels.

We wonder if it will be possible to have students keep their coats within their backpacks if they are free of any unnecessary items. Our thought is if we are unable to use the lockers then at least we can make the transporting of itesm more manageable for students. Please just have your student take a look at what they need to bring with them and what they can archive. We will continue to seek a solution on our end. Any and all suggestions are welcome, so don't hesitate to send us your ideas.

Parent Teacher Conferences (Virtual)

- [Parent Conferences Letter](#): Thursday 11/5 and Friday 11/6
- This document includes all of the google meet links for teachers during parent teacher conferences:
 - [Parent Teacher Conferences Google Meet Links](#)
- This document will be sent from the main office to all families as a reminder on Thursday morning.

End of Marking Period 1

- It is hard to believe that our first marking period (quarter 1) ends on Thursday. Teachers will update grades over the following week and information on accessing your student's Quarter 1 Report Card will be available next week.
- Please remind your students to be reviewing their PowerSchool grade reports to ensure they are up to date with end of quarter assignments and assessments.

Previously Shared Documents:

Shift in internal Bell Schedule

- Now that our morning traffic patterns are a bit more predictable, we are going to implement a subtle shift in our internal bell schedule. We will preface this with the fact that **this does not impact our drop off and pickup times. Those times stay the same.** What this impacts is when students move from class to class. By pushing our first period back by 10 min, it allows for all of our buses and drop offs to arrive and get into their first period class. This move will help us better manage our instructional minutes for all classes.
- Over the course of next week, teachers will update their google classrooms to reflect the new times. Also, this will be discussed with students on Monday. In essences, all our students need to do who are full remote, is push the start times of each period back 10 min. We were lucky enough that we had a cushion in the schedule for dismissal, and that has been going well.
- Furthermore, as we start to head into the more unpredictable weather months, this shift will help us ensure that our first period class does not lose instructional time.

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.

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.