



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

November 20, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

This week, our Avon Middle School Cheer Committee, composed of a cross section of fantastic AMS educators, sent out a google form to all staff, asking us to reflect on what we are grateful for. The first few elements of gratitude that immediately popped into our heads have been a running theme that we have shared with all of you, and all AMS staff, from the day we shifted to a remote learning environment and then prepared to reopen in person: appreciation for the collaborative relationship we have with our students and families, awe of our students who are easily the most adaptable and resilient humans we know, floored by the adaptability and persistence of our educators who are teaching in an unprecedented time, and incredibly grateful for a vision and mission across Avon Public Schools to return to teaching and learning, in person, in the safest way possible.

If we dig a bit deeper, though, into what we are grateful for in the midst of a global pandemic, it may be hard to articulate through the written word. Our gratitude centers more around a feeling than it does a particular adjective. When you drive by us in the morning and give a smile and a wave, we are grateful. When you call us to talk about your student and take a moment to recognize all that has gone into reopening a school in the midst of COVID19, we are grateful. When your student takes the time to thank the custodians, nurse, and front office staff for “keeping the machine running,” we are grateful. You see, our gratitude comes from a place of being grateful to be working, in a time when so many are in positions of workplace uncertainty, and to have the privilege to take care of and educate your students each and every day. We may not know what the future holds, we may not know what direction we need to pivot next, but what we do know is that you trusting us with your children, in person and virtually, is easily close to the top of our list of gratitude in #2020.

Now that we’ve poured our (virtual) hearts out, we challenge you and your family to take a moment at the dinner table, in the car, or as you’re running out the door in the morning to consider- what are you grateful for? If you are comfortable (anonymously) submitting your family’s reflection of gratitude to our [AMS Thoughts of Gratitude google form](#), for us to compile into a schoolwide google slide presentation, we would love to hear from as many of you as possible!

This week’s correspondence has a few updates and a link to our previously communicated information. New information includes:

- Thanksgiving Break
- Students congregating at Luke's after school
- Student Council Fundraiser
- Winter Clothing Drive to Support Immacare

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

Stay well,

Dave Kimball
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 Assistant Principal

New Items:

Schedule for the week:

23- A Day	24- B Day	25- No School	26 - No School	27- No School
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- We will follow the In School Learning Schedule (page 1) in the [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#) this week

Thanksgiving Break

- Students will attend school Monday and Tuesday next week. There will be no school Wednesday-Friday. Students will return on Monday, 11/30, which will be an A day.
- Please review [Mr. Kimball's memo regarding Thanksgiving travel](#). It is critical that we partner with you in open lines of communication around your potential travel plans to ensure a safe return to school after the break.

Students Congregating at Luke's/Sunshine Market after School

- We need the help of our parent community to end the congregation of AMS students outside of Luke's/Sunshine Market after school.
- We are doing everything in our power as a school to keep your students safe- from masks, to plexiglass shields, to social distancing, to staggered passing times, to cohorting, to staggered dismissal... we have exhausted every mitigation effort that we can think of. With that said, when our students travel over to Luke's/Sunshine Market, remove their masks, and congregate in groups- our efforts to keep your students in person learning are being negatively impacted.
- We have reminded students, and will continue to remind students, of our expectations and our need for their cooperation in staying as socially distant and safe as possible. Your support in this effort is much appreciated.

- Please avoid having your student travel to Luke's/Sunshine Market after school as often as possible. Thank you!

Student Council Fundraiser: wonderful gift ideas for the holiday season!

- <https://my.mcmfundraising.com/2020-fall-avon-middle-school/ship-to-home/>
- Families can access our MCM location to purchase items for the holidays for themselves or to send to family, etc.
- The fundraiser starts Monday, 11/23, and ends on 12/14 to guarantee arrival of orders by the holidays. Shipping is done on a rolling basis as orders arrive.

Winter Clothing Drive to Support Immacare

- There will be a Winter Clothing Drive collection at St Ann's Church, Friday 12/4 after 3pm and a daily morning collection at AMS during the week of 11/30-12/4.
- Items needed include: warm socks, gloves, winter hats, scarves, coats, etc.

[Previously Shared Information Link](#)