



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

September 11, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

First, we would like to acknowledge that we send you this update upon the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. Like many of you, we remember where we were standing the moment we heard what was happening, and the emotion felt is as real today as it was then. In the following days and months, our nation grieved with those who lost loved ones, and those who suffered in silence, like our first responders, families, and friends. While many of our students were not born to witness the events that transpired, their lives were indirectly impacted nonetheless. Our hearts and prayers go out to those who were impacted, and to all our servicemen and women who took up the call to defend our values and way of life both homeside and abroad.

As we close out our second week, there is much to celebrate, and much to learn. Again, we want to commend our students for an outstanding week. We are continually impressed with their flexibility and positive attitude. We know that this time is unprecedented, that students are incredibly adaptable, and the fact that our first two weeks have gone so smoothly has much to do with our students' level of preparation and cooperation. Thank you for your support in this, as we know that our work is a partnership with you, and we are grateful for your continued patience, feedback, and compassion.

Week three brings us a virtual open house, with separate nights for each grade level, and another week of full school days (with the exception of Remote Wednesday). Our hope is that this week brings us a reprieve from the humidity, a continuation of mid September sunny days, good health, and students who continue to enter school each day with beaming smiles.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our AMS staff if you have any questions.

Stay well,

Dave Kimball
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Principal

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Assistant Principal

New Items:

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.

Attendance

- While we always encourage punctuality, our current reality is that with students both remote and in person, different circumstances impact a student's ability to arrive on time. Furthermore, with 5 bell schedules happening simultaneously, there is room for error on everyone's part. Therefore, we would like to provide you an understanding of how AMS will take attendance during this time.
 - Remote students are expected to log into their classes at the appropriate time, which would be the start of class. Again, each team has a slightly modified schedule that has been shared with students and is in their Google Classroom.
 - Remote students will be marked Tardy if they arrive 5 minutes late.
- As always, if your student has an appointment, or something that precludes them from attending class, please contact our main office.
- If your student is participating in afterschool athletics, please remind them that they need to remain present in their classes (remote included) through the end of the scheduled school day.

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.

Schedule for the week:

- **Cohort 1** in person: Monday (A day) and Tuesday (B day)
- **All Remote:** Wednesday (B day, four hour day)
- **Cohort 2** in person: Thursday (A Day) and Friday (B day)
- We will follow the Master Hybrid Schedules (page 2) in the [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#) this week
- A reminder of the A/B and Cohort rotation for the month: [AMS Hybrid Cohort and A/B Rotation](#)

Virtual Open House:

- [Virtual Open House Flyer](#)
- **7th Grade Open House-** Wednesday, September 16th, 6:30-8:00p.m.
- **8th Grade Open House-** Thursday, September 17th, 6:30-8:00p.m.

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.

Reminder: Arrival and Dismissal

- Arrival has gone well each morning! If you are dropping your student off, please know that your student needs to remain in your vehicle until 7:50a.m. Thank you!
- We will continue with dismissing all of our bus students first, as we are coordinating our bus dismissal with Thompson Brook this year, and need to remain aligned on our timing.
- **If you are picking up your student at the end of the school day, please plan to arrive no earlier than 2:50p.m.**
- When pulling into the parent drop off/pick up area, please pull as far up as you can before stopping your vehicle, to increase traffic flow efficiency.
- Please enter the AMS parking lot from West Avon Road by taking a right hand turn. While we understand that this may take some parents out of their way, it allows our buses access to our parking lot.

Previously Shared Documents:

Lunch:

- [Nutrition Services letter 8.25.20](#)
- If your student purchases lunch, please remember to place your student's lunch order by 6:00a.m. daily, at the latest. Lunch orders can be placed up to five days in advance.
- There will not be a microwave available in the lunchroom this year, specifically to reduce common "touchpoints"- please plan accordingly.

Masks & Desk Shields

- Week two of masks and desk shields has gone incredibly well- thank you for your partnership and support in this!

- We do have disposable masks and loaner desk shields in the main office, if a student happens to forget one. It is critical that students remember to bring their own shield each day that they are in school, however, as our “loaner” shields are limited.

AMS School Picture Days

- Cohort 2 - Thursday, September 24, 2020
- Cohort 1 - Tuesday, September 29, 2020
- Remote Learners - Wednesday, October 7 (more info to be emailed by separate email)
- Click on the below link to prepay online before picture day:
 - <https://bit.ly/3bicSvD>
 - Web Password: 8A8U8S5R

Technology

- All Avon Public Schools families need to complete the [Student Access to Technology form](#).
- This form is to request a device for your student, to inform the district if your student is still using one that they were given in the spring, and if your student will be using their own personal device.
- All families need to complete this form as soon as possible.
- Please remember to charge your device if you are bringing one in with you. Students should bring their chromebook and charger to school each day in their backpack.

Inquiries re: Attendance and Google Classroom

- If you have specific questions about your student’s google classroom invitations, google meet links, or their attendance in specific classes, please email the individual teacher. Teachers email addresses can be found in our [faculty and staff directory](#).

Team Information

- Team Websites: <https://www.avon.k12.ct.us/ams-home/academics/team-pages>
- 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)
- Team “assignments” are made by your student’s ELA teacher in PowerSchool
 - Linton- Diamond
 - Ariola- Emerald
 - Forlivio- Ruby
 - Morgigno- Amethyst
 - Story- Sapphire

Sports:

375 West Avon Road * Avon * Connecticut * Tel. (860) 404-4770 * Fax (860) 404-4773 * www.avon.k12.ct.us/ams-home

- 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.

Link to [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#)

[Email from Mr. Kimball dated 8.10.20 on the Hybrid/Remote Plan for AMS](#)