



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

September 18, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

This week was a full week for our AMS students and faculty. Once again, our students are doing a great job of helping us implement our mitigation strategies with fidelity. Their maturity and tenacity deserves much applause.

Thank you to everyone who attended our virtual open house. There was a great turnout this year, and your positive feedback has been much appreciated. We want to take this opportunity to thank our staff for putting the presentations together and going live with the new format without hesitation.

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

1. Photographing during Google Meets
2. Attendance Codes
3. Student Drop-off at Luke's/Sunshine Market
4. Field Hockey and Cross-Country Drop-off

We hoped to have transitioned to our AMS Minute, but have found that there is still much information to push out to families, and this format is better suited for these types of correspondences. To save you time, we will begin eliminating older items, and point you in the direction of new, pertinent information.

As a parent with two young children in two different schools, I am aware at how overwhelming processing this much information from a school can be. We will continue to streamline our correspondence to the best of our ability. We just want to make sure our lines of communication are clear and consistent while we navigate these strange times.

As always, thank you again for your patience and support. Also, 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:

Photographing During Google Meets

- As you are aware, students are prohibited from photographing/recording classes, or staff members both in the building and during a Google Meet. With that said, this is applicable to parents and guardians as well. With many of our parent meetings (Open House, PPT's, 504, Team Meetings, etc.) now taking place through Google Meets, we ask that parents and guardians respect the privacy of our staff and not photograph or record them during these meetings.

Attendance (Codes)

- While most of this information below was in our last correspondence, we wanted to clarify attendance codes, such as Tardy (unexcused or excused). At AMS, the Tardy code is used for record keeping purposes so that we can refer to it should the need present itself. As stated below, if a student is 5 minutes late to a class while he or she is remote, they are marked Tardy.
- With that said, we understand that households will encounter connectivity issues from time to time. We too have that happen here at school as well. If there is ever a time when a student cannot log on to class at all, or for an extended period of time, please have your student email the teacher directly to let them know when they are able to.
- 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.

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.

Field Hockey and Cross-Country Drop-off

- Please 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. Thank you for your cooperation on this!

Schedule for the week:

21 - A Day Cohort 1 - In-School Cohort 2 - Remote	22 - B Day Cohort 1 - In-School Cohort 2 - Remote	23 - B Day Full Day Cohort 1 - Remote Cohort 2 - In-School	24 - A Day Cohort 1 - Remote Cohort 2 - In-School (Picture Day)	25 NO SCHOOL Professional Development
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- 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](#)

Previously Shared Documents:

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.

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.

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

- 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.

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.