



Dave Kimball  
*Principal*

Kristina Wallace  
*Assistant Principal*

September 25, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

Week four is in the books, summer weather seems to have made a mild resurgence, and our students are heading into a long weekend: things are looking up at AMS! Though we will admit, one of us might have run the wood burning stove overnight this past week. It's New England, and if you live here long enough you learn to roll with unpredictable weather.

We are counting down the days to having our students return to a full five days in person, as we know many of our students, staff and families are as well. With that said, we suspect that the emotions many of us felt as we reopened the school year, in a hybrid model, will evolve, ebb and flow as we prepare to welcome our students back to a five day week. We want to assure our school community that our reopening planning, from the beginning, centered around all of our students attending five days per week, and we are as prepared as we can be.

The option for full remote learning will remain. 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. Chromebooks and headphones
2. Planning for full reopening: Monday, October 5
3. Desk Shields
4. Field Hockey and Cross-Country Drop-Off (second request)

'Yom Tov' to our AMS family members celebrating Yom Kippur on Monday! Thank you all again for your continued partnership and support.

Stay well,

*Dave Kimball*  
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Principal

*Kristina Wallace*  
Kristina Wallace  
Assistant Principal

**New Items:**

**Schedule for the week:**

|  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>28 - No School</b><br>Yom Kippur<br>Holiday | <b>29 - B Day</b><br>Cohort 1 - In-School<br>Cohort 2 - Remote | <b>30 - A Day Full Day</b><br>Cohort 1 - In-School<br>Cohort 2 - Remote | <b>1 - A Day</b><br>Cohort 1 - Remote<br>Cohort 2 -<br>In-School | <b>2- B Day</b><br>Cohort 1- Remote<br>Cohort 2-<br>In-School |
|--|--|---|--|---|

- 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](#)

**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!

**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.

**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 busses. 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.

## Previously Shared Documents:

### 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.

### **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](mailto:plinton@avon.k12.ct.us))
  - Emerald Team- John Mason ([jmason@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:jmason@avon.k12.ct.us))
  - Ruby Team- Lisa Cleveland ([lcleveland@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:lcleveland@avon.k12.ct.us))
  - Amethyst Team- Nicole Gresh ([ngresh@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:ngresh@avon.k12.ct.us))
  - Sapphire Team- Gene Macy ([gmacy@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:gmacy@avon.k12.ct.us))
  - Unified Arts- Kim Moretti ([kmoretti@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:kmoretti@avon.k12.ct.us))
  - Special Education- Chris Meehan ([cmeehan@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto: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.