



Dave Kimball  
*Principal*

Kristina Wallace  
*Assistant Principal*

August 28, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

Once again, we hope that you and yours are healthy and well. Our opening day is just a few days away. The summer always seems to go by too fast, but this year it seems exceptionally shorter. Still, a new school year is ahead of us, and like all new school years, it is filled with hopes, dreams, and a little uncertainty. In fact, I think it is safe to say that this year is more uncertain than most.

With that notion, we hope that the information in this letter will provide you with a bit more certainty, and clarity to some questions you may have; please read it in its entirety.

We know that this year is going to be different in many ways. Masks, sanitizer, desk shields, in one day and out another, these are the ones that stand out to us. Nevertheless, there will be a lot that is not different. Students will connect with one another and their teachers. We will all learn and grow together, and we will all support one another through the ups and downs.

We don't mean to diminish the hard work that happens in our schools, that will never change. Consequently, the human connection that manifests within a community of learners will not change either. There will still be bad teacher jokes, and great ones. Students will learn something new, forget it by the next class, only to learn it again and never have it escape their memories. They will strengthen old bonds of friendship, and create new ones that will span the rest of their lives. What a story we will have to share some day.

Thank you again for entrusting us with the most precious thing in your life, your child. We do not take caring for them and educating them lightly. From the entire AMS staff, we want to welcome you and your students to the AMS family, and hope that you both have a healthy and joyful school year.

Stay well,

*Dave Kimball*

Dave Kimball

Principal

*Kristina Wallace*

Kristina Wallace

Assistant Principal

## **New Items:**

### **Grade 7 Students:**

- Welcome to the AMS family- we are so excited to have you join us for the next two years. Please know that you have a building full of resources to support you as you transition to a new space without the typical orientation/visit that you would have done in the past. Floor markings, signage, teachers in hallways and plenty of assistance await you as you navigate our circular building on Monday or Tuesday morning. We'll get through it together!

### **Grade 8 Students:**

- Welcome back and welcome to our new students. Please pay close attention to the signage to access the second floor of the building when you enter on Monday or Tuesday morning. We're so excited to be able to work with you in person (and virtually) to kick off a great year!

### **New AMS Faculty and Staff:**

- We want to introduce the new additions to the AMS team, who have joined us this summer. We are thrilled to have these fantastic professionals here at AMS:
  - Ms. Gizelle Alexander: Paraeducator
  - Mrs. Jennifer Allen: Reading Specialist
  - Mr. Rory O'Brien: Paraeducator
  - Mr. Matt Redman: Special Education Teacher
  - Mr. Eddie Vargas: Custodian

### **Schedules:**

- Student schedules are available in the PowerSchool portal. Please reach out to your student's school counselor with any schedule related questions: Cara Boland (grade 7)- [cboland@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:cboland@avon.k12.ct.us) and Chris Franco (grade 8)- [cfranco@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:cfranco@avon.k12.ct.us).
- Requests for specific teams/teachers are not able to be honored. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### **Masks:**

- We suggest that our students begin building some mask tolerance. While our students may be accustomed to wearing a mask to and from home, and in some public spaces, the duration of time wearing a mask will be much longer at school. Again, our classes are 57 minutes, with students attending 6 classes in a day. While we will find opportunities for students to have mask breaks, these breaks will be short and spaced out throughout the day. Also, it is possible a student may have a mask on for 2 hours at a time. Therefore, the more opportunities you can build into your student's day, leading up to our open, will be beneficial to their health and safety preparedness.

### **Opening Week Schedule:**

- Our first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 31. Cohort 1 will be in person and Cohort 2 will be remote on the first day. Cohort 2 will be in person and Cohort 1 will be remote on the second day. The rotation of cohorts and A/B days through the month of September is linked here for your convenience: [AMS Hybrid Cohort and A/B Rotation](#).
- Students who are remote on their hybrid (the non in-person day), or full-remote, will follow their regular schedule. Students will sign in and out of their Google Classroom Hangouts, aligned with our building bell schedule, on their remote days.
- AMS will run an early release schedule on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the first week- the school day will end at 11:10am on these days. Wednesday will be our “Hybrid Remote Wednesday” schedule- the school day will end at 11:55am on this day. **All bell schedules can be found in the AMS Hybrid and Full Remote Learning Plan, linked below.**

### **Chromebooks:**

- If your child has a district issued chromebook please have them bring it with them on their return to school, along with the charger.
- Students who do not have a device, and are in need of one, will receive one on their first day of in person instruction in their first period class.
- If your child is full remote for the first quarter, a district correspondence will come out explaining how to procure a district issued device.
- 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.
- We understand that some of our students starting remote, or are in cohort 2, may not be able to connect with their class due to a lack of technology on the first day. Our staff is aware of this, and has planned accordingly to ensure that each student receives the best experience possible from the start. Thank you for your patience, while we navigate the first few days of school.

### **Google Classroom:**

- Students will be receiving invitations to google classrooms from each of their teachers throughout the course of the week. If your student has not received a google classroom invitation from each of their teachers by Thursday, please have your student email individual teachers to remind them.

### **Sports:**

- 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.

### **First Week of School Orientation:**

- [Orientation Slides](#)
  - Teachers will be reviewing the information covered in these slides during the first week of school- specific topics will be covered in different classes throughout the first two days.
  - We wanted to share this with families in advance of Monday, so you'll have a snapshot into what will be covered with your students, and as a resource throughout the year.
  - This slideshow was adapted from the AMS Reopening Plan, which was shared with families earlier this summer, to ensure students are aware of the updated protocols and procedures.

### **Desk Shields**

- The desk shields are being assigned to students, and we will have students write their names on them when they receive them. These shields will travel to and from school with students. Please think of them as an added piece of personal equipment.
  - They cannot be cleaned with any harsh chemicals as they will scratch, damage, or even melt the plexiglass.
  - If they need to be wiped down, they can be wiped with water and microfiber cloths or paper towels. Students and families are asked to help us continue to keep our environment as clean as we can by wiping the desk shields them down at home daily.
  - Students are expected to conduct themselves with the same levels of responsibility, resilience, curiosity and compassion when it comes to carrying their desk shields through the halls and to/from school. Please reinforce the importance of this with your student prior to Monday and regularly throughout the year. We appreciate your support on this!

### **Textbooks**

- Students will receive their textbooks in class.
- Additional information will be sent out to parents of full remote learners on when they can pick up their textbooks later this week.

### **Previously Shared Documents:**

Link to AMS Supply List: [AMS General Supply List](#)

Link to [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#)

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