

February 12, 2021

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

We hope that this email finds you all well.

This week, our 8th-grade students participated in a presentation given by the AHS school counselors to discuss their transition to AHS. In addition, many of our 8th-grade teachers discussed the courses available to our students, and have begun having conversations around recommendations. This is an exciting time for our 8th-grade students, and you will continue to receive information from AHS as the process unfolds.

We do have one request for this week, and it pertains to cell phones and smart watches. Due to the distraction that these devices bring to the educational setting, we have asked students to keep them in their backpacks. If seen in use, they have been confiscated and returned to the student or parent at the end of the day. This year, unfortunately, students do not have their backpacks in their lockers, and therefore have them with them all day. Therefore, we have experienced an uptick in the use of these devices recently.

It is difficult for many adults to not check their text messages and notifications on their devices. For a young person, who is still developing their executive functioning, and craves peer interaction, it is near impossible for them to not want and read their notifications and add to the conversation going on. This distraction has a negative impact on learning, as it distracts them from the instruction being delivered. We ask that you have a conversation with your student that the classroom is not a time to engage in texting and other social media conversations. We will be sure to once again echo the same message upon our return.

Also, we respectfully ask that you refrain from texting your child during the day. If there is some kind of pertinent information or message that you need to get to your student, please feel free to call the main office and we will be happy to assist. The more we partner together in this approach, the clearer the expectations will be for our students, and our students can focus primarily on learning during the school day.

Below is our A/B rotation for next week. Also enclosed in this email is a letter outlining the upcoming course selection process for students transitioning from grade 7 to 8, as the grade 8 students received correspondence from AHS last week regarding the upcoming course selection process for the grade 8 to grade 9 transition.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Stay warm,

Dave and Kristina

Schedule for the week:

15 - NO School Presidents' Day Recess	16 - NO School Presidents' Day Recess	17- A Day	18 - A Day	19 - B-Day
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February 5, 2021

Dear AMS Families:

The course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year begins shortly, as outlined below. Our focus is on students making informed decisions about their courses as they transition to grade 8 next year.

Students are in the midst of discussions with their current teachers about the levels and courses that require a recommendation. Our two content areas that involve level placements are English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Teachers will submit those recommendations via PowerSchool, and students will work with their school counselor, Ms. Boland, (dates below) to input their course requests in their PowerSchool portal. If students have questions about the courses or levels they're signing up for, they should first speak with their current teacher, and then with their school counselor. The timeline for course registration is outlined below.

7th to 8th Timeline (AMS)		
Date	Task	Responsible
Feb. 17	8th grade recommendations due	AMS Teachers
Mar. 1-5	8th grade course request input	Boland/Students
Mar. 12	Override deadline	AMS Families

- **Not later than March 12** - Any questions about your student's level recommendation for ELA and math should be directed to your student's current teacher. If a conversation is needed after that initial one, please then contact Cara Boland, their school counselor.
- **By June 1** - Students receive confirmation of courses and levels for the 2021-2022 school year. This will not be the student's schedule.

Please note that our administrative and counseling teams work tirelessly to meet as many course requests as we can; at times, our staffing levels and master schedule constraints impede our ability to meet every request.

Please reach out to us with any questions- looking forward to planning for a great 8th grade year for your students!

David Kimball and Kristina Wallace
AMS Administration