

March 19, 2021

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

Another week down, another day closer to consistent Vitamin D and rising temperatures- let's all breathe a collective sigh of relief: Ahhh!

We had a chance to meet with our PTO Presidents, with a few teachers and staff, and our APS COVID Liaison this week to begin brainstorming possible celebrations for the end of the year. We are working to provide our 8th grade students with a memorable, safe, and COVID compliant celebration. As has been the practice in prior years, the celebration will focus on students spending time with one another, commemorating their middle school years, and acknowledging their memories and achievements with one another. As we develop more concrete plans, we will share details with students and families.

While we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of women throughout the entire year, we do join in with the world in acknowledging Women's History Month in March. Our social studies teachers shared this opportunity with their students in classes over the last week- we wanted to share it with families as well so you can encourage your students to participate: [Women's History Month Essay Contest](#).

Next week is Spirit Week at AMS- a week that we all look forward to each year. Daily themes have been shared with students and will be on our daily announcements as a reminder. We look forward to the energy and excitement that this week brings to our building!

As a reminder, Quarter 3 will end on March 31st and Q3 report cards will be available for viewing on April 8th. In addition, we will host another Virtual Coffee with the Principals on March 31st. A reminder email with a zoom link will be shared closer to the date.

**Similar to last week, we have a number of updates/reminders- please read through all carefully:**

- **Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences**
  - Thursday and Friday will be half days for students to allow for virtual parent/teacher conferences.
  - The schedule for Thursday and Friday is:

<b>AMS In Person Learning Early Dismissal (Half Day)</b>		
<b>Period</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
1	8:15	8:41
2	8:44	9:10
3	9:13	9:39
4	9:42	10:08
5	10:11	10:37
6	10:40	11:10

- **Use of Outdoor Space/Mask Breaks**
  - With the warmer weather (hopefully) returning, our teachers will be using the outdoor spaces at AMS for outdoor classes, when/if possible. We just wanted to keep all families informed of this.
  - As a reminder, students do have access to outdoor mask breaks daily. We appreciate our teachers carving out this time to give students a short reprieve each day from their masks and access to some fresh air!
- **Flex Update**
  - Flex will return, in a bit of a different format, starting on March 29th.
  - Each team will develop their weekly flex schedule to share with students.
  - Flex will run for 30 minutes per day and will rotate through different subject areas throughout the week.
  - This will be an opportunity for students to work individually/in small groups with teachers, provide them time to study and get ahead on/caught up on work, time to read quietly and a chance for a mindful moment during their fast-paced day.
- **Cell Phone Use**
  - We're asking for your support again in reminding students that our expectation is that their cellphones are off and away for the duration of the day. This applies to the entirety of the school day- including mask breaks. If you need to get in touch with your student during the day, please call the main office and we will get you in touch with them. Thank you!
- **Middle School Spring Athletics Update**
  - Track and Field registration is now open!
  - Mr. Post's (Athletics and Activities coordinator) website: <https://sites.google.com/a/avon.k12.ct.us/jpost/materials>
  - Family ID (for athletic registration): <https://www.familyid.com/programs/avon-middle-school-spring-sport-registration-2020-2021>

**Schedule for the week:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22- A	23 - B	24- A	25- A Half Day- Conferences	26- B Half Day- Conferences

**Previously Shared information:**

**Bus Transportation Update**

- As was previously explained in our correspondence earlier this week ([TBS/AMS Bus Update 3.2.21](#)), students have been assigned to specific color zones on their bus. It is critical, for contact tracing and students' health and safety that students adhere to their assigned zone on the bus daily. Thank you for your support in reminding students of this!

**AMS Announcement Google Slides**

- At the request of many families, we will now post our AMS Announcements google slide deck on the [Avon Middle School website](#) on Mondays, for your viewing. These announcements are projected daily in classrooms and emailed to your students.

#### **District issued Chromebook Update**

- As a reminder, the expectation each day is that **students are using their district issued device- not a personal device**. We have asked teachers to remind students of this as well and notify us if a student is continuing to use a personal device, so that we can assist in ensuring all students have their district issued device each day.
  - If your student is remote, please see the update from our Central Office team.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions/Answers**

- [FAQ & Answer Running Document](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) form (you do not need a google account to fill this out)

#### **State Department of Education Resources**

- [Resources for Families](#)
- [Social Emotional Family Resources](#)

Have a wonderful weekend!

Stay well,

*Dave and Kristina*