

April 23, 2021

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

With May on the horizon, we are rapidly approaching some of the busiest weeks of the school year, and the energy in the building is palpable. Our 8th grade students are preparing to transition to high school, our 7th graders are ready to move to the second floor, and we are working around the clock to build and develop our 2021-2022 schedule. When we stop to think about how far our students, teachers, and school district have come in the last 8 months, we are so proud of the resilience, responsibility, curiosity and compassion that we have all adapted to maintain consistent in person learning amidst a global pandemic- it is pretty remarkable! In our final stretch, we are looking to remain as consistent as possible in our mitigation strategies, teaching and learning, and celebrating the amazing students that we are lucky to teach every day.

Over the next week or so, you'll receive information from our main office regarding the upcoming Smarter Balance Assessment (SBAC) that all 7th and 8th grade students will take and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment that 8th grade students will take during the last two weeks of May. We are working with our teachers and students to ensure that students know that the intent of this assessment is not to cause additional stress or worry- it is simply a data point to give us feedback on how our students are progressing and how we are supporting our students' learning. If you can reinforce that same message at home, we would really appreciate it, as we want our students to be comfortable and calm as they approach that testing period.

Finally, in conversations with our faculty, staff, district administrators and the PTO executive board, we wanted to share an update on the 8th grade end of year pending celebration. At this time, we are in the planning stages of an 8th Grade Field Day, during the last week of school, during which students would have time to celebrate with one another through a series of full grade level activities and team time. As we are still working through the details, more information will be shared at the beginning of May, and we will be collaborating with our Student Council to ensure that student voice is part of our planning and decision making process. We appreciate your patience and support as we look to provide the students with a memorable celebration, with one another, before they move on to high school.

### **Updates for this week:**

#### **Bus Driver Appreciation Day**

Tuesday, April 27th, is Bus Driver Appreciation Day. As frontline workers who safely transport our students to and from school (and school activities) daily, we ask you to join us in thanking the drivers for Avon Public Schools. If you can remind your students to express their gratitude this week, it would be greatly appreciated!

#### **New Security/Safety Specialist**



Please officially welcome Mr. **Jeff Beauchamp** to Avon Middle School as our new Safety and Security specialist! You've likely seen Mr. Beauchamp outside each morning and afternoon this week as he transitions into his role. We are grateful to have him as part of the AMS family!

### **Spring Athletics**

As our AMS students begin the Spring track season we would like to remind our students and families of two very important aspects of attending sporting events. We ask for your support ensuring these mitigation strategies are in place so that we can continue to have spectators supporting our student athletes.

- **School Spectators**
  - Family members from opposing schools will be permitted to attend athletic contests this spring. All spectators are required to wear a mask and maintain proper social distancing guidelines while in the stadium. The bleachers and fence lines at AHS facilities are marked with white tape. Please only sit in the designated areas. Only team members and coaching staff will be permitted on the field or track areas. This information will be shared with all opposing school athletic departments for dissemination.
- **Student Spectators**
  - AMS students will be allowed to attend all home sporting events in the spring. There will be no "student section" allowed in the stadium or at any other facility. Students must wear a mask at all times and follow proper social distancing guidelines at all times. Students will not be allowed to congregate in large groups at any time. If students do not adhere to these guidelines, they will be asked to leave the event by staff or security and not be allowed back for the remainder of the spring season.

### **A/B Rotation Week of 4/26-4/30**

Monday 4/26	Tuesday 4/27	Wednesday 4/28	Thursday 4/29	Friday 4/30
A-Day	B-Day	B-Day	A-Day	B-Day

### **Previously Shared information:**

- **Yearbook**
  - The AMS 2020-2021 yearbook is available for ordering online. [Click here for ordering instructions](#). Instructions are also available on the AMS website.
- **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!
- **Bus Transportation Update**
  - As was previously explained in our correspondence ([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)

Stay well,

*Jess and Kristina*