

April 30, 2021

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

We have many important updates/celebrations outlined below, so we will keep our intro relatively short this week. First, we have 29 school days until June 11- how is that possible?? Secondly, we wanted to draw your attention to a small shift in terms of accessing the circle in the front of AMS during the school day- we will be chaining the circle off between 8am-2:30pm to ensure student safety during mask breaks/outdoor instructional periods. Please utilize the parent pick up/drop off area if picking up or dropping off your student early/late. Finally, we want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we received an update from Mr. Kimball and brought Mr. Giannini on board to the AMS family. We will miss Mr. Kimball's physical presence in the building daily but we know he is right down the road, ready to receive our students as they transition to high school. Mr. G. is not a stranger to many, as he has been an educator within Avon Public Schools for over 15 years, and we are thankful to have him leading our team here.

### **Principal Appreciation Day**

- Please join us in celebrating Mr. Jess Giannini, our new principal of Avon Middle School, on Principal Appreciation Day (May 1).
- Mr. G., a familiar face to many in Avon, is an incredible asset to our school and we are grateful to have him on board to support students, families, staff, and our full community.

### **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week**

- May 3-7 is recognized as National Teacher Appreciation Week- in Avon Public Schools, we consider every member of our staff as an educator, especially in a year like the one we've had.
- Please join us in expressing our appreciation and gratitude for the amazing work of all educators, amidst a global pandemic and in typical times, to support, educate, and care endlessly for our students.
- Ways that students can express gratitude this week include:
  - **Monday, May 3:** Custodians, Cafeteria, and Security Officers Day - Everyone is encouraged to wear blue in honor of the uniforms that each group wears (they have blue shirts as part of their uniform.)
  - **Tuesday, May 4:** Teacher Appreciation Day - Everyone is encouraged to put on their "Thinking Cap" and wear your favorite hat to show your support. (Tuesday is the official Teacher Appreciation Day!)
  - **Wednesday, May 5:** Paraeducators, Tutors, Cafeteria Monitors, and Secretary's Celebration - Everyone is encouraged to wear something with a **team logo** or name on it - we are all part of the team.
  - **Thursday, May 6:** Nurses Day (Thursday is the official Nurses Day) - To honor the work our school nurses have done to keep our school safe, and our spirits up, break out your Avon spirit wear. Show your Avon pride!
  - **Friday, May 7:** Take a minute and send an email to your teacher(s) to express the ways in which they have impacted your life. The written word goes a long way!
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### **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: May 2021**

- Please join us in celebrating the heritage of our Asian American and Pacific Islander students and families that are part of our Avon Middle School community!
- [Background/History on Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)

### **SBAC/NGSS Assessment**

- You will receive a separate correspondence today with an overview of the SBAC/NGSS upcoming assessments along with the test schedule.
- Students in person will test with their period 1A class for all test days. Remote learners who are coming into AMS to test will test in the gym, separated from the larger group. Remote learners who are testing remotely will receive information specific to their testing soon.
- Students will need to bring their charged chromebook to school each day, as they will test on their district issued device. If possible, we're asking students to also bring wired headphones (not AirPods or any bluetooth type listening device) to utilize for portions of the assessment.
- Students also need to bring a book/magazine to read- when they have completed the assessment, they will need to sit quietly for the remainder of the test window. They will not be able to access their chromebook or any other electronic device for the duration of the test period.

### **A/B Rotation Week of 5/3-5/7**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A-Day	B-Day	A-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!

### **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*