



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

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Hello AMS Families,

As we wrap up week five of remote learning (with our week of April vacation making six weeks from the last time we were in a brick-and-mortar setting), we want to open our correspondence with a message of gratitude. Gratitude to our students for their resilience in a remote learning setting, gratitude to families for your continued partnership as we navigate learning remotely, and gratitude to our faculty and staff for managing an evolving world of remote teaching and learning. While many days may feel like they blend together, each day brings a new birdsong, sun vaulting the horizon, and the opportunity for human connection. Through this, our focus continues to be on engaging our students in learning remotely while ensuring our students are supported and connected with their teachers, their peers, and our school community.

Here is a little something from our faculty, in the spirit of connection, with a message for our students and families: [AMS Misses You!](#)

Here are a few updates that we wanted to share this week:

Student attendance at Google Hangout Meets:

As was outlined in our correspondence on April 6th, we ask that our students engage with their learning during the times designated in our [remote learning plan](#), and a little on off times. Our schedule offers students access to their teachers daily. It is our expectation that students will attend **at least one** “live” google hangout meet per week. It will be communicated to them, by their teacher, which day of the week is expected for “live” attendance. Their teachers may offer additional “live” google hangout meets throughout the week as another way for students to access them during their scheduled class time. During designated times, teachers are available for questions, and teacher directed instruction, as described in Dr. Carnemolla’s correspondence. Having students check into a hangout daily is a good way to keep them engaged and connected.

Feedback/Questions from Principal’s Advisory Council

We had an incredible opportunity to convene with the Principal’s Advisory Council (PAC) yesterday. For those who don’t know, this PAC is made up of a core group of students, both from grades 7th and 8th, who meet monthly with administration to discuss ways to improve teaching and learning at AMS. As always, these monthly meetings are open to all students who may have an idea that they would like to share. Yesterday, we held two grade level hangouts, with about 150 students attending across the two meetings. It was a joy to see the students, and their insights, positive feedback, and opportunities to improve our remote learning experience was

thoughtful and incredibly insightful. We appreciate the time our students took to participate in this forum, and everything they had to share. This definitely made our day!

- As a reminder, our team websites are a great resource to access up to date information from your student's team: <https://www.avon.k12.ct.us/ams-home/academics/team-pages>
- Monday, 4/27, is an A Day, for student planning purposes

Miscellaneous

As stated in earlier district correspondences, all school activities have been canceled for the foreseeable future, and the building is closed to the public. While our current return date is May 20th, we have received questions from students in regards to our end-of-year field trips and dances. Our plan is to wait for our return, and then examine what guidance is provided by the state at that time, especially around the practice of social distancing. From there, we can evaluate if such events can take place in a way that can keep all participants safe and healthy. Please know we are thinking about this, and we will let you know as soon as a plan is in place.

Student Remote Art Gallery

Here is a link to the [AMS Remote Art Gallery](#). We are always impressed with the creativity that flows from our students. Thank you to our Art teachers, Ms. Hillman and Mrs. Lefebvre for sharing this inspiring work. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

As always, we are here to support you and your family during this unique time. Like you, we are all learning every day how to better juggle the demands of work, family, and self-care. While we know that is sometimes easier said than done, it is within our grasp. We just have to continue to rely on one another, and keep our eyes focused on a brighter tomorrow.

Stay well,

Dave & Kristina

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