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Hello AMS Friends and Families,

As we slide into our 9th week of remote learning, I hope that you and your family are finding time to enjoy some of the warm weather. It is amazing what a little sunshine in the day does for the psyche. In this correspondence, you will find a few new items, and a few previously mentioned items that are still pertinent.

New Items

Grading

In our [5.11.20 memo](#), we shared with you our Pass/Fail option for AMS. In light of this decision and conversations with parents and staff, we have identified an area of opportunity. As our remote learning endeavor continues, we have found that for some students, their grades have begun to ebb and flow. To some extent, our students are feeling a bit of a grind, and with that grind sometimes our best actions are disrupted. An assignment does not get handed in, or not submitted at all. This is expected, as we know our students are swimming in uncharted waters. While I find their resilience and drive to be extraordinarily impressive, they are human, and they are developing new skills every day.

When a grade for a missing assignment is not placed into PowerSchool, it is easy for a student to move on and forget to revisit the assignment. We often find that the work is actually done, but was never submitted. Usually we have the student right in front of us and we can remind them of this while they kindly pull the missing assignment from their binder and hand it over, complete and accurate. This is no longer the case. We have found that one way to remind students of the importance of task completion is through PowerSchool.

To ensure that our students continue to stay on top of their work, and develop the skills needed to be successful moving forward, we will input a 50% instead of a 0 for a grade on missing assignments. This is the grade that will stand until the assignment is submitted. Many of you may read that and ask yourself, well, what's the difference. From a student perspective, it is a lifeline. A 0 in the gradebook, or several 0's, is difficult to recover from mathematically. For a student who finds themselves in this position, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and give up. This does not serve their best interest, and by throwing them a lifeline, the odds are better that they will complete the task and better understand the material and develop the skills being taught.

Additionally, this is a communication tool for parents. While you receive PowerSchool updates, or review your student's progress, if a grade is not placed in PowerSchool, and it says M for missing, you may not catch it. We are all overwhelmed during this strange time, and sometimes

we just skim to the overall grade and move on. I get it, I do the same for my own children, and I do this for a living. The 50% will impact the overall grade, and it will allow you to quickly see what might be missing from your student's grade profile.

Again, we are trying to strike a delicate balance between providing students feedback on their learning, while remaining empathetic. We understand that everyone's situation is different, and that each student and family is navigating remote learning in different ways. Our hope is that this will help students stay the course and end this most peculiar year as strong as possible.

Teachers will message this to students next week. **As for students with IEPs or 504 plans, accommodations and modifications outlined in those plans will continue to guide performance reporting. Please contact your student's case manager with any questions.** For all other questions regarding this information, feel free to contact your child's team leader or the AMS administration.

Monday is a B Day

As a reminder to students, Monday, May 18th is a B day. It is expected that students are attending the "required" google meet weekly for their classes and engaging in their schoolwork daily. Teams are continuing to send out correspondence to students and families, via google classroom and student/parent email accounts, with updates on assignments.

Previously Distributed Information

Avon Community Supports

Here is a link to some of the [Avon Community Supports](#).

Student Items left at AMS and Yearbooks

Now that it is confirmed that we will not return to school this school year, we are preparing to return items that students may have left behind (lockers, artwork, etcetera). Once these plans are finalized, we will send out information to parents. We are creating a plan for our yearbook distribution as well - [Here is the link to our AMS Yearbook Ordering Form](#).

Closing out the "School Year"

While we are not able to conduct our traditional end-of-year events, we are working with our PTO and staff to create ways to recognize our students, and to say farewell and hello. As these plans are more solidified, we will send out information to families. We just wanted you to know we were thinking about these things, as they are equally important to us as they are to you.

Field Trips and Musical Reimbursements (Broadway trip, music trips, Musical)

With all of our field trips canceled for the year, we held out some hope that we would return to school and possibly be able to attend our end-of-year field trips. Now that we are officially not returning, we will begin the process of reimbursing funds to families.

- For those families who paid via check, if we have already deposited your check, we will send you a reimbursement check in the same amount through the mail.
- If you paid by check, and we have not cashed it, we will return your uncashed check to you through the mail.
- If you paid cash, we will reimburse you via check, which we will mail out to you.

With the roughly 300 checks that need to be created, signed, and sent out, we ask for your patience. We will work as fast as we can, though our current situation limits our efficiency.

AMS Art Gallery

Once again, thank you to Ms. Hillman and Mrs. Lefebvre for our latest student artwork display, virtually! We are constantly amazed at work that students produce across the content areas- here is a sample of our visual student artwork: [Updated AMS Art Gallery Link 3](#).

Enjoy the weekend,

Dave and Kristina

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