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August 1, 2020

Dear Families,

We are SO excited to get school started again this August! We know that many of you have lots of questions about what school will be like for AIS students. Take a look through the information below for a description of what back to school at AIS will be like. Please know that this plan is subject to change based on guidance from our Athens City Schools District Office, Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and the State Board of Education. We will notify you of any updates through our website, newsletter, and social media accounts! As always, please let us know what questions you have.

**Upcoming Dates**

After August 7: Receive a postcard with information about your student's class assignment!

August 10 - August 14: Welcome email from teachers (both traditional and remote) with an invitation and a link to an Orientation Zoom meeting for your child's class.

August 12 & 13: AIS Student/Parent Zoom Orientation and "Meet the Teacher" opportunities via video conferencing. Links will be emailed soon!

August 10-14: New student and 4th grade student building visits (by appointment only - more information will follow)

August 17: 1st Day for Students (Remote and Traditional)

## **Accommodating for COVID-19**

- We are asking parents to monitor for fever and COVID-19 symptoms at home. Students who are showing ANY symptoms of COVID-19 should NOT attend school.
- Physical distancing will be practiced in the classrooms as much as possible. Individual seating will be provided so that students can spread out around the classroom.
- Students will still have specials including art, music, library, counseling, and PE. The media specialist and counselor will travel to each classroom for lessons. Music and Art will be in their studios since students can remain physically distant in those larger spaces. Classes will be separated in PE between our gymnasium and cafeteria. We will use outdoor spaces as much as possible to remain physically distant but also physically active.
- We encourage students to bring facial coverings from home. We will be able to provide masks while supplies last. Masks will be worn when walking in the hallways, during morning and afternoon carline, and anytime that physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students will get time without masks during the day. This is subject to change based on state mask mandates being extended.
- At this time we are limiting adult access to our school facilities. Parents should stay in their vehicles during drop off and pick up and not enter the school building.
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held virtually until further notice.
- If you need to check your child in or out, you will enter the main lobby area but will not be permitted entry to the rest of the school building. We will be using a contactless check in/out procedure this year. There will be information in the lobby on how to check in and check out using your own personal device or we will have an ipad available for use. Please maintain social distancing while in the lobby.
- Field trips will be conducted virtually this year until further notice.
- The school system has purchased the following items to help schools prepare: face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer stations in all classrooms, spray bottles of disinfectant and paper towels for all classrooms, brooms and dustpans for classrooms for usage after breakfast and lunch, handheld and backpack electrostatic disinfectant sprayers, first aid supplies, hot entree bags for delivery of lunches to classrooms.

## **First Day of School Procedures**

- Please remain in your vehicle and do not walk your child into the building. We know this will be very difficult especially for our first time students. We will have plenty of friendly, loving staff members available to help students get to their classes. We will also provide 1st day photos with each student and their teacher digitally through SeeSaw.
- We will have a “photo booth” location set up out front of the school all during the 1st week of school. Please feel free to drop by after school hours (not during dismissal or arrival) and take some photos of your student during their first week!

## **Student Arrival**

- Parents need to monitor for temperature and any COVID symptoms before students leave for school.
- Our building will open to students at 7:15 am.
- Parents need to remain in their car during all carline times.
- Students need to wear masks upon arrival to school. Once they are in a location where physical distance can be maintained they can remove their masks.
- Early arrivers will be seated in the gymnasium and cafeteria and be kept physically distant from each other.
- Students will be dismissed to their classes starting at 7:30 am.
- Breakfast will be served in the classroom.

## **Student Dismissal**

- Students need to wear masks during dismissal time.
- Parents need to remain in their car during all carline times.
- Our carline procedures (including a map) will be posted on our website and in our newsletter before the start of school.

## **Breakfast & Lunch**

- For traditional students: Breakfast and lunch will be served in the classroom this year. Students will eat at their learning space so as to maintain physical separation. Outdoor spaces will also be utilized when appropriate.
- For Remote students picking up meals: A plan will be shared prior to the first day of school.

## **Latchkey**

- Latchkey is our afterschool program for students enrolled in AIS. Latchkey will still be available this year to traditional learning students from after school hours until 5:00pm. The first day of Latchkey will be Monday, August 17. Students must be registered in order to use these services. More details about latchkey and the application are posted on our website <https://www.acs-k12.org/Domain/12!>

## **Remote, Blended, Traditional Learning**

- Students who have selected traditional learning will be assigned a classroom teacher. These assignments will be mailed to the address we have on file during the first week of August. We will update on our social media pages when we mail these out. We will host a virtual “meet the teacher” opportunity so that you and your student will know a little more about your teacher.
- Students who have selected remote learning will be assigned a remote teacher from our school who will facilitate all lessons. Remote teachers will work with the traditional grade level teams to help maintain similar pacing of units/standards. This way if students have to float from one to another, it is a seamless transition. Students will also be sent a postcard with the name of their teacher and will be able to meet them at the virtual “meet the teacher” night.
- “Blended” occurs when a traditional student needs to quarantine for a shorter period of time. During this time, the student will transition to the remote teacher for lessons. When the quarantine is over, the student will transition back to their traditional classroom. The school administration facilitates when blended learning happens.
- There may be a time when the entire classroom or school needs to go online. If the traditional teacher is able to continue teaching (ex: not sick) - they will continue to teach their class remotely using the technology tools provided. If the traditional teacher is unable to teach for a period of time, the class will transition to a remote teacher.

## **School Supplies**

- School supply lists are available on our website.
- Students who are doing remote learning do not need to purchase school supplies. These students will only need a device. Please refer to the district back to school information for device questions.  
<https://www.acs-k12.org/domain/2198>
- Students who are doing remote but ordered the supply kit online may come pick up their supplies from school between the hours of 8-3. Please pick them up either August 6 or 7.
- Students need to bring refillable water bottles with them to school – the water fountains will not be available this year. Water will be provided through touchless water stations serviced by Cintas.

## **Technology**

- For students who select remote learning, please visit the district website for information on devices. <https://www.acs-k12.org/domain/2198>
- For students who select traditional learning – iPads will be used at school. The district has purchased new iPads for each student. Should a student need to quarantine and move to blended learning, they will be able to check out their iPad to use at home if they don't have access to a device already.
- We will use a learning management system called Schoology this year. This will be the main place that blended and remote students find their instruction and assignments. Look for some information coming soon on how to use Schoology and how parents can help support students.
- Students will also learn how to use SchoolsPLP which is the online curriculum for remote learners. This way if students need to transition to remote, they are familiar with the curriculum and how to use it.
- We will still use Seesaw as a communication tool between school and parents and as a way to showcase what our students are learning!

## **Students who are sick**

- Students with a fever of 100.4 or greater must not come to school and must be fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school.
- Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 should self-isolate for 14 days from the last close contact (or as directed by a physician or ADPH). Blended learning will be utilized. *NOTE: Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days OR living with someone who has tested positive within the last 10 days.*
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days (or as directed by a physician or ADPH). When well enough, blended learning will be utilized.
- It is very important that parents/guardians communicate with school staff about exposure and positive testing.
- School staff, including our school nurse, will visually monitor students for symptoms (which may include temperature checks and/or confirmation with families that the students are COVID-19 symptom free). Symptoms include, but may not be limited to, fever, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new cough, loss of taste or smell. **Click here for the CDC list of symptoms.**
- In the event a student begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be given a mask to wear and moved to the quarantine area which is located in a separate room adjacent to our nurse's office to wait until a parent picks them up. Parents need to make every effort to pick their child up as soon as possible.
  - If diagnosed with COVID-19, the student can return to school after 14 days of symptoms first appearing (or as directed by a physician).

We hope this answers some of your questions. We are doing everything in our power to provide a safe, happy environment for our students, teachers and staff. Together we can make the best of this unique situation and continue providing an excellent educational experience.

Warm regards,

*Cindy Davis*