

# 2020-21 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for AMS Students

(Students in the Hybrid model)

Without a doubt we'll all have questions about this school year. We'd like to help you with answering some of these questions. We are doing everything we can to give you a safe, engaging, and caring learning environment!

Please keep in mind that we don't have all of the answers yet and are still working hard to get them for you.

Some of these answers may also change. We will keep this list updated should things change.

If you have new questions, or need more information on an already responded question, please email Mr. Buss at [sbuss@altona.k12.wi.us](mailto:sbuss@altona.k12.wi.us).

New updates since the last FAQ was shared.

## Will we have separate entrances and exits?

Yes! No matter if you ride the bus, walk, or are dropped off by a parent, each grade level has their own entrance and exit. The 6th grade will use the door near Mr. Stuttgen's room on Bartlett Avenue, the 7th grade will use the main entrance, and the 8th grade will use the entrance by the basketball hoops on the side of the building at the hallway between AMS and AHS. If you arrive at school after 8:15am, you will need to use the main entrance.

## Will we still have hallway lockers?

Yes! You will still have a hallway locker for all of your things. We have spaced out your lockers by groups (A and B) giving you more space at your locker.

## Where can I find my school supply list?

Make sure to go to the middle school website and the school supply tab is on the left side. It's also copied to the very end of this FAQ page.

## How were the two groups made (group A and group B)?

We divided each grade level by your last names. Students in group A have a last name beginning with the letters A-L and students in group B have a last name beginning with the letters M-Z. You'll notice there are some students in these groups that do not fit this split. Due to unique situations, they needed to be switched to the other group.

## Can I request to be switched to the other group?

Unfortunately, no. While there are unique reasons for students to be switched, we need to keep this rule (by last name) in place in order to help us keep your classes and groups balanced. Students have been changed to the other group for unique reasons such as they have a sibling in the same house who would be in a different group, a documented medical need to do so, and also unique documented educational needs.

## How often will we need to wear masks when at school?

As of right now, we need students and staff to wear masks all the time when at school. From the moment you arrive at school, until the time you leave school. There will be instances when you'll need to take them off such as to eat lunch, get a drink, etc. In these instances, we need your help to stay 6-feet apart from each other until you can put your mask back on. I would suggest practicing wearing them at home from time to time getting used to how they feel as this will be new for all of us!

## Will you be giving us masks or do we need to bring our own?

The school will be giving every student one cloth reusable mask to wear and you are encouraged to use your own from home as well. We'll get this mask to you on Orientation Day. Please remember to wear a clean

mask to school every day. Have some fun with your mask as there are so many styles. Just make sure it's school appropriate. You should only use your own masks.

### **Are there other options that I can wear other than a mask?**

Yes! We need everyone to be wearing a cloth face covering that is breathable and can be washed. This can mean a traditional mask, but it can also mean a gaiter. See the examples below.



### **Will you have hand sanitizer for us to use?**

Yes! We'll have many hand sanitizer stations and locations throughout the building for you to use. Any time you enter the building, someone will be at the door to not only welcome you, but give you a squirt of hand sanitizer. Every classroom will have hand sanitizer, as well as many of our rooms have sinks where you can wash your hands. We want to do everything we can to keep our hands clean!

### **How will our classrooms look?**

Since there will only be about half of the student body (by grade level) there at a time, there will be fewer desks and tables in each of the classrooms. Students will be spread about 6 feet apart from each other.

### **How many students will be in each of my classes?**

Our goal is about 12. Some classes may be different, but this would be a general expectation. There will be certain classes that will have more than 12 such as Choir, Band, and PE, but these classes have bigger rooms (and other plans) to help maintain the appropriate distancing and safety.

### **How often will our classroom be cleaned?**

While we have dedicated Wednesdays (no students are at school) for a deeper clean of the entire building, rest assured your teachers and our custodians will be doing everything they can to keep our building clean and safe.

### **Will we all still get our own chromebooks?**

Yes! Not only will you get a chromebook (at Orientation Day), but a charger as well. We will not be keeping our chromebooks in charging carts this year. Rather they will be giving it to you for your use and to take home (and charge) every night. This way you have it when you are at school and when at home. Make sure to take care of it and keep it charged!

### **Will we still have breakfast before school?**

Yes! All students, regardless of what grade level you are in, can enter the building through the main entrance beginning at 7:55am. Breakfast will take place in the commons. Students will wait in line to get their meal and pick a seat in the commons that are 6 feet apart. These seats will be marked for you.

### **What will the morning snack look like?**

We'll still have morning snack, but it will take place in classrooms with about 12 students in each room. Snacks will be brought into the hallways and students will select their snack from the carts. You can still bring snacks from home.

### **What will lunch look like?**

Lunch will also take place in the classrooms with about 12 students in each room. Students who wish to take school lunch will choose their lunch options in the morning and their selected lunch will be delivered to them on a cart in the hallway at lunch time. Students who bring lunch from home will be able to go to their locker to get it and if needed, go to the commons to use a microwave. We're still working out the details on this one, but this gives you the basic idea.

### **How will passing time look between classes?**

Students will pass in the hallway "normally" as whole grade levels. Keep in mind that we only have about half of each grade level at school at a time, each grade level has different passing times for much of the day, and everyone will be wearing masks and keeping distance between each other as best as possible.

### **Will there be any different procedures for when we can use the bathroom?**

Each grade level team will look at ways to limit congestion in the bathroom between classes while still making sure students have time to use the bathrooms as needed. Look for more information from your teachers.

### **Will we get to have recess?**

Yes! While we are still working on the details for this, we know recess is an important part of the day for everyone. All students will be wearing masks. It takes place in the usual recess areas outside. Students will be provided hand sanitizer as they go outside and as they come back into the building.

### **What about field trips?**

As of right now, all field trips are on hold as well as having guest speakers come to your classrooms. Your teachers are aware of this and are thinking of creative ways around this where we can still give these experiences to you, but maybe in a different way.

### **Will we be changing clothes for our Physical Education classes?**

You will not be changing clothes for your PE classes this year as we will not be using the locker rooms. Please do be sure to wear/have clothes you can be active in (both clothes and shoes) on the days you have PE classes. You also will not need to buy shirts for your PE class this year.

### **How often will we have each of our classes on the days we are at school?**

Students In 6th will have Math, Language Arts, and Social Studies or Science (core classes) every day. PIE will also meet daily as will Super Study. They will have PE and Band/Choir every other day and will have each of the other electives daily while in that rotation.

Students In 7th will have Math, Language Arts, and Social Studies or Science (core classes) every day. PIE will also meet daily. They will enjoy their Specials classes every other day.

Students in 8th grade will have Math, language Arts, Reading, Social Studies, and Science (core classes) every day. All students will have their Specials classes every other day and PIE will be every day.

### **What will the actual daily schedule look like on the days we are at school?**

While your individual schedule will have more details, we do have a different overall building schedule for this year. This new overall building schedule is copied for you at the end of this FAQ document.

### **Will my parents be able to come into the school during the school year?**

In order to maintain the safe environment we have at school due to our current situation, no visitors (to include parents) will be allowed past the lobby area. The school will arrange all meetings between parents and teachers either through phone or virtually through video conferencing.

### **What will we be doing on the days we are learning from home?**

Teachers will be providing new instruction on the days you are with them at school. However, they will be expecting you to continue to work on the activities they assign you from those in-school days when working from home. You may have heard of this, it's homework! Now don't worry, your teachers understand how much of a challenge it can be to work from home without their help. They will be able to connect with you at home on Wednesdays (as needed) to help if you need help. They also may be able to help on the other days you are home, but remember they are also teaching the other group of students who are at school that day. Your teachers will make sure you have a good understanding of what's expected from you before you leave their classroom for your at home learning days to maximize your time and complete the work that is expected from you. Things we will be asking you to do every day while learning from home are to read for 30 minutes, take time to write/journal, and be physically active for 30-minutes. All great things we'd like to do every day and you'll have the time to do them! There may be some exceptions to this expectation for classes such as Algebra I, Spanish I, and any of our compacted math classes. We need your help to be an independent learner on these at-home days, we'll teach you how to do so, and we know you can do it!

### **What will band and choir look like?**

While they may look a little different, we are excited to still be able to offer both of these classes! In each of these classes, students will be spaced apart safely. When inside, we are planning for our choir students to be wearing masks and band students will wear masks and have protective coverings for their instruments. For our band students who do not yet have an instrument, we will be addressing this with you once we can get back to school. More detailed information will be provided to you during your first days of band or choir. Thank you for your patience!

### **What will Physical Education class look like?**

It will look different that a normal class in that students will not be changing clothes or using the locker rooms. Rather, they will need to come to school on the day they have PE dressed for activity, both the clothes and shoes you wear.

### **Will we have our extracurriculars such as sports, clubs, show choir, etc?**

We are still working on these and look for more information coming soon.

### **What if the school or district "gets shut down" and we all have to stay home?**

A great question and for now, let's focus on what we can control which is our hybrid plan to begin the year. While none of us want that to happen, rest assured your teachers are looking at how we can keep you learning even if we need to be home again for a short or long period of time, One day at a time!

### **What will school look like if we can come back to school full time, 5 days a week?**

IT WILL BE AMAZING! For starters, there will be a lot more students at school! It would be a "normal" day of school every day. We'll need to look at exactly what "normal" looks like at that time, but we'll get there!

### **What if I'm nervous about coming back?**

You know what, that's okay! Our students and adults who will be here at school will have some of the same worries and concerns and that's to be expected. It will be a bit weird for all of us at first until we get used to this different way of school. We have these feelings because we care about ourselves and each other. The adults at school are planning on how we can do everything possible to keep everyone safe, engaged in their learning, and cared for.

### **Will we have student planners this year?**

We are going away from providing and using the paper planners this year. Instead, we will be using something called Google Keep. It's a planner you already have on your chromebook, you just didn't know it!

### **What will the Parent and Student Orientation Day look like?**

This event will take place on September 1st and 2nd where you and your parents will schedule a 20-minute visit with your homeroom teacher. During these two days, you'll only need to come to school on the day and time you have your visit scheduled. During your visit, your homeroom teacher will share information about this year, give you your chromebook and mask provided from school, as well as answer any questions you have. You can also drop off your items in your hallways locker. We do ask that you don't take time to decorate your locker on this day. We know this is needed and important to you and we'll make sure you have time to do so later. For now, on this day, we are trying to bring our families (and you) in and out of the building in a way that limits the amount of people in the building.

### **When will I be able to see my final individual schedule?**

Due to the amount of work needed to schedule our students this year, we will have paper copies available during your orientation meeting. If we have them completed sooner, we will email all students and parents.

### **What if I did not get the Specials classes I wanted?**

This is a great question and while we did our best to honor your requests, in some cases this was not possible for our 7th and 8th grade students due to the amount of students we have in each class to help maintain safe distancing. All 6th grade student requests of Band or Choir were honored as this was the only choice for 6th grade and these are larger classrooms. We are not able to make switches and thank you for your understanding.

## **We are so excited to be able to actually see you at school again!**

Please keep in mind that we don't have all of the answers yet and are still working hard to get them for you.

Some of these answers may also change. We will keep this list updated should things change.

# Here is the overall AMS building schedule

2020-21 AMS Schedule					
6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
1st Block 8:20-9:40	Core Classes (80 min)	8:20-9:09	Specials (49 min)	1st Period 8:20-9:09	Specials (49 min)
			9:42-10:29	Specials (47 min)	2nd Period 9:11-9:58
10:29-10:35	Snack Break	10:29-10:35	Snack Break	3rd Period 10:00-10:47	Core Classes (47 min)
10:35-11:07	PIE (32 min)	2nd Block 10:35-11:55	Core Classes (80 min)	10:47-10:53	Snack Break
2nd Block 11:09-12:29	Core Classes (80 min)			11:57-12:29	PIE (32 min)
		12:29-1:09	Lunch/Recess (40 min)	12:29-1:09	Lunch/Recess (40 min)
3rd Block 1:11-2:31	Core Classes (80 min)	3rd Block 1:11-1:58	Core Classes (47 min)	7th Period 1:11-1:58	Core Classes (47 min)
		2:00-2:47	Specials (47 min)	8th Period 2:00-2:47	Specials (47 min)
2:31-2:47	Super Study (18 Min)	3rd Block 2:49-3:35	Core Classes (47 min)	9th Period 2:49-3:35	PIE (46 min)
2:49-3:35	Specials (46 min)				

