



Altoona Middle School

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Engage. Equip. Empower.

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August 13, 2020

Parents and Guardians of AMS Students,

Welcome back! We hope your summer has provided you and your family with the adventures that are just not possible during the school year. Is it just me, or does it seem we have been away from school for a long time? While we all know and understand this year will be unique, we are still very excited for the beginning of our school year. This letter will share some basic information to assist us to begin the school year and more information will be provided as our school year begins. Details provided in this letter are targeted to our families who have students who are participating in the hybrid educational option where your child will be learning both from school and home. Parents who have children who are attending the 100% virtual option will be contacted by a representative from Edmentum, as well as a contact from school, with more information. School supply lists can be found on our website.

“What will the first week of school look like?”

Our first week of school at the middle school will look a little different allowing us to facilitate our Parent and Student Orientation Day, as well as ensure we have students in both groups A and B physically present in classes that first week. Below is the schedule for the week of September 1-4 for Altoona Middle School students:

September 1 = Parent and Student Orientation Day (8:00am - 12:30pm and 3:30-6:30pm)

Parents and students will meet at scheduled times with their child's homeroom teacher. This is not a normal school day. See below for additional details.

September 2 = Parent and Student Orientation Day (8:00am - 12:30pm and 3:30-6:30pm)

Parents and students will meet at scheduled times with their child's homeroom teacher. This is not a normal school day. See below for additional details.

September 3 = Regular school day

Students in Group A - Virtual learning from home

Students in Group B - Students attend classes in person at AMS

September 4 = Regular school day

Students in Group A - Students attend classes in person at AMS

Students in Group B - Virtual learning from home

Please note on this one day, our student groups are flipped from the regular group schedule to ensure all students have one day of classes physically here during the first week of school.

“What does the Parent and Student Orientation Day look like?”

The purpose of our Parent and Student Orientation Day is to allow our students and parents the opportunity to ease into the school year by meeting with their child's homeroom teacher so they can share what to be excited about for this year. Also, it's a great time for our parents to ask questions, especially this year. On these days, there are no classes. Rather, parents (and their child) will sign up for a 20-minute private meeting with their child's homeroom teacher. You and your child only need to sign up and be here at school, for one 20-minute slot on either day regardless of what group your child is in. Your child would only need to be here at school once (with you) during these two days for their 20-minute meeting. During your reserved date and time, we ask that you please be prompt and help us by wearing a mask when in the building. We will have staff to help direct you to the appropriate locations. To limit the amount of contact and people we have in the building, your child's homeroom teacher will be the only teacher you'll meet with on this day. Please ensure you and your child are healthy when coming to this event. If the day of your scheduled meeting you or your child are not feeling well, please contact us at school and we will look to reschedule.

“How do I sign up for my 20-minute meeting for Parent and Student Orientation Day?”

The easiest way to do this is through the Parent Access in Skyward using the below steps:

- 1) Log into Family Access
- 2) Use the "Conferences" tab on left side
- 3) Click on "All Conferences" next to the student you wish to schedule
- 4) Select a date and time

Reasons to contact Mrs. Watt (lwatt@altoona.k12.wi.us), our AMS School Secretary, about this day:

- If you do not know your Family Access login or password
- If you do not have internet access to schedule your appointment

“When is the deadline to schedule my 20-minute meeting for Parent and Student Orientation Day?”

Friday, August 21, is the deadline. All parents who still do not have a scheduled time at this time will be contacted to schedule a time based on the remaining availability. More openings will be available the earlier you can register.

“What general safety measures will be in place at AMS to assist with our current situation?”

- Staff and students will be wearing cloth face covering while at school with unique exceptions.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and provided to all students as they enter the building and in all classrooms.
- With classrooms at about half student capacity, students will be distanced 6 feet apart from each other.
- We'll be teaching and reminding students about proper hand washing care and other personal care topics.
- Students will be enjoying lunch in their classrooms, or in the commons, ensuring 6 feet of distance.
- Students will still enjoy recess while practicing appropriate safety measures.
- Student hallway lockers will be staggered providing extra space between students.
- Visitors, to include parents, will not be permitted beyond the main entrance with unique exceptions.
- Most importantly, students have teachers who will be doing everything possible to help keep everyone safe!

“What will the virtual/at-home learning days look like for my child?”

As we wrapped up our remote emergency learning approach last year, we left with ideas helping with what we feel will make this hybrid model successful. In this hybrid model, our staff are going to focus all of the new learning on the days we have our students here at school. While at home, students will be expected to complete the work assigned by teachers based on what was taught when they were physically in the classroom. These assignments will be activities to support and review what was just learned, as well as to prepare them for the next days they will be physically in school. Yes, they will have homework. However, it will be first introduced and practiced in the classroom with the in-person assistance of their teachers. Our staff understands the challenges that come with our students working from home, many times by themselves, and without the direct support of their teachers. We will definitely keep this in mind as we assign work to our students to complete when learning from home while keeping them engaged in their learning. Our staff will also be using Wednesdays to reach out to students (and parents) who need more support.

Above all of this information, we want you to know we have greatly missed your children and cannot wait to have them back here at school! While there are points we are still working on, and as we know anything is subject to change, we feel we have a great plan to begin our school year. Our staff are committed to doing everything we can to provide our children with a safe, engaging, and caring learning environment no matter the obstacles.

By all means if you still have questions, please feel free to reach out to me. While we may not have all of the answers yet, rest assured we are working to do so. On behalf of all of our staff, enjoy these last weeks of summer and let the 2020-21 school year begin!

Sincerely,



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