



Amherst Middle School Weekly Email

October 5, 2020

Calendar

Friday, October 9: No School, In-Service Day
Monday, October 12: No School, Columbus Day
Monday, October 19: Open House, grades 5/6
Wednesday, October 21: Open House, grades 7/8

AMS Open House

AMS Open House will be virtual this year. We will send out a link for a webinar to all families.

Dates are Monday, October 19 for fifth and sixth grade families and Wednesday, October 21 for seventh and eighth grade families.

We will have more details about the set up of the night coming soon.

Daily Backpack Check

Fully charged laptop and charging cord

Earbuds with mic

Water bottle

School supplies

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

We are now well into our school year and continuing to see good work happening everywhere. We hope to improve our arrival and dismissal process and ask for your assistance.

Drop-off - Please pull up as far as you can along the front of the building each morning. You all have precious cargo and we know that allowing each vehicle to pull up as far as possible allows for less stress on a student feeling already pressured about their day and stressed drivers to get in and out of the line as efficiently as possible.

Pick-Up - again, pulling up as far as you can is best to assist all students and drivers to get through the line as efficiently as possible. Also, drivers picking up at the SHS/AMS property should arrive no sooner than 2:30PM. The Amherst Recreation Department staff appreciate your courtesy as they move safely through their parking lot prior to your arrival.

Visitor Parking

Thank you for your support in our new traffic and parking patterns which are supporting greater use of our grounds by classes! There are 2 designated visitor parking spots in the parking lot closest to the driveway leading in front of the building. Please use these if you need to stop by the school to drop something off or dismiss your student early. The driveway in front of the school will be closed to traffic from 8:00am-2:00pm.

We have the courage to care!



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Student Absence Guidance 20-21

We recognize that this year comes with a number of new considerations and decisions as we work to keep our community healthy. We hope the following guidelines help families to understand the process of switching modalities and what to do if your student is ill (effective 10/5/20).

Modality changes within segments

Outside of the segment signup period, students may not change from one modality to another without prior approval from administration. In most cases, a modality change is not appropriate and may not be approved. Please keep in mind that room sizes and locations are specifically assigned for the number of in-person students, and remote sections are determined by the number of requests received during the sign-up period. As always, if you have questions or a specific situation you would like to discuss, please reach to the administration.

Requesting a change based on health reasons:

Not feeling well - If a student is not feeling well, and/or is showing signs of symptoms of illness, they should contact the nurse, follow medical recommendations, and take a sick day. The student will need to remain home for 10 calendar days with the last 24 hours being symptom free without the use of medication OR if they receive a negative Covid test, whichever is first. Please contact administration to discuss if switching to remote learning would be appropriate for your student.

Not feeling well with no signs or symptoms of illness (ex. headache, poor night's sleep, etc)- Students should rest, care for themselves, and reach out to the in-person teacher for instructions on make-up work for the day. We are not able to approve changes to remote status for short term absences.

Possible or confirmed exposure to COVID resulting in quarantine - Students who suspect or have confirmed exposure to a diagnosis of Covid 19, and are required to quarantine or choose to quarantine, may request a shift to remote status. This request should go to the Principal (Bethany Bernasconi) or Assistant Principal (John Schuttinger) for approval.

Requesting change based on personal reasons:

Travel outside New England - If your family needs to travel outside of New England, they will be asked to quarantine for 14 days upon their return to New Hampshire. Students may request a modality change but will not be eligible to return to in-person status until the next appropriate segment start date after their return.

Personal Preference - There may be a time when a student simply feels more comfortable moving to remote learning. While we feel strongly about limiting movement within a segment, there may be situations when this is in the best interest of the student. With permission from administration, the student may be allowed to switch to remote learning but would not be permitted to return to in-person learning until the next segment.