

## AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Dear ALA Eagle Families,

Our ALA-Gilbert North 7-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences are next Thursday and Friday, September 12th, and 13th. On Thursday, teachers will be available for walk-in meetings in their classrooms between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. On Friday, teachers will be available for walk-in meetings in their classrooms between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. You should be receiving emails from your student's teachers with additional guidance. Teachers will be available to discuss any issues or concerns. There's no better way to have a productive discussion than a face-to-face meeting.

### **Traffic Flow, Parking... and being considerate of Circle K**

We are still having some issues with drop off/pick up. Please remember that students may only be dropped off/picked up at the rear (west side) of the main HS building across from the tennis courts. We do this to keep your students SAFE. The ONLY way we can keep your children SAFE is to lock arms with you and be vigilant... and follow the guidelines for drop off/pick up.

Additionally, traffic flow after school hours remains the same as it is during the school day. Traffic should always flow in a clockwise manner. Because of multiple sporting/fine arts events and non-ALA organizations that use ALA facilities simultaneously, parking and traffic on campus can be a challenge. Please park in designated parking spaces only and do not park on the sidewalks. This is a huge safety issue and could prevent law enforcement and first responders from doing their jobs effectively.

Also, the management at Circle K has asked us to let you know they do not want their parking lot to be a place where ALA students gather and loiter. They've also asked that parents don't drop off/pick up their students at the Circle K if the students or parents aren't buying anything. I told the management that I would let you all know. Bottom line: please help us be the best neighbors!

### **Campus Security and Safety!!!**

Everyone at ALA wants your children to be safe on campus. As you know, the typical school day ends at 2:55 pm. I need your help to pick your children up in a timely manner. I routinely find students roaming the halls well past 3:30 pm and the response most of them give me when I ask them why they are still at school is, "my parents are picking me up later." ALA is not staffed to

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supervise students who remain on campus well after the school day... students not being supervised creates security and safety risks for ALA.

So, beginning Monday, September 9, our Dean of Students and I will clear and secure our main building (Bldg B) starting at 3:45 pm. By 4 pm each day, our main building will be secure, and students will need to coordinate with a teacher or coach if they need to enter the building. Students that are not being tutored or participating in extracurricular activities (i.e., sports, fine arts) will be asked to exit the building if they are waiting for parents to pick them up. Students can wait either in front of the main building in the shaded area or under the Ramada between the cafeteria and the main building. Please pick up your students within 30 minutes of the end of the school day... thank you!!!

### **Dress Code, Grooming Standards and Food**

I continue to receive positive feedback from parents regarding our enforcement of the dress code. Please help us protect the environment and culture we want at ALA. Our staff is committed to enforcing the standards consistently; however, we continue to see too many dress code infractions. The most common dress code violations are: girls' shorts or skirts are thigh length (they should be no shorter than an inch above the knee), boys don't wear a belt, polos are the wrong color; but, for the most part, we're doing pretty well. Please take a moment with your student and review ALA's Uniform Dress Code Policy in our 7-12 Student Handbook.

Also, we've had several of our students bring and consume food and gum into our lobby, hallways, auditorium, and classrooms. Unfortunately, many times the evidence of their consumption remains behind in the form of crumbs, wrappers, etc., and our custodians are working overtime to clean up after them. Please encourage your children to consume their food outside of the school building, place their garbage and chewing gum in the garbage cans and not on the sidewalk or under a chair or table. Thank you!!!

### **Be KIND... Show EMPATHY... Inspire... and Connect!**

Since the beginning of the school year, my staff and I have committed to demonstrating more KINDNESS, showing more EMPATHY, trying to INSPIRE the kids to interact more with their peers instead of their cell phones and to CONNECT them to new friends. The results have been amazing! We've seen more acts of kindness, we've watched more kids talking to each other and

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we've seen less isolation and more inclusion. We ask for your continued support in this endeavor. Please help us help your kids by encouraging them to leave their cell phones off from 8:15 am to 2:55 pm.

Finally, my staff and I remain 100% committed to supporting your family by "providing the best educational experience to as many students as possible in a moral and wholesome environment." If we don't live up to your expectations, please let me know. Your kids are amazing... I smile a lot each day as I interact with them! When I greet your kids, they are respectful and genuinely seem happy to be here. Their positive energy is infectious and motivates me... it continues to be a great day to be at ALA... and tomorrow will be even better!

Kindest Regards,

Brent McArthur