



AACCS

A Message from the
Middle School Principal

March 18, 2020

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Middle School Families,

I pray you are staying healthy and doing well during our time away. My goal in this email is to give some clarity to how we will be operating in the near future. Starting Monday, March 30, we will begin providing virtual teaching and learning. While this is no replacement for in-person learning, we are aiming to still engage our students to the best of our ability.

As previously communicated by Superintendent Rick Kempton, virtual schooling with AACCS teacher instruction and guidance will begin Monday, March 30, and run at least through Friday, April 3. Today we want to communicate some of the expectations, guidelines, suggestions, and a framework for this process for Middle School students. I apologize for the length of this email but I will do my best to give you a clear picture of expectations.

How will this virtual schooling look?

Next Wednesday, March 25, all teachers will send communications on what needs to be done for their class. This will have class specifics, but will all follow the same general format on Google classroom. On Monday, March 30, Spring Break will have ended and students will resume school—virtually. While the teaching-learning mode will be different, much about virtual schooling remains the same: Teachers will give instruction, feedback, and assessments, and students will need to “attend” to their work. Teachers will be in regular communication with their students using Google Classroom, class emails, and/or Veracross. In addition, teachers will be answering student emails during the school day, Monday-Friday. Students will be expected to do the work for each class each day and should expect to put in roughly the same amount of time as usual. The format for each class will be as follows: direct video instruction, posted activities, and required assignments. All of this will be done through Google classroom. Each grade level team has also created a grade-level Google classroom where students can see the expectations for all classes in their grade for the day. Parents, while you are welcome to check in on each individual class, we would recommend that you at least look over the grade-level Google classroom updates.

Daily Schedule

Each day Monday through Friday students should check to see the daily agenda in the grade-level google classroom and parents can check off to see what has been done. Students should check email regularly for communication from their teachers. Here is a sample of one of the daily checklists:

6th Grade Daily School Checklist:

Date: _____ March 30 _____

Subject	Lesson Plans	Check when completed
History		
Math 6 (Mrs. Bell)		
Pre-Algebra		
Science		
Language Arts		
Bible		
Art A		
Art B		
Band A and B		
PE A and B		
Computer A and B		
Spanish		
Fitness/PE		

Attendance

Attendance will be monitored by student completion of assignments on a daily basis. If a student is sick one day, please email Mrs. Boyd as usual (cboyd@aacsonline.org) to let us know. She will mark the student absent, and we will ask that they focus just on getting better that day.

Communication

Direct your questions about...

- Class-specific questions to the teacher of that class.
- General academic topics to Lauren Rimando at lrimando@aacsonline.org.
- Tech Support to Steve Deterding at sdeterding@aacsonline.org.

Students, speaking of communication, it now becomes critical for you to check email daily and throughout the week. Email will now be a primary way for us to communicate with you.

How to Submit Work

We understand that not every home has access to a printer and/or scanner, so teachers will craft assignments that can be completed using the student's Chromebook. In virtual schooling, most assignments are submitted online, but there will be times when a student is asked to complete work by hand and then send an image to their teacher. This may be

particularly helpful in a math class where handwritten work will need to be seen. If difficulties arise with these options, please let the teacher know so we can work out a best alternative. We understand there may be hiccups along the way.

Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 Grades

As a reminder, these are the updates about adjustments to Quarter 3 and Quarter 4

- Thursday, March 12, is now considered the end of Quarter 3 instruction, which is one week earlier than scheduled.
- Quarter 4 instruction will begin on March 30 as originally scheduled through virtual teaching and learning.
- As a result, Quarter 3 reports cards will be delayed until April 10.

Virtual School Expectations

Obviously, AACS virtual schooling will require some adjustments. We'll be using technology more frequently, and our daily rhythms will change.

Here are three general tips for virtual schooling success:

- Set new rhythms, but keep the same goals. Get dressed, eat breakfast, "go" to school.
- Select a workplace for your daily schoolwork, away from distractions--and work there.
- Check email each morning and evening, and read the email carefully.

Parents, we encourage you to oversee your students' schoolwork more than usual. Since assessments will now be completed at home, we may ask you to confirm that a quiz or test is completed as directed.

Our school leadership team continues to meet regularly in virtual conferences and Mr. Kempton will be sending K-12 email updates to all school families as new information becomes available. We will also keep you updated with Middle School-specific information as the plan for virtual schooling evolves over the next few weeks.

Throughout this unique time of global disruption and anxiety, believers in Jesus draw comfort remembering His unchanging character, His sovereignty over all events, and His steadfast love for His people no matter what happens. As a community, let's all embrace the learning God has for us during this time, both via designed school lessons and through other opportunities God may provide. Though there is much to be concerned about, we can trust in our Lord at all times, even now. Let's expect Him to keep helping us all learn and grow together.

In His Service,

Principal Ben Peddicord

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