



**ASM** | AMERICAN  
SCHOOL  
OF MILAN

BACK TO SCHOOL  
*Plan*

Updated 2 July 2020



Save  
the  
Date

**ASM is Reopening!**  
Tuesday, September 1, 2020



**Not a  
New Normal,  
but a  
Better Normal**

There is a tremendous desire for things to  
'just get back to normal'

That is probably not going to be possible

ASM is working to open in September  
toward the priorities of safety and even  
*better* teaching and learning

## Introduction

*“We are committed  
to do all we can to  
keep our students  
and faculty safe”*

The American School of Milan was among the first schools in Europe to close due to the COVID pandemic, suspending classes on Monday, February 24, 2020. We moved to deliver online learning in one day, starting, February 25, 2020. This remarkable transition was the first of many demonstrations of the adaptability, creativity, and resiliency of our community. ASM closed School Year 2019-20 with 17 weeks of continuous online learning. During our adjustment to this global health emergency, ASM has learned much that will inform our work in a hybrid learning environment, if necessary, in School Year 2020-21.

Our reopening is informed by the requirements of the Italian authorities, and also by the best examples from schools around the world, including The American School in Japan, The American Embassy School in New Delhi, and the International School of Basel, among others. We are grateful to these schools for sharing their plans with ASM and the world.

September will be different. It may be a bit messy. It will require compromise, understanding, and patience. ASM is committed to do all we can to keep our students and faculty safe. We will apply all local government regulations for hygiene, and hope to exceed those when practical. We note, however, that while we will do all we can, there is no way to ensure 100% safety or a 100% risk free environment. A community of people in close proximity presents the risk of disease and germ transmission. We will do our best to protect all, but can only do so with your cooperation and support at home.

We are grateful to all community members for their support during this [hopefully] once-in-a-lifetime challenge. We are also excited to welcome our students back to campus, and to welcome our new families into our community when doors open again on September 1, 2020.

# Principles Guiding Reopening

**ASM will always be guided by its Mission, Values, and Strategic Intent**

In addition, we will be guided by the following principles:

## **Respect**

Respect for and compliance with relevant Italian governmental requirements for health and safety in schools.

## **Accountability**

Accountability for our own individual actions and parent accountability for upholding our health and hygiene requirements at home.

## **Responsibility**

ASM has responsibility for the emotional and physical health and well-being of our students and staff. As partners in education, teachers and parents have a responsibility for supporting students in their learning efforts, teachers in their teaching efforts, and parents in their support of learning. This responsibility is supported by mutual respect and open communication.

## **Adaptability**

Adaptability to a frequently changing situation and to the shifting guidelines about how to work and run a school safely. Things will change; we will do our best to keep up; we will take feedback and communicate adjustments;

*we are unlikely to be perfect.*

## **Courtesy and Communication**

Courtesy and Communication: recent months have been stressful. Social Distancing will be a new type of stress on students, teachers and the community. As we all pull together, let us all commit to communicating in a courteous and supportive way.

**Goal  
#1****ASM will deliver the best online  
and hybrid learning programs in Milan**

**What parents said about Spring 2020 Online Learning at ASM:**

*"I was thoroughly impressed with the communication and how you quickly organized and brought the remote learning online."*

*"I've been so proud of how ASM dealt with this COVID 19 crisis immediately, so my children have had seamless learning until now."*

*"Thanks to the proximity of all of us working from home, I was able to see that the quality of learning was the same level as in the classroom."*

*"We greatly appreciate the efforts of the ASM in adjusting to this new situation and giving the children the stability and academic input that they require. At a time like this, we are proud to be a part of the ASM family."*



**Goal  
#2****ASM will offer  
the safest possible school environment**

- **Our 9-acre campus means we have much space to use for learning**
- **ASM recently added 21 classrooms and the Auditorium. These spaces allow for greater flexibility in meeting social distancing requirements**
- **Our cafeteria increased available space by almost 30% in 2019, allowing for distancing or perhaps additional learning space**
- **ASM has always offered small class sizes; this will assist us in meeting social distancing requirements and maximizing on-campus time for students**
- **Other Health Protocols:**
  - **ASM employs a company doctor who provides guidance as we create the necessary protocols in line with government regulations.**
  - **ASM has engaged a company with over 30 years of experience in health & safety who have worked with national and international schools. They will develop our comprehensive COVID safety program aimed at covering all the possible situations that the school may encounter when we will reopen.**

## Three Areas of Schooling that May Change

### Three Realms of School Change Era of the Virus



We seem likely to be required to make significant adjustments to how we conduct schooling as a result of the virus and in the global effort to slow its transmission. Logistical matters which include busing, accessing campus, using the campus facilities, and how we move through the school hallways may all be different.

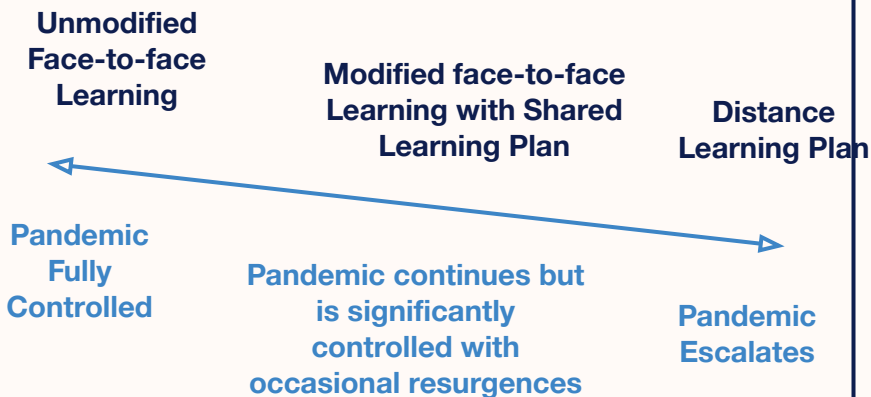
Classroom and learning delivery may be different, guided by social distancing guidelines likely to affect class size, and by the need to regularly or occasionally deliver online learning to students.

Other areas of how we work together as a school community and carry out school activities can be changed, hopefully for the better, based on what we've learned. Parent teacher conferences can be held digitally, as can Parent Coffees and other events.



## Mode of Learning to be Determined by Public Health Situation

### How we Learn



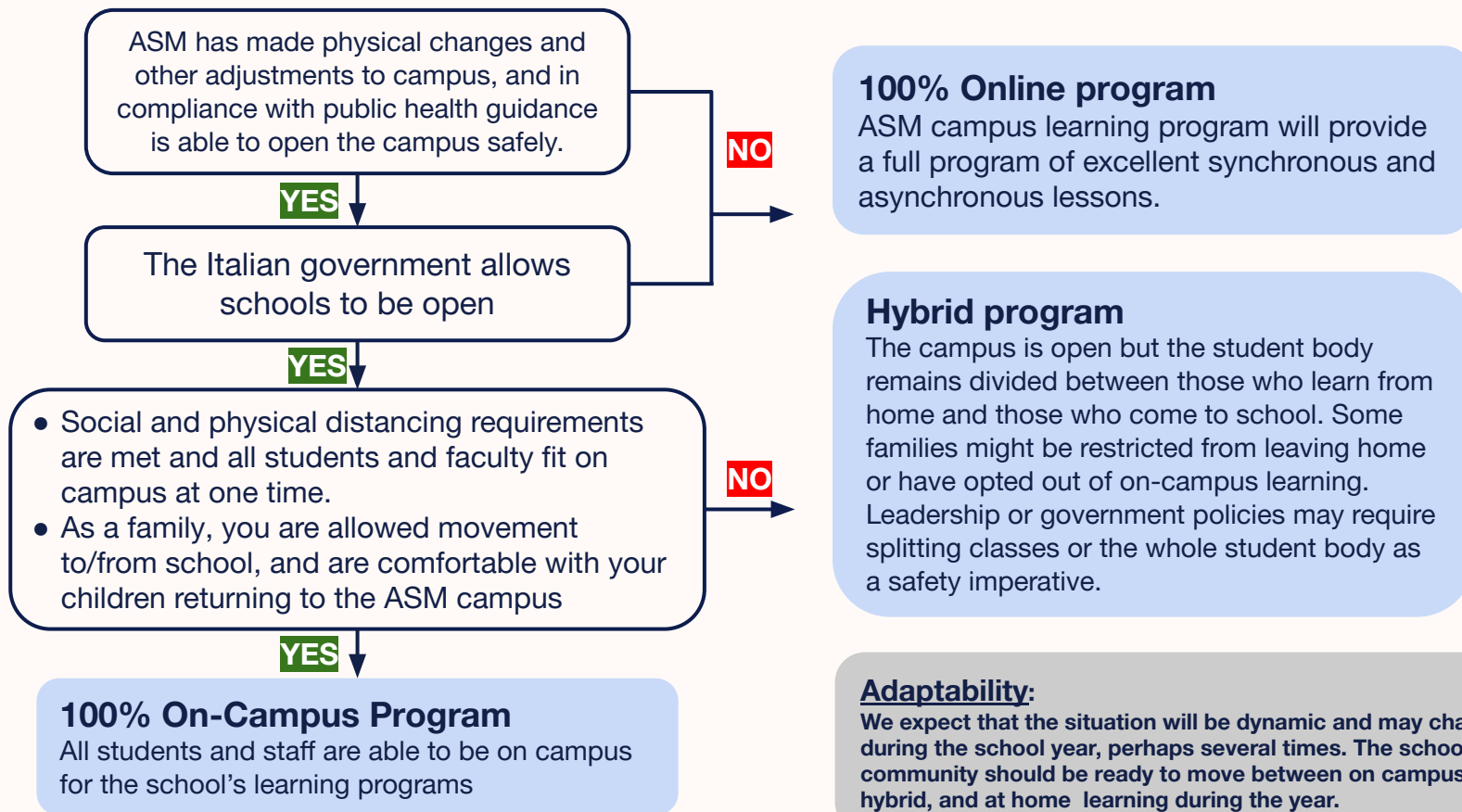
### Public Health Situation

### **What will learning look like in September 2020?**

We hope to have all students on campus, Monday through Friday, for full on campus schooling. Italian government requirements for social distancing and other guidelines specific to schools, children of a certain age, and assemblies in general may require ASM to offer a mix of on- and off-campus instruction. In a worst-case scenario, virus cases spike and the government requires campus closure and full-time online schooling. ASM is prepared to offer all three modes of learning (on-campus, hybrid and fully online).

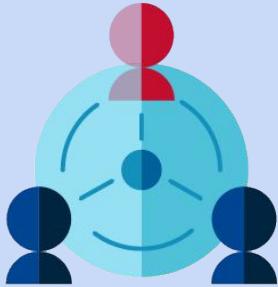
How do we know what we'll be doing? It will start with proclamations from Italian health officials.

## Back on Campus...?



## Back on Campus:

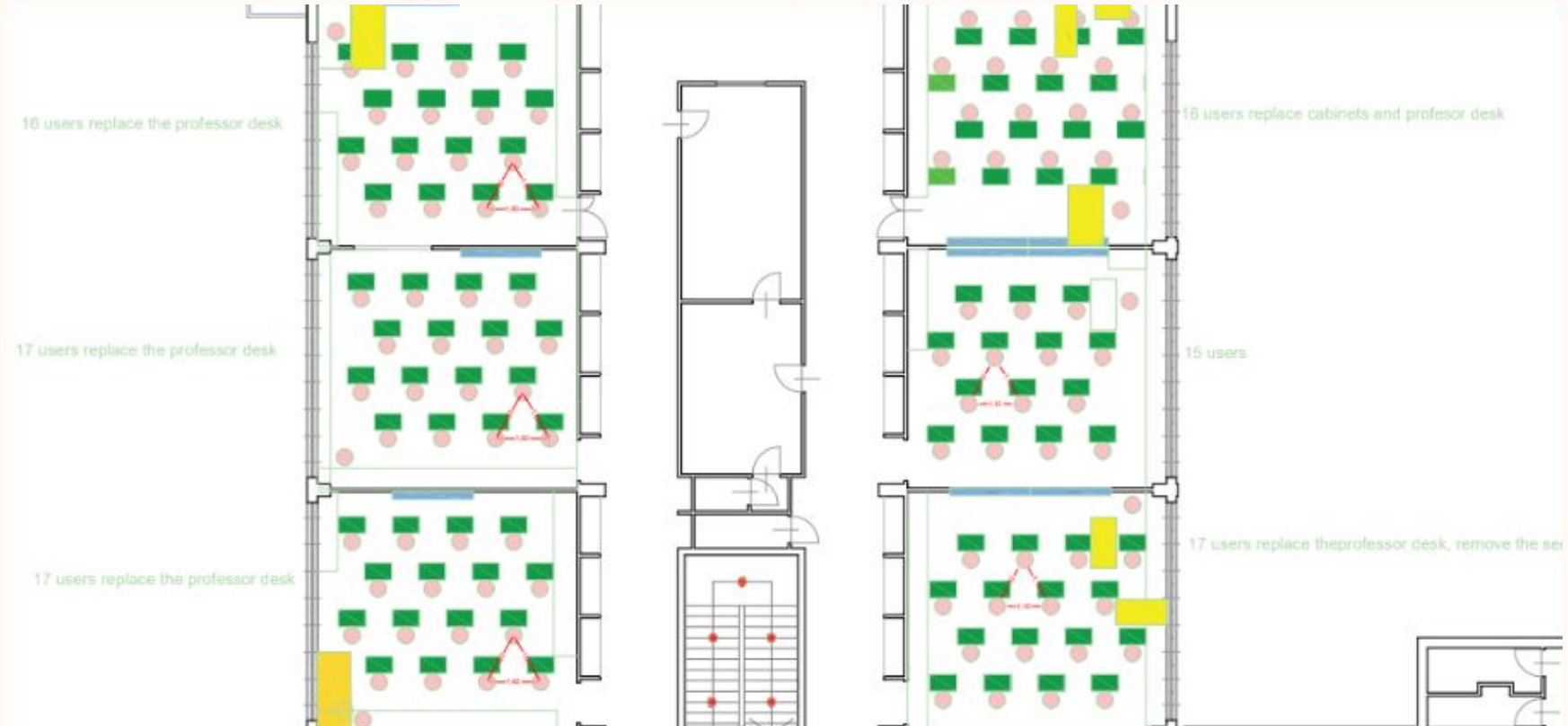
Elementary School--*our current plan:*



- Monday through Friday - full day onsite learning for all students, Early Childhood through Grade 5
- Student numbers allow for required social distancing
- Full Specialist offerings
- We will maximize the use of facilities spaces/recess, playground

## Back on Campus:

ASM has conducted a Room Capacity Study - with required distancing Elementary classrooms can accommodate 15-17 students.



## Elementary School:

If necessary to go to online or hybrid learning:



- One unifying online learning platform for all work submissions (SeeSaw)
- Specials: dedicated materials/small group rotations per class
- More rotations for recess and playground- small groups
- We will use virtual meeting places for Introductions and adjustment to the new year





## Back on Campus

### Grades 6-8 -our current Plan

- As of this writing, we are working to understand how we can best fit all 6th, 7th, and possibly 8th grade students on campus daily.
- Flexible use of our facilities may be required to make this happen
- Will follow Upper School schedule, 5 classes per day (see next slide)
- Students may have to wipe their desks when leaving



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## Back on Campus

Grs 9-12--our current Plan: Hybrid

- Classes split alphabetically into 2 groups: Red/Blue
  - Alternate learning on campus and from home
- 3 day rotation: 3 on, 3 off. Students at home follow the lessons via live-stream
- ASM adding a new Learning Management System: Schoology, to better organize all things learning-related in the Upper School and to facilitate connectivity of those students learning from home.

3 days on 3 days off

	Blue 1	Blue 6	Blue 3	Red 8	Red 5	Red 2	Blue 7	Blue 4
9:00 - 10:00	1	6	3	8	5	2	7	4
Transition Break (10 min)								
10:10 - 11:10	2	7	4	1	6	3	8	5
Transition Break (10 min)								
11:20 - 12:20	3	8	5	2	7	4	1	6
Staggered Lunch Break (12:20-1:30)								
1:30 - 2:30	4	1	6	3	8	5	2	7
Transition Break (10 min)								
2:40 - 3:40	5	2	7	4	1	6	3	8



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## Safety and Hygiene



- ASM will institute the required hygiene support protocols as required by the Italian government.
- In areas where possible and practical, will be exceeding those requirements.
- We are taking a four-pillar approach to virus-transmission-suppression, using the guidance of the CDC, WHO, and the best practices being supported by medical professionals and schools worldwide.
- We need and depend on parent support to ensure that we are doing our best to keep the ASM community disease free and keep our campus open for learning.



# Safety and Hygiene



## Temperature checks:

We ask that parents take their children's temperature every morning before coming to school. Please keep children home if they manifest **any** symptoms of an illness: fever, but also headache, cough, runny nose, lethargy, stomach ache, etc. ASM's guideline is 37.5 degrees and below is acceptable for campus access.



## Masks:

Students from age 6 are currently required to wear masks on campus during all classes, excepting only lunch break and physical activity during PE classes (both of which will be socially distanced).



## Handwashing (and desk cleaning)

Students will be regularly required to wash and/or sanitize their hands, upon entry to school/classroom, during the school day, before meals, and after toilet use. *Upper School students may also be required to clean their desks/workstations after/between classes.*



## Social Distancing:

Ensuring that students maintain the social distancing rules is an important pillar of our prevention strategy. This will include bus riding, in classroom study, during passing periods, and in the cafeteria. As of this writing (June 29, 2020) ASM anticipates 1m required between desks. ASM will update our practice as the guidelines are changed in the coming weeks and months.

- Parents will not, at least for the initial weeks of school, be allowed on campus.
- Campus access for others outside our community (delivery people, specialists) will be rigorously monitored and their access to campus limited to specific areas and access points.

# Safety and Hygiene



## **Other specific hygiene measures being taken by ASM:**

- The campus will be deep cleaned for infectious diseases with EU standard disinfectant. We will continuously review cleaning cycles, aiming for the highest level of cleaning
- We have purchased Personal Protective Equipment for cleaning staff and ASM nurses.
- We will ensure soap is always available in bathrooms, hand washing signage is placed around the campus, hand sanitizer in every classroom, in corridors, and no-touch sanitizers outside the cafeteria for students to use before entering
- We will sanitize returned Library books
- We will prepare a system for personal electronic devices to be disinfected



# Recess, PE, Sports and Activities



- There will be recess organized in line with government requirements for distancing
- After School Activities may have to wait until later in the year
- Sports season may be modified to offer non-contact sports during the first athletic season
- Hotels rather than home stays for ASM traveling teams and other teams in the conference.

## School Buses

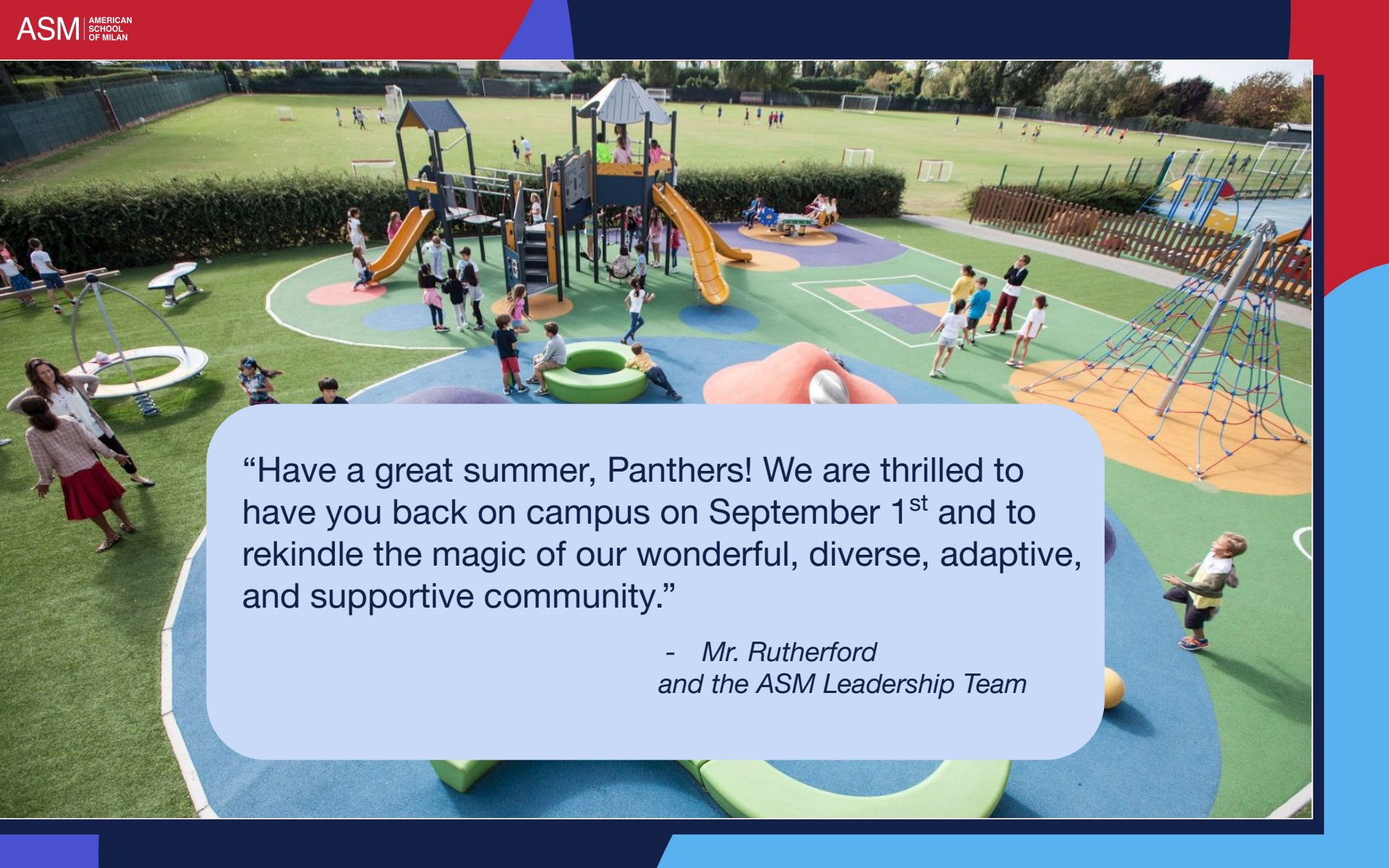


- There will be busing. Work and communications currently ongoing with Bus Company
- The school will purchase masks for all Bus Monitors (as required)
- Social Distancing will be observed, as required, while on the buses (which may require more buses running)

## Lunch/Cafeteria



- There will be lunch service
- May be delivered and eaten in classrooms and may be eaten outdoors
- May be eaten in smaller groups in the cafeteria
- May have plexiglass barriers on tables
- Awaiting government directives on lunch in schools and social distancing



“Have a great summer, Panthers! We are thrilled to have you back on campus on September 1<sup>st</sup> and to rekindle the magic of our wonderful, diverse, adaptive, and supportive community.”

- Mr. Rutherford  
and the ASM Leadership Team





**Thank You!**

***See you soon!***