

IA Okma Students and Families,

Congratulations on the end of 1st semester!

Here is a link to a [video message with reminders for next week](#). Alternatively, you can just read the following email.

As we transition back to our hybrid schedule next week, don't forget that classes begin at 7:45 am on Monday.

Students can access their 2nd-semester schedules on MiStar. On the left side of the screen you will see "Schedule". Select that and then on the right, click the box that says "Show All". This will reveal 2nd-semester classes that begin on Monday. New student courses will be added to your Canvas account over the weekend and the new zoom links should be available by Sunday evening.

Below are some important reminders if you are preparing to return to school in-person:

- Our silver group is attending on Monday and Tuesday and our blue group is attending on Thursday and Friday.
- The building opens at 7:15 am and closes at 2:45 pm. Students who need to be picked up after 2:45 can wait in the hallway outside of rooms 105 and 108.
- Breakfast and lunch are both free to all students for the remainder of the year.
- Please make sure you complete the [district pre-screener](#) before entering the building
- Please make sure to wear your mask at all times, unless eating in the ISC. Students who struggle with masking may be asked to remain virtual.
- Students need to stay physically distant while in the building, we need to do a better job at distancing than in the fall.
- Bring warm clothes and coats! There will be windows open throughout the building.

For those of you choosing to stay 100% virtual:

We are encouraging you to wake up on time, have some breakfast, and spend some time getting ready for school. Studies show that when students prepare themselves for the day, they are more successful in their virtual classes. We also recommend that you find a separate space to do "school". This should not be just sitting in bed. Set up a desk, find a good chair, good lighting, and stock up on school supplies. Eliminate some of the distractions that you may have dealt with 1st semester. Creating this separate space for your learning tells your brain that you are transitioning from "home" to "school".

Our school's policy is that all students have their camera on during class. We believe that this is important for several reasons. It increases your engagement with the class and makes you more present in the class. Your face also provides important feedback to your teachers so that they can see if you understand the content, have questions, and are engaged in the activities. Additionally, when we all have our cameras turned on, seeing each other, we are creating a classroom community that lives into what we all want out of our high school experience. This pandemic has been challenging for us all and if we can create a space where we can be together, we should. It's way better than going through months more of school with just blank screens.

As always, if you are in need of any academic or social-emotional support as we continue to make our way through this challenging year, don't hesitate to reach out to administrators, your counselor, or a teacher. If you have any questions or concerns as we transition to our hybrid schedule, you can contact me directly.

Best Regards,

Chris Smith

