

ARHS Community Happenings Newsletter, August 25, 2023

The Amity faculty and staff have been at school all week preparing for the return of our awesome Spartan students next week, and we can't wait to see you all! We held our Link Crew 9th grade orientation program today, and the excitement of having 360 new students plus the 75 Gr. 11 and 12 students who volunteered to serve as link Crew leaders has us all ready for the return of everyone else next week.

- **Week 1 Schedule:** Monday, Aug. 28, and Tuesday, Aug. 29, will both be half days for our students, so first session will start at 7:34 am and dismissal will be at 12:12 pm. After that we will return to our regular schedule, with dismissal occurring at 2:18 pm.
- **Transportation Information:** Bus route information is available in students' PowerSchool accounts, and the specific stops along each route are available on the school website at this link: [ARHS Bus Routes SY 23-24](#). For students who are driving, please note that on-campus parking is reserved for students in Gr. 11 and 12. You can apply for parking permits through your PowerSchool account, and students will be permitted to park on campus for the first week of school without their permit while we process all the applications. And for parents/guardians who are driving their kids to and from school, please remember that the parent drop-off entrance is on North Pease Road (the Newton Road entrance is reserved for buses and staff members at the start of the school day).
- **Attendance Information:** Amity Region 5 has updated our attendance procedures this summer to make them simpler for parents/guardians and students to understand and to better align with state requirements. The email that all parents/guardians received on Wednesday provided detailed information about these updates, and we hope that they are helpful. We have received some questions about one aspect: what do we consider to be the "appropriate documentation" required for excused absences? For the first nine absences from school, we will accept a parent note to excuse the absence, and any additional absences past that point will require a doctor's note or other appropriate documentation that the absence meets the criteria to be considered excused.
- **Grading Expectations:** Providing helpful feedback and regular information about student progress is an essential part of supporting student learning, so this year our faculty will be following a shared set of grading expectations and practices to ensure that students have the support they need to be successful. Parents/guardians received an email with more detailed information about these expectations on Wednesday, and teachers will include information about their grading practices in the start-of-year information they share with students and parents/guardians. If you have any questions about these after reviewing them, please reach out to your child's teachers for more information.

Go Spartans!

Andre Hauser

Principal

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