

ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Elizabeth Gallagher
Principal

4701 Howland Road
Almont, Michigan 48003

Ross Gauthier
*Dean of Students
Athletic Director*

Joyce Burkland
Secretary

(810) 798-8595
Fax (810) 798-7011

Debbie Lemon
Secretary

April 12th, 2021

Dear AHS Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As Dr. Kalmar stated in his letter today, “The rapid expansion of cases of COVID-19 in our student body has resulted in a large number of quarantines among our students across all grade levels at Almont High School. As of this writing, we have quarantined over one hundred and ten students since Friday, April 9, 2021, almost twenty so far today, and counting. These numbers reflect what is happening outside of our schoolhouse doors. Lapeer County Michigan is now in the Top 15 counties in the country (per capita) for COVID-19 cases. Because of these quarantines and cases, we will be transitioning all students at Almont High School to online learning until at least April 23, 2021. We will reevaluate the conditions in our community at that time to decide if we must continue our transition beyond the 23rd.” This transition also includes all EdTech students, both online and in person.

Attached to this letter is AHS’s plan for remote instruction. Tuesday, April 13th, will be an asynchronous day for all students to finish up current work and prepare for remote learning. Synchronous instruction begins on Wednesday, 4/14. There will be NO SAT, PSAT, or MSTEP testing during this remote period. A rescheduled testing calendar will be sent out at a later time.

This plan does not impact our “virtual” students, only those who have been attending AHS “in-person”. Students who are on the quarantine list are required to fully participate in our remote learning plan.

One important reminder before diving into further details of the remote plan: It is still very important that you contact the school if you, your student, or a household member becomes ill with COVID, suspect you are ill, or have been exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus. This will allow us to work with the Lapeer County Health Department to continue to contact trace as well as insure that we can return to face to face instruction when allowed. You can call our attendance office at 810-798-3277 or email Ross Gauthier at rgauthier@almontschools.org to do so.

Instructional Expectations

- We will be following our hourly school day schedule during remote learning. Students are expected to be in attendance during their scheduled times and to complete all work assigned to them. Grades will be issued and all assignments will count. We know these circumstances are not ideal and teachers will be flexible; however, students are expected to do their best.
- Instruction will be both “synchronous” and “asynchronous.”

- Synchronous (coded blue on the attached schedule) will have students on Zoom with their teacher during their normal school hours. Attendance will be taken and logged in Powerschool. This will be direct instruction and discussion with the teacher.
- Asynchronous (coded green on the attached schedule) will have students working independently on assignments. This is also time to schedule appointments with your teacher for extra support.
- When on Zoom students are expected to have their camera on for attendance and be presentable. Attendance will be taken at the start and end of class and entered into PowerSchool.
- Please be sure that you are logging into Zoom with your first and last name. If you do not, your teacher will not recognize you and will not be able to admit you to the Zoom.

Attendance Policy

- During synchronous days (coded in blue on the attached schedule) attendance will be entered into Powerschool based on Zoom attendance. Attendance is not recorded in Powerschool during the asynchronous times.
- If there are internet issues on the student's end while trying to access a class, please contact the attendance office at 810-673-9201 and we will code it in Powerschool appropriately.
- If a student has a scheduled appointment (like the orthodontist) you will need to still call in to the attendance office like normal to excuse your student. Please do the same for any illnesses that will prevent your student from engaging in instruction

EdTech, Baker, MV, DE

- All EdTech students will be remote. This includes all "Online" AHS students who attend EdTech in person.
- Your student's EdTech instructor will be reaching out to them with their course specific information. If you have specific questions for the EdTech center, you can contact Principal Dale Moore at dmoore@lapeerisd.org. This also includes our cosmetology students.
- Early Middle College students (Baker College & Rochester University) will also have virtual sessions with their professors. Please check with Ms. Mosher (dmosher@lapeerisd.org) and your specific instructor for more information on their schedule.
- Students taking Macomb CC or SC4 college classes will continue with their online dual enrollment courses as planned as will any student enrolled in a Michigan Virtual course.

Technology Troubleshooting

- Teachers will post their Zoom link in their virtual classroom.
- If your internet connection tends to be unreliable, please first seek out alternative ways to connect. This could include using the parking lot wifi, using the wifi of another family member, using the Almont Library wifi, McDonald's parking lot wifi, etc. Zoom is also available on smart phones and smartphones can also provide personal hotspots.
- If the above does not work, we can provide paper packets until we are back on face to face. These will be housed in the high school front office vestibule & available Mondays

- Fridays from 7:30 - 3:00, or by an alternate arrangement. You can contact our front office at 810-798-8595 to request paper packets.

- There is a Chromebook help ticket available on students' Chromebooks in case of issues with the device. Please use this service to alert our Technology Department.

Locker Item Pickup

- Students may still have items in their lockers that they will need for the next few weeks. We ask that students come to the front office doors (door 1 in the bus loop) and wait to be buzzed in. Students not on the quarantine list may then enter the building to pick up items. Hours are 7:00am - 3:00pm, Monday - Friday. If on the quarantine list, please email Mrs. Gallagher at egallagher@almontschools.org or call the front office at 810-798-8595 to make arrangements for your items.

Spring Sports

- We will still be running our Spring Sports. This decision was based on several factors including the weekly required antigen testing, outdoor practice and competitions, attendance and schoolwork accountability, and the loss of a season last spring. We feel it is in the best interest of these student-athletes to allow them to continue their season.

Miscellaneous

- Prom tickets can still be purchased. Please contact Ms. Wright at lwright@almontschools.org for more information on how to get your tickets.
- The Senior Breakfast that was scheduled for 4/16 has been rescheduled to 4/30. We will be doing a drive thru Cap & Gown pick up on 4/16 from 9:00 - 11:00 for any senior interested in picking up their items. Any items not picked up will be distributed on 4/30.
- Seniors were scheduled to not be in attendance on 4/13 and 4/14 due to the planned State testing. We understand that many seniors may have made alternative plans for these two days and because of this senior attendance will not be required for 4/13 and 4/14.

Finally, attached you will find our day to day remote learning plan. If you have any questions regarding your student's classes, please reach out first to your student's teacher(s) as they will be able to provide more specific information. I can be reached at egallagher@almontschools.org with questions as well. Our remote plan will also be posted to our ACS website at <http://www.almontschools.org>.

Thank you for partnering with us as we navigate these challenging times together,

E.M. Gallagher

Elizabeth Gallagher
Principal, AHS

