

**2020-2021**

**Aliquippa School District**

**Parent Guide for Remote Learning**

**No one could have anticipated starting off a new school year remotely. However, the Aliquippa School District has remained committed to following the state guidelines to ensure the health and safety of the entire school community. We feel that through positive working relationships between the family and the school, we can progress and move forward while meeting the needs of each individual student.**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULES:**

* **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SCHEDULES WILL BE POSTED IN A TIMELY MANNER ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, & CLASS DOJO.**
* **A community event with teachers and administration will occur on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. This will be a socially distant event and details will be posted.**
* **The week of August 31, 2020 will include the following:**
  + **Device distribution will take place over the course of multiple days with varying times to accommodate everyone’s schedules. All devices will be distributed from the elementary building. Please adhere to the schedule when it is posted. Just a reminder that K-3 students will receive iPads and students in grades 4-12 will receive Chromebooks. If you have not returned your Chromebook from the spring, you will not receive a new device.**
  + **During device distribution, you will be expected to update your home and email addresses and your phone number. There will be a fee for the devices as follows: $15 for one child and $25 for a family of 2 or more. The District will post how you can make this payment. This will provide insurance for the devices in case of accidental damage.**
  + **When you pick up your child’s device, you will also receive specific log-in directions along with PowerSchool log-in and Class Dojo information.**
* **The first official start of school is Tuesday, September 8, 2020. This will be a virtual “Meet the Teacher” day to introduce students to their teachers. You must have your devices set up to engage your children on this day. A schedule will be posted for each building.**
* **Parent trainings are being developed and will be held in multiple sessions.**
* **Teachers will be engaged in professional development focused on improving remote learning over the next 2 weeks. They will available to families starting on September 8, 2020. School hours for each building are as follows:**
  + **Elementary School: 8:10-3:45; instruction will begin at 9:30**
  + **Jr/Sr High School: 7:15-2:50; instruction will begin at 8:35**
  + **Counselors and nurses will be available during those same hours.**

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

* **Meals-The District is committed to providing breakfast and lunch to students Monday through Friday. We are currently working on a distribution schedule to make it most convenient to our families.**
* **Attendance counts!! All student athletes, cheerleaders, and extra-curricular participants must log-in and engage in lessons each day by noon. If students fail to do so, not only will they be considered absent, they will jeopardize participation in their activity. All other District students must log-in and engage in lessons by 11:59 pm each day in order for them to be considered present for the day.**
* **Grades-Students will receive grades on the typical scale as they would in physical school (A=90-100, B=80-89, etc.). There will be no pass/fail grades as was in the shutdown. High school students will have a GPA and receive credits. If teachers post grades in their Google Classroom, they will be individual grades and not an average. You are encouraged to follow your child’s grades from the PowerSchool app. Students will have 3 days to submit assignments.**
* **How is this different than the shutdown??** 
  + **Expectations, expectations, expectations. It may look different, but this is school. We have to work together for the benefit of the students. Everyone is accountable.**
  + **Teachers will be in trainings to prepare them to be effective in creating remote lessons. This will be on-going throughout the remote time.**
  + **Teachers will be in the schools working so they will have access to all of their materials.**
  + **All teachers will work through the Google Classroom so there will be consistency for all learners.**

**WHAT IS GOOGLE CLASSROOM?**

* **Google Classroom is a web-based learning environment. When logged into a classroom, students can collaborate with their peers and teachers. Google classroom offers a digital safe space for students to view class announcements, access posted course content, view posted assignments, and turn in completed work. Teachers can use Google docs, sheets, slides, email and calendar all in one place. This limits the number of places students have to go to access their lessons. Teachers can also use the Google Meet feature to have face-to-face interaction with their students. As a parent, you can receive email summaries of your child’s progress in a classroom. You can also see class activities, upcoming work and any missing assignments. Only authorized Aliquippa School District users (students, teachers, and administration) can have access to a Google Classroom. There is a private code for students to join each one of their classes.**
* **Here are 2 short YouTube videos for parents to help you understand Google Classroom:** [**https://youtu.be/2lowi-gmbys**](https://youtu.be/2lowi-gmbys) **and** [**https://youtu.be/JqxCfihxEVw**](https://youtu.be/JqxCfihxEVw)

**WHAT WILL A SCHOOL DAY LOOK LIKE?**

* **Please realize a school day will look different for students based on their grade level. K-3 students have only one main teacher and one unified arts teacher. Students in grades 4-6 have 4 main teachers and one unified arts teacher. Students at the Jr/Sr High School will have multiple teachers. Each teacher will have his/her own Google Classroom.**
* **Teachers will create and post new lesson videos daily. These videos can be watched multiple times by students and at any time of the day. Teachers may also post multiple videos if they feel students need retaught on a difficult concept. New lesson videos will be posted Monday through Thursday. Fridays will be at the teachers’ discretion. This means that teachers may choose to have Google Meet sessions, provide enrichment and interventions (tutoring), as well as projects and more.**
* **Once a video lesson is posted and students go through the assignments, they may email their teachers with questions at any time after that. Teachers will be available during the school hours listed above. If a student does his/her lessons in the evening hours, they may not have their questions answered until the next school day. This will not hurt the child’s grade in any way. Think of it in the same manner as when they do homework. They don’t typically get that help until the next day. Students can also request a Google Meet with their teachers to get additional help.**
* **Many teachers have access to online textbooks and therefore students will see that material within the Google Classroom. There are ways that students can “write” on a workbook page, edit, and send it back to their teachers. Some students will also receive a hard copy of their books during device distribution. Teachers will accommodate families and accept work in multiple ways.**
* **Students will not always just be watching their teacher in a video. They may be asked to click on a link to take them to a website to view something or to access one of our supplemental sites such as IXL for skills practice. The list of what teachers can do is endless.**

**HELPFUL HINTS:**

* **Keep schedules/bedtimes in place for your children.**
* **Use the District resources to communicate and check updates.**
* **Keep school supplies, such as pencils, paper, and folders, at home.**
* **Have a designated learning spot in the home and try to minimize distractions.**
* **Team up with other parents for support.**
* **Reassure your children and allow for breaks from the devices.**
* **If your children have headphones, encourage using them.**
* **Allow us to help you. We do not expect you to teach your children. You are there to support them. Please reach out to us if you are struggling in any way.**

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**Dr. Peter M. Carbone, Superintendent**

**Dr. Jason Guzie, Director of Student Services**

**Beth A. Smith, Curriculum Coordinator**

**Ms. A’Frica Sheppard, Elementary Principal**

**Robert Motte, Elementary Assistant Principal**

**Ms. Stacey Alexander, Jr/Sr High School Principal**

**Michael Malec, Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal**