



# *Patriot Strong!*



Dear Patriot Families and Students,

A question at the forefront for many AVCS students, staff and families is what the new school year will look like starting this Fall. The District has been working very hard on this issue while addressing the numerous guidelines on school reopening plans established by the New York State Education Department, Department of Health, and Governor's Office.

The AVCS Administrative team, along with many stakeholders have met daily to address specific details on how AVCS can appropriately reopen in September. Following a detailed review of feedback from parents, teachers, various health agencies, and our administrative team through meetings and surveys, we have best determined how to safely reopen for the 2020-21 school year.

Below are a few highlights of what students and families can expect for the 2020-21 school year:

## **Fall 2020 Schedule:**

- As of August 7<sup>th</sup>, our district anticipates implementing the following Hybrid Model Schedule for all students in Grades Pre-K -12 at AVCS:
  - All Students in grades Pre-K – 12 will be in-person at school for 2 days per week
  - All Students will be assigned to a Team A or Team B (list will be provided at a later date)
  - Team A will be in-person on Tuesday & Thursday and Team B will be in-person on Wednesday & Friday
  - Teams are developed by splitting all classes in half to achieve the spacing necessary for health and safety.
  - All students will be remote on Monday
  - All Students will be working remotely 3 days per week (Monday for all students and the 2 days opposite their "in-person" schedule)
  - Masks will be required at all times except while eating and during provided mask breaks
  - Social distancing and/or physical barriers will be utilized in all spaces
  - The District is committed to making every effort to schedule families with children in multiple grades in the same group/team for convenience and planning
  - All CV-Tec, CVES, and New Vision students will receive forthcoming details on schedules.
  - There will be no after school activities in any buildings until further notice.

We truly understand that this will place a difficult burden on our families and that no plan without a safe and full return is ideal. Unfortunately, given the Dept. of Health, CDC, and NYSED guidance we feel this is the safest and most compliant plan we could formulate at this time. Additionally, we wanted to get this information out to you as soon as possible so that you can plan accordingly.

- **The first day of school for Team A: Tuesday, September 8th**
- **The first day of school for Team B: Wednesday, September 9th**

Families uncomfortable having their child attend in-person, will also have the option for their child to attend school through a 100% remote learning model as well. Please note that while we will do our absolute best in order to provide a rigorous online learning program, it is important to note that remote instruction should not be viewed the same as an on-site/in-person learning experience. A virtual experience requires a lot of home support and independent motivation. We hope all will join us in person, but we understand this may not be possible for all students. This information will need to be obtained from the families as soon as possible for important planning purposes.

With school starting soon, we now need to shift all of our focus to preparing our students to succeed within these learning models. Families, students and staff should plan to engage in these learning formats for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, perhaps longer.

Relatedly, in order to move forward, we ask that parents begin to make decisions on their choice for learning, transportation, and meals. **All parents will need to provide this information for each of their children by August 14th.** The “2020-2021 Parent Form” is located at the link below:

\*Please click here for required survey —> [2020-2021 Parent Form](#)

\*Due to the amount of scheduling and health/safety protocols we must follow, we are asking that any decisions made by parents on this form be a commitment to that decision through at least **November 6<sup>th</sup>**. This will ensure our district can make the necessary changes for continuity and safety across learning, transportation, and meals.

\*\*Parents who are unable to complete the survey online, please call any school building office and the office staff can help you complete the survey for all of your students.

Keeseville Elementary Schools (518) 834-2839  
AuSable Forks Elementary Schools (518) 647-5503  
MS/HS (518) 834-2800

### **More Details To Come;**

In the coming weeks, you will learn much more about the restart of school including details about elementary and secondary school schedules, family training on new safety measures, and new protocols for each building.

We will host several “online” parent meetings to review our reopening plan. These meetings will be held on:

- Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6pm (General overview of reopening plan)
- Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 2pm (Answering previously submitted questions)
- Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 4:30pm (Answering previously submitted questions)

Meeting links will be posted on the district website and Facebook. **Please send your questions for meetings to:**

[covid-avcs@avcsk12.org](mailto:covid-avcs@avcsk12.org)

These meetings will provide a clear overview of our opening plan at the district level. Please submit questions *before* the meetings. We thank you for all of your input in advance!

Our guiding principles will continue to drive our decision making and efforts to ensure that resources and supports are available and implemented in ways so that all students have the ability to achieve goals even in these challenging times. We must also be prepared to be flexible throughout the school year, as we are in a dynamic and fluid situation. Any partial or full return to campus may be reversed with a return to Distance Learning if conditions warrant.

Additionally, on-going and continual review of conditions will occur in collaboration with our public health partners to increase or decrease physical in-school attendance throughout the year. As noted above, we are planning for the long term and everyone should prepare for changes in this ever-evolving situation.

Thank you for your partnership and tremendous support through these uncertain times. As we move forward Patriot Strong, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at our dedicated email at [covid-avcs@avcsk12.org](mailto:covid-avcs@avcsk12.org) or directly contact your School Building Principal.

Respectfully,



Paul Savage  
Superintendent of Schools  
AuSable Valley Central School District