

# A Team Staff News

August 20, 2020

## Message from the Superintendent

Valued Staff Members,

This year is different. I may not like it...but I need to know it...and I have worked hard to accept it. We are in the time of COVID-19. I have committed to a couple of strategies to help me navigate these times and invite you to consider them as we come back together as a team that supports student learning.



- Remain flexible - things are changing on a daily basis - either on the health side, education guidance or our local COVID data. A couple of words you will likely hear from me this year: nimble, pivot, flexible.
- Use data/information to help make decisions - when I am stressed, I know I can tend to be more emotional -- and thus less rational.
- Collaborate - You are not in this alone. Regardless of your role or position in the district, we are in this together. If you are struggling with something - reach out to a trusted colleague or your supervisor to help solve the challenge in front of us.
- Take care of your social / emotional well being - you are important to our students and your co-workers. Fish, golf, walk, read, hunt, watch baseball, play music - whatever allows you to be centered in your emotional state - reserve time to take care of you so you can be your best when working with our students and staff.

I want to say thank you to so many of you who have helped in our planning for this school year. A true sign of A Team spirit.

Speaking of different - our kick off will be different and yet I would like it to provide us with some time for community building. This will be a virtual event that we would like **all** staff to view in small groups throughout the district. Our principals and department supervisors will be working on plans to allow all staff to engage in the morning kick off activities on Thursday, September 3rd.

Plan to be a part of the A Team that morning. Look for additional information from your building principal or department supervisor regarding your location to engage in the district kickoff.

Be well,  
Rick

## Upcoming Events

- **September 3, 2020:** District Virtual Kick Off
- **September 8, 2020:** PreK-12 Classes Begin
- **September 28, 2020:** Regular Board Meeting @ DO – 7:00 p.m.
- **September 30, 2020:** 2-hour Late Start PreK-12



## Department Updates

### Teaching & Learning Update - Workshop Week Activities

#### August 31st-September 3rd Staff Development

We are excited to welcome our staff back on August 31st and look forward to seeing all of you! Below is the staff development schedule for the week. Please note we will be working out all of the specific details including meeting locations, links etc and will be sending you the details next week, but felt it was important to ensure you had the schedule so you could plan accordingly. We look forward to working with you! Please do not hesitate to contact Darcy Josephson at ext. 4205 with any questions.

#### **August 31-September 3, 2020 Alexandria Public Schools Workshop Week Activities**

AM = 7:30-11:15 PM = 11:45-3:30 Eve = 3:30-7:30	Pre-K-5	6-8 (DMS)	9-12 (AAHS)
<b>Monday, 8/31</b>	AM: Building PD PM: Building PD	AM: Building PD PM: Building PD	AM: Building PD PM: Building PD
<b>Tuesday, 9/1</b>	AM: Off PM: Classroom Prep Eve: Open House	AM: Building PD PM: Classroom Prep	AM: Building PD PM: Classroom Prep
<b>Wednesday, 9/2</b>	AM: All elementary at Woodland - K-2 Literacy / Math training - 3-5 Word study/writing/Math AM: EE staff-Training PreK building PM: Classroom Prep	AM: Off PM: Classroom Prep Eve: Open House	AM: Off PM: Classroom Prep Eve: Open House
<b>Thursday, 9/3</b>	AM: District Kick Off PM: Classroom Prep	AM: District Kick Off PM: Classroom Prep	AM: District Kick Off PM: Classroom Prep



August 2020 Workshop Week Schedule.pdf

[Download](#)  
124.1 KB

## Community Education

### Alexandria Public Schools Staff Childcare Options

Per Executive Order 20-48, the following Tier 1 employees qualify for FREE childcare. Fee-based, optional childcare will also be an option for Non Tier 1.

**Tier 1 K-12 years**

Healthcare and public health  
Law enforcement, public safety and first responders  
Food and agriculture  
Judicial Branch (essential services)  
National Guard (activated under a Governor Executive Order)  
**Educators and school staff providing in-person instruction**  
Child care and school-age care providers

## School Board Briefs - August 17, 2020 regular meeting

### New A-Team Members

We welcome the following individuals to our A-Team staff:

- **Kelsey McDowell**, Social Worker @ AAHS/LES/Parochial Schools, effective 8/31/2020

### Retirements

The following staff member has submitted a letter of retirement. Thank you for your service and dedication to the students and families of Alexandria Public Schools.

- **Diane Brickweg**, Food & Nutrition Services, amend retirement date to be 9/7/2020 [date of hire: 9/5/2000]
- **Don Casanova**, Custodian, effective 8/31/2020 [date of hire: 10/29/2007]

### Other Items from the August 17 Regular Board Meeting

- Darcy Josephson, Asst Superintendent - Teaching & Learning, and Katie Strickler, Coalition Coordinator, provided an update on the activities of the Healthy Voices Healthy Choices Coalition.
- Michelle Bethke-Kaliher, Director of Student Support Services, and Melissa Bright, LSN, provided information on the Health Services program in the school district.
- Adopted the 2020-2021 Leadership Handbook and Operational Plan.
- Approved the 2020-2021 E Learning Plan.
- Approved the 2020-2021 Superintendent Goals that align with the District's Operational Plan - 1) COVID Leadership, 2) Student Achievement, 3) Growing Cultural Competency in Staff.
- Approved the substitute staff pay rates as presented.
- Approved the work agreement between the District and the Confidential employee group for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.
- Adopted a resolution for the base learning model for the 2020-2021 school year and other COVID-19 related matters.
- Approved a special meeting for November 13, 2020 at 6:30am to canvass election results.

### First Reading of District Policy Revisions

The Board approved the first reading of policy updates for:

- **Policy 430** - Student Teacher and Intern Supervision
- **Policy 432** - Use of Related Service Staff Such as Personal Care Attendants (PCA), Nurses and Other Service Providers in Alexandria Public School District
- **Policy 450** - Assignment and Transfer of Personnel
- **Policy 506** - District-Wide Student Discipline
- **Policy 525** - Student Use of Vehicles During the School Day
- **Policy 624** - Online Learning Options
- **Policy 660** - Student Distance Learning

## Policies Adopted

The Board adopted the revisions to the policies and procedures listed below that received a first reading at the July school board meeting.

- [Policy 400](#) - Employee Resignation
- [Policy 413](#) - Harassment and Violence
- [Policy 419](#) - Tobacco-Free Environment
- [Policy 427](#) - Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
- [Policy 470](#) - Teacher Supervision, Performance Improvement and Evaluation
- [Policy 527](#) - Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections and Searches
- [Policy 801](#) - Equal Access to Facilities of Secondary Schools



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## Alexandria Public Schools

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Our **Mission** is to achieve educational excellence and to inspire a life-long passion for learning.

Our **Vision** is to be an extraordinary school district that tailors learning for each child, by working together!

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