

# A Team Staff News

September 30, 2020

## Message from the Superintendent

Valued Staff Members,

1 month...breathe in, breathe out, repeat. I hope the 2 hour late start provided a little bit of space to do some reflection and maybe some planning.

Grace and patience -- this is hard work. Be sure to give yourself some grace and be patient with yourself and others.

Communication is going out to families (and to staff prior to families) regarding planning time in the event we need to shift scenarios.

To be clearer, we are not shifting scenarios at this time. We continue to be in touch with Horizon Public Health as well as monitor our school data. Between students and staff, we have about 4800 people in our school system - which makes us larger than at least 4 counties in Minnesota.

Optimistic Closure:

Friday is officially National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day. I encourage you to take a moment to say thank you to members of our Buildings and Grounds team for their efforts.

Be well,

Rick



## Upcoming Events

- **September 30, 2020:** 2-hour Late Start PreK-12
- **October 8:** Parent Contact 6-8
- **October 12:** Parent Contact PreK-8
- **October 13:** Parent Contact PreK-5
- **October 14:** No School PreK-8; Parent Contact PreK-8; School in Session 9-12
- **October 15-16:** No School PreK-12; MEA
- **October 26:** Parent Contact 9-12



# Department News

## Food & Nutrition Services (FNS)

Staff are reminded that:

- All meals are now FREE to all APS students. This includes breakfast and lunch. This will be retroactive to the beginning of the school year! All student accounts have received this credit.
- DMS and AAHS students can take free meals home for the days they are learning from home.
- FNS will be offering free meals for students over MEA break.

## Health Services

Flu clinics will be offered by Walgreens in each school building. The vaccine is covered by school insurance. If you have insurance through any other source, it is important that you check your for coverage.

\*\*Please keep before and after school appointments open for staff with less flexibility. If you cannot find a time that is open in your work schedule, please contact your school Principal for possible classroom coverage.



### **Monday, Oct. 5th**

Voyager 7:00-9:30 am (Media Center)

District Office 1:00-4:30 pm (Conf. Room Oak)

### **Tuesday, Oct. 6th**

Lincoln 7:00-10:00 am (TBD)

### **Wednesday, Oct 7th**

Woodland 7:00-9:30 am (TBD)

AAHS 11:00 am-2:00 pm (Wrestling room or Gym-TBD)

### **Thursday, Oct 8th**

Miltona 8:00-9:00 am (gym)

Carlos 9:30-10:30 am (gym)

Garfield 12:00-1:00 pm (gym)

### **Friday, Oct 9th**

Discovery 7:00-11:00 am (Media Center)

To schedule an appointment, please click on the link below:

<http://wagsoutreach.com/ss/VOY484201>

*\*Please note this is a scheduling link provided by Walgreens. Please address technical issues to them.*

# Technology

It's been a busy month but it's awesome to have everyone back on site!

General:

- All Kindergarten students now have brand new Chromebooks! This means our district is now officially 1:1 on devices K-12.

Up next in Chromebook World:

- Prepping devices for paras that may need them if we need to go to a hybrid model.
- Prepping replacement Chromebooks for Pre-K - 5 teachers (anticipated to do replacements in next 4-6 weeks).
- Started installing 180 degree webcams in high school classrooms to assist with student interaction.

Remember, if experiencing technical issues, please e-mail [tsupport@alexschools.org](mailto:tsupport@alexschools.org).

## School Board Briefs - September 28, 2020 regular meeting

### New A-Team Members

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

- **Samantha Aakre**, SPED Teacher, effective 8/31/2020
- **Ramelle Beachy**, Paraprofessional, effective 9/21/2020
- **Hailey Bieber**, Secretary, effective 9/14/2020
- **Alicen Blawat**, CE/Compass Group Leader, effective 9/16/2020
- **Jeanne Boettcher**, Secretary, effective 9/23/2020
- **Devin Cimbura**, CE/Compass Assistant, effective 9/8/2020
- **William Craft**, Bus Driver, effective 9/8/2020
- **Katelyn Dolan**, Elementary Teacher, effective 8/31/2020
- **Alissa Erickson**, SPED Paraprofessional, effective 9/8/2020
- **Shelly Gaffaney**, ABE Teacher, effective 9/1/2020
- **Pennie Goodin**, Bus Driver, effective 9/8/2020
- **Zachary Gundberg**, CE/Compass Assistant, effective 9/8/2020
- **Richard Hanson**, Bus Paraprofessional, effective 9/8/2020
- **JD Hennen**, CE/Compass Assistant, effective 9/16/2020
- **Julie Hrubes**, Paraprofessional, effective 9/8/2020
- **Beth Johnson**, Math Interventionist, effective 9/22/2020
- **Jay Johnson**, Distance Learning Teacher, effective 8/31/2020
- **Jason Kerkaert**, Bus Driver, effective 9/8/2020
- **Kaylee Krueger**, SPED Teacher, effective 8/31/2020 (transferred from para to teacher)
- **Katelyn Langner**, SPED Paraprofessional, effective 9/21/2020
- **Katherine Ledermann**, Paraprofessional, effective 9/3/2020
- **Brock Lerfald**, CE/Compass Assistant, effective 9/8/2020
- **Amber Lipetzky**, Distance Learning Teacher, effective 8/31/2020
- **Angel Manzano**, SPED Teacher, effective 9/8/2020 (transferred from para to teacher)
- **Matthew Meyer**, Custodian, effective 9/1/2020

- **Melissa Mueller**, CE/Group Leader, effective 9/8/2020
- **Nicole Nelson**, Certified Health Assistant, effective 9/8/2020
- **Shari Petersen**, Distance Learning Teacher (.75), effective 8/31/2020
- **Kyndra Schmidt**, Distance Learning Teacher, effective 8/31/2020
- **Paige Schweigert**, SPED Paraprofessional, effective 9/8/2020
- **Victoria Shay**, Social Worker, effective 9/14/2020
- **Cathy Slavik**, Paraprofessional, effective 9/14/2020
- **Alayna Strand**, CE/Compass Assistant, effective 9/21/2020
- **William Suchy**, CE/Compass Assistant, effective 9/8/2020
- **Valerie Vonderharr**, Cook, effective 9/8/2020

## 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.

- **Linda Maiers**, School Counselor, effective 9/11/2020 [date of hire: 9/1/1992]
- **Elaine Wilken**, Paraprofessional, effective 6/2/2020 [date of hire: 10/28/2009]

## Other Items from the September 28 Regular Board Meeting

- Morgan Olson, School Garden Manager, provided an update on the School Garden.
- Ben Kvidt, Activities Director, shared highlights from the Activities Department.
- Darcy Josephson, Asst Supt - Teaching & Learning provided an update on the district's American Indian Plan.
- Darcy Josephson presented the 2020-2021 school site improvement goals and action plans. The plans utilized assessment results from the 2019-2020 school year. The building goals were reviewed by the Curriculum/Policy Committee prior to Board approval.
- Trevor Peterson, Director of Business Services, provided an overview of the 2019-20 financial audit. The district received a clean audit for the year ended June 30, 2020. An unmodified or clean audit is the highest level of assurance auditors can give. The district is financially stable and currently has an unassigned fund balance of just over \$5.6 million, which equates to 10.9% of annual general fund expenditures. Board policy suggests an unassigned fund balance in the range of 11-16% of annual expenditures, therefore we are currently just below that range by only 0.1%. General fund revenues for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, were about \$50.9 million and the expenditures were about \$51.4 million. Sources of revenue for the district include state funding (80.9%), local property tax levy (11.5%), federal funding (2.9%), and other funding sources (4.7%).
- The Board took action to approve the preliminary school levy for 2021. The proposed preliminary levy amount of \$16,288,175.99 is lower than last year's final levy by \$71,234.35, or -0.44%. The taxes paid in 2021 affect the district's 2021-22 fiscal year. *The PDF of the full press release is linked below.*



Alexandria School District preliminary tax levy 0.44 percent decrease.pdf

[Download](#)  
190.0 KB

# First Reading of District Policy Revision

The Board approved the first reading of policy updates for:

- **Policy 522** - Student Sex Nondiscrimination

## Policies Adopted

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

- [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

## September Points of Pride

Three Alexandria Area High School seniors are being recognized for their academic achievement by the **National Merit Scholarship** Corporation as evidenced by exceptional scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT).

- **Jacob Tiegen** has been named a **Semifinalist** in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by earning a perfect score on the PSAT and will continue on in the competition for more than \$30M in various scholarships.
- **Bryant Johnson** and **Ethan Johnson** have each been named a **Commended Student** as demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test.

Nine Alexandria Area High School graduates and current students have been named **2020 AP Scholars** based on their performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The awards given and student recognized include:

- **AP Scholar** designation was granted to **Christian Fleming** and three 2020 graduates who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more of the exams.
- **AP Scholar with Honor** was granted to **Noah Capouch**, **Jacob Tiegen** and two students who graduated in June for achieving an average of at least 3.25 on all exams given and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction was given to one 2020 graduate who received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and a score of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.





## ALEXANDRIA Public Schools





*Rich tradition. Bright future.*

## 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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