



Azalea Gardens Middle School



Message from the Principal

Blast into Reading and Writing!

August 24, 2020

Azalea Gardens Middle School Instructional Focus

The instructional focus of Azalea Gardens Middle School is for all students to show measurable growth in *reading, writing, and learning for excellence* through the implementation of a school wide focus on *reading and writing across the content areas* as measured by SOL scores, a common writing rubric, and STAR reading.

Message from the Principal:

Good evening AGMS Parents, Students, and Families, this is your principal, Dr. Kirk, calling with some important information for the week of August 24, 2020.

Textbook, Chromebook, and Mobile Device Pickup Times. The excitement of the first days of school is in the air! One of the new challenges this year is distributing textbooks to our students. Yes, students will still need their textbooks, either the physical book or online access, depending on the subject. Normally, we would hand them out the first week of school. Since students are not reporting to the building, we will need to distribute textbooks a little differently.

To accommodate the numbers of students and their families picking up textbooks, workbooks, instruments, planners, and materials, we have created a schedule to help us maintain social distancing. The schedule is based on the student's last name:

Monday, Aug 31	Tuesday, Sep 1	Wednesday, Sep 2	Thursday, Sep 3	Friday, Sep 4
9:30am-12:00pm Sixth Grade A – K	9:30am-12:00pm Seventh Grade A – K	9:30am-12:00pm Eighth Grade A – K	Make Up Day	Make Up Day
1:30pm-4:00pm Sixth Grade L – Z	1:30pm-4:00pm Seventh Grade L – Z	1:30pm-4:00pm Eighth Grade L – Z	9:30am – 11:30am 1:00pm – 3:00pm 5:00pm – 7:00pm	1:00pm – 3:00pm

We are going to set up stations in the school with distribution points for parents and students to come and pick up their schedules, planners, textbooks, and reserved Chromebooks, if needed. Please enter through the main doors and be ready to show picture identification. The stations are as follows:

1. Check-in (please have identification ready)
2. Welcome packet
3. Student schedules (if needed)
4. English
5. Math

6. Science
7. History
8. Health and Physical Education
9. Electives (band and orchestra students may report to the auditorium or band room first)
10. Previously reserved Chromebooks and Hotspots (email confirmation required)
11. Sign Up for a Chromebook or Mi Fi if needed, *distributed while supplies last.*

Here are some guidelines about the AGMS Distribution Plan:

- We anticipate the process taking between 25-35 minutes.
- We ask that everyone involved strictly adhere to all COVID mitigation procedures (face coverings over the nose and mouth; six feet of distance between everyone)
- You may wish to bring your student with you to carry everything!
- Bring a bag, box, or crate.
- Please limit the number in your party.
- Please follow the schedule provided. If you are not able to come to the building at your designated times, please call the school at 531-3000 or email the assistant principal at lfrank@nps.k12.va.us.
- If any textbooks have not arrived, we will provide the online access codes to the e-books.

100% Online. NPS will be 100% online for all students for at least the first nine weeks. Therefore, all students will need a computer, laptop with camera and microphone, or a Chromebook. We have found that phones and iPads are not quite enough. Students must have a keyboard. If you need one, [click here to use the form](#) on our website to let us know. *Supplies are very limited, so please only request a device if you need a device.* Chromebooks and mobile hotspots will be issued in the order requests are received.

Bell Schedules. We will have a virtual bell schedule this fall. Students will need to be ready to sign on to their device by 8:05 a.m. and class will start at 8:15 a.m. Each class will have a Zoom session and independent, asynchronous work and the day will conclude around 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. **The teacher will be available throughout the “class” time.** We will have lessons and activities, quizzes and tests, labs, demonstrations, P.E., and all the aspects of school, even if adapted to being 100% online. Our Instructional Focus, reading and writing across the curriculum, certainly has not changed.

Open House. Our 2020 fall Open House will be held virtually on September 16th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Plans are underway to provide a chance for parents and guardians to meet their child(ren)’s teachers and go through a Zoom schedule, just like the students! We hope you can join us.

Coffee with the Principal. This school year brings a lot of change and challenge for us all. However, AGMS has always risen to challenges with excellence. We are in this together! Still, we know there are many questions. Some we may have answers to, some we may need to find answers, and still others we may need to work out together. Parents are welcome to join the principal and other members of our leadership team for *Coffee with the Principal, a*

Q and A presentation, via Zoom, on Thursday, August 27th at 5pm or on Friday, August 28th at 10am.

AGMS Log-On Day. Thursday, September 3 is scheduled to be the AGMS log on day. We will post a more specific schedule, but the idea is for all students to log in to Canvas and Log on to Zoom to make sure all of the passwords and links are working. Hopefully, we can work some bugs out before we start the school year.

Office Hours. The office is now open from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Walk-ins are accepted and appointments are no longer required. You may also call 531-3000 during these hours as well. Or you can email myself or the assistant principal, Mrs. Frank.

Dr Kirk, Principal: jmkirk@nps.k12.va.us

Mrs. Frank, Assistant Principal: lfrank@nps.k12.va.us

Face Coverings. Face coverings are required to enter the building and are to cover the nose and mouth at all times while in the building. Parents, please help us out with this mandatory requirement.

This information and more can be found on the AGMS website. You can also follow us on Instagram and Twitter #AGMSRockets. Stay connected, stay informed, and please stay safe, healthy, and remember as always ...

Go.....Rockets!