

Amundsen High School COVID-19 Q&A

Dear Viking Parents,

We have received several questions directly from all of you, which we will answer in this FAQ document. Because we wanted to honor each and every question asked, you may find some repetition in both questions and answers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions or concerns not addressed here. We are wishing you health and peace during these difficult times.

Anna, Kristi, Cybill, Minh

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

Will the work assigned while school is out of session be graded?

As per Governor Pritzker's directive, assignments may not be graded because these missed school days are not considered "instructional days." For this reason, Amundsen staff is offering students the opportunity to make-up previously missed work for credit (amount to be determined by the teacher) and for extra credit (individual teacher decision).

Per Anna's statement that "there will be no additional work assigned":
1. Why will there be no new work, including online assignments?
2. If teachers are not assigning new work, how will students stay on track? -- For IB? For any program? For promotion to the next grade level?
3. If work will not be graded, what is the incentive for children to do academic work?

Governor Pritzker has said that no work may be graded. These are not considered "instructional days." In this unprecedented worldwide event, adjustments to expectations must be made relative to a traditional educational experience. Please understand that this "Act of God" has created situations that are out of the control of Amundsen staff and administration. Amundsen staff is offering students the opportunity to make up previously missed assignments for credit (amount to be determined by the teacher) and for extra-credit (individual teacher decision). Students in upper level IB classes will have assignments, most of which have already begun and which are required to obtain IB credit, on which they should continue working. Specific IB directives will be conveyed to the IB seniors directly.

Is it only CPS high schools that can offer online coursework? Our elementary school stated there is no e-learning being offered due to every student not having access to a computer. It's confusing.

Given the directive from Governor Pritzker that no work is to be graded, all Amundsen High School online activities will be confined to redemption make-up assignments and extra-credit (with the exception of required IB Diploma assessments). We, too, understand the reality that all students do not have access to computers or internet. We have a provision in this instance, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

What ideas do you have for my students to do every day?	HAVE YOUR 9TH - 11TH GRADERS DO KHAN ACADEMY EVERY SINGLE DAY TO PREPARE FOR THE PSAT AND SAT.
Some teachers haven't used google classrooms consistently this year. Are they being directed to do so now for communicating?	We are directing staff to use Google Classroom and email to communicate with students.
Will teachers be available for questions if the kids want to reach out to them?	Yes. Teachers are tele-working and will be available via email. Some teachers may opt to create "Google Hangout" chats with students.
Ms. Frcka and Mr. Hagene are on leave. Who is the substitute for the kids to direct queries to when doing her school work?	Send all queries for Ms. Frcka and Mr. Hagene to Assistant Principal Minh Nguyen at mvnguyen@cps.edu.
Are there any on-site programs or facilities that will continue while school is out of session? (Would it be possible to get the stadium to be unlocked so kids can still do workouts?)	There is absolutely NO onsite instructional or extracurricular program that will continue. Students and staff may not access the building (or the stadium) to retrieve forgotten materials and resources, no matter how dire. Only "essential personnel" will be admitted to the building (administration, security, engineers, custodians, and nutritional support staff).
Will meals be distributed at Amundsen? If so, where and when? Who can access these?	Everyone family of a student enrolled in CPS can access these meals. All CPS school sites will serve as food distribution sites for CPS students. Food pick-up will take place outside of the school building and begins at every school on Tuesday, March 17 and is scheduled from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Monday through Friday. CPS families can pick-up three days worth of meals at time, each with two meals per child. If you need assistance, please call the CPS Command Center at 773-553-KIDS (5437) or email familyservices@cps.edu.
How can families support schools from afar? How can we help you all navigate the process? Are there any supports/resources/supplies we can contribute?	You are all lovely. Please take care of yourselves and your families. Send us positive vibes, which we are returning to you. Keep yourselves safe and practice social distancing.
Do you think CPS will extend the school year to make up some or all of these missed days?	The Governor has declared these days due to an "Act of God." He said that at this time, there is no extension to the school year.
Will they take Spring Break away?	We have not even heard rumors to that effect.
What about the 10th grade Personal Projects?	The Personal Project Exhibit scheduled for April 1st has been postponed. We are working on rescheduling or creating an alternative way for projects to be presented. Students are encouraged to continue working on their Process Journals and to begin drafting their Final Report during their time off.

	I'm accessible by email anytime should you have any questions.
Is there anything else I need to know for my IB Diploma student?	Although we have been granted extensions for internal assessments (projects, papers, art exhibitions, etc.), IB has stated unequivocally that exams will occur according to the originally scheduled dates in May. If this changes, we will let students and parents know.
How will this "Act of God" school closure affect prom, graduation, and other senior activities?	While we don't know how this will ultimately play out, we are hopeful that we will return on March 31 and that all senior activities will occur as planned.
Will driver's education continue?	Driver's Education will resume upon the return of staff to work. Students will have an opportunity to make up missed days.
What else do I need to know?	Please carefully read all district communications to receive updates on resources, opportunities, and other important information.

I am including the message sent to your students from their counselors:

Dear AHS Vikings,

On behalf of your AHS Counseling Department, we want to share how we will be able to support you while school is closed. Below are suggestions for what you can be working on during this time.

Academic Supports

- Individual programming meetings with IB-CP and IB-DP students will begin when we return.
 - All students that have not met with counselors to work on scheduling for the 2020-21 school year should receive an email with courses that have been selected. Changes can be made via email or when we return during counselor's CCC hours.
- Credit Recovery
 - Students enrolled in virtual online classes will receive communication, as we are made aware. As of now, classes are still active. Students should reach out to their counselors when sections need to be unlocked.
 - As far as we know, all citywide recovery classes are suspended starting Tuesday, March 17th.
- Homebound services are postponed until classes resume.
- All classroom specific questions or concerns should be directed to individual teachers.

Social Emotional

- All individual and group counseling sessions will resume when school is back in session.
- If you, a family member or a friend is experiencing a crisis, we suggest calling Screening, Assessment, and Support Services (SASS) at (800) 345-9049 or National Alliance on Mental Illness (Nami) at (800)-950-6264. Both hotlines provide potential referrals and/or resources. You can also visit your local emergency room or call 911 for immediate emergencies.

Post-Secondary

- Naviance
 - All grade levels can work on our college and career tool: Naviance. Helpful guides will be placed on AHS website on the Counseling Page. Students can go to **My Planner** and complete **Tasks Assigned To Me**.
 - All grade levels should continue to research and apply to [Enrichment Opportunities](#) and [Scholarship Opportunities](#).
 - Seniors
 - Send screenshots of award letters and scholarships that have not been uploaded to your Google folder to your counselor.
 - Seniors continue working on applications and scholarships. All requests to release documents should continue happening through Naviance. Any recommendation letters, scholarship transcript and mid-year transcript should be requested via email directly to your counselor,

Remember, we are available via email and will be here to help you and your family during these uncertain times. We will communicate any changes via email as we receive them.

Be well, take care,
Ms. Darugar, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Maldonado, and Mr. Tucker

Your AHS Counseling Department