

ALKI WEEKLY UPDATE 3-5-21

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WHERE OUR LEGACY IS VALUING EVERY STUDENT

GREETING

It has been a great week getting all of our 7/8th grade students settled in the hybrid in person learning routines. I am so thankful and proud of our staff, students, and parents for the way everyone has responded to hybrid learning. We are now up and running with the last cohort of 7/8th grade students coming to school the last few days! As we worked on learning the Covid protocols and new routines at school this week, I told all of the students I have 2 big priorities: 1. A kind, caring and respectful school culture and 2. A focus on learning on the highest levels we can every day. We are here to support students to learn and grow so they can move on to high school, college, and beyond. If every student will commit to coming to school to do their best to be kind, caring and respectful and do their best to learn, we will have a great finish to the school year. Thanks again for your support, patience, and resilience during this pandemic. I know it has been hard for everyone, but I have hope we are closer to putting this behind us now that we have students back in school.

COVID PROTOCOLS

As students transitioned around the school this week learning about our Covid specific expectations in each area, I reminded them of the BIG 4 things to do to help keep Covid out of our school. The BIG 4 include:

1. If you have symptoms of being sick, please stay home until you are symptom free. This will ensure you do not unknowingly spread Covid germs at school.
2. Wear your mask at all times, unless you are eating lunch or given a mask break outside by your teacher. Please make sure the mask covers both your nose and your mouth.
3. Maintain 6 feet social distancing. This is the hardest one for students to follow, especially when they are traveling in groups between classes. We have arranged the classrooms and the lunch room to keep the social distancing, and we have painted paw prints outside every classroom door to remind students of where to line up. We will keep working on it!
4. Wash and sanitize hands. We have multiple hand sanitizer stations around the school, and I encourage students to use them regularly.

I am confident if we all follow the BIG 4, we will keep Covid out of our school. Thanks for any help you can provide reinforcing these new habits with students.

LATE WORK POLICY

One of the things remote learning taught us is the need to have more consistency of practices around grading. As a staff we have been discussing late work, and we have adopted a new late work policy designed to bring better consistency to how this is handled in each classroom in our school. The new policy language can be found [here](#). You will notice a differentiation between work that is practice and work that is to assess proficiency of a standard. All teachers will begin following this policy as of third trimester, which starts March 16th.

OUTSIDE TRANSITIONS

A question recently came up that I thought I would address for anyone else who may be wondering. As you know, due to Covid we are doing outside transitions from class to class where possible this year. This allows students to get some fresh air, and reduces the contaminants in the ventilation system with less students breathing inside the building. The question about this had to do with campus safety in the event we have someone who intends to do harm to children. I want to assure you we have been thoughtful about planning this and have additional supervision in place during the outside transitions. A few key points:

- During outside transitions, teachers are at their doors whenever possible watching and welcoming students from outside.
- There are multiple adults outside all around the wings of the building to supervise, and if there was ever a questionable situation, we are stationed in such a way that either we or the teachers can get students into the building very quickly
- When we are not transitioning between classes, the exterior doors are all secured the same as we normally do. Visitors still need to buzz in to the main office to enter the building.

Safety is always a top priority, and with Covid protocols we have continued to think through how best to keep our students safe in all ways. Covid has presented many challenges, but we are committed to doing everything we can to keep our campus both safe and Covid free

UPCOMING DATES

- 3/15 Last day of 2nd trimester
- 3/16 First day of 3rd trimester
- 3/24 PTSA general meeting- 6:00 p.m.
- 3/26 2nd trimester report cards available
- 4/5-9 Spring Vacation- no school

Mar Cain
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