



*“Education with a History of Success”*

August 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to welcome you and your student to the 2020-2021 School Year for Accelerated Schools. As excited as we are to get kids back into the building, we know this will be anything but a normal school year.

I want to let you know about a few of things to keep in mind as we start the school year. By now you should have received the email that described what learning will look like for in-person vs the online platform. Please let us know if you need another copy of this email. If you have not done so already, please let the school know if you are wanting your student to attend the in-person classes or if the online platform is a better fit. Please also keep in mind that if you feel the need to make a change in how your student attends classes, (in-person or online) we are happy to make the adjustment with some advanced notice.

We have some suggestions for students that are working remotely, the first being establishing a designated workspace for classwork or homework. The second, we recommend a table or a desk in a well-lit area, not sitting on a couch or the floor. Finally, students should have a regular routine for the mornings especially if they are working from home, the school dress code will still be required for all students online and in person.

We are excited to be able to reinstate our positive behavior management system. In other words, we will start going back to awarding points to all students and paying them based on their scores. Due to some students working at home, and the national coin shortage, Accelerated Schools is going to be using Venmo to pay the students. Please go to the link, for more information about Venmo. <https://venmo.com/about/product/>

For our students that will be working through the digital platform, things are quite different than they were in March. All students will be given a schedule of classes with times and the link(s) to attend classes. For a student to earn full points for the class, they must always be visible to the teacher. They will not earn full points if their computer camera is facing the wall, ceiling, or if it is turned off. The online students will have a Zoom connection to the classroom, the teacher and all of the in-person students, therefore, it is important for the teacher to be able to see and hear the at-home students just as they would with the students that are in the classroom. This will also enable the teacher to answer questions and assist all students in real time, and not just the ones in the room. Students will be expected to turn in their work by the end of each class period to the teacher. Homework will be assigned by the homeroom teacher and will be expected to be turned in the following morning by 9:30 am. Please let the school know if your student needs a Chrome book to borrow for classes; we will be happy to check one out to you for the school year.

For all our in-person students, there will be a wellness sheet (see the attached document) that parents will need to fill out and have the students bring with them to school each day. Masks will be required while in the building, unless students are at their seat and at least 6 feet away from others. Tri-County Health Department has mandated mask wearing because research and science show that wearing a mask is critical to slowing the spread of the virus, especially in indoor spaces. We will work with individual students to address any difficulties or medical issues with adhering to the school expectations.

Students who do not to comply, first we will first work with individual students to educate them on the requirement to wear a mask while in the building. Second, we will provide official documentation of the requirement and a final warning. Finally, we will transfer the student from in-person to 100% online school if they continue to make the choice not to comply with the requirement to wear a mask.

Lastly, our ability to start on Aug. 17, 2020, and our ability to maintain in-person learning is 100% dependent upon our collective actions and decisions. As we prepare to open, I am asking for all members of the Accelerated Schools' community to do our part to help ensure that students can be in school. Please help your students avoid meeting with large groups of friends, maintain appropriate social distancing and have them wear a mask in accordance with the state mandate – together, as a community, is the only way this will work.

In the next day or two, you will be receiving an email from your student's homeroom teacher, introducing themselves and providing you with your student's schedule.

We are excited and ready for this new school year. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tuengel

Executive Director

Accelerated Schools