

ABM Weekly News

4.24.20

District Announcements

Registration dates set for 2020-21 school year

Mark your calendar! Registration for the 2020-21 school year will open on May 13. Please note this date is later than usual to give staff and families time to prepare during these extenuating circumstances.

- **Returning student registration for the 2020-21 school year:** Registration for returning early childhood and K-8 students opens on May 13, 2020. High school registration opens July 8, 2020. ParentVUE login and password are required.
- **Fee payments for the 2020-21 school year:** Fee payments for early childhood and K-8 families open on May 13, 2020. High school fee payments open on July 8, 2020. To provide needed flexibility for families with changing financial situations, fee payment will be open through July 30.

Registration is required every year to review/update information about your child(ren) including phone, email, emergency contacts, health data, etc. By completing your registration, you confirm that your child(ren) will return to school in August.

Announcements

Canvas Log-in Information

Below is information on how to log on to CANVAS via the Blue Valley website.

Canvas

<https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/middle/ABM/Pages/home.aspx>

1. Click on the Student tab-Canvas
2. Log in with your student email and password

Students can also access Google Drive from a home device.

www.google.com

7 Days of Kindness

Every year at ABMS, we participate in a week called "Give 7 Days of Kindness." This is based on a local organization called Give Seven Days which started after the shootings at the Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom Retirement Center in April of 2014. Please click on the link for more information- <http://givesevendays.org/the-ripple/>

Give Seven Days challenges us to spread kindness for a week (and hopefully throughout the rest of the year).

Community Resources (Helpful numbers and websites that can help guide you during this time)

Johnson County COVID Hotline 8 am - 5 pm

913-715-2819 English and Spanish languages

Johnson County Mental Health 24 hrs

913-268-0156

For help with community resources you may dial

211 or visit 211kc.org

They will help connect those who need assistance with food, utility assistance, financial help, tax preparation, etc.

Helpful websites include:

www.cdc.gov

www.kdheks.gov

www.jocogov.org/Coronavirus/cancellations

www.sba.gov - for small business owners who need financial help

A Message from Student Services

Student Services posted a "check-in" form on Canvas for students to have an opportunity to give us an update on how they feel about learning and being at home during this time. The link is below to take students directly to the optional assignment.

<https://bvusd.instructure.com/courses/66131/assignments/676594>

Please visit the collaboration section of the student services canvas page to access grade level opportunities to share photos of pets (6th and 7th grade) or create your own #qaurantineinsixwords.

Library Announcements

Library Webpage Update!

The *ABMS Library* webpage has been updated with new resources. **MackinVia** is a great resource for eBooks, databases, and other digital media. Look for it on our main webpage!

axis360 eBooks

Looking for something to read while the library is closed? You can access axis360 eBooks! Visit the ABMS Library webpage and click the tab! There you'll find a PDF with step-by-step directions to download books to your Chromebook. If you have an Apple device (iPhone, iPad, MacBook, etc) download the axis360 app! Make sure to choose Aubry Bend Middle school.

Library Office Hours

Mrs. Cooper's daily office hours are M-Th

From 9:00-10:00 AM

Feel free to email if you need any help with resources!

accooper@bluevallyk12.org

Twitter & Instagram

Follow us on Social Media!

[@abmslibrary](https://twitter.com/abmslibrary)

[abmslib](https://www.instagram.com/abmslib)

PTO News

ABMS Families: Your spiritwear orders have arrived! We will be making contactless porch drop-offs tomorrow. If you have any questions, please reach out to aubrybendpto@gmail.com. Thank you!

- **"BE IN THE KNOW WITH ABMS PTO"**- Be sure to follow us on FB (@AubryBendMSPTO) and twitter (@AbmsPto).
- **AMAZON SMILE** - Did you know you can support ABMS by shopping through [Amazon Smile](#)? It's an easy way to help, but you MUST shop through our [link](#).
- **8th GRADE FAREWELL** - TBD. We still want to celebrate our 8th graders as they head off to high school, but will need to adjust our plans and dates. We will share more once we get a better idea of what this might look like. The main priority is keeping everyone home, safe and healthy right now!
- **STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK** - Stay tuned as we still have some ideas for how to celebrate our incredible staff in May!
- **SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS** - We are currently going through the submissions for our senior scholarships and will announce the recipients later this month.
- **NEXT MEETING** - Our next PTO meeting will be held via Zoom on April 26th at 7pm. Please email aubrybendpto@gmail.com to receive the invite if you are interested in joining us.
- **JOIN PTO** - We *need* YOU! There are so many ways you can help...some are a one time job and others last throughout the year. No experience necessary! It's a fun and easy way to stay involved, meet other parents and keep your finger on the pulse of middle school. Feel free to share the link with any 5th grade parents. We would love to get them involved as they join our Wolverine family next year. Check out the openings [HERE!](#)

Staff Office Hours

Teacher virtual office hours are 60 minute blocks for students to be able to access their teacher for questions, clarifications and/or concerns. Teachers may be available via email during this time or may hold an open Zoom meeting during this time for students to "pop" into and out of. These are not considered required classes for students, merely times where teachers are available for all their students.

Click this link to the list of teachers and their office hours:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y0aFV8gYrT0Y4PyhgTlJfuq1Ugo1Fuo/view?usp=sharing>

6th Grade News

ELA:

Students started a new project this week called "Communities in Crisis". They researched various groups in our community that have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Students read informational text articles and analyzed the information by writing a summary of the impacted group they selected to research. This project will continue over the next two weeks. Ask your child what group they learned about this past week!

Math:

Advanced math classes started learning how to solve one-step equations this week and will continue to practice this skill in the following week. Integrated math classes continued working on substitution with a variable this week. Mrs. Vail and Mrs. Redlin enjoyed seeing and talking with their students this week!

Social Studies:

Students examined the many theories of what happened to the Mayans. After examining evidence, they had to draw their own conclusions about what could have happened to them. The theories range from overpopulation and starvation, disease, war, even alien abductions! Ask your student what they think happened to them.

Science:

Mrs. Redlin's science class finished up geologic time and will begin astronomy next week. We will be learning about Earth's seasons. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Lockard will be continuing their unit on astronomy with a lesson about lunar phases and eclipses.

7th Grade News

Science:

Our students just finished exploring evidence of evolution and demonstrating their new knowledge through a variety of activities on a virtual choice board! Next week, we will tie in Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection! Have you heard about the peppered moths? You're about to!

Math:

We just finished the challenging topic of surface area! Students learned how to find the area and circumference of circles to help with their calculations for cylinders, and used previous knowledge to find the surface area of prisms and pyramids. Next, we are excited to continue to explore 3D figures with volume to make comparisons between various "containers" virtually and calculate cubic units.

Social Studies:

This week the students will be learning about the famous abolitionist John Brown. After they learn about his cause and tactics, they will decide whether he was a hero or a terrorist and back up their claim with evidence.

ELA:

Students are diving into the literary elements of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963*. We are proud of the connections they are making to this historical fiction novel.

8th Grade News

Social Studies:

Time Heist – End of the year project. Students will need to finish group timeline/slides by the end of Week 5 (4/27-5/1)

Math:

Algebra 1- Polynomials

Math 8- Continuing with Geometry with a focus on angles and triangles.

ELA:

8th Graders are halfway through reading *The Giver* at this point and we are really enjoying seeing how the story unfolds. For Week 5, 8th graders will read chapters 14-18 and begin working on a task of their choice. There will be a **Choice Board** in Canvas for them to choose from. That assignment will be due on May 8th.

In honor of Earth Day this week, we wanted to share a quote from John Muir, "In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks." We sure are enjoying the spring weather and the sunny days!

From the Desk of Mrs. Tate...

This week has been a roller coaster of weather...and it seems like I'm paying more attention to it these days because I have a window just beyond my computer screen. I feel so old when I say to my husband, "Wow, it's so cloudy this morning. Is it going to rain all day?" Funny how I rarely thought of things like that in the hustle and bustle of a middle school. Granted, I always thought about the weather in spring, but it was in reference to lightning when kids are outside during PE or tornado watches/warnings when we had 800+ people in our building. In fact, I've been saying and doing all

kinds of things I normally don't, and that got me thinking...I have had many opportunities to change my mindset during this "shelter in place."

As a staff, we spend time with our kids each year talking about the importance of their mindset as they approach new situations, new classes, challenging tasks, or challenging friendships. Sometime it's in the form of goal-setting or reflective writing, but our actions actually provide the evidence of positive shifts in our mindsets. After the first two weeks of at-home working, I knew I had some serious mindset work to do on myself.

I may have already told you this, but it's just me, my husband and our 24-year-old son at home right now...pretty different from what you are all experiencing. It's quiet and can be boring, so I've had to make some shifts in mindset that impact ME for the better so I can be better for my team and my family. I find that working from home can be ultra-productive or ultra-unproductive, and the habits and routines I have in the brick and mortar at ABMS have been crucial to productivity at home.

When this all started, I slept in and stumbled downstairs two minutes before I needed to get to work, but I quickly realized that wasn't going to work. I think I was getting too much sleep...if that's possible...so I went back to my routine wake-up time and found I had more energy and my mind was clearer. I also started my day with a review of my schedule and email and wrote down a list of things I needed to complete each day. I forced myself to stay at my desk until all of those items were marked off the list.

What this simple change did was to give me back my routine. Yes, I still have the flexibility to take a walk during my lunch break or sit on the deck to check my email, but I am attending to the tasks that could easily be blown-off to tomorrow.

I also run the dishwasher twice as much as I did when I worked outside the home. I actually get my laundry done a lot faster when I can just pop upstairs to switch a load in the middle of the day (and since it's right above my desk, I can hear it when the cycle stops). Unfortunately, I'm a snacker...all day...every day...no matter where I work. It's so weird that I can't lose weight. (Ha Ha) Looks like I won't be shedding that routine.

All of our family routines continue to change as our "shelter in place" continues. Kids have been awesome to be online and engaged in our eLearning opportunities so far, and it will be completely natural for them to start to back away from the expectations as it continues. What may be novel and fun right now might become more work than they want. What may be interesting and new might become routine and dull. These behaviors are very typical during a "normal" school day and are expected and normal during eLearning. What hasn't changed is our kids. They are still adolescents trying to answer the same three questions: Who am I? Who do other people think I am? Who do I want to be?

Of course, on top of those "typical" questions, they're also asking these questions: Why did this pandemic happen? Who is responsible? When will it end? What will life look like after we can see our friends? Did my friends find new friends? Am I still friends with people I haven't seen or spoken to in 5 weeks? It's easy for them to go down a rabbit hole, so our number one goal continues to be maintaining relationships and connections with our kids. We want them to depend on us for a sense of routine and normalcy, so we're doing school work. We're giving assignments. We're giving grades. We're giving feedback.

But, we also know that everyone is in their own personal situation. I read a short piece on the internet last week that struck me. It was titled, "[We are not in the same boat.](#)" It underscores the fact that we all have our own needs, wants, hopes and fears right now. I think it's important for me to say that if you need to take some time and step back from eLearning for you or for your student, we support you.

If you want your student to do more to engage in learning opportunities, we support you. If things are going just fine and you want to maintain the status quo, we support you.

Whatever your family situation – status quo or change – we support you. If you need a change, please let us know that you're okay and you're planning to step back for a bit. We'll understand, and we'll support you.

We value our community and want you to know that you can count on us.

Sincerely,
Diana Tate, Principal

A photograph of a brick wall with large, blue, three-dimensional letters spelling out "Aubry Bend". The wall is made of light-colored bricks with dark mortar. The letters are mounted on the wall and cast shadows. Below the wall, there are dark blue panels, possibly part of a building's facade or a sign.

Aubry Bend