



August 21, 2020

Dear Alton School District Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! This is certainly not the start to the school year we wanted. However, our teachers, staff and administration are looking forward to the first day of remote instruction on Monday. There is no doubt we will face some unique challenges this year but we are so thankful you have placed your trust in our schools as we continue to navigate these uncertain times.

I am sending this letter to share some information I hope you will find helpful as the new school year begins. There is also a notification form attached to this letter regarding privacy and expectations for remote learning. Please take a moment to review this information and do not hesitate to contact your child's school should you have any questions.

*Remote instruction begins this Monday, August 24. Please see your child's school schedule regarding what time live instruction will begin Monday morning. It will be important to get off to a strong start by establishing a regular routine each morning. We realize parents may also have last minute questions leading into Monday's start. Please email questions to parentquestions@altonschools.org for a prompt response.

*Please see our [Childcare/Remote Learning Support](#) link at altonschools.org. In addition to childcare resources, several community members have or will be opening remote learning centers. Students can attend remote learning centers (based on availability) and be provided with support during virtual instruction. Please continue to visit this link often as we are adding and updating childcare/remote learning supports as they become available.

*If you do not have access to the internet in your home, please let your principal or assistant principal know. The District can loan portable WiFi hotspots to assist.

*All teachers are using Google Classroom as a learning management platform this year. This ensures consistency for parents with multiple children at various grade levels. Google Classroom resources and videos for parents can be found at altonschools.org or by using the link below. These resources provide excellent information on how to support your child with remote instruction, including the teacher's Google Classroom. Click here to view these [parent resources](#).

*As shared previously, teachers will provide live (synchronous) instruction daily. They will also record instruction for students, who must be absent during live instruction, in order to be viewed later in the day. If your child will miss live instruction, please report the absence to the teacher or school. Attendance will be taken daily.

*Student meal bags (breakfasts and lunches) are available for pick-up on Mondays and Thursdays at a variety of locations across our community. One of the sites also offers a late afternoon/early evening pick-up. Click here to view the [student meal pick-up locations](#).

*School supplies and other resources will also be available on the buses that deliver meals to our neighborhoods. Earbuds, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, folders and many other school supplies are available on buses so please do not hesitate to ask when picking up meals.

In closing, please know we understand the difficult decision to start the year with remote-only instruction will likely cause some early challenges for both our parents and staff. The first few days of remote instruction may not be smooth as both students and teachers adjust to the format, schedule and unique differences that come with teaching and learning in a virtual environment. Our teachers and staff have been working countless hours to prepare for remote instruction and learning. We graciously ask for your patience, flexibility and understanding as we start the year. Likewise, we know this can be a stressful time for families. Should you encounter any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your teacher or principal. We are here to support you as we begin a new school year like no other in our history. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kristie L. Baumgartner
Superintendent

ATTACHMENT: REMOTE INSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION

PARENT NOTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE
REMOTE INSTRUCTION, PRIVACY AND EXPECTATIONS

The Alton School District, including all schools and teachers, will provide remote instruction to students during the 2020-2021 school year. School staff will communicate with the student as to when videoconferencing, live instruction, recorded lessons and/or other supports will be available – either for individual or group instruction.

Parents of students, participating in a group instructional or related service session via remote instruction, should ensure their student is in a quiet, school-work designated space and/or using headphones and that your student's device is non-public facing.

Students and parents should maintain any information learned about other students in a confidential manner, just as would be expected for students who participate in group sessions and classes while attending in-person instruction. This applies to maintaining confidentiality regarding student participation in livestreamed class lessons and pre-recorded.

No live instruction or pre-recorded lesson may be recorded or redistributed by students or parents in ANY manner. Recording instruction, using screenshots or other inappropriate use of images from remote learning are strictly prohibited.

Parents choosing not to have their child participate in live instructional sessions that will be recorded should contact the teacher and arrange alternate means of obtaining the recorded instruction each day.