

Alief Montessori Community School

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May 16, 2020

Dear AMCS Families,

May 20th is officially the last day of the school year 2019-2020. AMCS will continue to be open for summer school and school administration work. Your teachers will be in touch with you if your child is recommended for summer school.

Our 8th and 5th graders are also busy working on virtual graduation activities. We will be posting the graduation events on the school website.

To our parents, I cannot thank you enough for your support and patience with distance learning. We could not do it without you. By now, your teachers are sending out notices for the end-of-the-year progress reports.

To our teachers, your dedication to duty has been tried and tested beyond limits during these times. You continue to work daily beyond school hours to ensure your students are getting the help they need. Teaching has been harder during the pandemic. We all wish we could go back to normal school days.

School year 2020-2021 is anticipated to open in a very different way. We would most likely add more school days next year to help cushion the impact of disruption from emergency school closures. In the meantime, our "normal" school calendar is still posted on our school website for your reference.

AMCS is considering three scenarios for the fall. Depending on state declaration and public school guidelines, AMCS could either 1. Go back to school as normal. 2. Ccontinue with remote learning for all students or 3. Schedule students to come to school in a limited number at scheduled times and days each week. For the last two scenarios, AMCS plans to open the classrooms virtually everyday so that our teachers are with their students, resembling normal daily class schedule, lessons and activities. We will also continue to provide printed packets.

I also want to inform our AMCS families that due to COVID-19, Texas received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) to eligible families with a one-time payment for each child who previously received free or reduced-price meals. P-EBT is \$285 per eligible child for children 5-18 years old who received SNAP food benefits for March 2020 and children up to 21 years old who are certified for free or reduced-price meals at school in Texas during the 2019-20 school year. The funds would be available in late May to June 2020. For more information, please click on this link: <a href="https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-

I am also happy to inform you that AMCS is working on providing books to build a home library for our students, other than having online access to e-books.

I hope we all stay healthy and well. We cannot underestimate the benefits of social distancing, wearing facemask and washing hands frequently. I have deeper appreciation now for the hand-washing sink we have in every classroom. Our students know to wash their hands many times in the day—after using the bathroom, before and after eating, after PE and recess, after sneezing, etc. I could hear the students policing each other on this. Schools are also considering serving lunch in the classroom to help with social distancing. AMCS serves school lunch in the classroom everyday.

We miss our students.

I will continue to provide updates as I receive new information. Be well.

Sincerely,

Delia Presillas

Superintendent and Principal