



Alamogordo High School  
103 Cuba Ave.  
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

28 Jan 2021

Dear Tigers, Parents, and Guardians,

Woohoo! Almost a year later, the day is almost here! We get to change our banners from, “We Miss our Tigers!” to “Welcome Back, Tigers!”.

On Tuesday, 16 February 2021, Alamogordo High School students will have the opportunity to return to school in “hybrid” mode. I know you have many questions and concerns, and I will try to answer them here. Please understand that our plans may change due to factors beyond our control. While my team and I are trying to think of every possible detail as we plan, we are bound to miss something or plan something that doesn’t work when students actually return. I ask in advance for your grace as we work through the inevitable hiccups.

While we want your students’ school day to be as close to “normal” as possible, it will be much different. I urge every parent and guardian to talk with their students about the importance of following COVID-19 safety protocols: wearing facemasks; having temperatures checked when entering the building; maintaining social distance, washing/disinfecting hands frequently; and going straight to their classrooms, lunch, and dismissal points during transitions. I cannot emphasize enough how much we will need to rely on every student’s integrity to re-open our school and keep it open for the remainder of the school year. If an outbreak occurs, or we are found not following the protocols, we will be closed and back to 100% online again.

Here are your frequently asked questions and answers as of today.

**Q: My student has fallen behind with online learning. What should I do?**

A: Send them to school! Teachers will do everything they can to get students caught up quickly and fill any learning gaps. We want all of our students to pass all of their classes, and for seniors to graduate on time, including those who may not have participated online at all.

**Q: Are students required to return to school in hybrid or can they remain in online instruction?**

A: Hybrid is not mandatory. Parents/Guardians of all AHS students have the option to have their students return in hybrid mode or remain 100% online, regardless of the option they may have chosen at registration. Also, you may change your mind at any time. Our goal is for all AHS students to keep the same classes, the same teachers, and the same schedule in hybrid or 100% online. This may change if a teacher should be unable to teach due to illness or other situations.

**Q: How will we know what cohort our students are assigned to?**

A: We have matched AHS students with siblings in elementary, middle, and high school to their siblings' cohorts. From there we have divided the remaining students by grade level to ensure no more than half of our enrolled students are assigned to either cohort. We are working tonight and through the weekend to complete our cohort assignments. Starting Monday, we will begin calling each parent/guardian with their students' cohort assignments (A or B). We will email this information to you and your students as well. We will do our best to resolve any sibling mismatches to accommodate family situations that may require a cohort reassignment. Your flexibility is most appreciated!

**Q: What days does each cohort attend school?**

A: Cohort A will attend Monday and Tuesday. Cohort B will attend Thursday and Friday. The building will be closed on Wednesdays for deep cleaning.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Because we are starting on Tuesday 16 February, Cohort A will attend only on Tuesday that week. Cleaning will occur Wednesday, 17 February, and Cohort B will attend Thursday and Friday, 18-19 February. Every week after that through the end of the school year on 21 May is a full week (except for spring break 22-26 March), so each cohort will have two days of face-to-face three days of online instruction per week.

**Q: What time should my student show up at school in the morning?**

A: On their assigned cohort days, please have your students arrive at the appropriate entrance between 8:05 and 8:25AM. We will open the doors and begin checking in students at 8:10AM.

**Q: Where does my student go if they are walking, being dropped off, riding a bus, or driving to school?**

A: There will be four student entrances:

- **Car Line Drop-Off & Pick-Up:** The car line remains the same as last year. Enter through the northern-most gate of the band practice lot. There will be signs and security personnel to direct you. Students will exit cars at the designated spot and enter the building through the east 300 hallway. There will be signs and people to direct students. For your students' safety, do not drop off or pick up students in the bus loop, the front (east) faculty parking lot, or anywhere along Cuba Ave. in front of the campus. Students dropped off at any point other than the car line must enter the walker entrance.
- **Handicapped Student Drop-Off & Pick-Up:** Security will admit **ONLY** those dropping off or picking up handicapped students to the front (east) faculty lot near the main entrance.
- **Walkers:** Students walking to school will enter the building through the main (east) entrance by the Tiger statue.
- **Bus Riders:** These students will enter through the security gate at the bus loop and use the 100 wing entrance. This is where we held the drive-through pickup for Chromebooks last year.
- **Drivers:** Students who drive themselves to school will enter through the Tiger Drive gate and be directed to a parking spot. They will enter the building through the west commons entrance, next to the Lawrence B. Johnson Tiger Pit entrance.
- **NOTE:** Walkers will not be allowed through the Tiger Drive gate.

**NOTE FOR DRIVERS:** Please ensure you have your driver's license and proof of insurance to request a parking permit. These will be requested/issued at no cost through your Advisory class by the second week of school. Parking permits are student and vehicle specific. If you may be driving a different car at some point, be sure to have proof of insurance and request a separate permit for both vehicles.

**Q: What time will students be dismissed? What time should I pick up my student?**

A: End-of-day dismissal will be staggered from 3:50-4:00PM.

- Bus riders will be called for dismissal as buses arrive, exiting the through the 100 hallway they entered.
- Car riders, walkers, and drivers will be dismissed between 3:50 and 4:00PM, exiting the same doors they entered.
- The Car Line gate will open at 3:45PM. Parents, please pick up your students no later than 4:15PM.
- All students must leave the campus grounds unless waiting for pick-up.

**Q: I have a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, new student, or special needs student who has never even been in the building. How will students know where to go when they get to school?**

A: We will offer school tours/orientation by appointment to freshmen, new students, and special needs students and their families on Saturday, 13 February. Please watch your email, AHS website, and AHS Facebook page for more information.

**Q: What will be happening the first day?**

A: My goal is to keep students safe, avoid confusion, and get students into the building and into a classroom with a teacher as quickly as possible. From there we will have our first-day student orientation. As students arrive at their respective entry points:

- Temperatures will be checked by APS personnel.
- If a student registers a fever, they will be asked to wait outside for a few minutes, and their temperature will be re-checked. If they still register a fever, APS personnel will move them to an isolation room and parents/guardians will be contacted to pick them up.
- Students who have normal temperatures will enter, pick up a free breakfast, snack, and bottled water, and be assigned to a classroom and teacher near the entry point. This room/teacher may or may not be on their class schedule.
- This temporary classroom is for first-day orientation. Teachers will check schedules, resolve conflicts, provide campus maps, and ensure every student knows where to go for each class. Fire and emergency procedures will be covered. Cohort assignment conflicts will be resolved. Class and lunch transition procedures will be reviewed and practiced. Students will remain in this classroom until lunch time. After lunch they will proceed to designated classes, following an abbreviated class schedule to practice transitions, meet their teachers, and review procedures for the next day.
- End-of-day dismissal will be staggered from 3:50-4:00PM.
- Bus riders will be called for dismissal as buses arrive, exiting the through the 100 hallway they entered.
- Car riders, walkers, and drivers will be dismissed between 3:50 and 4:00PM, exiting the same doors they entered.

- All students must leave the campus grounds unless waiting for pick-up.
- After the first day, students will enter and exit the building through the appropriate entrances and proceed to their first scheduled class.

**Q: What will students need to bring with them daily?**

A: Mandatory: Chromebook & charger, pen, paper, facemask.

Optional/As Required: Backpack, PE gear, hand sanitizer, bottled water, lunch/snack.

**Q: Will textbooks, hall lockers, PE lockers, sports lockers be issued?**

A: Student lockers and textbooks will NOT be issued. Because of social distancing and sanitation requirements, PE and sports lockers will be assigned/used daily. Every item students bring to school each day must go home with them each day.

**Q: Where will students be having lunch?**

A: The AHS Secure Campus policy is still in effect. Students may not leave campus for lunch. All students may have a free lunch provided by student nutrition or bring their own lunch. There will be no refrigerators or microwaves for students to store or reheat lunches brought from home. Students will be encouraged to eat outside. Socially distanced seating will be available both outside and in the commons.

**NOTE:** Food deliveries cannot be accepted, whether from parents, guardians, friends, or commercial delivery.

**Q: What if I need to sign my student in late or out early for an appointment?**

A: We cannot admit parents or visitors into the building. If possible, please call our main number (575.812.6500) in advance to make arrangements. If this is not possible, please call that same number from the visitor parking lot when you arrive.

**Q: If students return in hybrid, will they only get 2 days of instruction per week?**

A: No. All students will still receive and be expected to complete a full five days of instruction each week. On the days students are not in school, they will continue with their classes online asynchronously (student and teacher are not necessarily online with one another at the same time). All AHS teachers will provide both asynchronous online and face-to-face instruction. Live online class meetings will be limited. Teachers will hold office hours and make appointments for students needing to meet live online.

**Q: The amount of work teachers assign is too much. Will this change when they go back to school in hybrid?**

A: All New Mexico high schools are required to teach the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, the Next Generation Science Standards for Science, and the applicable standards for all other classes. These standards are rigorous. However, we understand the unusual hardship online learning has placed on many of our students. Teachers have been instructed not to assign homework (except for AP courses); students must be able to complete all class assignments within the allotted 90-minute block, including any direct instruction/lecture (e.g. if a teacher talks/lectures a total of 30 minutes during a class, the assignments for that class will take no longer than 60 minutes for students to complete); no teacher is to talk/lecture more than 10 minutes without giving students an opportunity to discuss,

ask questions, or practice what they are learning; provide 2-3 minute brain breaks every 20-30 minutes; late work will be accepted without penalty; assignments should be combined wherever possible for students who have fallen far behind. If this isn't happening in any of your student's classes, please contact the teacher first. If you are not satisfied, please contact your student's counselor, one of my assistant principals, or me.

**Q: How will attendance be taken?**

A: Whether 100% online or hybrid, students will be marked as Present if any of the following conditions are met for each assigned class day:

- Student attends class face-to-face with assigned cohort,
- Student checks in with teacher via email, phone call, Meet, etc.,
- Student logs in to teachers' Google Classrooms or any other teacher-assigned online platform activity, or
- Student and parent have completed a Semi-Self-Paced agreement and the student meets the responsibilities of that agreement.

**NOTE:** For excused absences (medical dental appointment, etc.) please call our attendance secretary at 575.812.6500. If you believe a teacher has made an attendance error, please contact the teacher first. If the issue is not resolved, please call our attendance secretary at 575.812.6500.

We will add to these FAQ and post more information as we continue to prepare for our Tigers' return.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Moore, Ed. D.  
Principal