



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

## AMY 5 At James Martin Middle School

3380 Richmond Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134

215-400-7190

Principal: Ms. Paula Furman    Assistant Principal: Dr. Ray Realdine

September 14, 2020

### Dear Students, Parents & Guardians,

Great job successfully making the switch from Google Meets to Zoom! We are confident the Zoom platform will provide a more secure and engaging experience for our students. Thank you to all the students and staff who participated in our first Theme Day Thursday last week - a collage of some of our staff members sporting their Eagles' green is shown below, along with information on this week's Thursday Theme - Constitution Day. **Please carefully review information on all 4 pages below regarding upcoming student assessments, materials and chromebook pick up, events, and reminders.**



**STAR Reading & Math Assessments:** This Wednesday (9/16) and Thursday (9/17), students will be taking the Star Assessment in both Reading and Math. During virtual learning, students should have their cameras ON during any assessments, including Star. This is to allow teachers to monitor the assessment and ensure the integrity of the test. If you are unfamiliar with the Star Assessments from previous years, here is some helpful information:

*We use Star Assessments to help teachers understand what students know and are ready to learn. Students take Star tests once in the fall, winter, and spring, and teachers typically give this test while students are in school. Because we are currently unable to be at school, students will be taking the Star test while at home. Your child's teacher will administer the assessment during their regular class time, and will monitor your child while they take the test using Zoom. If possible, an adult at home should be available during this testing time to help your child log in and ensure they are on task and trying their best. **We ask that you avoid helping your child answer test questions— the best help on the Star Assessment is no help.** This allows us to get a true understanding of where your child is in their reading and math learning. Click the links below to access the Family Guide to Administering Star Remotely, available in three languages. Students can access their Star Assessment through their student portal. When their class time for assessment comes, once logged into their portal, they should click on the link within their portal that looks like the image below (they must click it from their portal, the image below is not a link).*

[Arabic](#)

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)



**iReady Diagnostic:** In addition to the Star Reading and Math assessment, students will also complete an iReady diagnostic for both reading and math. These diagnostics will be completed on Friday, 9/18/20, during students' asynchronous (independent) learning time. Students will receive instruction from their advisory teachers on Friday morning on how to complete the diagnostics. It is expected that students will complete these by the end of the day on Friday. iReady is a computer based learning tool that provides instruction to students at their own individual level, whether they are at grade level, above grade level, or below grade level. The diagnostic allows students to be properly placed into the program. Students can log into iReady AFTER receiving instruction from their advisory teacher by clicking the iReady link in their student portal, which looks like the image below (*they must click it from their portal, the image below is not a link*).



**Materials & Chromebook Pick-Up:** Families who need to pick up learning materials (workbooks and novels) OR Chromebooks may come to the school building beginning Thursday, 9/17/20 between the hours of 10am and 1pm daily (M-F). **Note on Chromebook pickups:** We have heard that lines are long at the city-wide distribution centers for Chromebooks, and are offering a school-based pickup as a service to our students and families. In order to pick up a chromebook at AMY, parents must have ID, know their child's student ID number, and sign a distribution form. If you have a school district chromebook that is broken, you may bring it to the school and we will exchange it for one that is working. We do not have brand new chromebooks to distribute, we will be distributing chromebooks in good working order from our classrooms.


## Upcoming Events

**8th Grade High School Selection Meeting:** Parents and students are welcome at either session, you only need to attend one. The afternoon session has been scheduled during 8th grade lunch time, so please feel free to eat your lunch while learning about high school options and the selection process!). **Zoom links will be sent the day before each session and posted on the student website.**

- **Afternoon Session:** Wednesday, September 23rd - 1:30pm-2:15pm
- **Evening Session:** Thursday, September 24th - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
- **What if I can't make either session?** The evening session will be recorded and posted on the student website, along with a link where you may submit questions, for any families who are unable to attend either session.

**Back-to-School-Night:** Please stay tuned to your emails and the student website - this date and time will be announced very soon!

### Theme Day Thursday - 9/17/20!




AMY at James Martin

Theme Thursday, 9/17/20

CONSTITUTION Day!

Wear Red, White or Blue gear to virtual class on Thursday! Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution and celebrates those who have become American citizens through the process called naturalization.



**AMY @ JM Monthly Calendar:** [Click here for September calendar](#)

**AMY Student Website:** [tinyurl.com/amy5students](http://tinyurl.com/amy5students) - Please check regularly for updates for students and families!

**Reporting Student Absence:** Parents/Guardians should report a student absence using the following online form: [AMY 5 Student Absence Form](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- 1. Are students required to wear uniforms during remote learning?**
  - a. No, however we do ask that students are dressed appropriately (i.e. no pajamas, no offensive language/images, etc)
- 2. Is there a school supply list available?**
  - a. At this time, students will be completing all learning virtually/online. We will provide a school supply list when we get closer to returning to our school buildings.
- 3. What if I forgot my password to log on to my chromebook or Google Classroom?**
  - a. Please contact your advisory teacher to have your password reset
- 4. I could not make it for materials pick-up last week. Will there be another opportunity?**
  - a. Yes! Please check the weekly emails, additional dates will be announced beginning the week of 9/14/20.
- 5. I attended AMY last year and my classes are different from what I picked in the Spring. Why?**
  - a. The School District of Philadelphia is requiring that students be rostered into cohorts (meaning into groups that they stay with all day long, for each class). Because of that, we had to redo class rosters. We look forward to returning to student-selected classes when we are able!

## Technology Support Centers

<b>School District of Philadelphia Education Center</b> 440 N. Broad Street, 1st Floor Lobby, Philadelphia, PA 19130 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repair and Distribution Center</li><li>• Last day for this location is Friday, 9/18/20.</li></ul>	<b>Fitzpatrick Annex Building</b> (rear of Fitzpatrick Elementary School) 4101 Chalfont Drive, Philadelphia PA 19154 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repair and Distribution Center</li></ul>	<b>Martin Luther King High School</b> - 6100 Stenton Avenue; Philadelphia, PA 19138 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution Center ONLY</li></ul>	<b>South Philadelphia High School</b> - 2101 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repair and Distribution Center</li></ul>
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- Open 5 days/week from 9am - 2pm for families to obtain new Chromebooks, or get help with theirs.
- Dedicated telephone support line (215-400-4444) and email (FamilyTechSupport@philasd.org) exclusively for parents and students to help you get your District-issued devices up and running
- Students who are new to AMY should bring their Chromebook from their previous school. If you did not receive a chromebook last year, please visit one of the centers above to pick one up.
- 8th graders who graduated from AMY in June 2020 should keep the chromebook they were issued.

**Attendance:** The School District of Philadelphia has established the following attendance policy and expectations for Virtual Learning:

- **During 100% Digital Learning:** The following guidance for attendance during 100% digital learning will be implemented when students are NOT daily entering school buildings and, instead, receiving all digital instruction. Attendance will be:
  1. Taken for each attendance bearing period for which the student is scheduled.
  2. Recorded for all periods and for all students by the end of each school the day.
  3. If a student attends fewer than all their classes each day and the student's parent or guardian has not provided a written excuse for the absence, the student will be considered cutting class. Parents should email excuse notes to their child's advisory teacher.
- **Students are expected to:**
  1. Attend school daily.
  2. Be prepared each day and
  3. Be ready to learn and engage in instruction.
  4. Complete assignments on time each day for each class.
  5. Adhere to the Student Code of Conduct at all times while engaged in digital learning.
  6. Abide by all internet policies and procedures.
  7. Submit their work assignments for each day, by a pre-established deadline for completion of that work as communicated by the teacher.

## Principal & Assistant Principal Contact Information

<p><b>Principal</b>          Ms. Paula Furman          Email: <a href="mailto:pmfurman@philasd.org">pmfurman@philasd.org</a>          Cell: 215-550-1909 (text preferred)</p>	<p><b>Assistant Principal</b>          Dr. Ray Realdine          Email: <a href="mailto:rrealdine@philasd.org">rrealdine@philasd.org</a>          Cell: 267-225-8466 (text preferred)</p>
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