

Stephen F. Austin High School

“Tradition Of Excellence Since 1881”
AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



1715 West Cesar Chavez • Austin, Texas 78703-4699 • (512) 414-2505

July 22, 2020

Dear Austin High Families,

As we are anticipating what the reopening of schools will look like, know I am thinking of you. These are challenging times. Education of our children is important for their growth and development. Learning in our building from qualified teachers and coaches is ideal. But during this pandemic and the ongoing rise in COVID in our city, county, and state, we must use caution and practice safety.

What will school look like in a virtual setting?

What will school look like in-person?

How will our school and district ensure students and staff remain safe?

These questions, along with many others, are at the forefront of our planning as we move forward with virtual learning starting August 18, 2020. Below are the actions Austin High School is taking as we work together to prepare for the 2020-21 school year:

- Planning for instruction in a virtual setting is underway by AISD and our **campus-based instructional team**.
- **Counselors** are preparing the master schedule, reviewing credit checks, attending trainings, meeting with parents, and responding to family needs.
- **Administrators** are preparing for campus-based professional development, hiring new staff, attending trainings, coordinating Parent Camp, assisting with Maroon Roundup, planning a Back to School video for release in early August, planning for cultural proficiency and inclusiveness with social and emotional learning, meeting with parents, and responding to family needs.
- **Office staff** are registering new students, issuing VOEs, preparing transcripts, attending training, assisting with building preparation, responding to family needs, and so much more....
- The **PTSA** is working collaboratively with our staff to support teachers and their needs.

Even though we are working virtually, we are here for you and want to help with your needs. We miss our students and would like nothing more than to greet them on August 18th with a smile and hug. We know families are struggling and want what is best for their children. Below are some assurances we hope put to rest some anxieties you may be experiencing as a result of the unknown:

- We will take care of our students. Transition camp for incoming 9th grade students is a “go” (virtually), senior breakfast is a “go” (when we are allowed to return in-person), and school will begin August 18.
- Students will receive schedules via email on or before August 14.
- The [A/B Block Schedule](#) for the year has been finalized and is posted to the school website.
- The [bell schedule](#) will remain the same and is posted to the school website.
- Classes will meet virtually starting August 18th via Zoom at the start of each block of time.
- Students will be expected to log into BLEND, attend class (virtually), and use [AISD issued Chromebooks](#) or personal electronic devices as a means to communicate on a daily basis

according to the A/B Block Schedule. Grading will occur as normal, based on AISD Policy. Attendance will be taken according to TEA Guidelines. Accommodations will be followed according to IEPs and 504 Plans.

- [Safety measures](#) will be followed, according to the AISD Guidelines outlined by the CDC, Travis County Health Department, and City of Austin.

So that we can better support your needs, we have listed below staff who are currently on contract that are available to help should you have questions. In addition, we've created a [link](#) for you to provide input on needs your family may have due to COVID as we move into the virtual setting. *The information you share is confidential and will only be shared with staff who are skilled with addressing your needs.*

We are Maroons. We are strong. We will get through this together. It has been a challenging couple of months on many levels, but know you and your children are a priority in our daily work. Stay tuned to [our website](#) for the latest updates on reopening. We miss you and are looking forward to engaging soon on more details about virtual and in-person instruction.

Loyal Forever,

Amy Taylor
Austin High School Principal

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