

THE NEWS LETTER



Ascend Middle School
September 2020

RETURN TO SCHOOL #SAFELYFORWARD

Greetings Parents,

Thank you so very much for your help and support as we educate our scholars in these strange circumstances. Hopefully everyone is well and safe. With our phased return to school we wanted to ensure that you had as much clarity as possible for some big ticket items. This newsletter will address steps needed for a successful in-person, hybrid and remote return to school.

When does In-Person learning start?

- 6th Grade scholars will return next Monday Sept. 28th
- 7th and 8th Grade will return Monday Oct. 5th
- Carline will start promptly at 7 AM

Will my scholar's class schedule change?

Most scholars class schedules will change because of capacity issues. All scholars will still go to the same classes as before, but just in a different order.

Will the bell schedule change?

Yes! The new bell schedule is posted below.

| Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7:30-8:00 am | Advisory |
| 8:10-9:10 am | 1A/1B |
| 9:20-10:20 am | 2A/2B |
| 10:30-11:30 pm | 3A/3B |
| 11:40-12:40 pm | 4A/4B |
| 12:40-1:20 pm | lunch |
| 1:30-2:30 pm | Intervention |
| 2:40-3:15 pm | Homework Hall |
| 3:15-3:45 pm | Scholar Dismissal/Carline |

| Wednesday | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 7:30-8:00 am | Advisory |
| 8:10-9:10 am | 1A/1B |
| 9:20-10:20 am | 2A/2B |
| 10:30-11:30 pm | 3A/3B |
| 11:40-12:40 pm | 4A/4B |
| 12:40-1:20 pm | lunch |
| 1:20-2:00 pm | Homework Hall |
| 2:00-2:30 pm | Scholar Dismissal/Carline |

Welcome to our monthly newsletter to help parents and families engaged and informed with the current happenings at Ascend Middle School. Please reach out if you have any questions. We cannot wait to continuing building a partnership with our families!

Sincerely,

Ascend MS Deans,
Huston Mgbemena &
Kristen Fondren

Uniforms

Carline

What do our scholars wear?

Great question! Scholars will be asked to wear:

- Plain Polo shirt (NO LOGOS)
 - 6th Grade- Black
 - 7th Grade- Gray
 - 8th Grade- White

NOTE: Scholars will **not** need an Ascend patch on their polo shirt.

- Khaki pants, skirts
 - All scholars must wear either pants or a skirt.
 - Skirt must be appropriate length, touching the top of the scholar's knee.
 - Pants can have belt loops or elastic waist.
 - Pants **CANNOT** have elastic around the ankle. No Joggers.
 - Scholars **CANNOT** wear shorts.
- Scholars must wear a belt if pants or skirt has loops
 - Any color belt
- Shoes and Socks
 - Scholars can wear any shoe color (new only for 20-21 school year)
 - Scholar must wear full shoes
 - NO Flip-flops, slides, sandals, high heels etc.
 - Scholars must wear either black or white socks
- **Jewelry:** No other jewelry (besides watches and earrings may be worn).
- **Earrings:** Scholars can wear **stud** earrings only
- **Hair:** Scholar hair color **must** be a naturally occurring color (black, brown, blonde, red or grey). Color that is not natural is prohibited during the school year.
- Hair bows and Head bands: Scholars may wear head bands or hair bows that represent school colors: black, green, white, or gray.

What will carline look like?

- Carline will start promptly at 7 AM
- No drop-offs: Scholars must remain in their vehicles for screening
- Parents should pre-screen their scholars for Covid-19 at home using the Luminare website below
 - <https://checkforcorona.com/uplift-students#/screening>
- Parents will tell the staff member the animal of the day
- Scholars will have their temperatures checked by staff member while in vehicle
- Scholar and parent will be asked a series of COVID screening questions
- If scholar has a primary sibling, parent must go through both carlines (cannot drop a sibling at the other sibling's school)
- Parents must display carline number on dash for afternoon carline.
- No parents will be allowed to enter the building without an appointment
 - This is to ensure we are meeting all COVID capacity guidelines

Hybrid Learners:

- **6th grade hybrid scholars will come to campus every Monday and Tuesday**
- **7th and 8th grade hybrid will receive their assigned days on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.**



Supplies

What supplies do my scholars have to bring?

- Chromebook: If scholar was given a chromebook they must bring it each day to campus. Scholars may be asked to go back home to retrieve it if they do not have it at carline screening.
- No Backpacks
 - Scholars can bring drawstring bags
- Pencils
- Math book from supply pick up

Masks

- All scholars are required to wear masks while on campus
- Masks may have designs and can be whatever color, but must be school appropriate
- Scholars will not be allowed onto campus without a mask
- Face shields will be provided for meal times
- Failure to wear a mask will result in disciplinary action

Learning Options

Due to capacity and network guidelines, parents cannot change their learning option for their scholars until the start of the new semester. The only exception is if your scholar is learning fully in-person or hybrid and you would like to change your scholar to fully virtual.

Network

Benchmarks

Ascend Middle School will be taking the network benchmark assessments October 5-October 8, 2020 with make ups the following week. Grades will be assessed in the following subjects:

- 6th Grade: Reading, Math
- 7th Grade: Reading, Math, Writing
- 8th Grade: Reading, Math, Science, and Humanities

If your scholar receives supplemental aides as a testing accommodation AND is learning

virtually from home, please look out for an email in the coming weeks to pick up a testing folder for your scholar.

