



# Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District

## Jr Sr High School

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10/27/2020

Greetings APW Families,

We hope this letter finds you well during these challenging and strange times! Our number one priority since the beginning of September has been to provide a healthy and safe learning environment for students and staff. We have accomplished that so far! As we have progressed through the school year, we have continuously looked to improve our practices on how we serve our students. Some of the positive changes we have made include offering in-person band and chorus lessons, providing appropriate athletic and extracurricular experiences, and maximizing our teachers' schedules to get them in front of their students as much as possible. We have received feedback from students, staff, and parents on the effectiveness of our current instructional model, and we believe we can provide an even better service to our students based on this input.

Currently, our high school students are being taught and supported by most of their teachers, but not all, due to the complexity of high school course offerings, our hybrid schedule, and social distancing requirements. Our goal for the start of Marking Period 2 (November 16<sup>th</sup>) is to adjust high school student and staff schedules to ensure that students have the opportunity to be taught in-person by all of their core subject teachers (English, Math, Science, Social Studies). At this time, elective and special classes will remain virtual. This change will require students to move from room-to-room. Our current model isolates students to one room and our teachers rotate to each room to provide instruction. After conducting some research, we have discovered that other area schools are safely accomplishing this and we feel we can do the same. In the coming weeks, our team will be building a new master schedule for students and staff and creating health and safety expectations for everyone.

### Items to consider:

- ✓ This plan does not include 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The current instructional model for these grades has been successful as students are in front of all of their core teachers.
- ✓ We believe this plan will improve high school student achievement and engagement. Students will be in front of all of their core teachers to receive high quality, in-person instruction.
- ✓ Students will continue to attend in-person classes on the days that they currently do. The big difference is that they will be moving to various classrooms to receive instruction.
- ✓ Students will have the same expectations to learn virtually when they are not in school.
- ✓ Most high school courses will still be utilizing Edgenuity as an instructional tool and a virtual course "textbook."
- ✓ We are hoping that this new high school model will encourage students to stay enrolled in our in-person, hybrid model, and this change will hopefully entice students who have elected to go 100% virtual to return to us in-person.
- ✓ Health and safety will remain our number one priority. Students and staff will be educated and trained on how to conduct themselves in our new high school model.

The goal of this letter is to inform you of this exciting change! All the details have not been worked out but we will be working diligently in the coming weeks to establish a high school schedule that supports student achievement. More communication will be shared as we move closer to Marking Period 2.

Sincerely,

*J. T. Olsen*

Joseph T. Olsen  
Principal