

October 8, 2020

Dear Families,

After the first few weeks of hybrid and remote instruction this fall, we reflected on the model we had built and determined it was time to adjust. ACSD's new elementary Remote Academy is a response to two needs: (1) The need to develop a sustainable workload for teachers who are working with in-person students, and (2) The need to provide students and families opting for totally remote instruction with dedicated teachers and a more consistent academic program. **If you are considering the Remote Academy option for your elementary-aged student, here is what you need to know:**

Classes and Teachers

Remote Academy students will be assigned to classes with peers from across the district. Students will be making connections and building relationships with the other fully remote students in their class. Classroom teachers include Megan Cheresnick (Grades K-1), Erin McRaith (Grades 2-3), Elaine Pentaleri (Grades 4-5), and Tracey Harrington (Grade 6). They will be reaching out to their students in the coming days to introduce themselves and begin to give shape to the daily and weekly remote program.

Arts, Movement, Spanish (AMS), and Special Education

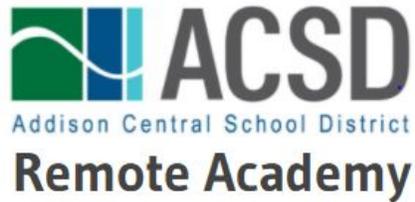
Remote AMS classes will be taught by Sarah Flinn (Art), Sarah Metcalf/Steve Peisch (Music), Cyndi Palmer (Physical Education), and Connie Mosquera (Spanish). Sarah Niebuhr will provide remote special education services to students with IEPs.

Connections to School

Students will continue to receive services (e.g., counseling, intervention, Speech, OT, PT) from their schools and providers as needed. School principals will remain a primary point of contact between your family and your child's education. Students who are in the Remote Academy will receive school-wide emails and information about events and activities happening at or through school, but will not receive information from the classroom teachers as they have new teachers now.

Instructional Time

Time guidelines shared in ACSD's [Re-Entry Plan](#) still apply in the Remote Academy. For students in Kindergarten through grade 2, remote school consists of approximately 3.5-4 hours of active learning each day. Grades 3 through 6, approximately 5.5 hours per day. Active learning includes classroom instruction, art, music, PE, Spanish, and recess. Time guidelines are meant to inform teacher planning. Some students will need more or less time to achieve targeted learning outcomes.



Daily Schedule

The Remote Academy team is finalizing a master schedule. It will include daily morning check-ins with the classroom teacher and learning engagements in art, music, PE, and Spanish (for grades 2-6) each week. There will be more "real time" meetings and instruction both with classroom teachers and AMS teachers, but many learning activities will be designed for asynchronous engagement, allowing some flexibility to accommodate families' schedules.

Start Dates

Remote Academy start dates align with students' return to 4.5 day/week learning:

Monday, October 12 - Remote Academy begins for **Kindergarten through grade 2.**

Monday, October 19 - Remote Academy begins for **grades 3 through 6.**

Week of October 19 - Remote only instruction for art, music, PE, and Spanish begins for all grade levels.

Enrollment Deadlines

We are giving families a firm deadline to change their minds about in-person or fully remote and are asking you to stick with your decision until the semester break (third week in January). This will help us achieve the stability we are needing for students and families and for teachers. In January, families may choose a different option.

This fall, the last day to enroll in the Remote Academy is **Wednesday, October 14**. **Please tell your building principal if you would like your child/children to participate.**

Of note, Remote Academy vs. remote instruction

If a child is enrolled in in-person learning and needs to be out of school for an extended period (e.g., quarantining), they will not typically join the Remote Academy. Instead, they will continue to receive remote instruction from their regular classroom teacher much like they have through the hybrid model this fall.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns about the above information.

Sincerely,

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