



AUGUSTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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James Anastasio, M.A.
Superintendent

October 6, 2020

Katherine Grondin,
CAS
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Students and Parents:

Kathy Casparius,
M.B.A., M.C.T.E.
Business Manager

It is hard to believe school has been in session for a month and what a month it has been. The education we all experienced and thought would never change has been reinvented at a pace that would have been difficult to imagine prior to March 12th. As a result, education is different and more important than it has ever been.

Susan Walters, CAS
Director of Special
Education

Every aspect of life has been greatly impacted by COVID 19. Some of those impacts are obvious; social distancing, isolation, lost employment, masks and meeting the basic needs of many. Some of the less obvious impacts have been; depression, hunger, lost faith in the future and a rocked sense of normalcy.

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Schools have always been a place where students at all levels were able to learn, socialize, mature, and experience what community means and how it plays out in a supportive and caring place. Parents and guardians could drop students at school, put them on the bus, or waive as they drove away from home with little concern about the potential of them being exposed to a dangerous virus in the middle of a pandemic. It is much different now.

School is still a safe place where professionals who were never prepared for what they are being asked to do are learning and teaching at the same time. They care about their students and colleagues more than some realize. Their goals haven't changed, but how they meet them has. Education has always been enhanced by building a relationship with students. That is much more difficult through a computer screen and on a part time basis in person, but teachers do not give up. They are creative, persistent, and are figuring out how to effectively teach in the new educational world that the pandemic has created. Administrators are also experiencing something much different. Nowhere in their educational program did the terms remote learning or pandemic ever come up. It is safe to say that all educators are doing the best they can and improving the experience for students as a result.

Being a parent full time, and in many cases a part time teacher, is a monumental task which is why the partnership between home and school has never been more important. Parents, guardians, and students have been outstanding and supportive. Together it will be possible to provide an education in this difficult and more than unusual situation. Everyone wants school to be a five day a week event where students and staff can work side by side in an environment free of the virus. Schools are supposed to be places where social distancing and masks are in the past and students can be together in the classroom, on the playgrounds, in the gym, on the fields, and where socializing is encouraged and normal. Until that time arrives, which we hope is sooner than later, it is essential that everyone continue to work together to make the best of a difficult situation. **STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**

Sincerely,


Jim Anastasio
Superintendent of Schools