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July 2020

I am overjoyed to welcome all of our returning and new American Lakes School families to the 2020-21 school year. I can't wait to see all of our scholars via distance learning. As we all know we are in the middle of some very trying and difficult times that are affecting everyone, but NUSD and American Lakes School's top priority is the commitment to the safety and continued education of your scholars. Distance learning will be different from how it was delivered in the spring of 2020. Teachers will be providing no less than 3 hours of interactive, real-time instruction virtually to TK-6th grade students daily. Students will also have additional time to work independently on their assignments, and they will also have opportunities for social emotional learning and activities to connect them to school. Our middle school will continue to have a 6-period day, and scholars are expected to attend all of their classes each day based on their assigned schedule which they will receive prior to the start of school. Middle school scholars will have a modified day that is on a rotated schedule in order to maximize instructional time for all classes. Teachers will have office hours to allow students and parents to reach them virtually for support. The district office, American Lakes School teachers, staff and I are working hand in hand to make sure we have a successful school year for all of our students. Please refer to our [distance learning schedule document](#), which outlines the components of your students' day and some example schedules.

American Lakes School teachers and staff are committed to working with you to educate your scholars by using engaging and challenging state-approved curriculum, 21st century technology, and high standards on a daily basis to make sure your scholar is college and career ready and a productive and responsible global citizen. American Lakes School will continue to implement Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) and will use proactive strategies to improve school climate. This year the teachers, staff and I are excited to take the first steps towards candidacy of becoming an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) by implementing inquiry-based instruction with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) focused curriculum.

As we begin our second full year of being a Pre-K through 8th grade school, we are excited about the new physical changes that are occurring on our campus. This summer construction started on the new 7th and 8th grade classrooms, new gym and full 400 meter track and field.

To ensure that our students have what they need to engage in distance learning successfully, we are hosting textbook and technology distribution days. These will be very similar to our drive-up technology distribution days last spring. Please drive up to the front of the school, and we will check out your student(s) materials to you while you are in your car. The schedule is below:

#### **Textbook/Technology Distribution Dates:**

- **August 6th, August 20th, August 21st, August 25th & August 26th:** 8am-12am
- **August 13th & August 24th:** 8am-12am; 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- **August 27th and beyond** individual pick up times will be arranged with families through the site
  - **Please note that AM pick up times will be alphabetically arranged by last name:**
  - **8:00-9:00 A-F; 9:00-10:00 G-M; 10:00-11:00 N-S; 11:00-12:00 T-Z**

#### **Important Dates and Times:**

- **Elementary teacher assignments will be shared with families no later than August 21.**
- **Middle School Schedules will be available in Infinite Campus no later than August 21.**
- **First day of school:** Thursday, August 27th.
- **School starts daily for all grades at 7:45 am**

I look forward to welcoming you and your students back to our virtual campus! Our virtual office opens August 3rd. **If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 567-5500, or email us at [ALSvirtual@natomasunified.org](mailto:ALSvirtual@natomasunified.org).** You may also visit our website: <https://natomasunified.org/als/>