



November 16, 2020

Dear ALH Students, Families, and Staff,

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and doing well overall, in spite of the ongoing pandemic, the associated restrictions, and the general toll it has taken on all of us, and in all areas of life. Back in March, when we first closed the school and began teaching and learning remotely, none of us could have predicted that we would still be in the midst of this situation, and still charged with teaching and learning remotely, but also through a combination of in-person and hybrid learning models as well. In our commitment to provide the best educational program and the access and opportunity to participate in as close to a “real school” experience as possible, we forged ahead with our reopening plan, and the variety of learning models to meet the needs and comfortability levels of all our students and families. We have done well, all factors considered, as our building has remained open to in-person instruction. We were also able to complete a successful soccer season this fall, and we are happy to state that we still have not had any positive COVID-19 cases at ALH. I want to thank each one of you for respecting our safety policies and procedures, and for your ongoing commitment to keeping yourselves and each other safe through your own actions. We cannot be successful without everyone doing their part, and your endurance and resilience is acknowledged and appreciated.

We have come to the point, however, where even those of us who consider ourselves stronger are experiencing what is being called, “COVID Fatigue.” The comprehensive safety measures, including remote teaching and learning, have contributed greatly to this fatigue, and teachers and students alike are finding it increasingly more difficult to keep up with the content and skills expected to be covered each week. As a result, we are seeing more students falling behind and grades are suffering. In addition, teachers are struggling with finding the time outside the school day to follow up with students who need more contact and support. Thus, we have made the decision to make Wednesdays asynchronous instruction days until further notice. This will go into effect **starting Wednesday, December 2nd**. This means that all students, regardless of learning group, will log in to their classes remotely from home, and not report to the building to attend classes. Students will log into Schoology to access posted assignments instead of attending their regularly scheduled classes on Wednesdays *only*. Learning Groups One, Two, and Three will continue with their current in-person schedule for the remainder of the week.

This was a decision that we did not take lightly, and we understand that some students and families may have concerns about not having in-person classes on Wednesdays. As such, we will be offering the opportunity for students to come to the building to participate in asynchronous instruction with support staff on Wednesdays, located in the Student Union. ALH Staff will be following up with families directly over the next week regarding this option and to answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, please review the important updated information from our Food Services Staff regarding meals during remote instruction.

Meals for Remote Students

We are enhancing our process for providing ALH remote students with school breakfast and lunch. We have developed a Google Form that allows for all students who are attending remotely to choose a breakfast and lunch for all the days they are off campus. The form can be accessed from our website, www.albanyleadershiphigh.org, under the School Reopening Plan and Food Service. The form allows students to select from three options outlined below:

Option 1 – Remote - Same Day Lunch and Next Day Breakfast

- Remote students have the option of a hot lunch for the day and a breakfast meal to take home for the next morning.

Option 2 – Hybrid students can pick up as they leave for the day, after in person instruction day

- Students who attend in-person two times per week will have the ability to select a breakfast and lunch for the next day when they are remote. Upon leaving for the day they will be able to pick up their meal from the school cafeteria to take home with them.

Option 3 – 5 Day Meal

- Students who are fully remote can choose a breakfast and lunch option for a 5-day period. Meals can be picked up between 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Meals being sent home will be packaged individually and come with instructions for heating or preparation.

We ask that students do not skip classes to come to the building to pick up meals. Meals can be picked up by other family members, so that students do not miss any class time. If a student is picking up the meals, it should occur outside of the school day. Please contact the Main Office at (518) 694-5300 if there is a conflict with arranging for meal pick-up so that we can help facilitate.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns, and please, continue to take care, stay safe, and stay strong. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,



Cariña D. Cook

Principal/CEO