



August 21, 2020

# Friday Flashback...

A Family-Friendly Weekly Update

*To provide additional communication for families on the re-opening of school, this short newsletter will be available each Friday.*

## Notes from Dr. Graczyk:

Teachers began the 2020-2021 school year this week with several days of professional development. The staff is excited to start the school year and working very hard to have a smooth transition throughout the coming months. In addition, the following items are important as we virtually welcome students back to school:

- Securing supplies – Personal Protective Equipment (masks, face shields, etc.) were ordered and have been delivered.
- Technology – Most of the personal technology for students has been received and distributed; some items remain on back order.
- Food Service items – Information on meals for students while on virtual learning is posted on the web site: [www.avsdweb.org](http://www.avsdweb.org).

Some items remain fluid:

- The *Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)* – The District continues to review the law and any applications from employees. This law may create a shortage of staff to work in the schools.
- The District continues to work on transportation and encourages any parent/guardian that will provide their own transportation to AND from school to complete the brief survey. This information is also posted on the web site: [www.avsdweb.org](http://www.avsdweb.org).
- The guidelines surrounding sports and events continues to change. The District will comply with all county and state criteria as it pertains to athletics. Updates will be posted on the web site and sent out via DYNAmail as decisions are made.

As we approach the new school year, we look at this unique opportunity to not only educate, but to learn from each other. Together we can make this year a memorable and positive one for students, staff, and families. Together we can overcome challenges. Together we can and together we will continue to build a better Allegheny Valley.

Best,  
Dr. G



Allegheny Valley School District  
*Together We Can*

## Committee Reports:

### Reopening of School

- The committee continues to meet to review the plan and make any necessary updates.
- New members were added to the committee; we thank the parents who have volunteered to participate and bring new ideas, and a new point of view, to the committee.
- The next meeting will begin working on details for the Hybrid plan to begin in September.
- The committee is finishing a Q&A for parents that provides additional information.

### Health & Safety

- The committee continues to meet to finalize the details of the Health & Safety Plan.
- The group is preparing teacher training for return to school; this session will be held virtually on August 17 and review procedures for entering the buildings.
- The committee is also putting together Q&A for staff members.
- The committee is working to create a hotline for families to access before and after school for COVID-related questions.

## Q&A

**Q: I'm not receiving information from Blackboard Connect; what do I do?**

**A:** First, please check your parent portal and make sure your information is correct in the system. If the information is correct, please email Jan Zastawniak, [jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us), and she will look into the issue.

**Q: When phased in learning occurs, will students in the same families be scheduled on the same days to attend the buildings?**

**A:** That is the intent, parents should talk with their child's administrator, and District officials will work to have the students attend on same days.

## Resources

**Springdale Free Public Library** - The Springdale Free Public Library offers resources for area families. Please contact them for additional information:



**Trying Together** - In collaboration with Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and others, this group has developed a valuable resource for finding open child care spots in Allegheny County. [The Allegheny Child Care Finder website](#), launched in May, enables families to search for available child care spots at early learning, after-school, out-of-school, and virtual programs in real time.

In addition, *Trying Together's* experts are available to provide instruction on how to use the search tool and, more generally, how to find, choose, and pay for high-quality child care in Allegheny County. To schedule a presentation or webinar with them, or to invite them to be part of an upcoming meeting you're hosting, please contact [info@tryingtogether.org](mailto:info@tryingtogether.org).

## Important Dates:

- Aug. 24 First Day for Students
- Sept. 7 Labor Day Holiday, District closed
- Sept. 8 School Board Planning Session, 7:00 p.m.  
**Monthly planning meeting** of the Board.
- Sept. 15 School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
Monthly meeting of the Board.

*Friday Flashback* is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. All questions concerning the newsletter or information contained in the newsletter should be sent to: [pgraczyk@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:pgraczyk@avsd.k12.pa.us).

### PK-12 Cyber School

- For information on the Dynamo Virtual Academy, please contact:

Elementary:

Jennifer Vecchio

[jvecchio@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jvecchio@avsd.k12.pa.us)

Secondary: Andrew

Leviski

[aleviski@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:aleviski@avsd.k12.pa.us)

### Finances

-Available grants continue to be researched to help support resources for the reopening of school.

*Questions & comments*

*should be emailed to:*

[pgraczyk@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:pgraczyk@avsd.k12.pa.us)