



# ACADEMY

FOR MATH, ENGINEERING & SCIENCE

Principal's Message 2020-21

July 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

The start of the 2020-21 school year is quickly approaching, the school has been busy planning for the safety and security of staff and students in compliance with State of Utah Health Department requirements and Utah State Board of Education directives. Thank you for your patience as we have worked through reopening plans and health mitigation efforts.

### **Reopening Plan**

In order to plan for this unprecedented school year, there were several considerations that we took into account. As a school-within-a-school that partners with both the University of Utah and Cottonwood High School, any decisions we make have an impact beyond just our school. The AMES Board of Trustees met last night July 30, 2020 to review reopening plans submitted by the administration.

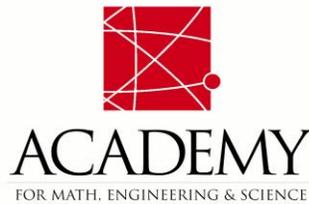
**Decision:** The Board of Trustees made the decision that AMES will open the 2020-21 School Year on August 24, 2020 with FULL ONLINE instruction. On a monthly basis, the Board of Trustees will be re-evaluating whether to continue full online instruction; any change would be based on health department statistics, health department directives, and AMES student engagement data.

### **Distance Learning Options**

Because the Board has opted for an ONLINE opening at AMES, we are prepared to offer computers, and/or wireless internet access to any family that needs it. Please reach out to the AMES main office to request this type of support. The AMES/University of Utah classes will be offered online only. We are prepared to support our students in any way possible. Students will be encouraged to participate in their Cottonwood classes in-person. Please contact the AMES office if you have transportation concerns.

### **Additional Support**

We will support students that need extra academic interventions by providing in-person intervention. Qualified students who would like to participate in the Cottonwood High School free/reduced lunch program, students who need support with their Individual Education Plan, or students who need other forms of academic or social/emotional support.



### **University of Utah Classes**

The University of Utah concurrent enrollment classes will all be online, per the decision of the University. Additionally, the Chemistry lab associated with the Chemistry class taught through AMES will not be offered concurrently with Chemistry. Students will have the option to take the lab must do so through the University at a later date, to be determined.

### **Covid-19 School Manual**

The State of Utah released a Covid-19 School Manual on June 30, 2020. The link to the manual from the AMES web site is <https://www.ames-slc.org/covid-19-school-manual>

### **Schedule Changes**

All student schedules will be available for viewing starting August 10th. At that time 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents can email their counselor to make changes to their schedule, set up a virtual meeting, or plan to attend in-person schedule changes (procedure for in-person schedule changes has yet to be determined; please look for an email from your counselor regarding in-person schedule changes). For incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, class changes can be made on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember, any changes to Cottonwood classes take up to a week to process, adjustments may be made to students schedules based on class loads, so it's important to continue checking your schedule every few days. For new students, instructions on how to log into Aspire (<https://ames.usoe-dcs.org/>) will be sent to you before the 10th, and will be posted on the AMES website.

### **Information for New Students**

We are busy preparing a virtual tour of the school and videos to help new students and parents get to know AMES. These videos will be available Wednesday August 12, 2020 on the AMES website. Our goal is to make the transition to AMES as easy as possible.

### **Specific School Changes Related to Covid-19**

For students who will still be participating in their Cottonwood High School elective classes, here are some safety changes that CHS has implemented: Cottonwood High School will close the drinking fountains and instead will provide water refill stations. The hallways will feature directional signs to



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ease crowding during transition times. Entrance and exit signals will be located on all entrance doors to the school. The custodial staff will take additional cleaning and sanitation measures.

Thank you for your patience as we worked through what seemed like daily changes to the landscape of education and personal health through the summer.

Thank you,



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