




Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Application

Status: **Approved**

 Hermitage School District (0601000)

School Year 2021-2022

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Incomplete applications will be returned to the district.
A notification letter will be sent to the superintendent at the email address listed above upon approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

NOTE: The approved application must then be posted on the district website - State Required Information.

District:	
LEA #:	0601000
Superintendent:	Tracy Tucker
Email:	tracy.tucker@hermitageschools.org
Phone:	(870) 463-2246
Duration Requested (not to exceed five years):	5 Years (School year 2021-2022 to 2026-2027)



AMI (Alternate Method of Instruction)

As per Arkansas Code Annotated Â§ 6-10-127 a district may apply for up to 10 days of AMI for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including [remote] learning, on days when the district is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances such as:

- contagious disease outbreak
- inclement weather
- other acts of God
- utility outage

Number of AMI days requested by the district. 10
(Please note that all AMI days utilized must be noted in eSchool. Sporting events, funerals, other school events, lack of substitutes, or lack of bus drivers do not qualify as exceptional circumstances.)

Provide a description of the AMI assignments and materials used at each school within the district to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students. Please include information if the district will utilize technology-based assignments or paper packets. (AMI packets must be available on-line or have been sent home prior to the designation of an AMI day)



LEA INSIGHTS

Elementary (K-6):

Hermitage Elementary students will complete assignments that are uploaded in Google Classroom.

Each student will be issued a Chromebook by the end of the first week of school. Assignments needed for all 10 possible AMI days will be added to each class's Google Classroom under a special topic by the end of the first week of school. The assignments will be adjusted throughout the year as students master topics. There may be some additional supplies and materials that will be needed for assignments. Any other needed material/s will be sent home the first week of school.

Families will be surveyed concerning internet access upon enrollment for the school year. If a family needs a hotspot for connectivity at home, those hotspots will be provided by the district upon completion of a user agreement.

All alternative methods of instruction will be to accomplish one or all of the following:

- support previous and essential learnings,
- extend previous learning, or
- remediate deficient skills.

Subjects covered during AMI will include the following:

Literacy

Math

5th and 6th Only - Science

5th and 6th Only - History

Enrichment Activities

K - Physical Education

1 - Computer Lab

2 - Music

3 - Library

4-6 - Art

Assignments will be differentiated for students according to grade level, instructional needs, and educational plans. Special services such as speech, OT, PT and Special Education will send individual lessons home for their students with IEPs. Teachers and therapists that provide these services will be accessible to students served during AMI days utilized. Any students who are taking classes remotely will continue their learning as required by the expectations of the remote learning option.

Teachers at all grade levels will discuss the expectations of the work to be completed for the AMI days beforehand in the classroom. If the AMI plan is implemented, students and parents will receive a call through the district Push Notification System, the district Facebook page, and student email to give instructions of implementation of the plan. Once a student returns to school from the day(s) missed due to the district implementing the AMI plan, the student will have until the second day he/she returns to school to turn in the



LEA INSIGHTS

Students will have until the second day he/she returns to school to turn in the assignments for the AMI day(s).

Teachers and therapists that provide special services will be available during any utilized AMI day through email, Google Meet, Zoom, or by phone from 9 AM - 3 PM. The availability of the teacher or therapist will be to clarify or explain any assignment, to support the student with any essential learning needed to complete the assignment or to provide services for special needs.

High School (7-12) :

Hermitage High School will issue a Chromebook to each student by the end of the first week of school. Assignments needed for the first five possible AMI days will be uploaded to Google Classroom prior to the start of the first semester, and assignments needed for the second five possible AMI days will be uploaded prior to the start of the second semester. There may be some additional supplies and materials that will be needed for some uploaded assignments. Any other needed material will be sent home the first week of school. All alternative methods of instruction will be to accomplish one or all of the following: support previous learnings, extend previous learning, or to remediate deficient skills.

Assignments will be differentiated for students according to grade level, instructional needs, and educational plans. Special services such as speech, OT, PT and Special Education will create individual lessons to either be sent home or uploaded for their students with IEPs. Teachers and therapists that provide these services will be accessible to students served during AMI days utilized. Any students who are taking classes remotely will continue their learning as required by the expectations of the remote learning option.

Teachers at all grade levels will discuss the expectations of the work to be completed for the AMI days beforehand in the classroom. If the AMI plan is implemented, students and parents will receive a text through the district messaging system to give instructions of implementation of the plan. Once a student returns to school from the day(s) missed due to the district implementing the AMI plan, the student will have until the 2nd day he/she returns to school to turn in the assignments for the AMI day(s).

Teachers will be expected to maintain electronic office hours (9:00AM-3:00PM) allowing students to contact them through email and/or Google Classroom. Teachers will be available to answer questions through the use of email or Google Classroom. Teachers utilizing Google Classroom, Zoom, email, or other similar technologies will be able to assist students as he/she completes assignments by providing specific feedback or offering guidance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

High School Grades 7-12

Students in grades 7-12 will receive assignments for each class that a student would attend on that particular utilized AMI day. These assignments will reinforce and support essential learnings that are critical to the subject area at that grade level. In some instances however as teachers see the need, assignments may review and reinforce previous essential learnings to the



LEA INSIGHTS

assignments may review and reinforce previous essential learnings to the content. AMI day assignments for Hermitage High School courses will be uploaded in Google Classroom: five lessons prior to the start of the first semester and five lessons prior to the start of the second semester. If possible, students will download the content to their Chromebooks at the beginning of each semester.

At this time, Hermitage High School utilizes the learning management systems Google Classroom, iReady (7-8), and Virtual Arkansas (9-12). Students who participate in concurrent college courses will continue their learning pathway during AMI days. Students will access and complete assignments for the day(s) declared to be an AMI day. Clear directions and expectations will be discussed in advance of any AMI day.

Teachers and therapists that provide special services will be available during any utilized AMI day through email, Zoom, or by phone. The availability of the teacher or therapist will be to clarify or explain any assignment, to support the student with any essential learning needed to complete the assignment, or to provide services for special needs.

Each student will be issued a Chromebook. Internet hotspots will be checked out to students if needed. If any assignment requires internet access and the student does not have access to the internet on the utilized AMI day, the student will be allotted two days to complete the assignment after returning to school; however, class time will NOT be used to complete AMI assignments. Students may use advisory time and/or study skills time for this purpose, or students may request an internet hotspot to take home.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Teachers are accessible to students in the event of a power outage or loss of the internet through Google Voice, the Remind App, the HSD app available from Apple or Google, text, or phone. The district also has cell phones that are used for times when power or internet is out. The numbers are given out throughout the year as needed for ease in communication between schools and parents and students.



Describe how student attendance will be determined for an approved AMI day. (All attendance should be determined and reported in eSchool within 5 days of the AMI day.) May include a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students if applicable to all students during AMI days.



Elementary:

Student attendance for a particular day will be determined by the completion of work for a half day increment at the elementary school. A student will be counted present if all the work assigned for a particular subject is completed. If the student does not complete all of the work assigned for these time periods, the student will receive an unexcused absence for that time period. All students will have until the 2nd school day the district is back in school after the utilized AMI day(s) missed to hand in all assignments. Failure to turn in assignments will result as a 0 on the assignment. School principals will have the final say on extenuating circumstances relating to an absence being counted as excused or unexcused and to whether a student will be allowed additional time to submit assignments due to circumstances.

High School:

Student attendance for a particular day will be determined by the completion of work for a given period at high school. A student will be counted present if all the work assigned for a particular period is completed. If the student does not complete all of the work assigned for these time periods, the student will receive an unexcused absence for that time period.

All students will have until the 2nd school day the district is back in school after the utilized AMI day(s) missed to hand in all assignments. Failure to turn in assignments will result as a 0 on the assignment. School principals will have the final say on extenuating circumstances relating to an absence being counted as excused or unexcused and to whether a student will be allowed additional time to submit assignments due to circumstances.

Describe how the district will ensure implementation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities on AMI days. Include how the district will involve the special education teacher in the provision of special education services during the AMI day to meet the individual needs of each student.



Elementary:

In designing and implementing an AMI plan, it is expected that students will perform at least as well as they do on traditional school days. In developing AMI day assignments, teachers will follow the modifications that are prescribed on the student's IEP. Each school will ensure that the special education teachers are working with the regular education teachers to develop assignments as they pertain to the IEP of the students they serve. Building principals will monitor this process. Also our local Special Education Director will be consulted if teachers need help in this process. Provisions will also be made for any AMI assignments that cannot be completed by an IEP student on AMI days. IEP students will be provided with guided instruction on any part of the AMI assignment that is not completed on AMI days when the student returns to school.

High School:

In developing AMI day assignments, teachers will follow the accommodations that are prescribed on the student's IEP. Each school will ensure that the special education teachers are working with the regular education teachers to develop assignments as they pertain to the IEP of the students they serve. Building principals will monitor this process. Provisions will also be made for any AMI assignments that cannot be completed by an IEP student on AMI days. IEP students will be provided with guided instruction on any part of the AMI assignment that is not completed on AMI days when the student returns to school.

ALL:

Special education teachers will be available during any utilized AMI day through email, Zoom, or by phone. The availability of the teacher will be to clarify or explain any assignment, to support the student with any essential learning needed to complete the assignment, or to provide services for special needs.



Describe how accommodations and related services will be provided.

Elementary:

All content for each assignment will be to review and support essential learning for the student. Regular classroom teachers will work with the special education teacher to modify and meet all accommodations of the student's IEP for all AMI day assignments. These modifications and accommodations will be based on the specific needs of the student as it relates to the IEP.

High School:

All content for each assignment will be to review and support essential learning for the student. Regular classroom teachers will work with the special education teacher to modify and meet all accommodations of the student's IEP for all AMI day assignments. These modifications and accommodations will be based on the specific needs of the student as it relates to the IEP.

Please include the link (URL) to the webpage or social media where information will be posted to announce the date of the AMI day and reason for utilizing the AMI day - (this should match the AMI dates entered into eSchool). (Example: December 1 will be an AMI day due to inclement weather)

AMI assignments will be uploaded in Google Classroom. Any materials needed to supplement the assignments in Google Classroom will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

The District will share the information about AMI days in a variety of on-going ways:

- *Our plan will be posted on the District Website
- *Plan will be communicated to parents in Assemblies and through Social Media
- *Plan will be communicated to parents through our district's Push Notification system
- *Posted on Hermitage School District Information Page on Facebook
- *Informational video (or link to the video) for parents (and students) on how to access AMI work in Google Classroom will be posted on our website.
- *Emailed to students using the district email addresses

The AMI plan will be communicated to students, parents and school staff. Once communicated and the plan is operational, students, parents, and school staff will be notified through the district's Push Notification Messenger System when an AMI day is to be used. Any additional instructions in regards to the plan will be communicated on the district website, through student email, and on Facebook.



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