



Aromas School

365 Vega Street, Aromas, CA 95004
Phone: (831) 726-5100/Fax: (831) 726-3040
Heather Howell, Principal

August 5, 2020

Dear Aromas Families,

We know that you have a lot of questions about what the next school year will look like due to COVID-19, and we want to keep you informed with the most up-to-date information. We are committed to your family and to your child(ren), and the Aromas staff is ready to provide a productive year of learning for your child despite currently adverse conditions.

Our School Board voted to begin the 2020-2021 school year with a distance learning model. Our first day of school will begin as previously scheduled, Thursday, August 13, 2020. As San Benito County is currently on the State's COVID monitoring list, the recommendation from local and state health officers is to begin the year with a distance learning model to ensure the safety and health of our students, staff, and community.

The District will continue to assess the safety of bringing students back to campus, as we all prefer. We will continue to follow the guidance of County and State health officials. Our school website will be your link to fast-changing circumstances that will impact you and your family. Please monitor our school website daily for timely information on the current status of our school:

<https://www.asjUSD.k12.ca.us/o/aromas-school>

Over the summer, the Aromas staff has worked hard to enhance the teaching and learning environment online. We are confident that the changes implemented for this fall will be beneficial to students and families. You will receive notification soon regarding first-day-of-school information, links and resources.

Principal Howell will host a Q & A session for parents and students on Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom, which will be recorded and posted on the website if you are unable to attend. Please submit questions to Ms. Howell in advance so we can be prepared to answer your questions as thoroughly as possible: hhowell@asjUSD.k12.ca.us

Aromas School is planning a beginning-of-the-year drive-thru for all families shortly after the first day of school, which is Thursday, August 13, 2020. Plan to drive through with your child(ren) so teachers can greet their new students!

Below is a list of upcoming events and necessary information for Aromas families:

Middle School Computer Distribution

Monday, August 10

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Aromas School parking lot (drive-thru)

Kindergarten Orientation for Mrs. Mantega's Class

Monday, August 10

4:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting (link to meeting will be emailed to parents)

Kindergarten Orientation for Mrs. Lee's Class

Monday, August 10

5:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting (link to meeting will be emailed to parents)

Parent Information Session

Tuesday, August 11

6:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting (link to meeting will be posted on the school website)

First day of School:

Thursday, August 13, 2020

School hours 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (varies by class/grade)

Your student will receive their class agenda from their teacher via their school email address.

Beginning-of-Year Drive-Thru:

To be determined

Back-to-School Night:

Thursday, September 3

5:45 Principal's Welcome

6:00 Teacher Presentation 1

6:30 Teacher Presentation 2

K-5 Computer Distribution

To Be Determined

Nutrition:

Aromas School will continue to serve breakfast and lunch for children on all weekdays via drive-thru in the Aromas School parking lot from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

What to expect:

- Live, synchronous classes. Students are expected to log in to their class Google Meets on time daily. New California legislation requires teachers to take attendance during these live meetings. Any student not present during a meeting

will be marked absent. Three unexcused absences/tardies will be considered a truancy.

- Please communicate with the school office immediately – (831) 726.5100 if your child is ill or otherwise cannot attend school.
- Students will receive live online instruction and will be expected to complete independent schoolwork daily.
- Online instruction may include class meetings, direct lessons from the teacher, demonstrations, instructional videos, etc., and will usually be followed by independent student work time.
- Elementary and middle school students will be expected to view online instruction and complete independent schoolwork for approximately 3-4 hours per day. Times will vary based on grade level.
- Suggested daily schedules will be distributed to help families structure their weekdays.
- Computers will be checked out to students who need them for home use.
- Internet access will be provided for free at strategically placed school buses on weekdays. Families may park near the buses to use the WiFi hotspot for free.
- Assignments will be posted in each Google Classroom daily, which can be accessed by parents. Your child's teacher will provide your access to the Google Classroom.
- A school calendar of events will be posted on the school website.
- Work will be submitted online through Google Classroom or by submitting a photo of the completed work.
- Families who do not have access to the internet or need devices must contact the school office as soon as possible to make us aware of your needs. Please make sure you have completed the technology survey.

Communication:

We will be working to improve our communications with families this year. We will be communicating through the school website, text messages, emails, and all-calls. **The Aromas School website will be your link to important information. Please check it every day for updated news and announcements:**

<https://www.asjUSD.k12.ca.us/o/aromas-school>.

Your child will communicate with their teacher through Google Classroom. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns: hhowell@asjUSD.k12.ca.us.

****Please make sure we have your current phone, email, and text message numbers. Notify the school office immediately if any of your contact information changes.****

Student Expectations:

Teachers will communicate class agendas and class meeting times to their students. Students are expected to:

- Be online during lesson times interacting with their instructor and their peers.

- All schoolwork should demonstrate their best effort and be submitted on time.
- Students are responsible for asking questions of their teachers during school hours.
- Some students may not complete all assignments every day but should work to the best of their ability.
- Communicate with their teacher(s) if student is unable to attend an online class meeting or meet a deadline. Attendance will be taken each class period, including tardies. Multiple unexcused absences/tardies will result in truancy proceedings.

Parent Expectations:

Parents must ensure the school has the most current contact information, including cell phone numbers and email addresses. Emergency cards must be updated each year. Proactive communication from families to the school office is important for your student's success. Please communicate with us if issues arise.

- We want to empower parents to take part in your child's education! Please ask about their live classes, their assignments, and any projects they are working on.
- If your child is ill and cannot attend a live class, please email or call the attendance clerk, Mrs. Lourdes Eberhardt (leberhardt@asjUSD.k12.ca.us or (831) 726.5100. Multiple unexcused absences will require your family to participate in the District truancy process.
- Teachers are available throughout school hours (8:15 – 2:45). *Struggling students sometimes do not ask for support.* **Encourage your child to ask their teacher if they have any questions.**
- Plan to introduce and enforce a daily schedule so family learning time is structured for productivity.
- Parents should review schoolwork—especially for younger children—and should review past and pending assignments and grades in their child's Google Classroom, reaching out to teachers if there is a concern.
- We will be putting together parent training to walk you through what to look for in Google Classroom to check progress and assignment completion. Parents should be checking their child's Google Classroom regularly.

Teacher Expectations:

Teachers will be holding live, online, rigorous lessons each day. Teachers are committed to:

- Daily instructional time
- Daily agenda/assignment emails to students
- Clarity of assignments posted on Google Classroom
- Clear communication with parents/students through email and responses within 24 hours when possible
- Teacher office hours for students and/or parents will be posted in their Google Classrooms

STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE ASSIGNMENTS ARE COMPLETED TO THE BEST OF THE STUDENT'S ABILITY AND TURNED IN BY THE DEADLINE.

Grading:

Our usual grading system will be used by Aromas School teachers. Students will be graded on the quality of their work and class participation. Students should put as much or more effort into their work during distance learning as they would if they were in a traditional classroom. Please communicate with teachers if you have any questions.

Back-to-School Night:

Back-to-School Night Zoom meetings will be held on Thursday, September 3rd. We will start at 5:45 with the Principal's welcome. The first teacher presentations will begin at 6:00 p.m. and repeated at 6:30 p.m. so parents can attend multiple teacher presentations. Your child's teacher(s) will address your questions and outline what you and your student can expect from the teacher's distance learning plans. A Back-to-School Night video link will be posted in each teacher's Google Classroom for later review if you cannot attend.

Athletics:

San Benito County Athletic League has canceled middle school sports until further notice. Please check our school website for updates. We are working closely with the league and more information will be posted when it becomes available.

Resources available:

- Social-emotional support for students is available through Harmony-at-Home, a school-based counseling program. Please communicate with your child's teacher, the school office, or contact me to facilitate the referral process.
- Migrant-Education services will continue at Aromas School with a familiar staff member. We welcome back Mr. Jose Garcia, who will be working to meet the needs of our migrant families.
- We remain committed to meeting the needs of our displaced and foster youth in cooperation with the County Office of Education. Should your student need additional support, please contact Ms. Howell.
- Students with IEPs and 504s will continue to receive support and accommodations as identified in their specific plans. Students with IEPs and their families will be meeting with our Education Specialist, Ms. Lara deGuzman. Ms. Howell will be handling the annual 504 reviews.

Thank you for joining us in our shared commitment to your child's education. We understand these are challenging times, and we know your priority will be your child's education, health, and well-being—priorities we share. Please continue to check our website daily to stay informed and aware of all school changes that may impact your family. Your child's success will depend upon your commitment to their education and on

our strong partnership to make these unusual circumstances work for our children. We appreciate your support.

Best regards,

Heather Howell
Principal, Aromas School
hhowell@asjUSD.k12.ca.us