



AES News

August 2018

Welcome Back...well almost...

Greetings AES families, students, staff, and friends. I am always amazed how quickly time flies in the summer. I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather and summer activities. I can't wait to hear about all of your fun adventures this season. As we begin to think about the new school year, I thought I would take a few moments to share some of the plans and exciting changes moving forward.

Important Dates and Times

- AES Meet & Greet - Students and families are invited to a casual event before school starts. On Aug. 29th from 3:30 - 4:30, teachers will have their classrooms open for you to take a sneak peek before school starts the next day. Use this as a wonderful opportunity to connect with your teachers, old friends, and new ones. We will end with a frozen treat on the playground at 4:30 thanks to the PTO!
- School starts on August 30th at 8:40am. Please have your students on the playground by 8:40. You may arrive as early as 8:20.
- Sept. 3rd - Labor Day - no school
- Open House - Please join us for our open house on Sept. 13th from 5-6:30. We are going to have a different structure this year. We will all gather in the gym from 5-5:30. You will hear from me and the specialist teacher presentations. After this time, we will open up the classrooms for you to visit with the teachers as they share their learning goals for the year with you. As always, we will have the multi-purpose open with guests sharing important community information with you, and we will have someone from the SAU fingerprinting so that you can be free to volunteer.
- New Assembly Times - Our school-wide assemblies will take place in the multipurpose room every other FRIDAY AFTERNOON from 2:40 - 3:10. If you wish to dismiss your child after assembly, please notify us through Pickup patrol. The first assembly is set for August 31st. The September assemblies will take place on September 14th and 28th. We hope to see you all there!

- The first PTO meeting of the year is on Monday Sept. 10th at 3:30. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

New Core Value

For many years, AES has reinforced the core values of honesty, cooperation, kindness, and respect. This year, we are rolling out a new academic core value to complement our existing ones- GRIT. Grit is a mental toughness or courage that leads to perseverance which is an important characteristic of resilient children. The skills your child develops by working hard in an academic setting, managing failure, and staying strong and focused are skills that will contribute to future success. You will be hearing about this continually throughout the year.

Behavior Systems in place

As a district, we have made a commitment to ensuring all students grow and learn academically and socially. At the elementary level, we are committed to using structures and strategies from PBIS and Responsive Classroom as our basic systems of support which ensures safe and supportive learning environments for all students. Each classroom is committed to having a morning meeting, a closing circle, and a regulation station. The regulation station is a place where students can go in the classroom to regulate their bodies to get ready to learn. We will be teaching and using the Zones of Regulation language to help teach self-awareness and self-regulation. After all, our goal is to have everyone coming in to school ready to learn, and then be actively engaged in our daily lessons. If a student needs significant support with regard to behavior, please know that we will respond accordingly. We try our best to maintain the dignity and privacy of every child, and we work closely with families to help our students learn the expectations of the school.

Goals

Each year, we come together as a staff and develop school goals. We believe that all students can learn at high levels, continuous improvement is a part of effective teaching, and families play a role in our students' education. We are working toward increasing student growth numbers on the district NWEA test for both reading and math. This is a benchmark test given three times a year. We are also focusing on family engagement, so we have put some plans in place to help us achieve our goals working in conjunction with you.

When school starts, your child's teacher will be discussing the parent workshops we have planned that are specific by grade level and content. We want to work together with you in order to help our students achieve academic success and excellence.

Classroom Eagle Family Representatives

Something new we are bringing to AES this year is asking for volunteers to be classroom family representatives. Back in the old days, this may have fallen under the category of "Room Parent". This position goes beyond planning parties, it's so much

more, and it's vital to the success of our students. When school begins, your child's teacher will be asking for a volunteer (or 2) from each classroom to serve as a link between school and family members of classmates. We will give you more details soon, but I wanted you to be aware and maybe start thinking about helping out in this area.

AES Handbook & Website

Mrs. Edwards and I have been busy this summer updating our student handbook. We will have it available online at our school website by August 15th. We hope that you will get a chance to read it before school starts. Speaking of the school website...we made a lot of strides last year keeping the website up to date. Our commitment is the same this year - we hope for it to be a timely and informative website for you to go to anytime, day or night. Be sure to visit it often: <http://aes.convalsd.net/>

Universal Design for Learning Pilot Project

A small cohort of teachers from AES has been accepted into a special project offered through the state. The New Hampshire Universal Design for Learning (NHUDL) Innovation Network is a multi-year professional learning program for New Hampshire educators who are committed to empowering all learners. Working with a team of school-based colleagues, participants in the NHUDL Innovation Network will learn about the UDL framework and be supported as they apply it to practice. I am very excited to be a part of this program learning alongside the teachers about how to create engaging class lessons that meet the needs of everyone.

In Closing...

I wanted to share how excited I am to be starting year two at AES as your full time principal. Together as a team, we are going to strive to make this school year as exceptional as it can possibly be. If you need to contact me, please feel free to call (588-6371), email ssyre-hager@conval.edu, or make an appointment with Sarah to speak with me in person. Here's to a great year ahead!

Stephanie :)

