

Dear APS Community,

The last two weeks have provided many changes to the future of schools and how things will look for the next school year. The Governor has created a Return to School Task Force that will provide guidance to all districts across the state when it comes to requirements for opening school. Here at APS, we are already working diligently in the creation of three models that would include:

1. Face to Face Instruction
2. Blended Learning
3. Virtual Learning

Most likely we would see ourselves in all three of these categories during the course of the upcoming school year. As a District, we are making great strides in the implementation and enhancement of our ability to provide blended and virtual learning models. I am a firm believer that in-person instruction is best and builds strong relationships with students. We also want to balance the ideal form of instruction with what is allowed under the Governor's orders. Expect more to come as the Back to School Committee for Michigan completes its work.

Building Offices to Re-Open Starting June 1st:

Each school building will be reopening starting June 1st. Daily hours of operation will be from 8am until 2pm. Entrance into the school will be by "buzzer-in" only and social distancing expectations and face-coverings are expected. This will allow parents to conduct business, enroll students, have work permits completed, pick –up student materials, or drop-off school owned materials.

Kindergarten Registration and Registration of New Students:

Parents wanting to enroll their children can also complete and drop off registration packets during this time. Packets can be obtained at the building offices, or a request may be made to mail the information directly home. Completed packets can be dropped off in front of Adrian High School at the document drop-off box or at any building from June 1st through June 19th from 8am to 2pm.

APS Central Office to be closed Thursdays & Fridays during the month of July:

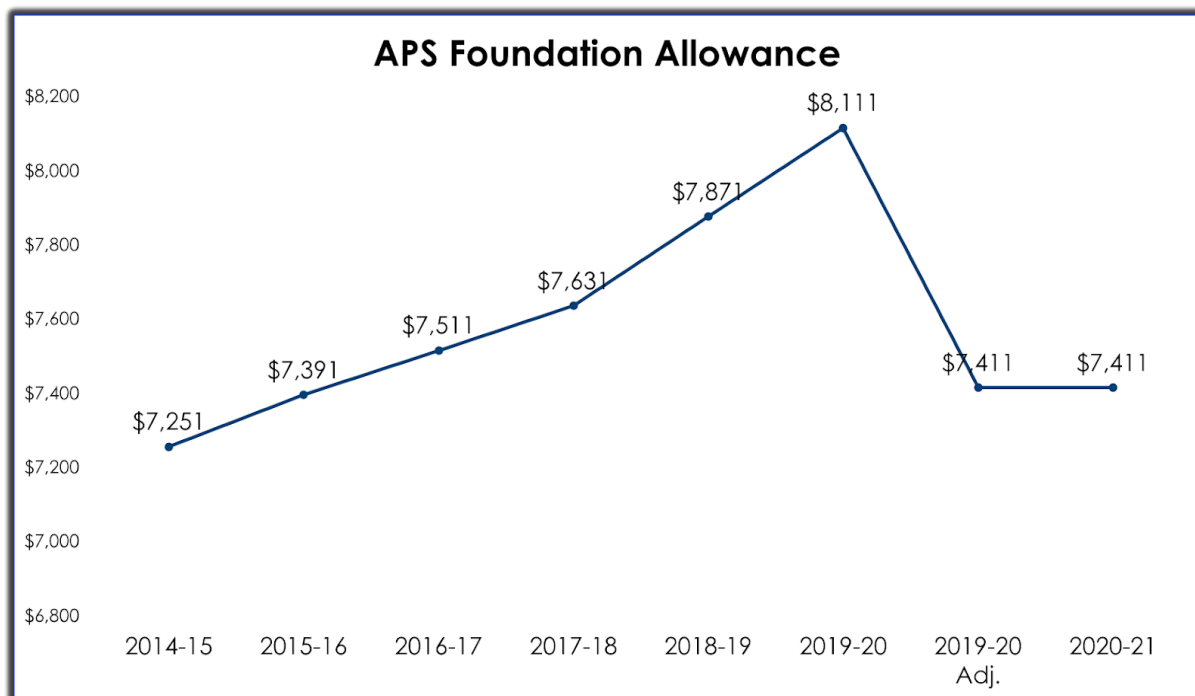
As a result of major deductions in the school funding for this current year and next school year, money saving measures are proposed to take place. This will involve reducing the Superintendent, Central Office staff, and Technology Department staff through partial layoffs for the month of July. The APS Board Office, Facilities

Department Offices, and Food Service Offices will all be closed Thursdays and Fridays during the month of July. We are sorry for the inconvenience this will provide to parents, staff, and our community, but this important money saving measure will help minimize the impact on students and classrooms during the school year. I also want to thank the staff that are impacted and commend them for their continued commitment to serve our community in these difficult times.

School Funding Update:

The State of Michigan held their annual Revenue Consensus Meeting on May 15th. The results of that meeting indicate that the School Aid Fund is \$1.1 Billion dollars short for this current school year and almost \$1 Billion dollars for next school year. As a District we are working hard to make sure we move forward diligently to continue to provide quality services and programs to our students and families. It is estimated that funding levels will revert to levels not seen since the 2015-16 school year.

I strongly encourage each parent, student, and staff member to contact both their state and national officials and encourage them to support additional funding supports for public schools. Projections indicate the strong possibility of cuts of upwards of \$2,000,000.00 that could impact APS this school year (even with only a few weeks remaining).



Graduation Preview:

Listen to WLEN on Friday, May 29th at 6:15 PM to hear the speeches from our student speakers from this year's graduating class. Thanks to WLEN and its sponsors for allowing our students to have this amazing opportunity!!!

Graduation Update:

With the latest openings from the Governor, this allows us to move into the first phase of planning for graduation ceremonies. We are scheduled to have graduation ceremonies on June 27th and June 28th. After listening to concerns from students, we will allow graduates to select their day and time. There will be time slot sign-ups that students will complete.

We will have the graduate and up to 8 guests join them at Maple Stadium. Graduates and guests will move through the process of receiving their diploma, picking up their graduation coin, hearing their name announced, walking on stage and having their picture taken, and celebrating with their guests who will be watching in the stands. This along with the student speeches will all be edited and released afterwards. If group sizes increase to larger numbers (larger than 500), we would consider several smaller ceremonies over the weekend, but we also understand that greatly limits the number of guests possible.

The hope would be that in October during homecoming weekend we could have the large ceremony for all graduates and their families, but we continue to await guidance from the governor.

Chromebook Returns:

For those parents that checked out a Chromebook, those are now scheduled to be returned starting June 1-4 from 12pm to 3pm daily. Return them to the same location at Adrian High School as you picked them up (south entrance off McKenzie Street).

AHS Incoming Freshman Parent Scheduling Webinar Recording:

<https://www.adrianmaples.org/news/single.php?newsId=100>

Thanks for all your support and dedication to APS and always, Go MAPLES!!!

Bob Behnke
Superintendent