



Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484

www.akfcs.org

AKF Family Update

March 24, 2020

Good afternoon Abby Kelley families:

I continue to receive wonderful messages regarding our faculty and staff who have been staying in contact with families and students by phone, email, Google Classroom, Zoom and more! **I, along with our Administrative Council, appreciate all they are doing**, as they too have families, in many cases school-age children themselves, where in addition to supporting our students, they are doing this work with their kids at home too. **We thank each of them!**

That appreciation is also extended to **you** as well as you juggle so much at home yourselves. **Thank you** for making sure your student(s) are getting time in for learning! Please know our staff is here to support you as best they can, reach out to us if we can help;

Elementary School Principal - [Amy Emma](#)

Middle School Principal - [Amy Puliafico](#)

High School Principal - [Chris Kursonis](#)

In this ever changing world, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) continues constant communication with Superintendents/Executive Directors across the state on a regular schedule. While there is much uncertainty, I am able to provide you with this MCAS update.

DESE has postponed both the **Grade 10 English language arts assessment** scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 24 and the opening of the **grades 3-8 English language arts** assessment window scheduled for March 30. DESE is exploring all options around this year's testing requirements; there may be an opportunity for a one-year assessment and accountability waiver from the federal government, which would require legislative relief from our state legislature. As of today, the Governor has filed legislation that proposes legislation authorizing the Commissioner, to modify or waive the requirement for the Commonwealth's annual statewide student assessment, known as the MCAS.

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.



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News from Abby Kelley

Elementary School

The percentages of Parent/Teacher Conferences held last week were amazing! Many teachers have utilized FaceTime with their classes as well as other apps to interact and connect with students.

Teachers will continue to make a personal call/email to families each week, in addition to communicating using their class apps, etc.

Middle School

Teachers are utilizing Google Classroom to stay connected with students. Assigned skills include lessons in ELA, Math, Science and History using IXL, an online learning program, each day. Teachers are able to support students with supplementary assignments through Google Classroom in all subjects; math challenges, Science simulations and historical videos. To keep students engaged, teachers have utilized widely available virtual field trips, they post fitness challenges, host online trivia games, Zoom virtual class meetings, and send personalized videos.

For students not engaging online, teachers are reaching out to check in. Teachers have shared the Guidance Counselor's email addresses for any student who may want to meet virtually.

High School

Teachers continue to assign work to complete throughout the week, while being available each day to answer questions and help with any assignment. Students in grades 8-12 have been logging in and submitting the majority of their work, with 85% of students logging in and submitting work during our first week out of school. Students (and their parent/guardian) who have not turned in assignments/logged on will be contacted this week by teachers and administrators.

The majority of the work these students are completing is for enrichment and to maintain skills which students have already worked on. Our IB students have completed the same level of work that is expected from them daily. This is done under the direction of their teacher and other classmates.

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We anticipate our **Spring Sports** will not start until at least **April 27th**.

We received notice regarding the **High School IB** exams for **April and May**; they have been **cancelled**. Ms. Davila will be following up with students and advising them on next steps.

The **May 2, 2020 SAT administration is cancelled. Makeup exams** for the March 14 administration (**scheduled for March 28**) **are also cancelled**. Registered students will receive refunds, per the CollegeBoard [Website](#). At this time the **June 6, 2020 SAT remains on as scheduled**. This date will continue to be assessed with the health and safety of students and educators as the top priority.

Due to the lack of occupancy, the Beechwood has announced they have **closed through May 18th**, thus our **Junior/Senior Prom** scheduled for May 1st has been **cancelled**. The high school administration is working on contingency plans for events like this, especially those events for seniors.

We have no additional information on Graduation scheduled for May 27th or other school events in late May at this time.

Local Update

Meals on the Go

Through the work for the City of Worcester and the Worcester Public Schools, there have been meals available to those in our community who need them. Sites throughout the city are offered and the Meal Schedule is available (with numerous translations) on the Worcester Public School's [Web Page](#). These meals are available to ANY student in Worcester, under 18.

I am sure for all of our students, particularly our Seniors, these are very challenging times. As per the Governor, schools will remain closed next week as well, and I encourage you all to take it one day at a time. I will continue to be in touch, as will the building principals.

Sincerely,

Brian Haas

Executive Director

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