



July 30th, 2020

Return to Learning Plan for 2020-2021

Dear Dragon Families, Instructors, and Staff:

This afternoon, Thursday, July 30th, 2020, The Regional Governing Board of the Appomattox Regional Governor's School met to discuss and decide the best means by which ARGs will start schooling on September 9th, 2020.

Items shared and discussed include:

- Governor's recommendations, CDC, and VDH guidelines.
- Virtual Instructional capabilities of the school and families.
- Transportation concerns.
- Coronavirus trends across the Commonwealth and region.
- Decisions of contributing school divisions and complementary regional programs.
- The variety of options and instructional and logistical impacts.
- A focussed comparison between the ARGs Hybrid Learning model and the ARGs Virtual Learning model.
- Feedback from surveys completed by ARGs families and ARGs faculty & staff.

At this time, I can share that barring any changes to directives from the state government, the Appomattox Regional Governor's School will formally open on a VIRTUAL learning model for the First Quarter of the 2020-2021 school year, until November 10th, 2020. Further decisions and announcements will be made before that point.

In short, the Appomattox Regional Governor's School Virtual Learning Model will require all students and instructors to follow their master schedule from Monday through Thursday and then work independently on Fridays with the possibility of scheduling a Virtual "Office Hours" meeting with their instructors. See below for details:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A-Day	B-Day	A-Day	B-Day	Office Hours
8:30 am 1st Block	8:30 am 5th Block	8:30 am 1st Block	8:30 am 5th Block	All students work independently on work assigned virtually through Schoology Any student can schedule an "Office Hours" virtual consultation with their teacher.
10:00 am 2nd Block	10:00 am 6th Block	10:00 am 2nd Block	10:00 am 6th Block	
12:30 pm 3rd Block	12:30 pm 7th Block	12:30 pm 3rd Block	12:30 pm 7th Block	
2:00pm 4th Block	2:00pm 8th Block	2:00pm 4th Block	2:00pm 8th Block	

Each block will operate as follows:

- Students and teachers sign in to Google Meet a few minutes before posted time.
- The teacher takes attendance
- The teacher teaches a 30-minute mini-lesson
- After the mini-lesson, students may sign off and then work independently on work assigned, until time for the commencement of the next block. Alternately, they may arrange to work in groups independently or request a follow-up from their teacher, if availability allows.

Participation in this learning model will be compulsory as all teachers will be fully engaged in teaching students to the best of their ability within the confines of this model.

Please remember that this is not ARGS' preference for instructional delivery, as we know that students benefit best from our school learning environment on a continual daily basis. We are proceeding with this learning model to best balance the health and safety of our entire school community as well as doing our best to meet the learning needs of our students.

All students will be issued Chromebooks to assist with this mode of instruction. All staff and families will receive training on how to use Schoology as a Learning Management System.

Further communication will be shared in the coming weeks addressing:

- Freshman Orientation and Registration forms and fees.
- Returning Student Registration forms and fees.
- Health Updates and actions within the school.
- Health recommendations for families.
- Other pertinent information related to progressing with learning during this time.

While this is certainly not the way that we had hoped to start the 2020-2021 school year, our staff have been working diligently behind the scenes to make decisions and preparations to assure the highest quality instruction under the conditions, while maintaining absolute health safety for all of our students, families, and staff. We are determined also to make the best of this time and equip ourselves with some new ideas and practices.

We know that every member of the ARGs family is committed to this magical place because of the unique and specialized quality learning environment that students benefit from. We have the most skilled instructors and an environment that cannot be matched anywhere nor replicated online. We also know that each of our students derives their greatest benefit from being in this caring and encouraging environment with students as amazing as they are. We will forge through this time until we may again, keep our promise to provide your children with the very best of a rigorous and differentiated learning experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Albôn", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dr. Brendon L. Albôn
Executive Director
Appomattox Regional Governor's School