



The Gator Gazette

Greetings Allisonville Alligators!

July 22, 2020

I am beyond thrilled to be the next principal at Allisonville and carry on the tradition for academic excellence and strong community that has long been the essence of our great school. I am a proud North Central graduate, Washington Township resident and parent of three children who all attended Allisonville! Formerly, I was the principal of Crooked Creek Elementary School and most recently I have been coordinating *Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII)* in MSDWT for the past 12 years. I am excited to be back in an elementary building full time and know that we are going to have a great year at Allisonville! This is the first edition of the *Gator Gazette* weekly newsletter, so thanks for reading!

Many exciting things have been happening at Allisonville while the school was temporarily at John Strange last year. The front lobby, office, media center, café, and gym have been completely redone. A brand new playground was put in on the east side of the building with all new blacktop areas. Each classroom has new carpeting, technology, and updated paint. Small group instruction rooms were added along each hallway that connect to many of the classrooms. The restrooms were completely torn out and redone for both students and staff. Since we cannot be together right now due to social distancing, we will have a **Virtual Ribbon Cutting** soon so you can see the amazing updates. (Date TBD) A video link of this Ribbon Cutting plus a virtual tour of the building will be sent out to all families and the community to view. In the meantime, check out some photos in this newsletter for a sneak peak of the renovation!



Due to COVID-19, the Washington Township School Board voted for all schools to start back to school virtually on July 30th, 2020. Please note that the teachers at Allisonville have been meeting over the last couple weeks to collaborate and plan for the best possible experience for our students during this unprecedented time. It is our hope that we will all be back at Allisonville together again soon! **Please view the following link:** [Virtual Learning Communication](#) to learn more about expectations for the start of school. The Washington Township School Board will re-evaluate the situation every two weeks to make updated decisions. I will be sending out more information in the upcoming days that is specific to Allisonville. Although not ideal, I encourage everyone to dig deep to remain positive as we model resiliency and flexibility for our students. A quote that keeps coming to my mind during these challenging times is from Martin Luther King Jr. and states:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” -MLK Jr.



That being said, the **first day of school will still be on July 30th** but Washington Township Schools will only be open virtually until further notice. All Elementary students will follow a daily schedule and will be given more specifics from their teachers during **Back to School Virtual Meetings**. Students will participate in live lessons, recorded lessons, and live small group instruction with their teacher each day. All live lessons will be recorded and posted to the teacher’s Canvas course for later viewing as well. Recorded lessons may be viewed during the prescribed time or at a time more convenient for each student and family.



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Popsicle Pop “Out”: Since we cannot all be together at this time, there will not be a Popsicle Pop In this year. Students will rather meet their teachers on one-on-one video calls the first week of school. Look for a sign up coming out soon for meeting times.

Device/Supply Pick Up: All students at Allisonville will have access to Chromebooks. For those students who already have a district-issued Chromebook from the spring, families will just keep those devices. For those students who do not have a district-issued Chromebook, there will be an opportunity on July 29th to pick one up through a zero-contact pick up process. If WiFi is an issue for your family, please contact our social worker, Ms. Johnson by calling the front office at AV at 317-845-9441 ext. 11120.



Parent Support for Online Learning: Parents will have the opportunity to participate in Canvas training in order to help your student navigate online learning by using the following link: [Canvas Training for Parents](#)

Daily Meals: Daily meals will be provided with pick up from 11:00-1:00 for both lunch and breakfast each day at Allisonville. More information will be forthcoming on how to pick up meals once school starts. Evening meal distribution will be centralized at North Central High School.

AYS at John Strange: We are happy to share that AYS-At Your School is launching an exclusive e-learning support and enrichment program for grades K-6 at John Strange Elementary to support working families. If you are interested in more information in this program, visit www.ayskids.org/e-learning to learn more and register today.

Although this is not how we hoped to start the school year, we appreciate your continued patience, flexibility, and support during this very fluid situation. I am honored to be your principal and part of the Allisonville community. Please don't hesitate to call or email me anytime with questions or concerns. I welcome your conversation and positive input throughout this year and very much look forward to meeting you all soon!



Go Gators!

Mary Beth Reffett
Principal



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Device Deployment and Material Pick Up

Wednesday, July 29th from 12:00-8:00 PM

We will be **distributing Chromebooks** to all students who need them on Wednesday, July 29th by grade levels. If you already have a Chromebook from the spring, no need to return it – you can just keep that device for this fall. **Materials will be distributed** for at home learning at this time as well. Students can “**meet the teacher**” with a **drive through greeting** when materials and devices are deployed. Lastly, all AV students will receive a **new spirit-wear t-shirt** compliments from the PTO with our brand new Allisonville Alligator logo! We hope to see all families on Wednesday, July 29th but if you are unable to come that day, you can schedule an appointment with the office to collect these necessary supplies. **This is a no contact pickup so please remain in your car.**

- 12:00-12:45 5th Grade
- 12:45-1:30 4th Grade
- 1:30-2:15 3rd Grade
- 2:15-3:00 2nd Grade
- 3:00-3:45 1st Grade
- 3:45-4:30 Kindergarten
- 6:00-8:00 Overflow Pick Up (classroom teachers will be at their grade level times only)

All students in need of a Chromebook must **complete the following form by Sunday, July 26th** so we can prepare the device for them: [Device Request Form](#). Additionally, families will need to **update their student’s information in [Skyward Family Access](#)** before coming to pick up the device if you have not done so already.

AYS Liftoff Support and Enrichment Program

AYS (At Your School) is launching an exclusive e-learning support and enrichment program called “Liftoff” for grades Pre-K – 6 at John Strange Elementary to support working families.

This program will run Monday-Friday from 6:30am-6:00pm and will focus on providing kids with e-learning support by grade level during school hours. Additionally, the program will offer social and emotional learning, enrichment opportunities and engaging activities. AYS’ top priority is to keep kids safe, following CDC and FSSA guidelines as well as state and national out-of-school time standards. Group sizes will be limited to 1:15 (K-6) and 1:10 (Pre-K) staff to student ratio per grade level, classroom, or activity space. MSDWT teachers will receive a special 10% discount off the school-age Liftoff program price and will not be charged a registration fee.

Visit www.ayskids.org/e-learning to learn more and register today!

Need Tech Help?

- If you need **technical assistance**, call (317) 254-5566 during support hours (M-F 9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.). If leaving a voicemail message, be sure to leave a call back number and a member of our support team will be in touch.
- If you need **student login information**, you can [view the username and password for your student in Skyward Family Access](#). You can also call the school directly or email our [Skyward Support Team](#) for assistance.





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Free Masks for Marion County Residents

<https://www.indy.gov/activity/face-coverings-for-marion-county-residents>

Virtual Learning Update for Families

[Virtual Learning Update to Families July 17](#)

Yearbook Update!!

We just heard back from the yearbook representative about the status of shipping and arrival. Much like the yearbook situation at NCHS, the company had prolonged factory closures due to Covid outbreaks and non-essential business timelines. They are very behind on shipments because of this and are currently working as fast as possible with most schools not able to start printing until June. She anticipated we would receive these mid-August. Hang tight, just as soon as they hit the ground we will get them distributed and/or figure out a pick-up situation. Again, thank you for your patience. I know it has been a very long road for this but rest assured, if you ordered a yearbook or would like one, you will get one. (Hopefully BEFORE 2021:). Thank you!

Words from Mrs. Weiger in the Media Center

I hope you've all found time to read some good books this summer. Remember that you can go to <http://scholastic.com/homebase> to find books to read, play games based on books, and earn prizes. If you have library books at home that you are finished reading, you may return those on device pick-up day. There will be boxes outside for you to drop them into. I am currently working on a way for students to request books to check out from our media center. Be watching for more information soon! Until then, remember that the IndyPL (Indianapolis Public Libraries) are open and you can request books there. Visit their website at: <https://www.indypl.org/>

Allisonville and MSDWT wanted to ensure that students had some new books to read over the summer. We worked with Scholastic to make this happen. We hope your children have enjoyed reading their books and that the Family Guide to Literacy provided helpful information for you.

Parent Resources

Be Well Indiana (mental health support)

www.bewellindiana.com

Also listed on this site is information about

- health insurance
- child care resources
- unemployment resources
- substance use disorder/recovery
- domestic violence
- mental health self-assessment
- stress education/emotional health
- helping children cope
- resources for teens

