



# ATASCADERO HIGH SCHOOL

One High School Hill, Atascadero, CA 93422  
Phone: (805) 462-4300 <http://ahs.atusd.org/>

Dan Andrus Principal [danandrus@atusd.org](mailto:danandrus@atusd.org)



November 2, 2020

Dear AHS Families,

We are pleased to announce that our phased-in return to school continues this week with targeted support and increased athletics. We look forward to January when we will welcome back students who choose to return for increased live, in-person instruction on campus. You will receive a survey this week from the AUSD asking you to determine if you/your student will remain in distance learning or return to campus for in-person instruction. I would like to clarify some of the details to assist families in making the best decision for you/your student.

Atascadero High School will remain on our current schedule in which students attend all 7 periods on Monday and then attend two periods per day. Mondays will remain distance learning for all students. Families will have a choice to return to campus for in-person instruction on Tuesday through Friday. The majority of classes will hold distance learning sessions in the morning (7:45am – 10:35am) and in-person sessions in the afternoon (11:55am – 2:45pm). Students will no longer be assigned to the AM or PM sessions based on alphabet; students will be assigned based on their decision to attend through distance learning or in-person. This may result in changes to student schedules that include periods and teachers.

The survey will ask parents/students to select distance or in-person instruction for each period to allow students to have flexibility and to minimize the number of students on campus at once. We will do our best to accommodate requests. Some classes may be offered only as distance learning classes due to staff restraints and considerations. Most in-person classes will be offered in the afternoon session; but some in-person classes may be offered in the morning based on student requests and staffing.

Once parents/students have responded to this initial survey, we will develop the schedule based on the specific requests. We will make every effort to communicate second semester schedules prior to the end of Winter Break. During the second semester, while we are on this hybrid model, students may request to change from distance learning to in-person instruction; but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate requests. Requests to change after the semester has begun in January will be considered when there is space available. Parents/students should consider this decision carefully and plan for this to remain in place for the remainder of the school year. Of course, we will respond to changing conditions and requirements as we work through this uncertain time together.

In-person instruction will include the following:

- Face coverings are required for all students and at all times.
- Reduced class sizes to allow for physical distancing.
- Reduced school day (according to our current schedule).
- Additional learning to be done at home to complete the school day.
- Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles as drinking fountains will not be available.
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the classroom.

- No transportation will be provided except when transportation is written into an IEP.
- Students should arrive no more than 15 minutes before class begins and leave campus within 15 minutes after the last class unless waiting for athletic practice or another specific school activity.

Parents of students who return to campus for in-person instruction will be asked to screen their students daily prior to school. If students have any of the following symptoms then they are requested to stay home:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain, tiredness, low energy
- New loss of taste or smell
- Any other signs of a new illness unrelated to a preexisting condition or allergy
- Exposure to anyone who has COVID, is quarantined, or has these symptoms

School staff will monitor students on campus for COVID symptoms as well. Students who exhibit symptoms at school will be assessed by district nursing staff and may be referred to the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department (SLOCPHD). AUSD will cooperate with SLOCPHD to perform contact tracing and to determine if other students and staff need to be quarantined.

As we move to this hybrid model, it is important that all students have equitable learning opportunities and grading. Teachers will cover the same curriculum and have an equitable grading system between distance learning and in-person classes. Teachers may adjust instructional strategies based on the setting. Assignments, quizzes, and tests will be equitable in scope, format, and grading weight as practicable. Distance learning will continue to be similar to what students have experienced during the first semester.

We look forward to a time when school can fully resume with all of our students safely back on campus for full day instruction. This hybrid plan is based on our primary desire which is to keep our students and staff safe. The safety protocols that are in place will be enforced on campus to minimize the risks of exposure. Students who return for on campus in-person instruction implicitly agree to follow the rules and protocols to be able to continue in-person instruction.

Please look for the survey and fill it out soon so that we can prepare student schedules and prepare our campus for the safe return of students and staff.

Sincerely,

Dan Andrus