



Athenian Academy

Of Technology And The Arts

A Tuition-Free Public Charter School



Dear Athenian Ohana,

Governor Ron DeSantis, the Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran, and the Florida Department of Education have released further guidance for schools that we must reopen with in-person instruction. The Commissioner of Education has issued an executive order that does provide for the option of online learning, which we are including as an option for our families. Please understand that this is a fluid situation, and things are changing quickly. Our reopening plan is based on current information and guidance for the first 9-weeks of school. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation and make changes as directed by the federal, state, and local government, as well as the Florida Department of Health.

We are pleased to announce that we are providing our families with 2 options for the first quarter of the school year. Option 1 is a traditional school day at Athenian Academy. Option 2 is an online format; however, please note that this is modified from what we offered last year to accommodate both in classroom and online instruction. In the event that our governor declares a state of emergency or local closures are announced due to a local outbreak, we will be prepared to transition to 100% online learning. After gathering input from stakeholders, we also reviewed our processes for further training and implementation refinements, so students will have the best experience possible if the school goes virtual again with our distance learning program from last year, which elicited a great deal of positive praise from our families.

In addition to the preparation taking place to provide your kiddos with an incredible education, we are also working diligently to create a safe environment for our kiddos and team. We want you to know that we are being proactive in our preparation to return to school on August 10th. Below is a list of some of the things we are implementing this year to put our students' and our team's safety first. For the 2 learning options, families must make a selection by Friday, July 24, 2020.

3118 Seven Springs Blvd. New Port Richey, FL 34655
727-372-0200 www.aota.org



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Learning Options



Option 1:

Your child will return to Athenian Academy in our traditional setting, with many safety precautions put in place. Below, you can see many of the systems and processes we have put in place to protect our students, families, and team. Students will receive high, quality instruction from our amazing and dedicated team in a safe environment.



Option 2:

Your child will do online learning with Athenian Academy; however, please note that this is modified from what we offered last year to accommodate both in classroom and online instruction. With this option, students will be required to utilize an Athenian Academy computer and have access to a printer at home to print and complete assignments daily. In addition, students will need support from a parent or family member to assist them each and every school day. Students will also need the ability to take pictures of assignments and assistance with saving digital assignments and uploading the assignments to Schoology, our Learning Management System. On test days, students will log into Schoology's Conferencing Software, Big Blue Button during the scheduled test time and will be required to take the assessment with the web camera on. Students will be part of the online learning program for 9 weeks, at which point we will evaluate the current environment and make determinations regarding quarter 2.



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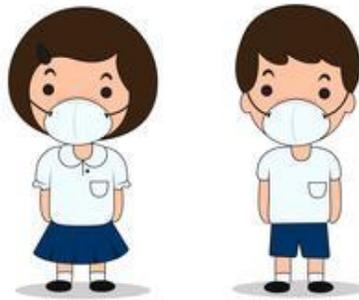
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Health and Wellness



Temperature Checks:

As part of Athenian Academy's reopening plan, all staff and students will undergo temperature checks each morning before they arrive on campus. If a student registers a fever (100.0), he/she will not be permitted to exit the vehicle. For students who ride the bus, please note the process for temperature checks under transportation (buses).



Masks:

The wearing of a mask is required for all staff interacting with students and other staff. The wearing of a mask is currently **optional** for students. Athenian Academy will be providing 2 reusable masks for students and staff.



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Clean Campus:

We have made several updates to our campus over the summer, including the following: Touchless soap and paper towel dispensers, as well as hands-free sinks and toilets. In addition to these updates, we have also set up several touchless hand sanitizer stations around campus. The team will frequently clean touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day. In addition, high contact areas will receive frequent disinfecting. Teachers will also have access to cleaning supplies for their classrooms. Each evening, our cleaning team will clean, sanitize, and disinfect our campus, in preparation for the next school day.



Air Purification

The schedule for changing air conditioning filters has been accelerated and new Bi-Polar Ionization technology has been installed, which has been proven to reduce coronavirus surrogate by 99% airborne and 80% on surfaces in 10 minutes (Plasma-Air.com).



Testing Positive for COVID-19:

The Pasco County Health Department will notify our school if a student or team member tests positive. We will notify parents, while not specifically identifying the student or team member. We will cooperate with the Health Department as they conduct the appropriate notifications of individuals who have been in contact with the person infected.



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Transportation

Bus Temperature Checks:

All bus students, including middle school students will need a parent at the bus stop in the morning. Bus students will have their temperature checked before they are permitted on the bus. If a student registers a fever (100.0), he/she will not be permitted on the bus.



Masks:

The wearing of a mask is currently **optional** for students. Athenian Academy will be providing 2 reusable masks for students and staff.

Before/Aftercare and Extra-Curricular Activities

Resuming Activities:

These events have a smaller, more select crowd, and therefore offer less exposure. We will be resuming before/aftercare service at the start of the school year. More information about extra-curricular activities will come as we get closer to September.



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Be Our Guest



Guests

Visiting Campus:

For the first 9-weeks, we will only be permitting guests on campus during the school day by appointment. As we near the end of the first quarter, we will reevaluate the current situation in our community, along with guidance from the health department.

Next Steps

Resuming School:

We look forward to welcoming our families back on the first day of school, which is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020. We know many of our families will have difficult decisions to make in the coming days. Please use [this link](#) to make your selection of Option 1 of traditional school at Athenian Academy, Option 2 of online school with Athenian Academy, or Option 3 that you are not returning to Athenian Academy.



Registration and Meet the Teacher:

In the coming days, we will be posting online registration forms at www.aota.org/registration and also on Facebook and Schoology, which include the following forms: Emergency Contacts, Before/Aftercare Registration, Middle School Elective Selections, and Bus Registration. We will also include the Supply Lists, Free and Reduced

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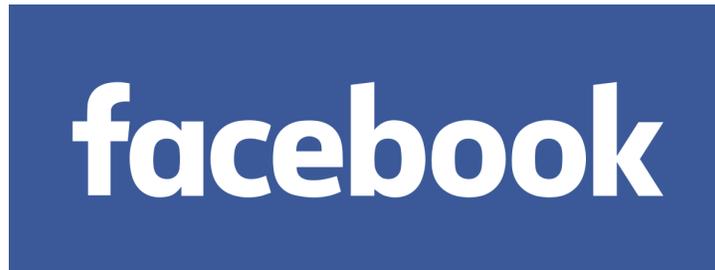


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Lunch Application, and the Approved Volunteer Application. For Meet the Teacher, we will be sending out a communication blast next week with more information.

Communication



Facebook:

If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Athenian-Academy-Of-Technology-And-The-Arts-26531996921605/>. This is a great way to stay updated, as we release new information.



Remind:

We use the app Remind to send out important information and reminders! To enroll, text @aota to 727-288-9078.



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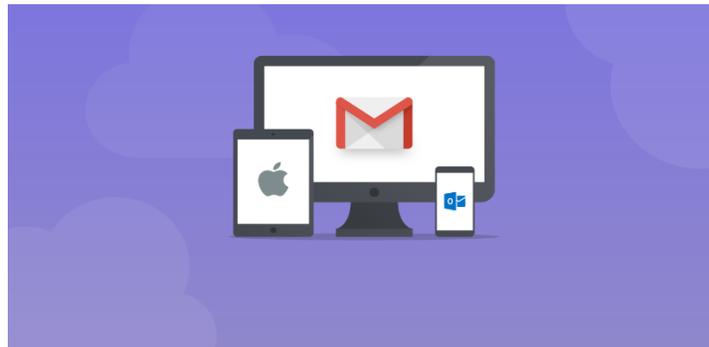
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Schoology:

We use the Learning Management System Schoology as another form of communication, as well as our gradebook system and an instructional tool. New families will receive information about Schoology during the first 2 weeks of school.



Email:

If you aren't currently receiving email communications from Mr. Markowitz, please send him an email at Evan.Markowitz@aaota.org requesting to be added to the email list. If you would like to be removed from the email, you can also send him an email requesting removal from the list.