

NEWSLETTER

What to do when we are Next to Normal

During this unprecedented time I wanted to share a thought about what this means for our Amani family. As always all that we do at Amani is grounded by the mission, *to provide our scholars with the academic and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in competitive high school programs, college and the career of their choice.* To that end, the next few weeks we will introduce new methods to deliver on this mission. We will be operating “next to normal”, expectations remain high, the academic program remains rigorous, the culture remains supportive of your scholars development both intellectually and personally. As we move forward it is important to keep in touch. All scholars are part of a “virtual homeroom” through Google classroom, where they will be able to communicate with teachers. You should also feel free to reach out to myself, dstern@amanicharter.org or my cell 646 957-1077 if you have any questions or concerns over the next few weeks.

This week's newsletter takes on a bit of a different format. It is filled with very important information regarding **Remote Learning at Amani Public Charter School.** Most is information that was previously sent home via backpack on Tuesday, March 13th along with new updates. Please take some time to review all of this with your scholar. The first Remote Learning assignment will be posted by 12:00 pm on Sunday, March 14th.

Access to the Resources

While we understand that telecommuting has become commonplace in the business world, many of these practices are not currently in place for school districts. As a reminder we are primarily relying on learning tools that your scholars are already accustomed to, including I-Ready, Read-A-Thon, Google Classroom, and Gmail. All the platforms are accessible on smartphones, tablets and laptops. If you have any questions or concerns about the availability of technology for your scholar at home, please reach out to Mr. Eason at keason@amanicharter.org.

The following internet providers have waived fees to will come to homes to install free wifi to families that do not currently have the internet available to them:

Comcast (855) 846-8376, Spanish speaking families (855) 765-6995, Spectrum (844) 488-8395, and Altice USA (866) 200-9522.



I Love Reading

Mrs. Sterns reading stash for the next few weeks.



Your scholar should have brought home their independent reading book and literature circle book. A minimum of 30 minutes of independent reading provides opportunities for building reading stamina and fluency. If your scholar needs access to more reading material, the Westchester Library System is a wonderful resource. Did you know the Westchester library has an extensive digital collection, which includes streaming movies, TV, and music. For information on what's available click [here](#). And, be sure to [download the](#) Westchester Library System app. You will need an active library card and your PIN to access the online materials. The Westchester Library System has doubled the borrowing limits for Hoopla and Kanopy.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

We understand that 2 weeks away from school for our scholars will be a new experience however we encourage you to maintain a consistent schedule that will help them to remain on a similar routine so this break does not diminish their work ethic and momentum. Please see our ACHIEVE guide for daily routines during closure:

Time	Activity	Description
8:00-9:00	SET THE TONE <i>(Accountability)</i>	Wake up, wash, brush your teeth, eat breakfast, clean your room.
9:00-11:00	Change the Narrative (Academics) <i>(Integrity)</i>	ELA and Social Studies assignments
11:00-12:00	Get Creative <i>(Hard work)</i>	1. Elective assignments (Latin, TECH, Health, Music, Art)
12:00-12:30	REFUEL (LUNCH)	Eat a healthy meal. 1. Fruit Grains Protein Vegetables
12:30-1:00	Chores <i>(Empathy)</i>	Clean up a room in the house. 1. Bathroom 2. Kitchen 3. Livingroom
1:00-2:00	RECHARGE <i>(Excellence)</i>	1. Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R) 2. Puzzles
2:00-4:00	Change the Narrative (Academics) <i>(Vision)</i>	Math and Science assignments
4:00-6:00	GET FIT <i>(Community)</i>	Go outside and engage in physical activities. Go for a light jog or walk. Yoga is a great alternative
6:00-7:00	Wind Down <i>(Accountability)</i>	Shower and eat dinner
7:00-9:00	Free TIME	Favorite television show Call a friend and tell them about your day Video Games
9:00	BEDTIME	Recharge your body for the next day.

Virtual Homerooms

Google classroom is a tool to facilitate paperless communication between teachers and students and streamline educational workflow. **Classroom** allows teachers to create classes, post assignments, organize folders, and view work in real-time.

Your Scholars New Virtual Homeroom

Your scholars will log into Google classroom daily to see what assignments have been posted. All assignments will be posted by 9:00 AM daily. There they will see links for assignments and any other pertinent information that needs to be shared. Teachers will check and monitor scholar progress and will contact you if they notice that scholars are not completing assignments.

If you are unable to gain internet access, we have 2 weeks worth of ELA and Math packets printed out. Please contact Mr. Scott, jscott@amanicharter.org to access those materials.

This is all new for our scholars to be operating in a Google Classroom environment. We would like to ask that you share with your scholar this information about how to be good scholars and citizens in the virtual google homeroom.

We Encourage

- Appropriate communication with teachers about assignments (direct message).
- Reach out for assistance when needed
- Remember that this is **NOT** a social media platform. Refrain from having personal conversations with peers
- All assignments are to be completed independently. (Integrity)
- Work on assignments daily
- Teacher's office hours between
 - 10:00 am-2:00 pm

We Discourage

- Sending messages to teachers or peers that are not related to the assignments.
- Messaging teachers outside of their office hours.
- Changing user name to a nickname (Causes confusion and may affect grading)

Maintaining Rigor

To maintain our rigorous academic program, your scholar will be assigned 4-5 hours of academic work to be completed via e-learning daily. Teachers will remotely monitor scholars progress and completion of assignments.

Subject	E-Learning Platform	Frequency
Math	I-Ready Google classroom Grade Level	Daily Assignments
ELA	I-Ready Google classroom	Daily Assignments
Social Studies	Newsela or other sources	Daily Assignments

	Google classroom	
Science	Newsela or other sources Google classroom	Daily Assignments
Specials	1 assignment that will last 2-3 weeks Google Classroom	

I-Ready Login:

- **Username:** First initial, Last initial and student ID.
- **Password:** pass and last 3 numbers of student ID

Ex: Jamell Scott, (User: JS1234 Password: pass234)

Email login

- **Username:** First initial, Last initial and student ID @amanicharter.org
 - *Ex: Jamell Scott, (User: JS1234@amanicharter.org)*
- **Password:** password1 (unless scholar chose to personalize it)

Lunch Grab and Go

It is crucial that students not congregate during this time so as to mitigate the spread of disease. As a reminder, while schools are closed, all extracurricular activities have also been cancelled/postponed. We do want to ensure that students who rely on our school system for affordable meals are not going hungry. To that end, a grab and go lunch option is available at Amani between 11 and Noon each weekday during this closure. Please simply plan to come to the building to receive the meal.