

September, 2020

Welcome to the 2020/21 school year which will be unlike any other in our 10 years at Amani. This is the beginning of what would have been our grand 10 year celebration. Instead of celebrating this milestone (that will come later in the year) we are - in this moment - reinventing ourselves as we reignite our educational program online and continue to plan for a return to brick and mortar.

It is ambitious to attempt to reopen a 40,000 square foot facility with 345 scholars and 60 adults in a safe and healthy manner while at the same time providing a rigorous academic program. We need to be realistic and be aware of the communities lived experiences and perceptions of the current conditions. Which is why we are taking a phased approach to beginning the school year - reigniting education and reopening the facility - on two paths. This allows Amani to focus on what we provide well - a Rigorous Academic Program and Strong School Culture - while establishing the logistics, processes, and protocols around creating a safe and healthy facility.

The Headline

Amani will begin the school year with the delivery of the education program 100% digitally - in what we refer to as Tier 1 - AmaniOnLine. Our plan, as of today, is to continue online through the first quarter which ends November 13. The detailed plan for reopening and detailed schedule can be found at the Amani Website: www.amanicharter.org

Amani 1:1 Chromebook Program

We have allocated resources so that we can move swiftly to fulfill our commitment to our 1:1 Chromebook initiative which provides a Chromebook to all scholars enrolled in Amani Public Charter School. Prior to school closing we distributed approximately 100 Chromebooks to provide devices to scholars who did not have a computer in their home. As we prepare for the new year we are asking that all scholars who received a Chromebook in the spring to **KEEP THAT CHROMEBOOK FOR USE DURING THE UPCOMING YEAR.**

Distribution of Chromebooks for scholars who did not receive one is outlined below. We strongly recommend that everyone purchase insurance through Amani Public Charter School. The cost of insurance is \$22 per year. Before receiving your Chromebook, all parents must read and complete the Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy and have completed the registration process. Which can also be found at www.amanicharter.org.

Computer Distribution

Chromebooks will be distributed on the following days and times for all newly enrolled scholars and any scholar who **DID NOT** receive a Chromebook in the spring:

- Sept 8th: 9am - 4pm

- Sept 9th: 1pm - 7pm
- Sept 10th: 9am - 4pm

You must sign up for a designated time <https://calendly.com/keason/chromebook-pickup>. To ensure a safe environment for all, we ask that each scholar comes with no more than ONE family member, and follows all Covid-19 safety guidelines as laid out on **Appendix A** below. Please take a minute to review the Technology Letter at and Chromebook Manual - which can be found on our website www.amanicharter.org - prior to arriving to pick up your Chromebook. Please note scholars **MUST BE** accompanied by a Parent/Guardian for computer pick up.

We will also be distributing academic materials including scholar class reading books, independent reading books, and Math materials at this time. For those of you who already have a Chromebook, you still need to come in to pick up your academic materials during the times listed above. **Do not sign up for a Chromebook Pick Up Slot.** Please keep in mind that all proper protocols will be applied, including mask wearing and maintaining social distancing.

Virtual Orientation

As school will look different for everyone, we are planning a robust Virtual Orientation Program that will begin on September 8th and run through the first weeks of school. To our new members we are delighted that you are joining the Amani family, and thankful for those that are continuing on their academic journey with our school.

Because this year is new for everyone, we are asking that ALL families and scholars participate in the Orientation Program. All aspects of orientation will be virtual. We invite the whole school community to join us on **Thursday, September 10th at 7:00pm for Convocation** - our official welcome to Amani's 10th Year and to our family. Principal Jamell Scott and I are looking forward to providing an overview of the academic experience at Amani and introducing critical aspects of our school culture that make Amani the special place to learn and grow.

On Friday, September 11th we will be hosting the first day orientation for each grade. This is a **REQUIRED EVENT** for all scholars and attendance will be taken. The zoom link for this event will be posted in your scholar's **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** homeroom. It is important that scholars log in to this event utilizing their school issued Chromebook.

Welcome to Fifth Grade	Friday, September 11th 9:30 am
Welcome to Sixth Grade	Friday, September 11th 11:00 am
Welcome to Seventh Grade	Friday, September 11th 12:30 pm
Welcome to Eighth Grade	Friday, September 11th 2:00 pm

As part of our Parent University, in partnership with Orientation we will be hosting a series of Tech Bytes. These programs - presented in virtual webinar format - are an opportunity for families to learn about technology and school resources that will help you and your scholars make a successful transition into Amani's virtual school environment. Specific topics will include: logging into Google Classroom,

understanding School Tools, and what you need to know about Kickboard. Parent University will continue with our Thursday Night Community Meetings hosted by Mr. Scott. Look for the schedule to be announced very soon.

Thursday, September 17th -

What is SEL and why does it matter for your scholar? This presentation will share the importance of Social and Emotional learning as part of Amani's mission and overview the many resources available to you and your scholar. We will talk about how to protect your student (and yourself) from the unique stressors that may arise in virtual learning.

Thursday, September 24th

Please join Amani's Humanities Department Chair for an overview of the ELA program at Amani. We will also explore how families can best support your scholars.

Thursday, October 1st

Please join Amani's STEM Department Chair for an overview of the Math program at Amani. We will also explore how families can best support your scholars.


Health and Safety Procedures

Beginning on Monday, August 31, all visitors must wear a mask and will be required to fill out a Health Screening Survey before entering the building including for computer and academic materials pick up.

Please review the enclosed survey information sheet to familiarize yourself.

You can complete the survey a few ways.

1. Scan the QR code from your phone and answer the questions.
2. Go to testalerts.com from your browser, enter the 6 digit code and answer the questions.

If you answer NO to all the health questions, you will receive a Green  checkmark. Please show this to Security when entering the building. Additionally, security will be taking body temperature upon entry.