



July 31, 2025

AMS Families:

As we prepare for the opening of school on Thursday, September 4, we would like to share some updates and reminders with you.

Earlier this month, the school was notified that Algonquin is the NYSASCD Whole Child Education Award winning school for New York State!

This impressive recognition is a reflection of the long-standing hard work and dedication of the AMS staff and school community to support students as they navigate their middle years here in our district.

We are proud of this award and will be celebrating this recognition with our students in September!

This summer has been a busy one so far at AMS as the school has hosted many camps and the district's extended school year program, along with significant cleaning, painting and maintenance projects. Meanwhile many of our teachers have been involved in professional development, curriculum writing and teaching our own school's summer program.

We hope that your family is having an enjoyable summer and that as your child starts thinking about September, that they are excited to be at AMS with their friends and teachers.

Sincerely,
Robert Messia, Principal
Brian Rhode, Assistant Principal

LET'S GO GOLDEN KNIGHTS!

Each year our school establishes a theme that is reflected in a banner above the front entrance of the school. This



year we are celebrating the new school mascot as we become Golden Knights!

We have several activities planned for the year ahead to help all of us embrace this new era. One of the most significant is a school community project where all of our students will participate in designing and painting a mural in our Cafeteria Foyer.

In late October we will welcome renowned mural artist, and Averill Park alum, Eugene O'Niell, who will help us take our school spirit and students' mural vision into a reality. We thank Katelyn Baker for championing this initiative and the Averill Park Education Foundation, the AMS Student Council and the Algonquin Parent Organization for their financial support of this transformative project!

MORNING MEETING ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULES

All Algonquin students will receive a letter in the mail in late August informing them of their Morning Meeting assignment for the upcoming school year.

Students will receive their course schedules on the first day of school.

RESPECT - EFFORT - ACTION

GRADE 6 FAMILY VISITS - AUGUST 28

Incoming Grade 6 students and families are invited to visit at AMS in advance of the start of school during our AMS Grade 6 Family Visit Night on Thursday, August 28th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

This event is a loosely structured, self-guided program with a 2 hour time window for families to visit in a relaxed environment.

There will be several fun activities built into the event, including a Stewart's Ice Cream Social, with ice cream sundaes for sale by the APO for \$1.00.





Families should plan on spending about 45 minutes here in the building for the activities.

More information will be shared directly with incoming Grade 6 families in the coming weeks.

We hope this opportunity will support a smooth transition for your child to the upcoming school year. Thank you.

CHANGES FOR 2025-26

In June we previewed for students several changes for the coming school year. Those changes were outlined in a video shared during Morning Meeting. The graphic that follows outlines several key things for families to know from that video. Students with medical needs for access to bags/phones during the school day will receive their luggage tag from the principals or nurse on the first day of school. Additional information about the electronics policy changes and our increased use of school lockers will be shared as we get closer to the start of the school year.

 <h1>Looking Ahead To 2025-2026</h1>	<h2>Backpacks</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will stay in lockers during the school day• Exceptions for special needs<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Luggage tags will be issued 
<h2>Student Technology</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Electronic Devices<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cell phones, smart watches, earbuds & tablets, etc.○ Not allowed during the day<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 7:45am - 2:25pm■ Powered off and in lockers	<h2>Student Technology</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contacting Home:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students can use landline phones:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Classrooms■ Counseling Center■ Main Office○ Parents can leave messages at the main office

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Please [click here](#) for the Grades 6-8 supply list.

Should any family need assistance with obtaining supplies for your child please reach out to your child's school counselor. Thanks to the generosity of the Sand Lake Kiwanis we have supplies for students who need them. Thank you.



SAVE THE DATE - AMS LEARNING LAUNCH (OPEN HOUSE)

Mark your calendars and join us for Algonquin's Learning Launch (Open House) on Thursday, September 11th from 5:30-7:00pm. More information about this evening program for parents and students will be shared as we get closer to the event.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS REMINDER

If you haven't done so, now is a great time for students to get going on your summer reading assignment!

At AMS we know that students need to continually build and maintain their skills in reading and mathematics. As a result, our teachers have created important, engaging and manageable summer assignments to support student success in their upcoming grade level.



For Math: Students should be completing their daily math calendar assignments.

For ELA: Students should be reading their summer book and complete the short activity for their grade level prior to the start of school.

Materials for the assignments were distributed to students in June and can also be [found here](#).



GRADE 6 FAMILIES: Please remember that your student needs the Tdap immunization by the time they turn 11. If they have already turned 11, please send in the physician immunization record if you have not already done so. NYS allows for 14 grace days from the day your student turns 11 to obtain the Tdap immunization. If they do not have the Tdap immunization by the fourteenth day after their 11th birthday, the district can opt to exclude your student.

GRADE 7 FAMILIES: Please remember to send in your student's 7th grade physical, it is a NYS mandate. All 7th grade students, per NYS law, must have the Meningitis vaccine as well. Please send in documentation from your medical provider stating the vaccine was administered. The vaccine is due by September 18, [2025](#), if not received by this date, the district can exclude your student. In compliance with the Dominic Murray Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, a physical must include documentation that there has been a "family cardiac history review." The physician, PA, or NP completing the physical must "check the box" on the physical indicating that this was done.

GRADES 7 & 8 STUDENT ATHLETES: You must register in Family ID if you intend to try out for a sport. You must also have a current physical on file with the AMS health office. A physical is valid for a period of 1 year from the date it was completed. In order for your child to be approved to try out, their physical on file with the health office must have been completed within 1 year of the tryout/practice start date.

If your student requires medication to be given in school (daily or emergency), please print the form below, have your child's medical provider complete it and return the form to the AMS health office. The link for the NYS physical exam form is also available below. Thank you.

Medication Administration Form: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vsgVkOsO6R5XZhium2gW1jZFGRReffJ7>

NYS Health Exam Form: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/health-exam-form.pdf>

AMS health office fax (518)-674-8426

On August 28, 2025, the nurse will be at the school from 4:30-6:30, if your student would like to drop off medication or student health supplies.