



Allendale Public Schools  
High School | 10760 68th Ave | Allendale, MI 49401 | 616-892-5585

Greetings AHS Students and Families,

We hope this welcome back letter finds you relaxing and enjoying summer. We are very excited to see our high school students on Monday, August 28! Enclosed you will find important dates, times, and other relevant information regarding Allendale High School and the 2023-2024 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (616)892-5585, or check the school website for a list of contacts ([www.allendale.k12.mi.us/schools/highschool](http://www.allendale.k12.mi.us/schools/highschool)). The high school office will open on August 14.

The 2023 - 2024 school year brings a few changes within our staff roster. Mr. Brian Brethauer and Mrs. Laurie Watson retired from education, and Mr. Daniel Russell accepted a job with Royal Oak School District on the east side of the state. Mr. Brethauer served as a science teacher and our head coach of our AHS Science Olympiad team for over three decades at APS. Mrs. Watson also served APS for many years as a building and an athletic department secretary. Mr. Russell served as our Athletic Director for two years. We are happy and excited for Mr. Brethauer, Mrs. Watson, and Mr. Russell to start new chapters in their lives. We wish them the best! I am also pleased to announce new staff members at AHS. We hired a new science teacher to replace Mr. Brethauer, a new athletic secretary to replace Mrs. Watson, and a new athletic director to replace Mr. Russell. We also hired a new general education social worker and an additional English teacher. Ms. Brianna Lee will replace Mr. Brethauer and will teach science classes at AHS. Last year, Ms. Lee completed her student teaching with APS under Mr. Keith Piccard at Allendale Middle School. Mrs. Taylor Evans will replace Mrs. Watson and will serve APS as our new secretary for our Athletic Department and our Athletic Director. We are happy to welcome Mrs. Evans back into APS! Mrs. Evans previously taught Physical Education and Health to our students at Allendale Middle School. Mr. Jason Dykstra will replace Mr. Russell and will serve as our new athletic director. Mr. Dykstra has over 10 years of experience as an athletic director. Mr. Dykstra was also a Physical Education teacher for many years. Mrs. Kelly Koeze is our new general education social worker. Mrs. Koeze has both of her children as students at AHS, and she has over 20 years of social work experience with four of those years completed with Coopersville Public Schools. Mr. Miller Johnson is our additional high school English teacher. He is coming to us from Kenowa Hills Public Schools where he taught middle and high school English and coached JV baseball. We welcome these staff members with excitement and support!

The high school's daily class schedule starts with 1<sup>st</sup> period at 7:45 AM and ends with 6<sup>th</sup> period at 2:33 PM. The high school doors will open at 7:10 AM. We will run a six period school day within a two semester school year. Our first semester at the high school runs from August 28 to January 19, and the second semester runs from January 22 to June 7. Student schedules will be available on hard copies at the high school on August 16 and 17. Student schedules will be shared with students electronically via Infinite Campus' Student Portal on August 18.



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→ *Please pay special attention to the dates enclosed with this correspondence, especially the Open House date and times--Please bring your child's schedule with you to our high school Open House.*

We will run a freshman orientation at the high school from 8:45 - 11:45 AM on August 17. This event is an opportunity for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to become familiar with the building and hear some helpful tips without the stress of 600 other students in the high school. Bus transportation and lunch will be provided on this day. I highly recommend your freshman son or daughter attend this event. The information shared will help reduce the anxiety and stress of joining AHS on the first day of school.

We are also requiring all AHS students\* (freshmen through seniors) to report to the high school on the first day of school. This is different from years past as our Careerline Tech Center students reported to the tech center on the first day of school. This year, we are requiring all students, including tech center students, to report to the high school on August 28. The first day of school is a half day for all APS students. You may remember last year we asked our high school families, students, and staff to vote on acronyms showcasing our values for our new focus on building our positive high school climate and supporting what it means to be a Falcon. We will use this half day to introduce our new Falcon P.R.I.D.E. matrix to our students. Our AHS staff will teach lessons that show our high school students how Falcon P.R.I.D.E. will help establish and support our positive climate.

**P.R.I.D.E. = Persevere Respect Invoke Discover and Engage.**

This builds the PRIDE in our Falcon P.R.I.D.E. Our AHS students, staff, and administration will strive to show these values in all that we do. We will use this to positively reinforce our high school behavioral expectations while also holding ourselves accountable to our student code of conduct found in our AHS Student Handbook. We are so excited to build and maintain a positive, supportive, and engaging climate that we can all be proud of at AHS!

*\*Dual Enrollment and Early College students are not required to attend AHS on the first day of school if their college professors do not give them permission to miss their college classes on the 28th.*

One final important reminder: **Please update your census verification report form, and please include a working, accurate email address.** Email is one of the most convenient and commonly used forms of communication between school and home. Thank you for taking the time to provide accurate information on this document. It helps us communicate with home more accurately and efficiently. We would also appreciate it if you would be willing to share your child's cell phone number and other email addresses with us.



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Please check our [website](#) frequently for updates regarding important dates and information. You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/allendalehigh> for quick updates and communication. We are looking forward to another GREAT school year.

Thank you,  
Go Falcon PRIDE!

*Troy VanderLaan*

Troy VanderLaan  
Principal  
Allendale High School  
New Options High School



→ **Please see a list of important  
back-to-school dates and new  
staff introductions below**



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**Ms. Brianna Lee** - *Science Teacher*

Hello! My name is Brianna Lee and I will be teaching science classes at AHS. I graduated from Central Michigan University in 2022 with three Secondary Education majors (Social Studies, Integrated Science, and History) and a minor in Biology. I was a student teacher at Allendale Middle School during the Spring of 2022. I have also worked at Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan this past school year. In my free time, you will catch me reading, swing dancing, cooking/baking, or running. I'm excited to continue my journey here at Allendale and to meet all of you!



**Mr. Miller Johnson** - *English Teacher*

Hi! My name is Miller Johnson and I will be teaching English at Allendale High School. I graduated from Grand Valley State University with majors in secondary education and English along with a minor in psychology. Last fall, I completed my student teaching with Kenowa Hills where I spent the remainder of the school year as both an English teacher and JV baseball coach. In my free time, I love going to movies and concerts, reading, spending time with my family, and watching baseball. My hope is to eventually make it to all 30 MLB stadiums, and I look forward to traveling around the United States to do so. I am beyond excited to join the Allendale community and can't wait for the school year!





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**Mrs. Kelly Koeze - Social Worker**

Hi! My name is Kelly Koeze and I will be joining the AHS staff as a general education social worker. I have 20+ years of experience in the social work field and for the last 9 years I've worked as a school social worker. I have a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Grand Valley State University. My husband and I moved to Allendale 15 years ago and have loved raising our family in this community. Nate and I have two children, Trevor and Payton, who both attend AHS. My favorite place to be is at the beach, on our boat, or cheering on MSU or AHS at different sporting events. I also enjoy reading and exercising. I can't wait to work with the staff, students and families at AHS!



**Mr. Jason Dykstra - Athletic Director**

Hello, my name is Jason Dykstra and I will be joining the AHS staff as the Athletic Director. I have 10+ years of experience in the athletic director field. I have a K-12 PE bachelor's degree from Cornerstone University and a master's degree in athletic administration from Western Michigan University. I have 3 sons: Jaron is a junior tennis player at Cornerstone University, Mason, a freshman football player at Ferris State University, and Carson, a junior at Hudsonville High School. My favorite place to be is at my sons' athletic events or on the water. I can't wait to work with the staff, students and families at AHS! Go Falcons!



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**Mrs. Taylor Evans - Athletic  
Department Secretary**

Hi! My name is Taylor Evans and I am joining the AHS staff as the Athletic Secretary. I have coached the Allendale Girls Cross Country team as well as been an Assistant Coach for the Allendale Girls Track team for the past eight years. I also spent four years teaching Health and Physical Education at Allendale Middle School. My husband Scotty and I live in Zeeland with our two golden retrievers, Nala and Susie.

I love being outdoors and some of my favorite activities are running, mountain biking, boating, and gardening. I can't wait to work with the students, parents, and staff at AHS! Go Falcons!





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## Important Back-To-School Dates for 2023-2024 SY

### High School Pictures, Schedule, and Chromebook Pick Up:

#### **Wednesday, August 16 & Thursday, August 17**

9<sup>th</sup> Graders: 9:00 - 10:30 AM  
10<sup>th</sup> Graders: 10:30 - 12:00 noon  
11<sup>th</sup> Graders: 1:00 - 2:00 PM  
12<sup>th</sup> Graders: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

★ *Please enter through the Athletic Entrance to pick up your schedules. You will then be directed to the CEAC for pictures and the media center for chromebook pick up.*

### School Picture Make-Up Day:

Monday, September 25

#### **9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade High School Open House:**

##### ★ **Parents of all AHS grades -**

- Tuesday, August 29 at 6:00 PM
- Begins in the Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- Please bring your child's schedule

##### ★ **9<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Meeting -**

Mr. VanderLaan hosts an optional pre Open House meeting for 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents on Tuesday, August 29 at 5:30 PM in the Ceglarek Fine Arts Center.

### Census Verification:

Parents/Guardians please make any changes necessary and fill out and sign the bottom portion. This **MUST** be returned the first week of school.

★ **PLEASE make certain to provide a working email address!**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation - 9<sup>th</sup> grade students only:**

**Thursday, August 17 from 8:45 - 11:45 AM**

- Class schedules, chromebooks, school pictures
- Presentations from administrators/staff
- High school tour and lunch

### School Day Start and End Times:

School day begins at 7:45 AM and ends at 2:33 PM

### School Day Schedule:

1 <sup>st</sup> period:	7:45 - 8:43
2 <sup>nd</sup> period:	8:48 - 9:51 (daily announcements)
3 <sup>rd</sup> period:	9:56 - 10:54
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lunch (A):</b>	<b>10:54 - 11:24</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> period (A):</b>	<b>11:29 - 12:27</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> period (B):</b>	<b>10:59 - 11:57</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch (B):</b>	<b>11:57 - 12:27</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> period:	12:32 - 1:30
6 <sup>th</sup> period:	1:35 - 2:33

### ½ Day Class Schedule:

1 <sup>st</sup> period:	7:45 - 8:15
2 <sup>nd</sup> period:	8:20 - 8:50
3 <sup>rd</sup> period:	8:55 - 9:25
4 <sup>th</sup> period:	9:30 - 10:00
5 <sup>th</sup> period:	10:05 - 10:35
6 <sup>th</sup> period:	10:40 - 11:10

**\*AM & PM Tech are required.**

**\*Transportation will be provided, except from school to home for PM Tech.**

The first home football game of the year is Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 7 PM vs. Greenville High School at Greenville.

### HOMECOMING 2023

Homecoming Football Game: 10/06/2023

Homecoming Dance: 10/07/2023





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Allendale Public Schools Student Calendar  
2023-2024

Aug. 23	Wednesday	Evergreen Elementary Open House 5:30-6:30 PM Oakwood Intermediate Open House 7:00-8:00PM
Aug. 24	Thursday	Early Childhood Center Open House 5:30-6:30 PM
Aug. 28	Monday	Y5 -12 First Day of School (Half Day)
Aug. 29	Tuesday	AHS/NOHS Open House 6:00-7:00 PM
Aug. 30	Wednesday	Middle School Open House 6:00-7:00 PM
Sep. 1-4		No School for Y5 -12 Students: Labor Day Break
Sep. 5	Tuesday	School Resumes
Sep. 29	Friday	No School for Y5-12 Students
Oct. 18	Wednesday	1/2 Day for Students: Y5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct. 19	Thursday	1/2 Day for Students: Y5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct. 20	Friday	No School
Nov. 22-24	Wed.-Fri.	No School for Y5 - 12 Students: Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27	Monday	School Resumes
Dec. 25 – Jan 5		No School for Y5 -12 Students: Holiday Break
Jan. 8	Monday	School Resumes
Jan. 18	Thursday	Y5-12 Half Day of School
Jan. 19	Friday	Y5-12 Half Day of School; End of First Semester
Feb. 16-19		No School for Y5 -12 Students: Mid-Winter Break
March 13	Wednesday	1/2 Day for Students: Y5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 14	Thursday	1/2 Day for Students: Y5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 15	Friday	No School for Y5-12 Students
Mar. 29 – Apr. 5		No School for Y5-12 Students: Spring Break
Apr. 8	Monday	School Resumes
May 3	Friday	No School for Y5-12 Students
May 27	Monday	No School for Y5-12 Students: Memorial Day
June 6	Thursday	Y5-12 Half Day of School
June 7	Friday	Y5-12 Half Day of School

**School Start and End Times**

Allendale High School  
Full Day: 7:45 AM to 2:33 PM  
Half Day: 7:45 AM to 11:10 AM

New Options High School  
Full Day: 7:45 AM to 2:33 PM  
Half Day: 7:45 AM to 11:10 AM

Allendale Middle School  
Full Day: 7:33 AM to 2:21 PM  
Half Day: 7:33 AM to 10:55 AM

Oakwood Intermediate  
Full Day: 8:28 AM to 3:21 PM  
Half Day: 8:28 AM to 11:52 AM

Evergreen Elementary School  
Full Day: 8:37 AM to 3:30 PM  
Half Day: 8:37 AM to 12:01 PM

Allendale Early Childhood Center  
Full Day: 8:44 AM to 3:37 PM  
Half Day: 8:44 AM to 12:10 PM