

May 28, 2021

Dear 8th Grade Families:

All of us at AMS realize this is not the end of middle school that our students wanted. We appreciate that they have missed out on so many great things, and we wish we could bring all those things back for our kids. But, better days are ahead. The plan that I am sharing with you today represents long, careful thought involving not just the administration and 8th grade team, but also the Auburn Public Schools leadership and town officials. We have done our very best to put together a meaningful program within the confines of state mandated social distancing guidelines.

In keeping with the above points, it is my hope that our students and families will make the most of this opportunity. Also, it is absolutely necessary that we all abide by the guidelines put in place. Specifically, the *Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's* recent guidelines for graduation ceremonies states:

- Commencements must be held in a space that can accommodate required social distancing and the flow of air.
- If graduating students are indoors and masked, they must be seated 6 feet apart.
- Ceremonies should be kept as brief as possible.
- No food or drink permitted.
- No communal gathering or reception either before or after the Commencement.
- All Commencements must have staggered, timed entry and exit for all participants and attendees in order to avoid crowding before or after a ceremony.

In keeping with these guidelines, the maximum number of people our gymnasium can hold is 224. That allows **each student to sit with three family members**. Each student will have a four seat row designated for her/him - One seat for the 8th grader and three for family members. ***Please see diagram below.*** We understand that it will be difficult for some families to keep to just three guests, but we must adhere to the guidelines and will be unable to make exceptions.

State regulations require us to stagger the entrance and exit times of each event. Please plan on parking and lining up outside the gym doors no earlier than 15 minutes prior to your start time. You will enter the gym at the door to the far left and find your assigned seat. Once your child has been recognized, you will exit the gym at the double doors to the right. As you exit the gym you will stop and get a family photo at the photo station. ***(see diagram)*** Photos will be emailed to you at a later date.

Please fill out the form below to RSVP for the ceremony so that we can plan accordingly and adhere to contact tracing guidelines. [8th Grade Promotional RSVP](#)

Mrs. Robbins & Mr. Watson's Homeroom Classes
8:30 am - 9:15 am

Dr. Loach & Mrs. Young's Homeroom Classes
9:30 am - 10:15 am

Mrs. Mancini, Mrs. Carpenter & Mr. Caswell's Homeroom Classes
10:30 am - 11:15 am

Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Green & Mr. Comorey's Homeroom Classes
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please contact Sabrina Heiniluoma (sheiniluoma@auburn.k12.ma.us) with any questions.

High School Here We Come

8th Grade Promotional Information

