



May 7, 2020

Dear ACS Athens Parents and Guardians,

I would like to begin this letter by thanking all of you for your patience and understanding through this challenging time of adjustment for all of us. As we prepare for re-opening the school on Monday, May 18 for students in grades 6-11, I would like to inform you of the steps we have taken to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and staff.

First, all students, both coming to the campus and from home (virtual), will follow the same schedule simultaneously, thus guaranteeing the smooth continuation of teaching and learning throughout and until the end of the year. A revised schedule has been created with additional time to accommodate breaks and lunch for the students that we will share with you very soon. The school day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 3:15 p.m.

More specifically, the student body will be separated into two groups and school will operate on a three-day rotation. Group A will attend school the first three days (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday), and Group B will attend the next three days (Thursday, Friday, Monday) and so on. Students at home will receive exactly the same lesson as the at-school students, while having the opportunity to interact with their teacher just as they would if they were in the classroom by using the BBB session, which will be projected on the Smartboard.

If the teacher cannot be on campus, the delivery of the lesson will be through the BBB for all students and the students who are at school will be in their classroom with a substitute teacher.

We will continue with faculty office hours, but now students will also have the opportunity to meet with their teachers face to face where possible and as needed. Finally, and as is currently happening, students might have an additional session for one of their courses in the final part of the day. If this is not the case, then students will be engaged with teachers and specialists, labs if applicable, counselors, or further meetings with their teacher depending on availability.

Below are some very important parameters that we have taken into account and would like to share with you as we prepare to welcome our students back to the campus:

- a. The 2019-2020 academic year will end as planned on June 19, 2020.
- b. Student learning **will continue uninterrupted** without compromising the curriculum goals for this academic year. To date this has been accomplished with the Virtual learning program that was put in place.
- c. We are planning for the safety of our students with social distancing within the classrooms (requirement of 1.5 meters between desks), as well as in all other areas of our campus. A detailed outline specific to safety measures and other important information will be sent to you in another communication.

ACS Athens Mission Statement:

ACS Athens is a student-centered international school, embracing American educational philosophy, principles and values. Through excellence in teaching and diverse educational experiences, ACS Athens challenges all students to realize their unique potential: academically, intellectually, socially and ethically — to thrive as responsible global citizens.

Accredited by: MSA-CESS, IBO, College Board

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- d. Faculty members that will stay at home either because they have young children or belong to the “sensitive” population, will continue to teach their students Virtual.
- e. Students that need to stay home either because they or their families belong to a “sensitive” group of the population will continue their learning Virtual and without disruption.

More details as to whether your child will be in Group A or B as well as the updated schedule will be emailed to both you and the students next week.

In order to plan effectively, however, we need to know whether your child will be attending school or will be remaining at home due to special circumstances. We ask that you to respond to the questionnaire that was sent via email in order to confirm whether your child will be attending their classes at school or from home. Please bear in mind that this is not an option, but rather a necessity (students stay home due to special circumstances). Finally, if your child(ren) have been taking the school bus, let us know if they will continue to do so, or you will be driving them yourself. Please respond by noon on Monday, May 11th. **NOTE:** Whatever decision you make for your child(ren), must be adhered to in order for our planning to be effective to ensure the safety of the students.

Once again, on behalf of the staff and faculty of ACS Athens, I would like to express our appreciation for your excellent cooperation, patience, and encouragement throughout this time. It has been a unique journey where we have all, hopefully, gained valuable knowledge and rewards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Tokatlidou', written in a cursive style.

Julia Tokatlidou, M.A, M.B.A
Dean of Academic Affairs