

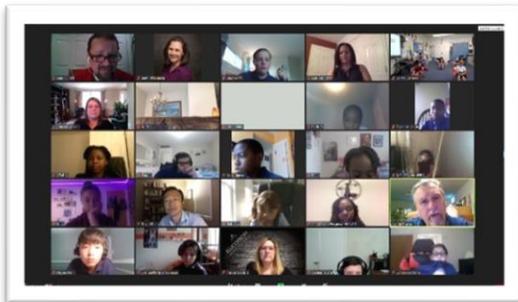
September 13, 2020

Dear Atholton Family,

What a joy to see the faces of our students - both in person and on screens! The teachers had been preparing for this day and are so excited to be back in class. The Student Council has already had their first meeting and plans are underway for the fall Month of Prayer as well as Spirit Week. Everything may look different, but enthusiasm for student-led activities has not diminished.



As the weeks continue, we look forward to more students on campus. It's wonderful to hear the sounds of learning and fun in our building again, whether it is the sound of the students physically on campus, or the sounds of learning coming through the screens of our devices.



The beginning of a new school year with the freshly sharpened pencils, crisp notebook paper, and yes, the sparkling Chromebooks, is a good reminder of God's



promise of new beginnings. "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). "We can look forward to the time God has promised where there will be no more diseases, hurricanes, or wildfires."

As we look ahead to this school year, I look forward to partnering with you.

With Appreciation – Due to the change in structure at Atholton to better address the virtual and hybrid models, there are some beloved staff that are not with us this year. We are deeply grateful for their selfless service over the years. Thank you to: Makda Andarge, Jocey Alcoba, Cherie Collett, Dan Conway, Kristina Ericson, Pam Pinder, and Yemi Woldeyohnnis. You will be missed!



Follow Us - Stay connected to Atholton Adventist Academy throughout the school year and follow our Instagram (atholtonacademyofficial) and Facebook accounts.

MAP Testing – This week you will be receiving detailed information about MAP Testing that will take place next week from your child's homeroom teacher, who will introduce and familiarize the students with the testing during this week. Grades 3-10 will be taking these tests which replace the ITBS testing of the past years.



Parents Needed – In the coming month, be on the lookout for more information about how you can add value to our school. You may have some creative ways that could build our family connections. I would love to hear your ideas. Here are some ways that you could possibly be involved:

- Career Talks – give a career talk virtually
- Room Parent – help to organize class parents, plan simple extracurricular virtual or in person activities
- School Garden – maintenance, landscaping, and simple construction
- Worship Devotionals – share a simple class worship virtually
- Yearbook – submitting photos, organizing photos, and editing



Box Tops- Even though you no longer have to clip Box Top coupon points, you can still earn money for the school. Now you can use your phone to scan the receipts to record your points automatically. Use the QR code to download the app.



Private Piano Lessons - David Eide-Altman former piano teacher at Atholton for 11 year is offering lessons via Zoom. \$25 per 30-minute lesson for one student, \$23 per lesson for 2 children, \$20 for 3 or more in one family. If interested, please contact him. 240-620-2722 david.eidealtman@gmail.com

Ongoing Evaluation- The school will continue to closely evaluate our plans and structure in relation to the mandates and requirements of the state, county, and conference. In all decisions, we are committed to providing a safe as possible environment for our school family. If any changes need to be made, we will inform you by the end of September. Those changes would go into effect at the beginning of second quarter.

Thank you! – We are dedicated to providing an even more robust program for our students. There have been adjustments made to the schedules to simplify and make more user friendly. As much as we are in awe of how technology enables us to reach across the screen to teach, it doesn't always cooperate in the way we want, when we need it. Thank you for your understanding and patience. I have heard helpful feedback from several families as we seek to make improvements. You have been timely, specific, and gracious.



Within these three weeks of school, we can already see how God is providing. As we go into this next week, we can pause and thank Him for His faithful and perfect provision.



In His service together,

Miya Kim