



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
SHAPE AMERICAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
EUROPE WEST DISTRICT
UNIT 21420
APO, AE 09705-1420

14 August 2020

Welcome to School Year 2020-2021!

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, and Community Members,

This year we welcome several new staff members:

- **Andrea Christenson** – Social Studies/ESOL
- **Janet Adkins** – Social Studies
- **Josephina Meza** – ESOL
- **Mary Hansen** – French/Spanish
- **Michael Lybarger** – Acting Assistant Principal

Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is a primary focus. Parents will be required to **monitor their own children's health**, including a temperature check and symptom check daily within two hours of the start of school. ***If your student is ill, your student should stay home***, continue to monitor symptoms, and contact a health-care provider as needed. If your student has a fever, return to school requires 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication. It is imperative that we all take this requirement seriously to reduce the risk that the virus will enter the school. Please complete and have your child return the lower portion of the parent/guardian pre-screening form when he/she arrives at school. *(The pre-screening form provided as an attachment accompanying this email).*

Earlier this week our staff was trained on the measures that will be implemented at SHAPE American Middle School to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All of our students will receive guidance which is in accordance to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the DoDEA COVID-19* Operational Guidelines and Protocols for Schools
<https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm>.

In preparation for the first day of school, August 18, 2020, I want to take a moment to share with you some key information. When students return to school this year, they will see the following measures that have been put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

- Face masks on
- Wash hands
- Sanitize after touching
- Social distancing (stay 6 feet apart)
- Bring a water bottle
- Grade level entryways
- Follow the arrows
- No lockers
- Cohort classes

Masks/cloth face coverings are required throughout the school campus when school is in session. The school has purchased masks and will issue two masks per student. These are 100% cotton and a jersey/t-shirt type of material with elastic ear loops. It is suggested that students carry a spare masks in their backpacks. Students are welcome to bring their own cloth masks from home as long as they meet SHAPE and CDC guidelines. No “valve-style masks” will be allowed. Please be sure to sanitize your student’s mask each day. Teachers will take their students outside during the school day for “Air Breaks” which will require that students maintaining social distancing.

Everyone who comes into the school will be required to **sanitize hands upon entry**. Hand sanitizing stations have been strategically placed throughout the school and at every entry point. Students will be reminded to wash hands/sanitize prior to eating, after touching high- touch surfaces, and after using facilities. Students will also be taught how to sanitize their work areas and specialized equipment like computers. To the extent possible, students will **use personal or individual resources** (not shared).

Students have been assigned to **grade level class cohorts**. Students will remain in one designated cohort classrooms for all of their core classes (English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science) while teachers will travel the grade level classroom. Under most circumstances, students remain with their cohort groups for some of their elective classes.

Lockers will not be issued. Students will most likely not have to carry textbooks between home and school, as the majority of our textbooks are available online. Students will have access to a cubby at their assigned desk to leave their basic supplies and assigned textbooks.

Students are requested to bring minimal **school supplies** to school for the 1st two weeks of school. All students will receive a School Planner on the first day of school. The only **required supplies** which your child should carry in their backpack is a notebook, paper, and pens/pencils, a pencil box, and if available, a small personal tissue packet and hand sanitizer. Teachers have reviewed and made some adjustments to the supply lists (*Refer to the Gladiator Bulletin for the supply lists*). Using the manufacturer’s guidelines, please wash or sanitize your student’s backpack regularly.

At school, we will practice **social distancing** in each classroom and during all movement throughout the day. Classrooms have all been reconfigured and arranged with social distancing in mind. Also, this year we will implement a **one-grade level hall system**. Each grade level will be assigned their own entrance/exit door and staircase. This will ease the congestion of all the students trying to come into the school at the same time, by moving in a one-way flow for each grade without any mixing or paths crossing. There are signs posted throughout the building to note the direction for movement.

Water fountains will be used for bottle refill only. Students should bring a water bottle from home. Please label the water bottle with your student's name.

This year, all 8th graders will also have their **lunch** in the Middle School Cafeteria, instead of the International Cafeteria. Students will have two choices for lunch, they can either bring a sack lunch from home (*no microwaves will be available*) or they can obtain a pre-purchased AAFES lunch.

All **AAFES lunches will be "Grab & Go"** and must be pre-ordered. This link below will allow you to order lunch for each week so that the AAFES staff will have enough meals prepared. Please go to the following link to pre-order your child's lunch: <https://bit.ly/samslunch>

Please be aware that **cash will NOT be accepted in the cafeteria.** You must have an account. AAFES staff will be present at the International Cafeteria on Monday, August 17, 0800-1400 to help parents set up accounts. You can also schedule an appointment during the school year with the AAFES staff at our school to open an account between 0830 - 1000 or 1400 – 1430. An account can also be opened at the BX on Chievres. (*Please complete the application prior to coming to SAMS to set up an account*).

The **bell schedule** has been adjusted for the start of the school year. Future modifications to the schedule will be announced and provided to you in our Gladiator Bulletin.

1st - 8:50 - 9:30
2nd - 9:35 - 10:25 (air break)
3rd - 10:30 - 11:10
4th - 11:15 - 11:55 (Lunch 6)
5th - 12:00 - 12:40 (Lunch 7)
6th - 12:45 - 1:25 (Lunch 8)
7th - 1:30 - 2:20 (air break)
8th - 2:25 - 3:05
9th - 3:10 - 3:30 (Rotating Seminar teachers)

**(First two weeks of school)*

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020, students will be met by their grade level teachers at the designated grade level meeting points. Student will follow their teacher to their assigned cohort class. (*Refer to the meeting point map located in the Gladiator Bulletin*).

Visitors to the school will be limited and by appointment only. All appointments will be accomplished the task via phone, email, or video conference. In cases that face-to- face meetings are needed, visitors are required to have an appointment, wear a mask, sanitize hands upon entering the school, sign in at the main office, maintain social distance requirements and go only to designated meeting spaces. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

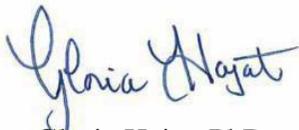
We are excited to welcome our students back to school!

School Colors: Green and Gold

Mascot Name: Gladiators

Grades Served: 6-8

Enrollment: 300



Gloria Hajat, PhD
Principal