

January 1, 2021

Tai's Tidbits

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the Spring semester of the 2020 - 2021 school year! I hope each of you were able to enjoy the Winter Break while staying safe and healthy.

The Spring semester for Covington begins on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. January 4 and January 5 are student holidays for all students in the Crockett Vertical Team. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

As previously mentioned by Dr. Elizalde, we will resume in person learning on January 6 for all families who are interested in returning to in person learning.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Students returning to in person learning will receive their Spring semester schedules upon arrival in the building on January 6. These schedules can actually already be accessed online through student [self-serve](#).

All students participating in virtual instruction beginning in January will need to access their schedules through [self-serve](#).

Please do not assume that your child's schedule will remain the same. All students need to access their schedule to determine which classes they have and in which order for the Spring semester. Not all classes are yearlong classes, which means that some students' classes may have changed from first semester to second semester.

Students will see a new BLEND tile on their BLEND dashboard for any new courses they have.

MIDDLE OF YEAR ASSESSMENT

The Middle of Year Assessment, also called the MOY, will be administered from January 11 - January 22. The following subjects will be administered to all students.

6th - 8th Reading - January 11

7th Writing - January 12

6th - 8th Math - January 19-22

8th Science - January 14,15

8th Social Studies - January 14,15

We will have a modified bell schedule for the Reading and Writing assessments. All other assessments will be taken during your child's class time.

It is important that all students, both virtual and in person students, take the MOY assessment in their respective subject areas. We recommend for students at home to have a dedicated space with minimal disruptions during the administration of the MOY. The data received from the MOY assists teachers in determining which standards and skills have been acquired and which need additional attention.

All students, including students participating in virtual instruction, will have the opportunity to receive a paper version of the MOY. All paper versions can be picked up from the Main Office beginning Friday, January 8.

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

We now have a new phone system, which is similar to an automated system when you call a doctor's office. Although when you call our main line it may now sound like an answering service, if you listen to the full message and follow the prompts, you will be redirected to the Main Office or to whomever you are trying to reach. We have received several

ATTENDANCE

We are ready to kick off the Spring semester with a focus on attendance!

We will introduce our attendance goals, expectations, incentives, and competitions to our students at a general assembly on January 7th and 8th.

Austin ISD states, "When it comes to school, students who miss school... miss out. Attendance boosts student achievement, improves the quality of your child's educational experience, and it prepares them for college, good careers, and successful adulthood."

Did you know...

For every day a student is absent from class, AISD loses \$45 in revenue from the state. By contrast, if we raise the attendance rate by just one percent district-wide, it would result in an additional \$5.9 million per year in state revenue. That's money that goes directly into your child's education.

Give your child every opportunity to succeed in AISD by encouraging excellent school attendance.

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING

Twitter - [@covington_colts](https://twitter.com/covington_colts)

Website - covingtoncolts.org

messages from the main switchboard stating that no one is answering the Covington phone lines, when in fact, we are, you just must follow the prompts provided to reach us. Call us anytime and we can assist you!

HELPFUL DISTRICT RESOURCE

[Covid-19 District Website](#)

[Open for Learning](#)

[Meal Service](#)

[Revised 2020 – 2021 District Calendar](#)

REMINDERS

PTA needs you! Join [here](#) for an opportunity to contribute to the Covington school community.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Please continue to work with us and remind your students about digital citizenship and the digital footprint they are leaving each and every time they are on their device. You can find more information and even parental resources at commonsense.org

Technology is a critical component of your child accessing their education, so please also remind them of the [Austin ISD acceptable use policy](#).

MINDFULNESS MOMENT

We could all use a mindful moment!

The Center for Change states, "Mindfulness practices can help us to increase our ability to regulate emotions, decrease stress, anxiety and depression. It can also help us to focus our attention, as well as to observe our thoughts and feelings without judgment."

This month we are highlighting the 5 G's: Think of or even write down 5 things you are grateful for today. Consider practicing this on a daily basis for all of January.