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1359 Route 2 • The Mohawk Trail • Charlemont, MA 01339 • 413.339.4912 • Fax 413.339.4324 • [www.charlemont.org](http://www.charlemont.org)

## Remote Learning at The Academy at Charlemont in Fall 2020

### The Academy Mission

*The Academy at Charlemont delivers a rigorous education and fosters joyful engagement, active citizenship, and the desire for justice in each student. Our community nurtures creativity, independent thinking, and empathy so that our students become their best selves.*

As we begin the 2020-21 School Year in a remote learning environment, we remain tied to our mission, no matter what format instruction takes, no matter what platform we interact through, and no matter the geographic separation of our community. The following information is designed to provide families a sense of how The Academy will continue to uphold high academic expectations, create a vibrant arts program, and support the physical and emotional well-being of our community during the fall of 2020.

### Academic Programming

As we did during the spring of 2020, The Academy offers a robust online experience for students. Our faculty engage students in creative ways, recognizing that facilitating learning online opens new avenues through which our students will explore course materials and develop academic skills. Students help guide this experience, too, offering their feedback and insights as our community works together to grapple with challenging content and instill endless curiosity.

**Schedule:** All students at The Academy, regardless of their grade level, have a schedule that follows what is outlined at the end of this document. Before the first week of school, each family will be given their child(ren)'s individual schedule(s) that will indicate exactly which course meets during each block. As has always been the case, most courses have scheduled meetings that occur three periods per week, but it does vary. In general, students should expect to meet synchronously with their classes roughly 60-70% of the time that a class would have met had we been on campus (eg., two out of three sessions) and overall, be online in class for about 2-4 hours per day. In the place of roughly one meeting per week per class will be asynchronous work that could include one-on-one meetings with teachers or roughly 45 minutes of classwork typically to be completed at some point during that day, and individual teachers will clarify expectations around that work.

**Homework:** In addition to asynchronous work that may be assigned instead of a synchronous class meeting, 6th-9th grade students should expect 15-30 minutes of homework per class meeting, while 10th-12th graders should expect 30-45 minutes of homework per class meeting.

**Grading & Platforms:** Students will be graded on an A-F scale in nearly all courses except Studio Blocks. Google Classroom will be used consistently for sharing course materials, NetClassroom will be used for posting grades, and students will primarily use Zoom for their class sessions. All necessary links, including those for morning meetings and advisory, will be contained in one document to be shared with the student community closer to the start of school. New families will receive brief tutorials on NetClassroom and other platforms as needed.

### **Social Programming**

We expect all students to attend morning meetings, advisory meetings, team meetings, and virtual Academy community events that occur during the school day. Morning Meeting remains a critical aspect of our program, as it allows students to share their passions, celebrations of one another, important information about the coming days, not to mention a good laugh or two. Advisories will meet on a regular basis, allowing small groups of similar-grade students to discuss important topics with peers and teachers. Morning Meeting and advisory will meet as shown in the weekly schedule below. Our Team program, run by the Class of 2021, a key link between various grade levels, will remain an important component of Academy student life. We will continue to host virtual variations of some of our most beholden traditions such as Team-naming and Polyglot, while also creating new experiences, including some in person, if circumstances allow. Our council program will be optional for the fall of 2020. Students are encouraged to sign up for these councils during the first weeks of school and are required to attend their respective council's meeting, should they choose to sign up.

### **Visual & Performing Arts**

The Arts program at The Academy has always been one of the school's most celebrated aspects, and the coming year should prove to be no different. Our younger students (6th-9th graders) will all continue to take foundational art classes as part of their core academic program, while juniors and seniors also have access to a painting elective. Our hallmark program, the Studio Block program, will also be transitioning online as our dedicated adjunct teaching staff provides small group and individual support in students' artistic development as they explore the opportunities provided to our community through online programming. Studio Blocks will continue to be offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings, with additional offerings available in late afternoons and evenings. All students will be required to engage in at least one Studio Block offering, but we hope that everyone will participate in as many of these classes as possible. Studio Block sign-ups will occur before the end of the first week of school.

### **Fitness/Athletics**

During the first semester of the school year, we will not be offering a comprehensive interscholastic athletics program at The Academy campus, though we will be working with families to identify safe on or off campus ways for our students to remain physically active together when circumstances allow. Nevertheless, we expect that every student engages in physical activity at least four times per week for 45 minutes. This can include yoga, hiking, biking, running, swimming, gymnastics, martial arts, and many more activities. Academy staff will help students monitor their efforts in this area, and we will also try to develop virtual communal initiatives to support our community's physical health.

### Orientation

Before the first day of classes on Monday, August 31st, grades will meet with a team of teachers and administrators to welcome new faces, reconnect with one another, and discuss the online experience. The latter aspect will include ensuring that students understand the expectations for their behavior online, acquainting themselves with their weekly schedule and how to access their classes, and providing any necessary support in navigating online platforms such as Google Classroom, NetClassroom, and Zoom.

### Returning to Campus

If we can safely and comfortably bring students and faculty back to campus for academic class, we will shift to our hybrid model after several staff days allow our faculty time to adequately transition. At this time, we are planning on remaining in a remote learning environment until January 1, 2021, unless significant shifts in the COVID-19 pandemic indicate that we can return to campus safely and comfortably for an extended period of time. In addition, we will share more comprehensive health & safety Guidelines, by which we expect our community to abide when we do intend on returning to campus. Additionally, we hope to host several small outdoor group activities on campus this fall, if the circumstances remain appropriate to do so. In such a case, we will communicate the appropriate health & safety guidelines for doing so before our families return to campus. At this time, this will include all individuals on campus wearing a mask unless during a mask break when other individuals are farther than 6 feet away. In the meantime, we expect that all families will abide by state COVID-19 guidance and regulations. Our collective health relies in part on individual attention and responsibility.

### Weekly Schedule\*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday**	Thursday	Friday
<b>8:30 - 8:50</b>	Morning Meeting	Advisory	Morning Meeting	Advisory	Morning Meeting
<b>9:00 - 9:50</b>	A	A	A	A	A
<b>10:00 - 10:50</b>	B	B	B	B	B
<b>11:00 - 11:50</b>	C	C	C	C	C
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>12:30-1:20</b>	D	D	Assembly	D	D
<b>1:30 - 2:20</b>	E	E	D	E	E
<b>2:30 - 3:20</b>	F	F	E	F	F

*\*Again, please note that an individual student’s class schedule and our school’s monitoring of screen time will dictate which periods will be spent in synchronous online classes. We will communicate these schedules more before school begins and in some cases, it may vary week-to-week. More often than not, F block will be an asynchronous period.*

*\*\*We will be reviewing the Wednesday afternoon schedule early in the year to make sure that we are taking the best advantage of student energy for assemblies.*