



GRIFFIN CHRONICLE



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Athlos families,

We've made it to fall break! We hope you enjoy quality time with your families next week. In an effort to continually improve and meet the needs of our families, we are going to begin sending parent feedback surveys to families monthly, on the third Monday of each month. Please check your email on Monday and send us feedback!

At Athlos, we know how much our families love Halloween! While our Halloween festivities will look a little different this year, we are making every effort to make sure our students have a fun and safe celebration and our families are able to participate, even if virtually. See our Halloween plan on page 6.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Sincerely,
Mandy Kartchner
Executive Director

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MS. KELSIE NGUYEN

FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER

Hi! My Name is Kelsie Nguyen! I am 33 years old. I live in Draper with my husband Jason & our daughter Chrissy and my Siberian Husky, Julie. I enjoy drawing, skiing, hikes, and being with friends and family. This will be my 11th year teaching & my 1st year at Athlos Academy. I have taught in Joplin, Missouri and Houston, Texas prior to moving to Utah last year. I am excited to make this my best year yet!

MY CHILDHOOD!

I grew up in Grove, Oklahoma where I attended Grove Public Schools Preschool – 12th grade along with my two brothers and my parents (they both were teachers). I then moved to Joplin, Missouri to attend Missouri Southern State University.

MY EDUCATION!

In May of 2010, I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education K-6 from Missouri Southern State University. After which I took an immediate job as a 3rd grade teacher at Eastmorland Elementary in Joplin. I taught there for 5 years before moving to Texas.

MY FAVORITES!

Food: Nachos

TV Show: I Love Lucy

Color: Turquoise

Drink: Dr. Pepper

Season: Spring

Sports: Softball and Basketball

Food: In-and-Out or Chick-fil-A

Hobby: Bullet Journaling

Subject: Math/Science

Stores: Amazon/Target

Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookies or Brownies

Candy: Dark Chocolate

Restaurant: Cubbys

Flower: Gerber Daisy

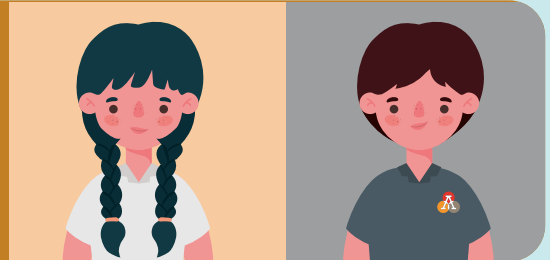


Favorite TV Show:
I Love Lucy

THE MORE YOU KNOW UPDATES AND REMINDERS

PHOTOS ARE IN!

Student photos have arrived at the school. Distance learning students can pick up their photos at the school during office hours, Mon-Thu 7:50 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. and Fri 7:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

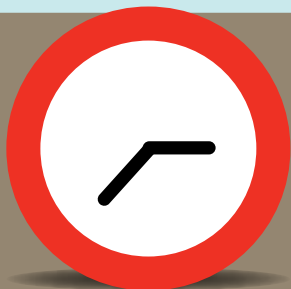
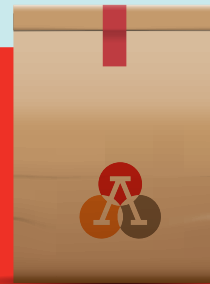


FALL BREAK!

As a reminder, there is no school next week, **Monday, October 19 through Friday, October 23**. There is also no school on **Monday, October 26**. During these dates, there are also no distance learning requirements. Enjoy fall break!

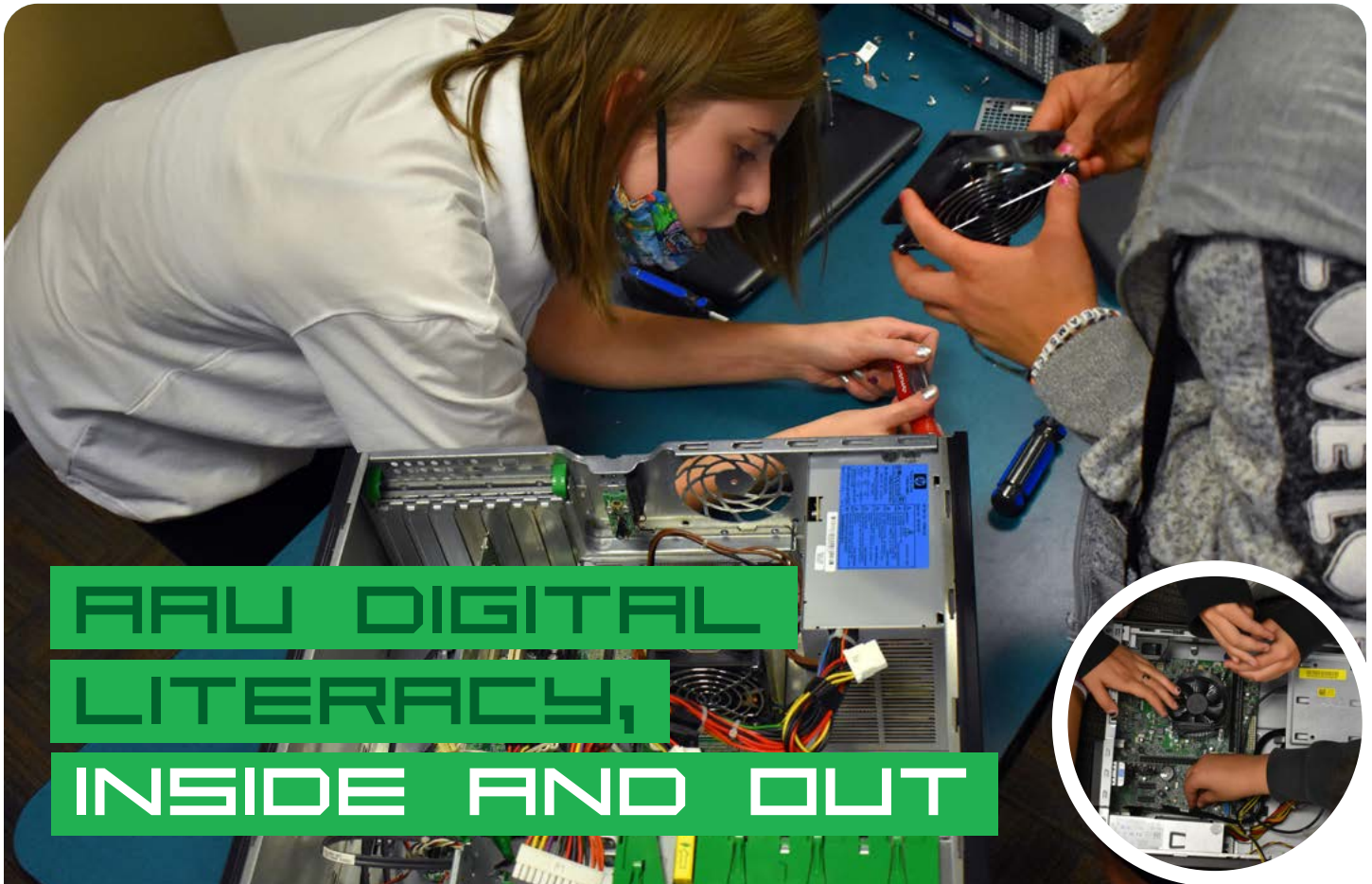
MEALS FOR DISTANCE LEARNERS

Distance learners can pick up meals at the school through Driveline Monday through Thursday between 12:30 and 12:50 p.m. On Thursday, meals for Thursday and Friday will be distributed.



CHECKING STUDENTS OUT EARLY

If you need to check out your student early, please call the front office when you arrive at the school and not before. Due to new COVID-19 guidelines, we are only calling students to the front office when a parent is at the school. We are trying to limit the amount of time students wait in the front office.



AAU DIGITAL LITERACY, INSIDE AND OUT

BY AUTUMN MELTON & AMELIA SODSAWANG, AAU JOURNALISM CLASS

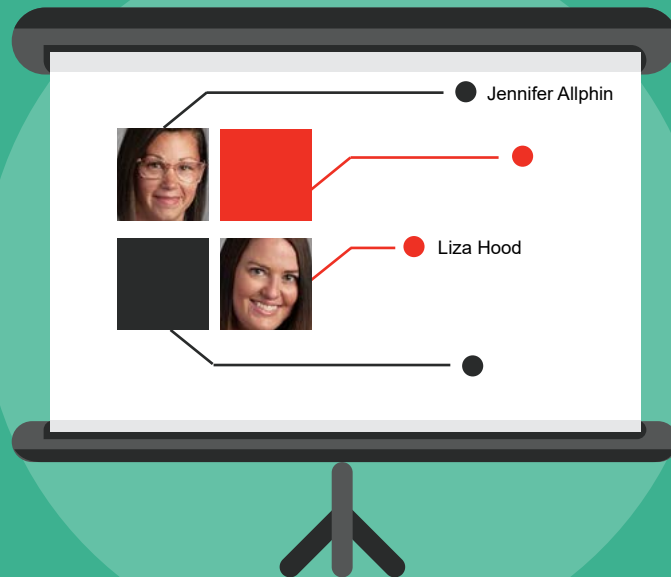
Eighth-grade students at Athlos Academy Utah were recently observed tearing apart a bunch of computers, tossing aside parts and screws, staring into the “guts” of their high-tech victims, and generally destroying school property.!

No problem, explains Oleah Morris, AAU’s middle-school digital literacy teacher. Everything is under control!

“This is one project we do every year to help the class learn how to explore.” Helping her students “explore, think and learn on their own” is one of the most important parts of Morris’s digital literacy class: “I want the kids to have this real-time visual so that, later in life, they’ll be able to clean, repair and update their own computers, if needed.” When asked what was the most important thing her students could take away from this fun exercise—and from the digital literacy class, in general—Mrs. Morris immediately replied: “Learn how to learn.”

Her digital literacy students all seem to agree that taking apart the computers taught them to “explore in smaller capacities, which will lead to larger ones later in life.” Eighth-grader Boston Snyder, who first enrolled at AAU last spring, says his favorite part of the computer assignment “seeing their guts.” Another student, Jeanette Simonsen, said she enjoyed “exploring technology with her classmates and seeing the insides of the computer towers.”

And, yes: The students were required to put the computers back together in something like working order. 🐼



TWO SHORT "SURVEYS" ON AAU STAFF

BY AIDAN WILLIAMS , AAU JOURNALISM CLASS

AT ATHLOS ACADEMY UTAH, WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE A FANTASTIC STAFF AND PARAPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TEAM. WE WANTED TO GIVE GRIFFIN CHRONICLE READERS A CHANCE TO MEET TWO OF THESE "MOST VALUABLE PEOPLE," ONE OF WHOM WORKS CLOSELY WITH CLASSROOM TEACHERS ON STUDENT LEARNING AND GROWTH; THE SECOND HELPS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TEAMS AT AAU. WITHOUT THESE FOLKS, WE'D ALL MISS OUT ON OUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY—LUNCH.

JENNIFER ALLPHIN

A paraprofessional educator working with all the elementary grades, kindergarten through fourth, Mrs. Allphin has been working at Athlos for over four years. Her hobbies include drawing, painting and camping.

She also "absolutely loves being in the outdoors," especially Yellowstone National Park. (Be sure to ask Mrs. Allphin about one of her close encounters of the bear kind!)

LIZA HOOD

We enjoy delicious, healthy lunches here at Athlos, thanks to Liza Hood and her colleagues in the cafeteria. As a kitchen prep staffer, Ms. Hood is one of the few folks at Athlos who

gets to see every AAU student every day. "Some are a little harder than others," she says with a laugh. "Seriously, I love all the kids here, everybody is just great." And her co-workers? "I love 'em all," she says. "I don't think I'd want to work with anybody else." The entire food-service team has had to work extra hard this year, Ms. Hood explains. They have done a great job serving an appetizing variety of lunch choices as the COVID days wear on. "It's been different, for sure," Ms. Hood explains, "but it's been OK."

When not serving yummy lunches to hungry kids, Ms. Hood and her family (she's a mother of five) enjoy boating on Lake Powell and visiting Hawaii. "My grandparents lived there so I got to go there quite a bit...I just love it." 🌺

CUSTODIAL STAFF SHOUTOUT

This week, we want to give a huge Athlos shoutout to our custodial staff for keeping our school clean and keeping our students and staff healthy. Thank you for all you do!



WHILE HALLOWEEN WILL LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, WE ARE WORKING TO MAKE SURE STUDENTS HAVE A FUN AND SAFE EXPERIENCE!

Teachers will hold classroom parties on Friday, October 30 from 12-1:05 p.m. Students will be allowed to wear costumes. Face coverings are

required. We will be posting costume photos on our school's Facebook page. We will hold a costume contest, More details to come.



October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying in schools is an issue many know all too well. This school year, many of our students are distance learning and interacting with others digitally more than ever before, which means that cyberbullying will be much more common.

Although research has yet to find a perfect solution to this complex problem, Athlos strives to prevent bullying through cooperative effort, the development of Performance Character traits, and social emotional learning. Find out more on how you can help prevent bullying at www.athlosutah.org/preventing-bullying-at-school-and-online/.

Last week, our students participated in a bullying prevention presentation during lunch. Here are some photos!

