

*Southern Plains Arise Academy*  
ALC ✧ Bridges ✧ PALS  
1200 N Park Street ✧ Fairmont, MN 56031  
Phone: (507) 235-4099 ✧ Fax: (507) 238-2361

October 30, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

I just wanted to send out a quick clarification message regarding learning models and student attendance. I know that this is a very confusing time, so no wonder people have questions!

Right now, the ALC has 2 learning models available to students: In-Person or Distance Learning. There is A LOT of confusion because our In-Person model follows the Hybrid safety guidelines. So, if the ALC is in an "In-Person" or "Hybrid" learning model, ALC students may attend school in person. There is no difference in student attendance between "In-Person" or "Hybrid."

However, students MUST choose a learning model. They must choose whether they are attending In-Person or via Distance Learning. Students who attend In-Person must be physically present in person and those who attend via Distance Learning, must attend virtually according to the student's schedule. A student cannot choose to attend school In-Person, and then decide to hop on the Zoom link for class on a whim.

There may be times when a student who attend In-Person is unable to physically come to school due to factors outside of their control. For example: The student must quarantine because they are a close contact to a positive COVID case, or a student has a doctor appointment and the parent cannot get them to school before or after said appointment, so the student attends classes virtually for the day. In any of these circumstances, the student must have prior approval or they will be counted absent for the day.

This is for many reasons, but the most important reason is so that teachers are prepared for the student's needs. As I am sure you know, the teachers are working very hard to deliver the best possible education they can regardless of the learning model. While it may not seem like a change in a student's attendance status would impact how a teacher prepares, that is not the case. For this reason, beginning on Monday, November 2, if a student chose to attend school In-Person but attends school virtually without prior approval, the student will be counted absent for the day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Have a very safe and happy Halloween weekend!

Stephanie