



PARENT & FAMILY INFORMATION SESSION

Deerwood Academy
Dr. Tongelita Balom
September 16, 2025

AGENDA

Welcome

Meet Our Support Team!

Academic Family Partnership

Title I: Family Engagement

Navigating Parent Portal

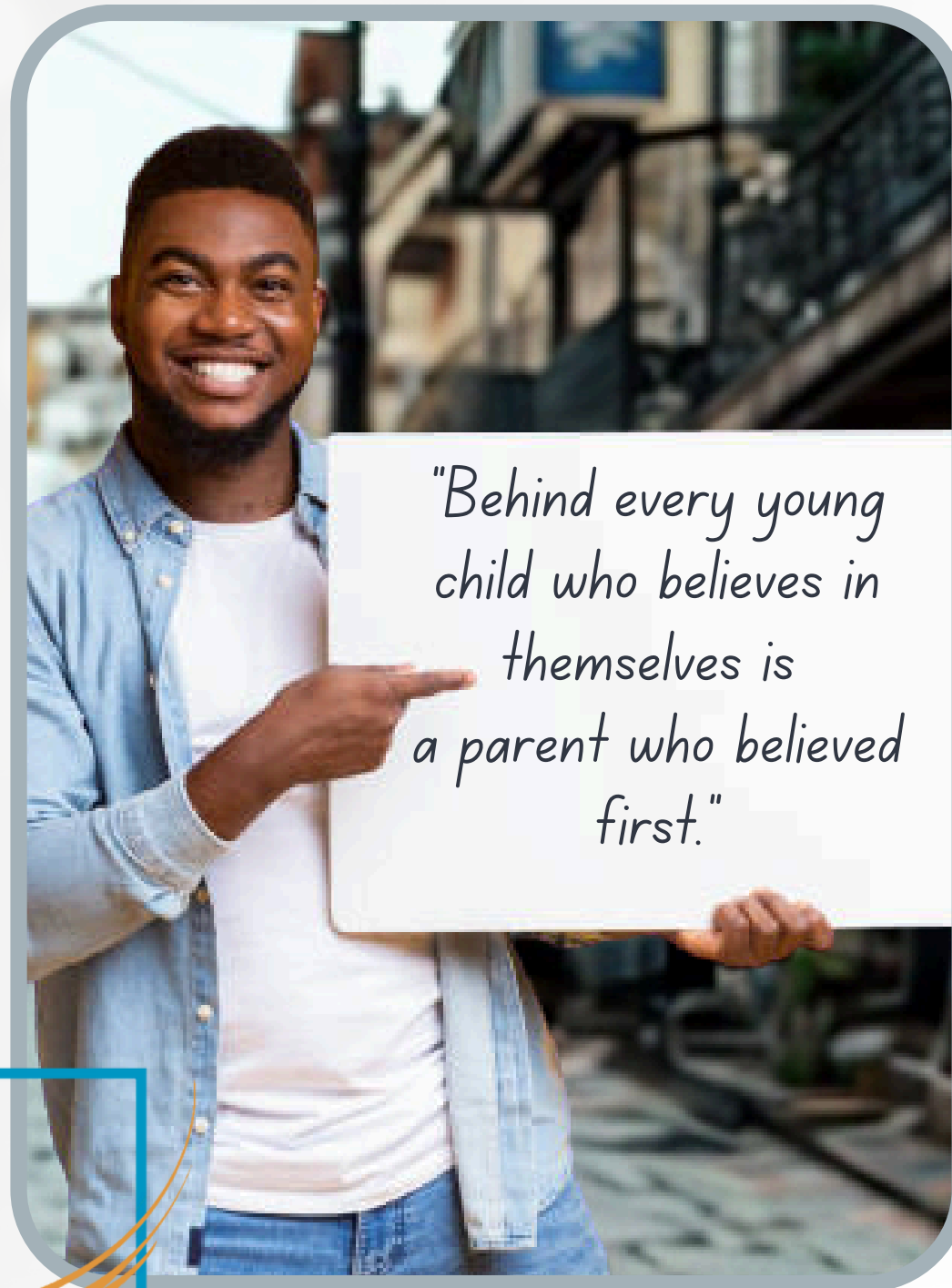
News You Can Use!

NEW ELA Curriculum

"No Cell Phone" Policy

Building Parent Connections

Goal Setting with Parents



MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joy Antone
Principal

Dr. Tongelita Balom
School Business
Manager

Dr. Yaasmeen Shahid
Assistant Principal


Demiris Gates
IB Instructional Coach
DaShunda Gates-King
ELA Instructional Coach

Jolita King
Gifted Lead Teacher

Charlotte Scott
ELA Instructional Coach

Taquana Stubbs
Exceptional Education
Lead Teacher

Tamera Zackery
Math Instructional Coach



*We lead the school so
our students can one
day lead the world!*

MEET OUR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF



Dr. Tongelita Balom
Family Engagement Specialist

Craig Frazier
Social Worker

Sharron Greene
Counselor

Princess Thorpe
Clinical Therapist

Richele Stamper
MTSS

ACADEMIC FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

"When schools and families partner with purpose, students thrive in every direction."

Question: *What is academic family partnership?*

Answer: Academic family partnership is the mutual responsibility between our staff and families to work together on behalf of students.

UNDERSTAND YOUR STUDENT'S DATA

To know where we're going, we must understand where we are.

Student performance data, like MAP scores, gives us an idea of where your student is right now.

UNDERSTAND THE ACADEMIC GOALS

Teachers set goals for students.
Parents do too!

Talk about this year's goals with your student's teacher(s).

BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

With **data** & **goals** in mind, schools & families can create stronger connections.

Every connection is an opportunity to *partner with purpose!*

TITLE I

A federal program that gives extra funding support to schools so all students, especially those who need the most help, can succeed!

SCHOOL & PARENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Our Title I Family Engagement Plan explains how the school will work with families to support student success.

SCHOOL & PARENT COMPACT

The School-Parent Compact is an agreement between families and schools. It says we ALL will work together to help kids do their best.

Our school must have parent signatures to approve the compact. Don't forget to sign your copy!

DISTRICT & PARENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT

The APS Family Engagement Statement shares goals for working closely with families. APS sends this plan to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).

Grab
your copy of the
three Title I
documents
today!





FY26 Parent Right to Know Notification

Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Date: 8/29/25

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of Every Students Succeeds Act, Atlanta Public Schools would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/ or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher—
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact Deerwood Academy at 404-802-3300.

Sincerely,

Joy Antone, Principal

PARENT RIGHT-TO- KNOW

This letter informs you
of your right to ask
about your child's
teacher's
qualifications—like if
they're certified in
Georgia, what degrees
they have, and if
they're teaching with
special approval.



NEWS **YOU CAN USE!**

What's happening around our school & APS!

GOAL SETTING **ACADEMIC & ATTENDANCE**


Our school has a
Continuous Improvement Plan,
"CIP".

The CIP outlines our goals for
student achievement.
Teachers also have specific targets
for each grade level & content
area.

Parents have goals too!
**Let our teachers know what your goals are
for your student.**

Parent Tips


YOU can help your student achieve
their Academic & Attendance goals:



Connect with your student's
teacher(s). Keep the connection
strong all year!



Schedule at least 2 Parent
Teacher Conferences this year.



Try not to miss school (unless ill).
Each absent day of school is an
opportunity for your student to
fall behind.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS



UPDATES

What Families Need to Know

Georgia students will begin learning from new English Language Arts (ELA) standards.

From Kindergarten through 12th grade, students will be building stronger skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Teachers will use this high-quality ELA curriculum programs:

HMH Into Reading

The new material is designed to be fun, challenging, and welcoming for all learners!

APS is here for you!

The Curriculum and Instruction Team, “*CANDI*”, is committed to helping every child succeed.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS



UPDATES

Tips for Families to Support ELA at Home

- Read Together: Read books, news articles, or stories. Ask questions about what they understood or liked best.
- Writing Practice: Short stories, journal entries, or even thank-you notes. It builds confidence and creativity.
- Talk About Their Day: Ask them to explain something they learned using full sentences.
- Listen to Audiobooks or Podcasts: This builds vocabulary and helps them hear how ideas are shared clearly.

Ask your scholar's teacher or one of our ELA Instructional Coaches about the new ELA Curriculum and how YOU can reinforce learning at home.

2025 - 2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK



ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026

A guide of policies, laws and regulations that explains the rights and responsibilities for students.

www.atlantapublicschools.us

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REGLAMENTO DEL ESTUDIANTE

2025-2026

Una guía de políticas, leyes y reglamentos en la que se explican los derechos y responsabilidades de los estudiantes.

www.atlantapublicschools.us

PED POLICY (PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE)

PROHIBITED USE OF CELL PHONE

Code 14F, APS Student Handbook, pg. 57

Students PreK - 12 are not allowed to use cell phones during the school day, once the bell rings. This includes class time, hallways, lunch, recess, assemblies, and free periods. All personal devices must be turned off and kept out of sight.

If a student wears a smart watch or smart glasses to school, the device can not be used to make/receive calls. If a student uses a smart watch or smart glasses to make calls the rule will apply.

Exception: Students with an approved IEP, 504, or medical plan may use a phone only if it's clearly required in their plan.

What Happens If a Student Breaks the Rule:

1. **First time:** Verbal warning
2. **Second time:** Phone is taken and returned only to a parent during a meeting
3. **Third time:** Phone taken + no phone allowed at school for one semester
4. **Fourth or more:** Phone taken + no phone allowed at school for one year

Page 57
of the
Handbook

MANAGE YOUR STUDENT'S ACTIVITY ON THE **SECURELY PARENT APP**



SECURLY PARENT APP



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



securly
home

Parent App



home

Atlanta Public Schools is excited to announce its partnership with Securly in safeguarding our students, your children. Securly is the leading solution in keeping children safe online at school.

The Securly Parent app provides parents with real-time insights into their child's online activity on school-issued devices, allowing them to monitor content, set internet access rules, and pause internet connectivity at home.



Visit Here <http://tinyAPS.com/?APSSecurlyParents> for more details!

FIND COMMUNITY RESOURCES ON **APS CARES**



**Use apscares.findhelp.com
to search resources in your Zip Code:
housing, financial assistance, mental health,
childcare, employment, legal support
and more!**

How to Volunteer

For student safety, APS requires schools to identify and screen ALL volunteers.

- Security clearances for volunteers must be renewed every year.
- Volunteers must wear their printed “volunteer” badge at all times while on school property.
- All volunteers must complete and sign a Volunteer Release Form.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER **OPPORTUNITIES**

Contact your scholar's teacher for volunteer opportunities.

JOIN A PARENT NETWORK

PARENT UNIVERSITY

The APS Family Engagement team will host opportunities for parents to connect & grow:

- Workshops to help you support your student!
- “Town Halls” to talk about school important topics!

**Scan the QR code to get a
Parent University
invitation!**



PARENT AMBASSADOR TEAM

Are YOU interested in being a Parent Ambassador?

The APS Family Engagement team is recruiting parents to:

- attend 4 virtual meet-ups
- network with parents across APS
- give input on APS strategies

**Scan the QR code to get
Parent Ambassador
information!**

PTA / PTO

Parent Teacher Association
Parent Teacher Organization

PTA/PTO is a great way to show your school support!

The PTA/PTO assists with:

- community building
- fundraising
- special events
- bringing resources to the school
- supporting teachers & staff
- advocating for students & families and much more!



DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT: **PARENT COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

Our school uses digital tools to communicate with families throughout the year:

- Class Dojo
- Infinite Campus
- Deerwood Academy Website



NAVIGATING THE **CAMPUS “PARENT PORTAL”**



Infinite Campus
Campus Parent

**Get connected
& stay engaged**



Log in today



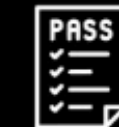
Announcements



Assignments



Attendance



Grades



Schedules

See what is happening in the classroom so you can understand, monitor, and participate in the educational process. Download our app or visit the web portal.

Download the apps: Campus Parent & Campus Student

Provide 24/7 access to grades, assignments, attendance, schedules, announcements, and much more.

Desktop user? Great, we have an online portal, too!

The online web portal also provides 24/7 access to grades, assignments, attendance announcements, schedules, and much more. Everything you'll see in the app, you'll see here, too!

Why is parent involvement important?

Did you know that when a parent is engaged in their child's education, it can directly lead to their academic success?

Research has shown students with engaged parents are more likely to have higher self-esteem, lower absenteeism, and earn higher grades or test scores.

Campus Parent enables parents/guardians to understand, monitor, and participate in the educational process anywhere and at any time.

\$50 GIFT CARD RAFFLE*

ANSWER THESE 3 QUESTIONS ON
THE FEEDBACK FORM & YOU MAY WIN!

**Was the information in this presentation
helpful to you as a parent/caregiver?**

**Do you understand how to keep track of
your student's learning goals & progress?**

**Do you know where and how to access the
parent resources we shared today?**

Scan me



*Prizes provided by the Office of Family Engagement

ALWAYS TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

Through out the school year we
welcome your feedback.

Parents are partners
and your input is crucial to
ensure we are giving students
their best chance for success!

Look out for the
APS Family Engagement Survey
later this Fall.



THANK YOU

"When parents are engaged, great things happen."

