



Tekeshia Hollis, Principal

551 John Wesley Dobbs Ave NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30312

TEL 404-802-3200

July 20, 2023

Dear DT Howard Rams Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the staff at David T. Howard Middle School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential.

We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she/they is/are ready to **RISE UP:**

Rising to the Challenge: Academics/Attendance/Behavior

Always Doing Our Best: Academics/Attendance/Behavior

Making a Difference: Academics/Attendance/Behavior

Striving for Success: Academics/Attendance/Behavior

First Day of School: School starts this year on Tuesday, August 1st for all students. Doors open at 8:45am.

Student Schedules: Parents and Students will be able to view schedules beginning July 28th via Parent Portal.

Supply List are available on our [website under Rams Life](#), organized by grade level.

Open House (Meet the Teacher Day): I cannot wait to meet you and the students at **Open House on Monday, July 31st from 1:00-3:00 pm**. Please make sure that you stop by your advisory teacher's classroom and all teachers on your schedule. Please feel free to tour the building at this time as we are not able to accommodate tours.

Are you on the [Parent Portal](#)? If not, please use <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/11609> to obtain Infinite Campus Parent Portal help documents. Parents of students K-12 have access to class schedules, attendance records, testing records, and grades. It is an easy-to-use, secure communication tool that enables parents to verify household information, including email, home address and telephone numbers.

School Bus Safety Guidelines and Safety Procedures. [Bus routes](#) can be found via the APS website. Here is a copy of our [Student Handbook](#) (DRAFT until August 1, 2023) to be reviewed by you and your child. If you have any questions about the rules and expectations, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, counselor, or grade-level administrator. It is very important that you and your child are fully informed regarding standards related to appropriate behavior for a safe and productive school year. Please feel free to review the [Atlanta Public Schools Code of Conduct](#) which can be accessed at the Atlanta Public Schools website.

Students are not permitted to transport medication to school. If you would like for your child to take any medication during school, including Advil, Tylenol, or prescription medication, you must provide the medication to the School Nurse and complete the appropriate paperwork. Parents must bring and pick up all medication for students. If your child needs an inhaler, please contact the School Nurse directly for directions.

Calendar. Please stay involved by checking the [school's calendar](#). The APS District calendar is [here](#). The APS District assessment calendar for the year is [here](#).

Rams Life Information: We are launching new programs this year designed to increase student engagement and increase the sense of student belonging. We are launching the “**Away for the Day**” Campaign”. The “Away for the Day” Campaign is designed for students to make sure all cellular devices and accessories are not visible during the school day so that students can engage in the learning experience. We are hosting **Parent Bootcamp** for parents that are new to DT Howard on August 3rd, 6-7:30PM in the Media Center. Lastly, we are revitalizing our **Rams RISE UP PBIS program**, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports where students are celebrated and recognized for the positive behaviors exhibited throughout the day.

Student Devices: Students are issued a Chromebook to be used daily for instructional purposes. The device is assigned to the individual student for full-time use, and students are expected to take them home and bring them to school fully charged each day. Students are responsible for proper care of the assigned device and will be held responsible for any damages incurred.

Do you want to get involved in parent organizations? DT Howard MS has multiple ways to get involved through PTO, Foundations, GO Team, and the Athletics Booster Club. Please review [the website](#) in order to determine the purpose and function of each of these organizations.

PTO. We love Volunteers! Please consider joining our school volunteer program as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school’s program and its operations. Scan the QR code below to [sign up](#) for more information.



Rams Spirit Wear will be available for purchase at Open House or on the [PTO school store](#).

Should I walk my child to class on the first day of school? Please refrain from walking your child to class on the first day of school. It would be extremely difficult for us to manage hundreds of visitors at the same time we are welcoming students. Additionally, parents must check into the Main Office to obtain a visitor’s badge wherever they are entering the building. Thank you for keeping our campus safe!

As we embark on our centennial year, we look forward to celebrating with the students and the community 100 years of excellence! Please make sure that you frequently check the website and subscribe to the Rams Report. We hope that you commit to attending the monthly principal’s coffee meetings which are held in person and virtually. The staff and I feel privileged to be a part of this school family and thank you for your support this year. Please take a look at the [traffic map](#) for car riding families. We will be using this [map](#) in order to make sure families are safe.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tenechia Hallis, Principal

6th Grade Level Administrators: Ms. Nicole Willingham

7th Grade Level Administrators: Dr. Tenechia Owens

8th Grade Level Administrators: Dr. Geralyn Harper

Grade 6 School Counselor: Ms. Renee Scott

Grade 7 School Counselor: Dr. Janelle Todman

Grade 8 School Counselor: Ms. Tijuana Williams

Registrar: Mrs. Tracy Martin Walton

Gifted Liaison: Ms Husna Evans

Special Education Lead Teacher: Ms. Patty Maron

MTSS/SST/504 Specialist: Ms. Rhonda Hudson