**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About the 2020-2021 School Year**

***Greetings Raider Family,***

***I hope that your families are healthy and safe. We are starting school very differently than any other school year and I am certain you have many questions as it relates to virtual learning. Please know that we are committed to creating the best virtual learning experience and helping your child be successful. Please find below a list of frequently asked questions as it relates to the 2020-2021 school year. As information becomes available, the information below will be updated. We miss our students and families and we are looking forward to having an aMAYSing school year.***

**Schedules:**

***What is changing about Mays’ student’s schedules?***

When school starts on 8/24, Mays students (like all APS high school students) will move from a “4x8” schedule to a “4x4” schedule. This means that, rather than rotating between 8 classes each week, Mays students will have the same four classes each day for the entire first semester and then the remaining 4 classes each day for the second semester. By doing this, our students will complete an entire course in one semester.

***Why is this change happening?***

The health and wellness of all APS students and staff has always been the first priority. The pandemic has required APS to look critically and honestly at virtual learning options and has been challenged to do what is best for thousands of high school students, not just the 1200 at Mays. The 4x4 is a simplified, less administratively difficult approach that has been used in high school settings for many years. APS believes, and the Mays High team agrees, that this is the best of a variety of options.

 ***Does 4x4 mean students will attend school four days per week?***

No - students will attend school five days a week and will have the same four classes each day for the first semester. 4x4 means that students will complete four classes each semester.

 ***Does this mean that my students will only study math for half the school year?***

Yes - they will complete a full year of math in either the first or second semester. We realize this is a significant challenge and are learning from school systems that have been using the 4x4 scheduling approach for years.

***Will the school day / classes be longer?***

Daily Instruction for each class is not to exceed 5 hours (300 minutes; 75 minutes per course) The Daily Extended/Independent Practice is not to exceed 90 minutes

 ***When will school start each day? End? When will breaks be?***

We do not yet know the daily schedule; we will be sharing that as soon as it’s finalized.

***Do students need to attend class at a specific time?***

Yes. Those times will be posted on the website. We will also include the times in the Mays High School Instagram Page and contact you with the times via robocalls. Teachers will take daily attendance.

 ***Will there be more teacher interaction and real-time teaching?***

Yes - the primary reason we are pushing back the start of school by two weeks is to ensure teachers have adequate training and professional development in virtual training technology, strategies, and standards.

***When will students receive their schedule?***

Students are tentatively scheduled to receive their schedules via the Infinite Campus Portal on August 15, 2020.

 ***Can I get my child’s schedule sooner? We need to know now.***

August 18th is the earliest tentative date in which students can receive schedules given the number of students and the logistics involved in our new 4x4 approach.

***What do I do if I have a course on my schedule that I have already passed?***

If you discover that you have already passed a course that is listed on your schedule, please visit the counselor’s page on Mays’ website, located [here](https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/5167).

***What if I think my student’s schedule should be changed?***

If you discover that there is a change needed for your student schedule, please complete a schedule change request, with the grade-level appropriate counselor, by clicking on the appropriate counselor as indicated below:

[9th Grade- Nikki Smith](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScP3njnOj1TXr4dLk8FMBCgdOP8AmKwptxmUBB1A3uvoAo1gA/viewform)

[10th Grade- Wendy Jackson](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfan9-Vn5DzKanLZO2AhRHw0MtU7YmKFaZ_9rXr9rCsQW9MYQ/viewform)

[11th Grade: Aleesa Reese](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZqG4WqFfBFo78-hFP2ft4tcjYVK6dqdEr3Srz44IQqdu2yA/viewform)

[12th Grade: Carla Aldridge](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdibnxYvTpGiiQu0kITY1yuIjPtFlXbN2cl0_LhgfpOdETdUg/viewform)

Be mindful that schedule change requests will only be honored for the following reasons:
1. Duplicate Classes
2. Gap(s) in schedule
3. Classes needed to meet graduation requirements

***What if my senior has an easier fall semester and wants to change to have more difficult classes?***

Your senior’s schedule will be made up of A days (first semester) and B days (second semester). Schedules cannot be changed due to the student course load.

***What about classes that build on one another?***

Classes at Mays build on one another from year to year, not throughout the year. For example, a student would take Pre-Calc one year, followed by Calc the next year. Because our old schedule involved taking classes every other day, classes didn’t in the past, nor will they in the future, build on one another during the same year.

 ***Will the classes take place at the same time every day?***

Yes - students’ schedules will be the same each day, five days per week. It is the expectation that virtual lessons are recorded and made available for viewing at a later date. While we encourage students to be engaged in the daily lessons, we understand individual family needs and will be flexible to accommodate.

***What happens if a student misses a virtual class?***

All classes will be recorded and uploaded to each teacher’s learning platform. (e.g. Google Classroom). Students must reach out to the teacher to receive any recorded or provided instructional information. If a student is ill and/or has to miss class for a valid reason, email the documentation for the absence to Ms. Celestine James, Attendance Clerk, at ckjames@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

***Will the Friday schedule be different?***

No - Friday will be a regular day of four classes.

***Will this change if we return to in-person school this year?***

No - this will be the APS high school schedule for the 2020-2021 school year regardless of whether we are in-person or virtual. Times may vary due to the lunch schedule.

***Does this mean that all non-core classes are being eliminated?***

No - it means that your child's "A" day schedule (4 classes) will now take place every day for the first semester and their "B" day schedule will take place every day for the second semester. Instead of 8 classes rotating through every week and taking a full year to complete, each class will take ½ year to complete.

Parents and students, please be sure to complete the survey by August 7, 2020. [Mays Parent Survey](https://forms.gle/f17BYmupahcWYnch6)

***How do I know if I’m enrolled in an AVA class?***

AVA will be identifiable on the student’s schedule. Students should also receive an email to their Google account from the counselor that enrolled them in the class.

***Will progress reports still be provided at the nine-week mark?***

No. Progress reports will be provided every 4 ½ weeks.

Grades will be formally posted to transcripts every 9 weeks (October, December, March, and May) as opposed to every 18 weeks (December and May.)

**Technology Needs**:

***Whom do I contact if I need a Chromebook or a hotpsot?***

Please be sure to complete the survey by August 7, 2020. [Mays HS Parent Survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DFu0wAO1LC4Sq-tW5OfbdJkLWs2Vc1osC94czBTbLbI/viewform?edit_requested=true)

***Who do I contact if I am having a technical problem with a Chromebook or a hotspot?***

Call APS Support at 404-802-1000.

***How do I learn how to use the technology if I don’t know?***

There will be a parent/student distance learning website added to the Mays website on or around August 19, 2020. You may also check the APS Google Suite website for additional help. <https://sites.google.com/view/apsgsuiterollout/home?authuser=0>

***What platform(s) will teachers use?***

All teachers will have a Google Classroom. Individual teachers will let you know if there are additional resources being used for a particular course.

***Does my student have an active email address from the district?***

Yes. The email can be accessed through MyBackpack. The directions are attached [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XR0VQGFHyyflfLhMafRFMlisarZ7a72C/view).

**Who do we contact if we need IPAD/Technology assistance?**

All students will have the opportunity to receive a digital device in the coming weeks leading up to Day One. In the meantime, feel free to contact [Get Our Kids Connected](https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/getourkidsconnected) for more information.

**How can I get a backpack and supplies for my student?**

Atlanta Public Schools is working in partnership with the Empty Stocking Fund. Please register at the following link: <https://www.emptystockingfund.org/aps-backpack-request-2020/>

**Instructional Needs**:

**Will the virtual learning be live or recorded? Will my child need to be in front of a computer at specific times?**

It is the expectation that virtual lessons are recorded and made available for viewing at a later date. While we encourage students to be engaged in the daily lessons, we understand individual family needs and will be flexible to accommodate.

***May I use a virtual textbook?***

Yes. Your teacher will let you know if a virtual textbook is available for your course.

***Can I receive a physical textbook?***

If you need a hard copy of any textbook, we will have a way for you to request one and pick it up from the school.

***Will the school utilize Edgenuity?***

We will use it as a supplementary resource, but it will not be used as the primary instructional tool. It will, however, still be utilized for unit recovery.

**Will Fridays still be designated as a FLEX learning day?**

No. According to the Standards of Service set forth by APS, all schools and students will participate in a 5 day work week. This means that Fridays will no longer be designated as FLEX learning days.

**Will there be Georgia Milestones testing?**

The state of Georgia has submitted a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education for suspension of the Georgia Milestones this school year. At this time, all APS high schools are slated to administer the Georgia Milestones tests in December and May of this school year.

**For Those in AP Classes**:

***What about the AP exams second semester? Will the teaching be completed in time to take the AP exams?***

All AP courses will be offered 2nd semester. If College Board AP testing remains exactly as it was last year, yes - our AP teachers will ensure the teaching portion and the content review takes place before the AP exams.

*Candidly, this is an area all high schools just don’t know a lot about. We will keep you informed as we learn more from College Board.*

**For Those in Dual Enrollment:**

***How will my dual enrollment student be handled?***

Each counselor will work one-on-one with each Dual Enrollment student.

**For Those in Atlanta College and Career Academy (ACCA)**

***How will my ACCA-enrolled student be handled?***

The class will be listed on the schedule. Counselors will work with each ACCA student one-on-one.

**For Those with IEPs or 504 Plans:**

***How will my child’s IEP or 504 Plan be affected?***

Your student’s case manager or Ms. Riggins ssriggins@atlanta.k12.ga.us will be in touch with you before school begins. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns at that time. If your student is supported through a 504 plan, please reach out to Dr. Holmes geholmes@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

 ***I have other questions. Who can I speak to?***

Please contact your student’s counselor. You can find your student’s counselor’s contact information here: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/5167>

**What’s New at Mays**

**What is the academic structure at Mays?**

* **Mays is divided into grade level academies. We are 1 school with 4 academies.**
* **Why academies?**
	+ Research shows that academies have a positive impact on student engagement and performance as academies:
		- organize the school to assist in improving student achievement.
		- allow teachers to work collaboratively to help identify strengths and obstacles for students.
		- create a family environment to provide personal support to each student.
		- reduce high level discipline infractions.
		- create a positive school culture and climate.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject Area | Name | Email |
| 9th Grade Academy | Mr. Travis Chapman | Travis.Chapman@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| 10th Grade Academy | Mr. Antwayne James | Antwayne.James@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| 11th Grade Academy | Dr. NaTasha Woody | woodyn@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| 12th Grade Academy | Ms. Angela Powell | apowell@atlanta.k12.ga.us |

**What is AVID?**

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It is a college preparatory class that helps students learn the skills necessary to take honors and AP classes in high school with the eventual outcome of attending a four-year college. AVID elective will be offered to selected students in the Freshman Academy this school year.

**What is College Success?**

This course prepares students with tools and strategies for establishing post-secondary enrollment goals to ensure they leave high school prepared to succeed in their chosen post-secondary pathway.

**Miscellaneous:**

***When will the district resume food distributions?***

Food distribution will begin August 10, 2020. We will let you know the locations and the times.

***Will students be issued student ID badges this year?***

We do not know yet. We will let you know as we get more information.

***What is Parent Portal? How do I gain access to Parent portal? Why is it important?***

Parents of students in grades K–12 have access to class schedules, attendance records and grades through the [**Parent Portal**](https://ic.apsk12.org/campus/portal/atlanta.jsp), an easy-to-use, secure communications tool for the district. Additionally, the Parent Portal enables parents to verify household information, including email, home address and telephone numbers. [**Click here**](https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/48412) to create and to activate your account. If you already have an account and are experiencing problems with it, contact Dr. Swain at Willie.Swain@atlanta.k12.ga.org.

***What is APS MyBackPack? How do I locate my credentials for APS MyBackPack?***

MyBackpack is a "one-stop-shopping" portal for all your frequently-used school files and apps! This is where you will find your email and any other instructional apps that will help you have a successful year. If you are a new user, we will have to assign you a student number. We will contact you about that process. Current USERS Enter the APS student username (username) and lunch id (password)

* The myBackpack screen will load with your username and password

Click on this link: <https://launchpad.classlink.com/atlanta>

***Who is my counselor?***

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Students in | Counselor Name | Email |
| 9th Grade | Ms. Smith | nasmith@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| 10th Grade | Ms. Jackson | wjackson@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| 11th Grade  | Ms. Reese | amreese@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| 12th Grade | Mrs. Aldridge | caldridge@atlanta.k12.ga.us |

***Who do I contact if I have an issue with a particular subject area?***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject Area | Name | Email |
| CTAE / WORLD LANGUAGE | Ms. Kimberly Daniel | Kimberly.Daniel@apsk12.org  |
| ELA / ESOL | Ms. Shamika White | sywhite@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| MATH / PE / JROTC | Ms. Unchantria Smith | Unchantria.Smith@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| SCIENCE / 9th Grade Academy | Mrs. Tonya McKenzie | Tonya.Mckenzie@apsk12.org |
| SOCIAL STUDIES /FINE ARTS | Ms. Nakeya Barner | nbarner@atlanta.k12.ga.us |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | Ms. Sylivia Riggins | ssriggins@atlanta.k12.ga.us |

***Who do I contact if I have received an “I?”***

For students who have received an incomplete (I) for Spring 2020, students should reach out to Mr. A. Mason. His email address is here. **All incompletes must be cleared by October 9, 2020.**

***How do I get a Certificate of Attendance?***

The Georgia Department of Driver Services will now accept other items to prove school enrollment. The Department of Student Assignment & Records will not offer Certificates of Enrollment during Summer of 2020. Please review the easier options to prove school enrollment below from the DDS website:

How do I prove school enrollment?

* Below is a list of items we will accept during COVID-19 school closures:
	+ A Georgia DDS [Certificate of School Enrollment (DS-1)](https://dds.georgia.gov/document/form/certificate-school-enrollment-form/download) may be signed from the applicant’s school and dated within the past six (6) months;
	+ Transcript provided by the customer's most recent school of attendance (Transcript does not have to be certified); Transcripts can be printed online in most school districts. Are you a current APS student and need a transcript? Click [HERE](https://apsga.scriborder.com/applicationCurrent) to submit a transcript request to the APS Central Records Center.
	+ Current progress or grade report with the customer’s name on it. Progress reports and report cards can be printed online in most school districts.
	+ Current school ID issued by the school or school system.
	+ Other forms of school identification, showing the customer's first and last name.

For more information, please visit the Georgia Department of Driver Services' webpage: <https://dds.georgia.gov/teen-drivers-and-covid-19>