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July 26, 2021

Greetings Finch Families,

We are excited to welcome everyone back to a new school year of learning and growing! As your principal, I am personally grateful to continue this journey and look forward to continuing our partnership throughout the 2021-2022 school year. It is our pledge to our students and families that this will continue to be a year of engaging, meaningful and rigorous work each and every day, for every child.

The impact of the pandemic truly disrupted the academic cadence of our students for well over a year. As a result, the school district has actively engaged the plan for academic recovery, which involves three (3) major components:

1. The Summer Academic Recovery Academy (each summer through 2023)
2. Use of a new K-12 universal screener (NWEA MAP) to further help identify the learning needs of our students.
3. Implementation of a required intervention/enrichment block in our school.

As a reminder, the bell schedule for all APS Elementary schools will be 7:45 am to 2:45 pm (changed from 8 am to 2:30 pm). This change extends the instructional day by thirty minutes and will ensure that all schools have the ability to implement the school-based intervention block with fidelity.

Finch Elementary remains committed to ensuring the safety and wellness of our entire school community. Recently, the school district announced that APS will implement a *Universal Mask Wearing* protocol in all schools and buildings as we begin the new school year on August 5. In light of this information and in our efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, APS will continue to offer COVID-19 surveillance testing weekly. In addition, APS will offer COVID-19 vaccines to students and staff during two upcoming opportunities:

- In partnership with Walgreens, APS will offer vaccines to families and staff at the Back to School Bash on July 31.
- Starting August 9, APS will offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible students in our middle schools and high schools and staff through our partnership with Fulton County Board of Health.

For up to date information on all health protocol updates please visit our Back to School website at www.atlantapublicschools.us/backtoschool.

In preparation for day one, the following FAQ is provided:

When is the first day of school? How early can my student(s) arrive?

The bell schedule for all Finch students is 7:45 am to 2:45 pm. Our campus doors will open each day at 7:15 am and breakfast served until 7:45 am.

When is Open House (Meet & Greet) at Finch?

Open House (Meet & Greet) will take place on Wednesday, August 4th. Due to COVID concerns and our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all, we ask that families make every effort to adhere to the following arrival times organized by last name: A-H (9:00 am) and I-Z (10:00 am). All visitors to the campus must undergo screening and will be required to wear mask at all times while inside the campus.

What is the instructional delivery model this school year? Will students continue to learn on-line?

Finch will return to complete in-person learning for all students each day. While the primary instruction will be provided directly by the teacher, students will continue to utilize and access technology resources and platforms throughout the school day for the purpose of intervention, enrichment, instructional organization, and increasing student engagement.

Will my student still need or have access to technology devices and internet for home?

In an effort to meet the needs of our students, all students enrolled at Finch will be assigned a computer device or tablet for use at school and home. If families are in need of internet connectivity to continue to engage in the learning process from school to home, please complete the short survey by accessing the link below to share your request. You only need to complete the survey once for all students in your household. Hotspots will be distributed to your child at school.

English

<https://forms.gle/YvY4N9m7LHruRUnW8>

Spanish

<https://forms.gle/sJ94mv9DiSB32XFt6>

When will parents find out their child (ren)'s class assignment for 2021-2022?

Student class assignments will be posted during Open House on August 4th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Parents will also be able to access their child's current class assignment within the Parent Portal. If you do not currently have access, please visit www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/48412.

If you have difficulty gaining access or if you need your child's student ID number, please contact the school at 404-802-4000 or 404-802-4009.

What specific school supplies do I need to purchase for my student(s)?

All students enrolled at Finch will receive a complete set of school supplies and resources provided by the school and at no cost to our families. Parents should ensure that student(s) have a backpack and a general set of supplies for them to utilize at home. If you need additional support with securing a backpack, please contact the School Social Worker at 404-802-4019.

Will parents have access to instructional materials to help supplement their child's learning?

Finch will continue to offer monthly parent workshop sessions and activities to support our families as learning facilitators and our most valued partners. We are excited to continue engaging our families with Academic Parent Teaching Teams (APTT) and will now expand this model through 2nd Grade. As always, please contact our Parent Liaison for additional guidance and information at 404-802-4012.

Will Wednesdays still be designated as asynchronous learning days at home for students?

No, all schools and students will return to full-week in-person learning each week. This means that Wednesdays will no longer be designated as asynchronous (at-home) learning days. Attendance will be taken as normal with the expectation that students are present on campus.

Will students be required to wear school uniforms?

Yes, students are expected to wear the school uniform Monday-Friday. The school uniform consist of either red, royal blue, or white collared shirts with khaki, navy or dark bottoms. Uniform rompers, skirts, or shorts the designated colors are appropriate as well. Students should wear shoes that cover/protect the foot with rubber bottom soles.

Will students be required to wear mask at school?

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) will implement a Universal Mask Wearing protocol in all schools and buildings as we begin this school year. All staff, students, and visitors on campus must wear mask. However, mask will be optional or not required during outdoor activities, while eating in the cafeteria or classroom, outdoor athletics, or during band or chorus activities. Finch student mask, sized specifically for kids, are available for purchase for \$7.

Will students continue to receive a health screening before entering the building?

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) will continue to implement screening protocols using the HealthCheck Screener application. Parents are asked to respond to the five daily health-screening questions *before your student reports to school*. These questions will help you assess if the student has had exposure to COVID-19, has experienced any potential symptoms or illnesses, and if they have been advised to quarantine. The answers of this questionnaire will determine if the child should attend school or not. Learn more about the HealthCheck Screener on our webpage here: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/65256>

Will the school continue to offer COVID testing each week?

Weekly surveillance testing will continue to be offered at Finch. This rapid test detects the presence of COVID-19 even in individuals who may be asymptomatic. Results are received within 24 hours, has proven to be beneficial in keeping our environment safe, and allows us to keep our school doors open. E-Consent forms are available here:

<https://studentapp.viralsolutionsga.com/consent>

As a final reminder, please mark these important dates on your calendar:

- **Saturday, July 31st** – Back to School Bash at the Georgia World Congress Center (9:00-1:00)
- **Wednesday, August 4th** – Meet & Greet(Open House) at Finch Elementary (9:00-11:00)
- **Thursday, August 5th**– First Day of School (*Doors open at **7:15**. Breakfast served until **7:45***)

We look forward to a very positive and productive year together and are excited about seeing everyone soon!

In support,



Forrestella Taylor
Principal