

**Meria Joel Carstarphen, Ed.D.**

Superintendent

Phone: 404-802-2820

Fax: 404-802-1803



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March 16, 2017

Dear Current Resident,

You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that you have a child zoned to attend Charles L. Gideons Elementary School.

As you may know, last spring Atlanta Public Schools launched a bold strategy to increase student achievement dramatically and to transform its lowest-performing schools through comprehensive direct services to students, recruitment and development of top turnaround leaders and teachers, operating model changes and education partnership opportunities.

Gideons Elementary was one of the schools identified to work through an exciting new partnership with the Kindezi Schools. Kindezi is an Atlanta-based non-profit that currently operates two schools in APS and has a highly successful model based upon very small class sizes. Gideons Elementary will be operated with the new Kindezi model beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

**What does this mean for your family?**

There are no changes in where your child is eligible to go to school. No application is required, and all students currently zoned for Gideons Elementary will continue to be eligible to attend under the partnership with Kindezi. Kindezi looks forward to seeing your family on the first day of school - July 31, 2017.

**What will be offered at Gideons Elementary through the partnership with Kindezi?**

- Extended instructional day - 7:45 am-3:30 pm, with further extensions available for students needing additional supports and for bus riders
- Small classes - about 8 students per class
- Structured, orderly classrooms
- Positive response to discipline issues
- Additional academic support - tutoring, summer learning, etc.
- Ongoing teacher and leader training to improve practice

**What are important dates for you to know?**

- **March 7, 2017: Pre-K Applications Due** - the only grade that requires an application is pre-K. If your child was born between September 2, 2012 and September 1, 2013, they are eligible for free pre-k! Apply at [www.apsprekapplication.com](http://www.apsprekapplication.com) or call the Office of Early Learning at 404-802-3640 for more information.
- **July 31, 2017: First Day of School!** Kindezi has an extended school year calendar, so be sure to be at school on the first day - July 31, 2017 - which is a few days before other APS schools start.

**How can you find out additional information?**

Visit The Kindezi Schools' website - <http://www.kindezi.org/schools/kindeziatgideons/> - or contact Principal Danielle Washington by phone or email at 770-742-9883 or [dWASHINGTON@kindezi.org](mailto:dWASHINGTON@kindezi.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meria Carstarphen". The signature is written in black ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

Meria Carstarphen