

Daniel McLaughlin Therrell High School
An International Baccalaureate World School

Ms. Shelly H. Powell, Principal | 3099 Panther Trail, SW | Atlanta, Georgia 3031 | (404) 802-5352 Main | (404) 802-9920 Fax

Dr. Rodney Ray, Business Manager / Dr. Terrell Green Awak, Assistant Principal / Ms. Christina Rogers, Assistant Principal / Dr. Byron White, Assistant Principal

March 13, 2020

Greetings Panther Family:

I hope this letter finds you well even during this uncertain time. We certainly are experiencing some unprecedented events. I want to thank everyone in advance for your support, patience, flexibility and understanding as we embark on a new journey--Virtual School (for an undefined amount of time). This letter is designed to provide our parents and students important information to manager the unexpected school closure.

By now you know that our district offices and schools are closed effective Monday, March 16, 2020. While our D.M. Therrell High School campus is closed for at least 2 weeks, **school will continue from home**. We are implementing distance learning across the district where students and staff will continue to attend school virtually from home.

What does virtual learning look like for my child?

My Backpack and **Google Classroom** are the keys. Fortunately, all of our students are well-versed with Google Classroom, as well as My Backpack (which is where links to multiple technology resources for students and staff are housed). Despite what they may tell you, our students know how to access the Google Classroom for each of their classes. Teachers will be posting the assignments to their Google Classroom on a regular basis. Students can communicate with their teachers through this platform, as well. Many teachers will utilize the GOOGLE HANG-OUT feature to provide opportunities for LIVE interaction during the week. Some will even post GOOGLE Talk phone numbers.

Should your child have any questions about the work, his/her first point of contact should be the teacher. More information on how to contact school staff is below, but Google Classroom allows for two-way communication. Additionally, many teachers utilize REMIND as a tool, and there is always e-mail.

For most core classes, much of the work (although not all) will be through the **Atlanta Virtual Academy's EDGENUITY** program, which is a widely used platform for online instruction. This program includes lessons, activities, and assessments. The details of what is expected will be described in each Teacher's Google Classroom. Edgenuity can be accessed through My Backpack. The link is also on our school's web page and app. We have been working with students throughout this week to ensure they know how to and can access Edgenuity.

For most non-core classes, or core classes without a corresponding Edgenuity course (such as AP/IB classes), assignments are being posted on Google Classroom by each teacher. These assignments will incorporate a variety of resources, including from College Board, USA TestPrep, online programs, IB sites, and more.

For students in Dual Enrollment/Early College, please direct your questions to our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Christina Rogers at cdrogers@atlanta.k12.ga.us or the senior counselor, Ms. Johnson-Galloway at tjgalloway@atlanta.k12.ga.us

How will my child turn in his/her work?

Most assignments can be turned in through Google Classroom. Upon our return to "in-person" school, ALL students will be granted a one-week amnesty period to submit assignments to teachers without penalty. However, my advice is to not allow the work to pile up. Stay on top of it. We don't know for sure how long we will be out of school.

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What if my child is having technical difficulties or has trouble logging in to a particular program?

Our Media Specialist, Ms. Perrino, will be the contact with such problems. Her e-mail is sperrino@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Make sure to describe in detail the nature of the problem.

What if my child doesn't have access to instructional technology or the internet?

Our teachers are meeting with each of their classes today. Instructional packets are being issued to those students who have limited or no access at home. Contact the appropriate teacher if you have questions about the work, or perhaps, need additional work. We will problem solve ways to provide any student with additional work who do not have internet/computer access.

How do I contact the school if I have questions or need to speak with a teacher/staff member?

Starting Monday, March 16, all APS employees are expected to work from home. All school staff are expected to and will check and respond to e-mail Monday through Friday during the work day. *Please allow up to 24 business day hours for a response.* Both our website and School App have all of our staff's e-mail addresses, as well as phone extensions. Although we will not be at the school, you can leave voice messages at work extensions and they are forwarded to our e-mail. Please do not leave a message at the main number, 404-802-5200.

Remember, besides the teachers, ALL staff are on Telework status, including counselors, social worker, graduation coach, administrators, clerks, the registrar, and paraprofessionals. Reach out to them as needed.

Important: Should you have ANY DIFFICULTY contacting a teacher or staff member, or just have questions/concerns, contact me directly sooner rather than later at spowell@atlanta.k12.ga.us I will ensure that your question or concern is addressed in a timely manner. Furthermore, because this is an unprecedented event, I want to ensure that every person in our school community has easy access to me during the closure. I am committed to doing whatever it takes for your child to be successful. I know that communication is crucial and I commit to being available throughout this closure. Please find our grade level assistant principals' email below for your reference.

Grade 9- Dr. Byron White, bdwhite@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Grade 10- Dr. Terrell Awak, tergreen@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Grades 11 & 12- Ms. Christina Rogers, cdrogers@atlanta.k12.ga.us

What about school athletics and other after-school activities?

During the district and school closure, ALL activities, including School Athletic games and practices are cancelled. I know that this is disappointing to many parents and students, especially our seniors. As information evolves, I will share it with the school community.

How will we stay informed during the closure?

- Utilize the wide variety of online resources and social media sites to stay informed about school and district news during this closure:
 - Follow us on TWITTER: @TherrellPrinci4
 - Visit the APS website on a regular basis: www.atlanta.k12.ga.us
 - Go to the **Daniel McLaughlin Therrell High School** website, **especially for staff contact information**
<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/therrell>

Some Suggestions for Successful Virtual Learning

- Stay organized and manage your time carefully. You can easily become overwhelmed without effective organizational and time-management skills.
- **Establish a regular, uninterrupted work time each day! Limit outside distractions, aka turn off Netflix and TikTok.**
- Contact your teachers, counselor, and/or administrator sooner rather than later when you have a concern.

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- **Stay Sharp!** In order to reduce the impact of the learning slide from a prolonged period away from face-to-face school, don't forget the following beyond your class work:
 - Read (for pleasure and for class);
 - Work on <https://www.khanacademy.org/> This site has many free academic courses (including AP) and SAT prep;
 - Engage in free ACT Test Prep at <https://academy.act.org/>

During this closure, how will students who rely on school breakfast and lunch be supported?

- Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, all APS students can daily receive free bagged meals at 5 school sites that will be open for food distribution Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 - Douglass High School
 - Cleveland Ave Elementary School
 - Bunche Middle School
 - Sylvan Middle School
 - Phoenix Academy
- Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, APS partner, GOODR, will provide ready to eat meals at the following local community sites:
 - Hosea Williams Feed The Hungry (4779 Mindy St. Atlanta, GA. 30366 * 404-755-3353)
 - Food Pantry - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - 10 a.m. - Noon
 - Bring ID and Social Security Card
 - Loaves and Fishes @ St. John the Wonderworker Parish (543 Cherokee Ave., SE Atlanta, GA. 30312 * 678-373-9433)
 - Serves food Monday - Friday
 - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, all APS families can report to one of the 5 open APS school sites Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. to receive a bag of shelf stable grocery items from the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
- Beyond these resources, if you have a need or know of someone with a need, PLEASE contact me so that I can share the information with our Social Worker. You can also reach out directly to our social worker, Mr. Frazier at Craig.frazier1@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

I believe in you all! You can do this! We will get through this! Continue To Pursue Excellence EVERY DAY in EVERY WAY, even at home.

You are all in my thoughts! Go Panthers!

Be Safe and Be Well,

Shelly H. Powell, Principal
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