

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: September 3, 2020

Subject: Student Logins, Zoom Security Measures, GO Team Elections and Other Updates

Dear Atlanta Public Schools Parents and Families:

Thank you for helping Atlanta Public Schools (APS) successfully launch our 2020-2021 school year, providing virtual learning for our student scholars! This process has been months in the making and may have seemed stressful at times, but we did it with your support.

As a reminder, our first health data checkpoint for our current instructional model is this coming Tuesday, September 8th during our Board of Education meeting beginning at 2:30 p.m. You can watch that meeting live or on-demand on the Board's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apsboard>.

Student Login Rate

I'm pleased to share that despite the nationwide Zoom outage on Day One, APS achieved a district-wide student login rate of 90.2% during the first week of school! This represents a significant increase of 21.6% over our average login rate last spring (average was 68.6% during the period March 2020 to May 2020). Our average daily participation was also about 79.5%, meaning that four out of every five students logged in every day last week. Please continue to encourage our students to remain connected and engaged in virtual learning.

Additional Security Measures in Zoom

We want to ensure our students are in a safe and supportive learning environment as they continue to navigate the virtual learning space. Beginning Tuesday, September 8, students (grades 3-12) will be required to authenticate — log in to the APS Zoom account using their APS email — before they enter a virtual Zoom classroom. This increased security measure will help alleviate the potential for disruption and add an extra layer of protection and accountability for our students and staff. Visit our [APS Zoom Support Center](#) for instructions and more information.

GO Team Elections Begin September 8

Strong schools start with you, and the success of our schools starts with every member of our community doing what's best for students every day. Now, it's time to make an even greater impact by making your voice count and casting your vote for your school's GO Team. Voting takes place September 8 through 20. Parents will receive their household's unique

voting link in two of the following ways: text, email, and/or mail, based on the primary information on file with the district. Make sure your contact information is current and use your unique link to submit your vote.

APS has 66 schools with two parent/guardian and two instructional staff seats up for election at each school. For this election, 356 candidates have qualified for those seats – 194 parents/guardians and 162 instructional staff. Candidate profiles and additional information are available at www.apsstrongschools.com. If you need assistance or have questions, please e-mail goteam@apsk12.org or call 404-802-2885. For assistance in Spanish, call 404-802-7580.

Census 2020

The U.S. Census Bureau is ending all counting efforts for the 2020 census on September 30. If you haven’t completed your census, there’s still time! You can shape the future for yourself, your family, and your community for the next 10 years by [clicking here to respond to the Census](#). Data collected in the 2020 Census will inform the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds for more than 100 programs, including school lunches and education, to states and communities each year. If you have any questions, contact the Atlanta Regional Census Center at 470-889-6800.

No Fans in the Stands

The District continues to move forward with our fall varsity sports schedules in alignment with Georgia High School Association guidelines. However, we will not hesitate to postpone or cancel games in the best interest of the health and safety of our students and staff. Our games and practices are being conducted without fans in the stands, and we are in the process of securing a pay-per-view streaming agreement that will make it possible for everyone to see all of our home football games. We will make that announcement once that agreement has been finalized.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Available at 33 Elementary Schools on Thursdays

Through the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grant awarded to 33 APS elementary schools, every Thursday, beginning September 10, fresh fruits and vegetables will be available for curbside pick-up from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. during virtual learning for all students enrolled in the following 33 elementary schools:

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program Elementary Schools

Carver Cluster	Finch, Gideons, Perkerson, Slater, Thomasville Heights
Douglass Cluster	Usher/Collier Heights, Boyd, F.L. Stanton, Harper Archer, Scott
Grady Cluster	Hope-Hill
Maynard Jackson Cluster	Barack & Michelle Obama, Benteen, Dunbar Parkside, Toomer

Mays Cluster	Beecher Hills, Cascade, Miles, Peyton Forest, West Manor
South Atlanta Cluster	Cleveland, Dobbs, Heritage, Humphries, Hutchinson
Therrell Cluster	Continental Colony, Deerwood, Fickett, Kimberly
Washington Cluster	M.A. Jones, Michael Hollis Innovation, Tuskegee Airman Global

Families Must Pre-Order Meals By 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 8

The next meal distribution will be held Monday, Sept. 14. Due to the Labor Day holiday, families must pre-order those meals no later than 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8 through the [MySchoolBucks](https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/63224) online pre-order system. For more information, visit <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/63224>.

Thank you again for your ongoing engagement with us and a successful first week of school. Have a great Labor Day holiday, stay healthy, and be well.

Yours in service,

Dr. Lisa Herring