

## MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: February 5, 2021

Subject: Return of Grades 3-12, Self-Reporting Forms Available Online, Consent Forms Available, GO Teams Declaration Period, and Other Updates

### **Return of Grades 3-5 on Feb. 8 and 6-12 on Feb 16**

Over the next two weeks, we will continue to phase in more students for in-person learning. Grades 3 through 5 will return on Monday, February 8, while grades 6 through 12 will return on Tuesday, February 16. We look forward to welcoming them into our schools!

### **New Electronic Form for Self-Reporting**

We now have electronic forms available for students self-reporting positive COVID-19 cases and exposures. These electronic forms will help Health Services and Human Resources initiate and respond quickly.

Parents/guardians should use the student form to notify their school as soon as possible if their student receives a positive COVID-19 test or if they have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive. The form should be completed for any student who has spent time on campus (whether attending in-person classes or participating in intervention or extracurricular activities). The form is available on our website at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVID-testing](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVID-testing) or here:

- Student self-report form: <http://tinyAPS.com/?CovidStudentForm>

### **Comprehensive COVID-19 Testing Strategy**

We launched COVID-19 surveillance testing this week – just one part of our comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy -- at Barack and Michelle Obama Academy, Burgess-Peterson, Morris Brandon, Cleveland Avenue, Humphries, Hutchinson, M. Agnes Jones, and Sarah Smith. We will continue to expand across the District, making this testing available to all students. Although testing is not required for students, I strongly encourage everyone to get tested! Your school will communicate with you once testing is available and will provide student consent forms and the notice of privacy. You can also find those consent forms on the District's website [www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVID-testing](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVID-testing). Our [FAQs are available here](#).

I am committed to providing you with as much information as possible as we implement our comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy. I encourage you to review our comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy webpage at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVID-testing](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVID-testing) and [view this short video from Dr. Katika Lovett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services](#), explaining the District's strategy and all of the testing options available to students.

In addition, [watch Dr. Brian Lefkove's, Co-Founder of Viral Solutions](#), presentation on how surveillance testing in combination with other health and safety protocols can help keep us all safe.

[In this video, Viral Solutions Co-Founder Ron Sanders](#), PA-C, demonstrates how the COVID-19 surveillance test is administered.

### **GO Team Candidacy Declarations Now Open Through Feb. 28**

Did you know that more than 700 parents, educators, and community members are actively governing each of our schools via GO Teams? Our local school governance teams or GO Teams represent each school and have decision-making authority over the school's strategic plan, budget approval, school-based solution flexibility requests, and more.

Now you have the opportunity to join this group of powerful school leaders! Declare your interest in running for a seat on a GO Team next term. Candidacy declarations are open now through Feb. 28. Voting will take place in April. Tools and training will be provided, so experience is not required. Learn more and declare your candidacy today: [www.apsstrongschools.com](http://www.apsstrongschools.com).

### **Atlanta College and Career Academy Accepting Applications Through March 5**

Do you know rising high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors who may be interested in earning credentials aligned to high-demand technical careers in Atlanta? If so, encourage them to apply to the Atlanta College and Career Academy (ACCA), an APS program that offers 14 career pathways.

Applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be accepted now through March 5. A lottery will be held March 22-26 to determine which students will be accepted into the program next school year, and parents/students will be notified of lottery results by April 2. Learn more and apply today at <https://apsgatransfer.scribder.com/>.

### **Thank a School Counselor!**

As we close out the week, I want to call special attention to our school counselors as part of National School Counseling Week (February 1-5). Having served as a middle school counselor early in my career, I understand the essential role our counselors play in helping our students succeed in school and plan for their future.

Now more than ever, we rely heavily on our counselors to ensure that our students succeed and remain mentally, spiritually, and physically healthy in safe and secure learning environments. I am excited to recognize this critical work and the people who perform it in our schools every day.

As always, stay healthy and please be well.

Yours in Service,

Lisa Herring