

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: May 14, 2021

Subject: Celebrating our School Nurses and Resource Officers, Academic Recovery Plan, Upcoming Parent/Community Engagement Session, Commencement Schedule, Youth Ages 12-15 Can Get COVID-19 Vaccine, Change in Release Date of Parent Memos and Other Updates

I find it fitting that May is truly a month full of appreciation for the nation's frontline workers. We celebrated our hard-working teachers last week. This week, we celebrate our school nurses (May 12 was National School Nurse Day) and we recognize our school resource officers as part of National Police Week.

We simply could not have had teaching and learning – virtual or face-to-face – without these amazing men and women. I hope you will join me in thanking them every day, every week, and every month all year long!

Three-Year Academic Recovery Plan

As I shared recently, we have developed a three-year Academic Recovery Plan that includes a required school-based intervention block at every school to address the unfinished learning and learning loss our students experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Academic Recovery Plan will be effective for school years: 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. This essentially means from June 2021 - May 2024. Our Academic Recovery Plan has three components:

- A new K-12 Universal Screener - which helps teachers identify students' learning strengths and needs in reading and mathematics.
- A Summer Academic Recovery Academy - which will address learning loss and provide much-needed credit recovery and enrichment opportunities for our students.
- Required school-based intervention blocks, classes, or courses as follows:
 - For elementary schools – a minimum of 30 minutes, four days per week.
 - For middle schools - a minimum of 45 minutes, four days per week.
 - For high schools - a minimum of 90 minutes, four days per week.

Parent/Community Engagement Session on Academic Recovery Plan on Thursday, May 20

Please join us for our Parent and Community Engagement Session on the plan on Thursday, May 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AtlantaPublicSchools. I look forward to seeing you there!

GradNation: 2021 Commencement Schedule!

We are so excited that our Class of 2021 will get a traditional spring graduation this year, thanks to our partnership with Georgia Tech. Outdoor graduation ceremonies will be held for 12 of our high schools at Bobby Dodd Stadium on the Georgia Tech campus from May 24-27.

Even though the graduation ceremonies will be held outdoors, masks are required, hand sanitizer will be readily available, and attendees will be urged to follow social-distancing protocols. Here is the schedule (ceremonies will be held rain or shine unless there is severe inclement weather):

Monday, May 24, 2021

KIPP Atlanta Collegiate, Noon
Benjamin E. Mays High School, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy and BEST Academy, 9 a.m.
Frederick Douglass High School, Noon
Henry W. Grady High School, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Therrell High School, 9 a.m.
South Atlanta High School, Noon
Maynard H. Jackson High School, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Booker T. Washington High School, 9 a.m.
Carver STEAM and Carver Early College, Noon
North Atlanta High School, 7 p.m.

Graduation details for our two other charter schools – Atlanta Classical Academy and Drew Charter – are being communicated through those schools.

Fulton County Youth Ages 12 – 15 Can Now get FREE COVID-19 Vaccines

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the FDA and CDC for patients ages 12 - 15. At this time, all vaccination sites operated by the Fulton County Board of Health and the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency administer the Pfizer vaccine, including mobile units.

Residents ages 12 – 15 may now receive their FREE vaccine without an appointment.

- Parking is FREE at all locations during operating hours.
- No ID is required.
- Sites are ADA compliant.
- All minors (under age 18) must have a consent form signed by the parent. The parent does not have to be present at the time of vaccination. (Download the form and bring it complete with the parent's signature.)

- While patients who have insurance are asked to bring their information, the vaccine is offered at no cost for everyone.

For hours and locations for vaccination sites and mobile units, or to download the parent consent form for minor patients, please go to www.fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to protect the health of our students.

Deadline Reminders for Summer Academic Recovery Academy, AVA and GO Teams

Remember, the registration deadline for our Summer Academic Recovery Academy is today, Friday, May 14! The Recovery Academy will address learning loss over the pandemic and provide much-needed credit recovery and enrichment opportunities for our children. Learn more at www.atlantapublicschools.us/summeraps.

The deadline to enroll in either Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA) for middle and high school students or AVA, Jr., for kindergarten and elementary students is Saturday, May 15. For registration and more information, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us/AtlantaVirtualAcademy.

Finally, elections for your school's GO Team will continue through this Sunday, May 16. More information is available at www.apsstrongschools.com.

Change to Release Date of Parent Memos

Moving forward, I will be sharing my parent memos with you on Wednesdays of each week. Be on the lookout for my latest parent memo next Wednesday!

As always, I want to thank everyone across our community for your continued engagement with us. Please stay healthy and be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring