

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: April 2, 2021

Subject: Post-Spring Break, Plans for SY2021-22, Inman Middle School, and Other Updates

Families, Spring Break is here!

Because everyone in the Atlanta Public Schools' family deserves this break, I only have this homework assignment for our students and their families:

1. Take time to reconnect with friends and loved ones safely
2. Take time to relax and enjoy the spring weather
3. Take the time to rejuvenate so you – so all of us – can commit to ending the school year strong.

I do have a few reminders and updates before we fully move into Spring Break.

Virtual for Week after Spring Break

First, as a reminder, due to an expected high volume of staff and family travel during Spring Break, we are taking the precautionary step of transitioning to virtual instruction for the week of April 12-16.

All students will participate in classes virtually, and most staff will work remotely that week. We ask that those who plan to travel also plan to follow the travel guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), such as getting tested and quarantining. [I shared these details in my previous memo.](#)

Students who opted for face-to-face instruction may return to our schools the week of April 19th.

Summer Academic Recovery Academy

Summer at Atlanta Public Schools now includes our Academic Recovery Academy (ARA)! ARA is an engaging, full-day summer program for students in grades PK-12 that combines literacy and math learning each morning and hands-on lessons through Power Up programming in the afternoons.

Students have the opportunity to receive virtual or in-person instruction that will address unfinished learning and academic learning loss, provide hands-on lessons via Power Up Programming and recover course credits in an engaging, incentive-filled environment with embedded whole-child and social-emotional supports.

The program will take place June 2 through June 30, 2021, and all APS students are welcome to register! Select students will receive individual invitations and will be strongly encouraged to attend based on the following academic criteria:

- 2019 Georgia Milestones Assessments (ELA/Math)
- 2020 STAR Assessments
- High School Course Credits/Assessment Data
- Other School-Based Data

As a part of the Academic Recovery Academy, we are pleased to offer High School Summer Credit Recovery Programming. Students will be able to participate in credit recovery/academic learning loss opportunities virtually or in-person at designated high school sites. Students can earn core credits and/or elective credits such as Health and PE. For more information, visit <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/summeraps>.

Five Days a Week in the Fall

We intend to return to five days of in-person instruction each and every week for our 2021-2022 school year! We are opening our doors to welcome all of our students back into our schools for face-to-face teaching and learning.

With this plan, all students will receive direct instruction with all schools on a traditional bell schedule. There will be no asynchronous instructional days nor simultaneous teaching, and all schools are required to implement intervention/acceleration/enrichment blocks.

While our default method of teaching will be face-to-face in our school buildings, virtual learning pathways will be available through Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA) and Atlanta Virtual Academy Jr., (AVA Jr.).

For AVA (Grade levels 6-12), students will receive direct instruction five days per week and will be on a traditional bell schedule. There will be no asynchronous instructional days and no simultaneous teaching. An intervention block will be embedded into the school day and families can choose direct instruction five days per week or self-paced instruction.

Students in AVA Jr. (PreK-5) will receive direct instruction five days per week, they will be on a traditional bell schedule and an intervention block will be embedded into the school day. There will be no asynchronous instructional days and no simultaneous teaching.

Again, face-to-face instruction will become our main option next school year, but families will have an opportunity to enroll in virtual learning pathways. We will discuss all of this in greater detail during the Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 12. I encourage you to join us. That meeting will be held live on the Board of Education's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apsboard> and will also be available for viewing on-demand.

Future Use of former Inman Middle School

I want to thank all of you who participated in our Community Listening Session on Tuesday, March 30 about the future use of Inman Middle School. As you know, with the completion and opening of Howard Middle School this year, the former Inman Middle School in the Grady Cluster has been used as the temporary site for Morningside Elementary, which is undergoing renovations. If you missed the Listening Session, you can view it here:

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/62832>.

Thanks again for all of the support and engagement. Have a fantastic Spring Break. Please follow the recommended guidelines from the CDC during your break, stay healthy and be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring