

## MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: March 19, 2021

Subject: Academic Recovery, Summer Camp Expo, Use of Inman Middle, Third Party Usage of APS Facilities, and Other Updates

Before I provide my weekly update, I want to pause to reflect upon the recent shootings that occurred across Atlanta on Tuesday that killed eight people, including six who were of Asian descent. Although the motive for this incident is still under investigation, what I know as an educator is that we need to spend more time as a community on some of the critical work beyond academics, such as social emotional learning, wraparound supports, and equity.

As I have mentioned in our [cluster conversations](#) and will continue to discuss, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) added two simple but essential words to our mission: equity and life. We have spent much of our recent conversations focused on equity, but I want to emphasize the addition of the word “life,” in that we graduate all students ready for college, career, and LIFE.

I encourage you to read [my blog](#) to see my full statement on this topic and for resources to help our students and staff process and discuss these difficult issues.

### **Summer Academic Recovery Academy**

We recognize that learning loss has occurred throughout the pandemic. To mitigate that impact, we plan to launch the [Summer Academic Recovery Academy](#) (ARA) over the next three summers. All students can attend and are welcome to register for the Academic Recovery Academy (ARA). However, select students -- an estimated 15,000 elementary school students, 5,000 middle school students, and 8,000 high school 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

The registration window will be open from April 1st through April 30th. Our ARA will be a full-day program from June 2nd through June 30th, Monday through Friday at the following times:

Elementary:	8:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Middle:	9:05 AM – 4:05 PM
High	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

The academy combines an academic recovery model with a focus on literacy and mathematics with our Power Up programming for students in grades PK-12. Students will 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.

As a part of ARA, the district is 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.

Transportation and meals will be provided for in-person learning students who attend the full day. Virtual learning students will be provided meals at designated pickup sites throughout the community. We are excited to offer the ARA to combat learning loss and will continue to keep you updated on the program.

### **Summer Camp Expo Next Week**

To help our families plan for the summer, the Office of Family Engagement through its Parents as Partners Academic Center will host the Annual Summer Camp Expo from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, March 26. This VIRTUAL event helps families register for camps and enrichment programs relating to financial life skills, investing, job shadowing, mentoring, arts, camping, horseback riding, and college and career readiness. Families may register at <https://ezxpo.net/apsfe/attendeeregister>.

### **Future use of former Inman Middle School**

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. We want to hear from our community about the future use of the building. We will be holding a Community Listening Session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30. Those who wish to attend should [register here](#).

### **Third-Party Use of APS Facilities**

Thank you for your continued patience regarding the use of our APS facilities. As part of our response to the pandemic, we restricted the public's use of our buildings and grounds. We will continue to restrict interior usage and rentals of facilities through the start of next school year in August 2021. However, APS partners playing a role in the administration of summer school activities will be permitted use.

We will resume exterior partner and community usage and rentals of APS properties, beginning Monday, March 29. This includes our parking lots, playfields, playgrounds and stadiums. Partners and community members using those facilities must observe protocols and guidelines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

### **HealthCheck Launches on Monday**

The safety of our staff and students is important to us, especially as we continue to navigate teaching and learning during a global pandemic. That's why APS has partnered with Stratum Health Solutions to secure HealthCheck, an online tool that helps safeguard the health of students via daily wellness check-ins.

Daily health screenings and temperature assessments have been the norm since in-person instruction resumed. The HealthCheck screener simplifies the process. Parents who have declared that their student would return to in-person learning for the third quarter should have received user account and activation emails from HealthCheck.

Starting March 22, parents of in-person learners will be asked to respond to four daily health screening questions quickly and easily before their student reports to school. Based on the responses, the tool will advise whether the child can attend school. Learn more at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVIDscreening](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/COVIDscreening).

Thanks as always for your engagement and support! Please stay healthy and be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring