

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: October 23, 2020

Subject: Getting in Good Trouble, Partner Appreciation, Educators in Motion, and More

Thank you for your continued support of Atlanta Public Schools (APS) and our efforts to ensure every student receives a high-quality education. As we focus on virtual learning through January 2021, we will continue to provide monthly health data checkpoints. The next update will be at the November 2 Atlanta Board of Education meeting, which you can watch live or on-demand on the [Board's Facebook page](#).

During this virtual learning period, we are exploring ways to support our most vulnerable learners, particularly our low-incidence special needs population and our youngest students, including their potential return to some in-person services before January 2021. We will provide you with an update on these efforts soon.

APS Good Trouble Voter Campaign Registers 576 New Students

It's election season, and we're getting in good trouble! The APS Good Trouble Voter Campaign, a partnership between APS and [When We All Vote](#), is educating and inspiring APS students and families about the importance of voting while honoring the late Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis, who once said, "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

We launched the campaign on September 22, National Voter Registration Day. Our APS student ambassadors, led by the Office of Social Studies, facilitated a voter registration drive through October 5, garnering 576 newly registered APS student voters in less than two weeks. North Atlanta High School registered the most eligible student voters (74), followed by Booker T. Washington High School (65), and South Atlanta High School (52). Carver Early College registered the highest percentage of eligible student voters (84%), followed by Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy (64%).

The Campaign will continue through Election Day on November 3. Early voting runs October 12-30 in Georgia. Let's get in good trouble and get out the vote! [Read more here](#).

Partner Appreciation

We are appreciative of the continued generosity and support APS receives from our partners. Their investments in our District help supplement our work to ensure every student is prepared for college, career, and life. This week, I want to send a special thank you to [redefinED Atlanta](#) and [goPuff](#).

Innovation Grant Fund

RedeFinED Atlanta has launched the Innovation Fund to assist APS and our community with addressing critical needs and creating more equitable learning environments during the pandemic. APS leaders, educators, and staff as well as organizations that work with and support public schools in the District, can apply for one of four levels of grants: \$2,500 and less, \$2,501 - \$5,000, \$5,001 - \$10,000, and \$10,001 - \$15,000. Those grant dollars can be used for programs that support enrichments like virtual clubs and the arts, extra academic instruction for children in under-resourced communities, student, parent, or community communications, the development of mobile wifi units, and more. The window to submit grant proposals opened on October 14. Visit www.redefinedatlanta.org/investments/innovation-fund/ for more information.

goPuff Donates Essentials to APS Families

Thank you to goPuff for donating 4,000 kid-friendly essential items for our APS families picking up meals at King Middle School this past Monday. Through this partnership, 1,000 students from the King Middle School community will receive a tri-color spinning highlighter, toothbrush, toothpaste, and fruit snacks. I joined members of the Atlanta Board of Education on Monday in helping provide food and these essential items to families during our weekly food distribution at King.

Educators in Motion

While we are providing quality teaching and learning in the virtual space, the absence of our school buses on the streets stands as one of the most visible differences of school years past. But, we still have a dedicated group of men and women in our Transportation Department who have always found ways to put our students and schools first. We celebrate our bus drivers, monitors, mechanics, call center operators, and other transportation staff for being our educators in motion! I especially want to recognize their commitment this week, National School Bus Safety Week, and on Georgia School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

A Top Reader Lives Here

Is there a top reader in your house? You may see yard signs throughout our community that say "A Top Reader Lives Here." Those signs were delivered to avid readers across APS. In the first month of the third annual **APS Race2Read Challenge**, our top readers have helped log 798,566 minutes of leisurely reading!

This year APS is once again partnering with the Urban League of Greater Atlanta to challenge students, teachers, staff, parents, community members, and business partners to read daily to help collectively reach 10 million minutes of leisurely reading this academic year. To help APS reach the goal of 10 million minutes, register as an individual or a family at www.race2read.org.

For more information on Race2Read and volunteer opportunities, contact EducationEquity@ulgatl.org.

National Recognition for Principal at Hollis

I love to highlight our educators for achieving special honors. This week, I have the pleasure of spotlighting Principal Diamond Ford of Hollis Innovation Academy, who earned national recognition recently for implementing core language arts curriculum at her school.

Dr. Ford has been selected as the [2020 EL Education Silverberg Leadership Award winner](#). This award is given to a school leader who has successfully impacted student achievement outcomes through deep implementation of EL (formerly Expeditionary Learning) Education practices, inspiring teachers, administrative staff, and students to embrace EL Education culture and to lead students to a superior education, enhanced character development, and sense of civic responsibility. Congratulations to Dr. Ford and everyone at Hollis!

Remember to stay connected and engaged, but most importantly, stay healthy and safe. I encourage you to wear a mask, wash your hands, and continue to social distance. Have a great weekend and please be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring