

Welcome to Parent University

Topic: Orientation 2.0



Orientation 2.0

It's been a long, long time since we had a “normal” year at MES. What does that look like? What can you expect from the school? From PTA? From Foundation?
What can you do, as a parent, in making this all possible?

Today's Agenda:

- Who Does What: APS, MES Admin, Teachers/Staff, PTA, Foundation, GO Team
- Meetings, Meetings, Meetings
- Events & Activities: PTA-Sponsored and School-Sponsored
- School Procedures
- Communication Channels, Apps & Websites
- Next Parent U - Testing!

Who Does What

APS	MES Admin	Teachers/Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● COVID policies, surveillance testing, masking rules● Transportation● Nutrition/School Meals● Principal hiring● Zoning, facilities planning● School funding allocation● APS student handbook topics● District calendar (start/end dates, breaks, holidays)● School day begin and end times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hiring/managing staff/teachers● School budgeting● School-specific policies (e.g. visitor rules, dismissal procedures)● Daily schedule planning (e.g. specials, lunch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Team/Grade Planning● Curriculum delivery● Learning differentiation● Progress monitoring● Parent communication about individual progress, discipline, concerns● Conferences

Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MES Parent donations along with employer matching donations • 1-2 corporate donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MES Parent and Teacher membership dues • Boosterthon fundraiser • Dolphin Donors (MES families and local businesses) • Spring Auction/Casino Night fundraiser
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster teaching excellence and enhance student achievement • Technology purchases (smart boards, student computers, document cameras, virtual learning aids) • Curriculum investments to support school's strategic plan (Handwriting without Tears, ixL and other student apps) • Teacher training (Orton-Gillingham training, Gifted teacher certifications) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent communication and engagement • Teacher appreciation and support, including supplies • Community-building and Enrichment activities (Halloween Carnival, Family Science Night, Variety Show) • Technology and innovation (devices, grants) • Curriculum support (Dolphin Toolkits, library materials) • Partnerships and Philanthropy (Dolphins Do Good)
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Board of 5-15 parents • Meetings attended by MES Leadership, a faculty representative, and a PTA representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership open to all MES parents and teachers • Volunteer Board with Executive Committee of 10-15 parents • Meetings attended by MES leadership and a Foundation representative

Notes and Other Organizations

- The Foundation and PTA are both 501(c)(3) organizations separate from APS and all donations are tax-deductible
 - Foundation raises and spends between \$100,000 and \$150,000 annually; it is a wholly independent organization
 - PTA raises and spends around \$200,000 annually; it operates under the auspices of state and national PTA organizations and the membership votes to approve the PTA annual budget
- MES Parents have the opportunity to run for a position on MES's GO Team as voted on by the entire MES community
 - GO Teams also include the principal, elected staff representatives and community members
 - Go Teams provide input into the school budget and curriculum, and work with the principal to establish the school's strategic plan and monitor achievement of goals.

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings...

MES Meetings

- Principal Coffees/Chats (monthly; in-person)
- PTA General Membership Meetings (August, January/February, April; in-person); MES admin report
- Other: EIP/GATE info session, Safety & Security - throughout the school year (virtual or in-person)
- GO Team Meetings (typically monthly; live-streamed via MES YouTube channel); MES admin report

- Cluster Advisory Team (CAT) Meetings (Zoom)
 - Administrator and GO Team rep from each school in the Midtown cluster

APS Meetings

- Atlanta Board of Education (monthly; in-person and streamed via Facebook Live)
- Atlanta Board of Education Community Meetings (monthly; hosted by each district rep via Zoom)
- APS Facilities Master Plan
- New K-5 at Inman

Events & Activities: PTA-Sponsored

- Monster Bash - 10/29
 - Boosterthon - 11/7-15: Dolphin Dash Fun Run on 11/15
 - Family Science Night - 2/15-16
 - Teacher Appreciation Week - 3/27-31
 - MES Arts Showcase - 4/23
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- Book Fair
 - No Place for Hate (district-wide program in collaboration with counseling)
 - Dolphins Do Good
 - Playdates in the Park - Grade-level social gatherings
 - Lost & Found, Campus Clean-Ups

Events & Activities: School-Sponsored

MES / School-wide	Grade-Specific	Classroom
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meet & Greet● Back to School Night● International Day of Play● Homeless at Heart● Field Day● Bring a Parent to PE Day● Cultural events & celebrations, e.g. Black History Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Field trips (on-site and off-campus)● Assemblies: guests for students (e.g. cultural and arts enrichments) and student-led for parents (e.g. 1st grade Veterans Day performance)● Orchestra/Band/Chorus concerts (4th & 5th grades)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mystery Reader (K-2nd grades)● Holiday and End of Year parties

School Procedures

- What if we are late?
- What if I need to get my kid early?
- 11:00 - when the magic happens
- What if my kid is absent? mesnotes@atlanta.k12.ga.us
- What if it's my kid's birthday?
- How do I pay for breakfast/lunch at school?
- What if I want to bring my kid tacos for lunch?
- How and by when to change dismissal?

Communication Channels

APS	MES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="92 369 465 448">● Infinite Campus (email, text)<li data-bbox="92 511 635 650">● Facebook: Atlanta Public Schools; APS Board of Education<li data-bbox="92 667 573 754">● APS Now Community Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="768 369 1141 448">● Infinite Campus (email, text)<li data-bbox="768 511 1831 628">● Digital Dolphin Weekly E-Newsletter (Distributed by PTA to Membership Toolkit contacts with content from MES admin & PTA, and others)<li data-bbox="768 691 1122 727">● Teacher Emails<li data-bbox="768 743 1431 779">● Wednesday Take-Home Folders<li data-bbox="768 796 1219 832">● Room Parent Emails<li data-bbox="768 898 1518 934">● Facebook: MES Dolphin Community<li data-bbox="768 951 1199 987">● 5th Grade Website

Apps & Websites

APS	MES	Classroom
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Infinite Campus● Healthcheck● Here Comes the Bus● MySchoolBucks.com● School Cash Online ● MyBackpack● Securly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Infinite Campus● PikMyKid (Dismissal)● Membership Toolkit (PTA Directory) ● MyBackpack: learning tools, e.g. IXL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Teacher-selected apps for parent communication, e.g. Class Dojo, Remind, Seesaw, Band ● MyBackpack: Google Classroom

Who can help me?

- Teacher ... and Room Parent
- School Resources:
 - Admin (Ms. Sofianos, Dr. Sinclair, Mr. Baron),
 - Student Services (Ms. Deal, Mr. LaSalle, Ms. Austin, ESOL, Early Intervention, Special Ed),
 - Front Office (Ms. Owens, Ms. Parham),
 - Ms. Chiodi, Nurse Petty, Officer Louis
- APS District & Board of Education Members - Let's Talk submission system

Next Parent University: Testing!

- Join us Thursday, November 3rd at 8am
- Mr. Baron presenting an overview of testing and assessment
- Submit questions and requested topics via the linked form in the Digital Dolphin announcement!