

# Exceptional Education

*'Excited to be Exceptional'*



## INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

**Preparing for Summer  
Break**

**SEL Focus**

**Multi-Tiered Sphere of  
Support**

**Summer Programs**

**Exceptional May**

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## **Making the Most of Summer Break: A Guide for Families**

Dear Parents and Families,

As we head into summer break, we want to take a moment to thank you for your partnership and support throughout the school year. Your collaboration has been essential in helping our students grow, learn, and thrive. As you enjoy the summer months, we encourage you to maintain daily routines, continue building on your child's strengths with reading and hands-on activities, and explore any available summer services or resources. Remember, learning happens in many ways – through play, exploration, and special family moments. Most importantly, allow time for rest, relaxation, and making lasting memories. We are excited to welcome your child back in the fall, refreshed and ready for another great year of learning and growth!

### **Top 5 Summer Tips for Families of Students with Special Needs:**

- Keep a simple routine: Consistent schedules help children feel safe and successful.
- Make learning fun: Use everyday moments for reading, counting, and exploring new skills.
- Encourage communication: Give your child chances to express themselves in ways that work best for them.
- Get moving: Outdoor activities, walks, and play can support physical and sensory needs.
- Celebrate progress: Acknowledge every success, no matter how small – it builds confidence and joy!





# ELEMENTARY

## PRE-K - 5TH GRADE



**Emoji Charades:** Act out different emotion emojis in a game. Make a face and have a buddy name that feeling!

**Mindful Breathing Buddy:** Lay on your back with a small stuffed animal on your belly. Breathe in and out slowly - watching the stuffed animal rise and fall for 2 minutes.



# WAYS TO BUILD EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Parents: Encourage students to try these activities this summer to build their emotional intelligence.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 6TH - 8TH GRADE



**Mindful Moment:** Practice 5 minutes of mindfulness or breathing each day to increase emotional regulation.

**Vibe Check Playlist:** Create a playlist that match different emotions like "Chill Mode" or "Hype Me Up." Reflect on how music influences your mood.



# HIGH SCHOOL

## 9TH - 12TH GRADE



**Mirror, Mirror on the Wall:** Practice self-talk in the mirror for 2 minutes a day. Say things like, "I am capable." "I am enough." "I can try again."

**Me Time:** Choose one self-care act each week (walk, silence, hobby, etc.). Reflect on how it helps you emotionally.





# SPHERE OF SUPPORT

The **Exceptional Education Department** is a team of dedicated individuals providing multi-tiered sphere of support to meet the unique needs of every student and family. Below is a list of team members that are dedicated to support parents and students by providing guidance, resources and assistance to ensure academic and personal success.

## Teacher/Case Manager

- Provides quality instruction
- Tracks the progress of students with special needs
- Ensures IEPs are executed properly with implementation of Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)
- Maintains communication with families and educators

## Exceptional Education Lead Teacher (EELTs)

- Ensures the implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Implements Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)
- Adheres to compliance timelines
- Supports classroom teachers
- Serves as mentors and provides instructional strategies to improve student outcomes

## Cluster Coordinator

- Serves as a liaison between schools and the district
- Provides professional learning opportunities
- Ensures that the school complies with special education laws and guidelines
- Coordinates resources and support for students and collaborates with all stakeholders

## Program Coordinator

- Focuses on overseeing district-wide programs
- Develops curricula
- Assesses program effectiveness across multiple schools
- Provides professional learning opportunities for staff



## About Power Up Summer Programs

During Power Up Summer 2025, APS will offer the following robust programming that is accessible to all students:

### Power Up Summer 2025 Elementary School and Middle School

Elementary and middle school students will focus on academic intervention that integrates social-emotional learning. The students will also have the option to participate in extended learning activities through Power Up programming.

### Power Up Summer 2025 High School

High school students will focus on credit recovery and graduation.

### Other Power Up Summer 2025 APS Programming Offerings

Atlanta Public Schools will also offer other summer programming for specific grade levels and interests.

For more information, visit the website

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/summeraps>



# Exceptional May



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