

December 4, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Subject: Introduction of Clear Bookbag Policy for Enhanced Safety

I trust this letter finds you well. Considering a recent incident, we will be implementing a Clear Bookbag Policy at TAG Academy. This policy has proven successful in promoting safety and security in Middle and High Schools across APS, including the Washington Cluster.

Your child's safety is our top priority, and we believe that adopting this policy will serve as an intervention and deterrent to prevent situations like the recent incident. We understand that safety concerns weigh heavily on your minds, and we want to reassure you that we are taking proactive measures to create a secure learning environment.

In collaboration with APS policy, the following Clear Bookbag Policy will go into effect upon the return of the break.

Implementation Date: Starting January 3, 2024, students will be required to have clear bookbags.

Accessibility: Students who are unable to afford a bookbag will be provided one, ensuring that all students can comply with the policy.

Communication: The policy will be communicated to parents effective December 4, allowing for a smooth transition.

Policy Enforcement: Bookbags that do not follow the policy will be collected by the administration and returned at the end of the day. Parents will be notified, explaining the policy.

Exception for Personal Items: Young ladies can still carry small purses/pouches for personal items.

Safety First for Our Scholars and Staff:

Clear Visibility: The clear backpack policy ensures that our children's belongings are easily visible, maintaining a safe environment by reducing the possibility of hidden items that could be harmful.

Streamlined Security Measures:

Efficiency: With see-through backpacks, if there is a need for security checks, they become more efficient. This benefits both our children and the staff, allowing for quicker and more thorough inspections.

We value your input and want to ensure that the policy we implement is supported by our teachers, staff, and parents. Please see the data from the feedback surveys that were collected regarding this policy.

Policy Survey Data: Clear Bookbag Policy is supported by 91% of TAG Academy Teachers and staff

Clear Bookbag Policy is supported by 100% of TAG Academy's GO Team

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and commitment to the safety of our students. If your scholar is in need of a clear bookbag, please inform your child's teacher and one will be provided to your child upon return from the winter break. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school at 404-802-8450.

Educationally driven,

Melanie Sithole, Ed. S

Principal