

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

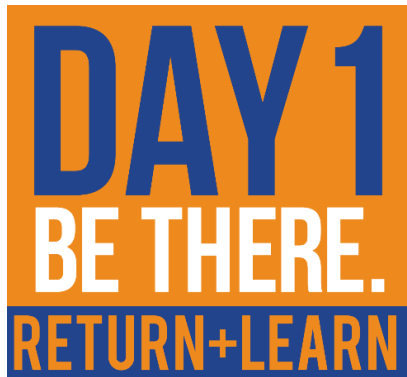
From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: July 27, 2020

Subject: Virtual Town Hall Meetings, Nutrition, and Other Updates

Dear Atlanta Public Schools Parents and Families:

Day One 2020 Return + Learn



I want to thank you for your continued engagement with Atlanta Public Schools (APS) as we work collaboratively toward Day One 2020 Return + Learn. We have recommended a virtual reopening for APS with a delayed start on August 24.

You can [view the presentation](#) we shared with the Atlanta Board of Education at its July 13th meeting, and you can also watch that meeting on the [Board's Facebook page](#). The Board will vote on the school calendar change (moving Day One from August 10 to August 24, reducing the number of instructional days to 170 for the school year) at its August 3 meeting.

APS Virtual Town Hall Schedule - July 29 and August 4

APS is committed to maintaining open and consistent dialogue with you as we all prepare for a strong start on Day One. We want to make ourselves available to answer your questions and share current information. Please join us at our upcoming Virtual Town Hall meetings scheduled for Wednesday, July 29 at 6 p.m. and Tuesday, August 4 at 6 p.m. on the district's [Facebook page](#) (@AtlantaPublicSchools). We look forward to seeing you there!

Fireside Chat Thursdays with the Superintendent - July 30 and August 6

As we move closer to Day One, it's important that we schedule time for in-depth conversations with you on a number of specific topics. Special Education, English to Speakers of Other Languages, Dual Language Immersion (DLI), and Gifted Programs to name a few. Please join us on the district's [Facebook page](#) (@AtlantaPublicSchools) for a Fireside Chat on the following topics:

- Gifted Programs Thursday, July 30 at 5 p.m.
- Dual Language Immersion Thursday, July 30 at 6 p.m.
- Special Education Thursday, August 6 at 6 p.m.

Communicating with Families about our Instructional Model

We continue to monitor the public health data daily on the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Our decisions throughout the school year about whether to remain virtual or move to a hybrid or to a traditional face to face instructional model will rely heavily on that health data. APS will provide families with consistent and timely updates every nine weeks and share whether our instructional model will change in light of the current spread of COVID-19. Here is that schedule:

Instructional Period	Communications to Families and Staff
Phase 1: 1st Nine-Week Period August 24 - October 23, 2020	September 8, 2020 October 5, 2020
Phase 2: 2nd Nine-Week Period October 26 – January 15, 2021	November 2, 2020 December 7, 2020 January 4, 2021
Phase 3: 3rd Nine-Week Period January 19 - March 19, 2021	February 1, 2021 March 1, 2021
Phase 4: 4th Nine-Week Period March 22 - May 26, 2021	April 1, 2021 May 1, 2021

Charter/Partner School Reopening Dates

As APS moves toward a virtual reopening on August 24, I want to remind you that reopening dates for our charter and partner schools will differ. All charter and partner schools are required to follow the district’s approach to reopening, which means they will all be starting school virtually. You can find a [directory of charter schools](#) and a [directory of partner schools](#) on our Innovation website. Please inquire with those schools directly should you have questions about reopening. Here is a current list of reopening dates for our charter and partner schools:

School/Organization	Day One
Drew Charter School	August 3
Wesley International Academy	August 4
Westside Atlanta Charter School	August 10
KIPP (all schools)	August 17
Atlanta Classical Academy	August 24
Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School	August 24
Centennial Academy	August 24
Kindezi (all schools)	August 24
Purpose Built Schools (all schools)	August 24

Nutrition Services

End of Summer Food Distribution

As part of the Summer Seamless Option waiver granted by the federal government, meals will be provided to all children in the community on Monday, August 10 and Monday, August 17. Five-day meal bags with five breakfast meals and five lunch meals will be distributed at the 12 schools listed below. You can get those meals via walk up or drive-thru. Bus delivery of food will also be provided on some middle school bus routes. We will share those bus routes with you soon:

APS Food Distribution Sites on August 10 and August 17

BEST Academy/CSKYWLA 1190 Northwest Dr, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318	Bunche Middle School 1925 Niskey Lake Rd., SW, Atlanta, GA 30331	Carver High School 55 McDonough Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30315
Douglass High School 225 Hamilton E Holmes Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318	John Lewis Middle School 1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Pky, NE, Atlanta, GA 30312	King Middle School 545 Hill St SE, Atlanta, GA 30312
Maynard H. Jackson High School , 801 Glenwood Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30316	Mays High School 3450 Benjamin E. Mays Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30331	Phoenix Academy (formerly Alonzo Crim High School) 256 Clifton St., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317
South Atlanta High School 800 Hutchens Rd SE, Atlanta, GA 30354	Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy 1626 Westhaven Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30311	Washington High School 45 Whitehouse Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314

Order My Meals!

Starting August 24 – the first day of school – APS meals will only be distributed to APS students. All APS families must pre-order meals for each week through the [MySchoolBucks online pre-order system](#). Those orders must be placed no later than one week before distribution. For example, for the five-day meal bag on Monday, September 7, your order must be placed no later than Monday, August 31. Once in the pre-order system, you can select whether you will pick up the meals at one of the 12 school distribution sites listed above or if your meals should be delivered via one of the middle school bus routes identified. Families paying for meals will need to submit payment through the MySchoolBucks online payment system. Schools will not be collecting money for school meals.

Students at 21 Federal Eligibility Application Schools must Apply for Free or Reduced Meals

Starting this school year, the district resumes the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and will only provide food for qualifying students. There are [54 APS schools](#) that will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides all students in those

schools with free breakfast and lunch. However, [21 APS schools](#) will participate in the Federal Eligibility Application (FEA) program, which offers free and reduced meals to qualifying students.

All students at FEA schools must apply to qualify for free or reduced meals by completing the [online FEA form](#). Free meals will continue for all students for the first 30 days of school. After the first 30 days of school, students at those 21 FEA schools will pay full price for meals until their FEA application is approved, and their eligibility status is sent to the school.

Celebrating the Lives and Impact of John Lewis and Rev. C.T. Vivian

As you are aware, Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis and civil rights leader Rev. C.T. Vivian both passed away on Friday, July 17, 2020. Private memorial services in honor of Rev. Vivian were held, and the family of Congressman Lewis has announced a series of upcoming ceremonies to celebrate his life in Alabama, Atlanta, and Washington, D. C.

Both men will be sorely missed. But what I know to be true is that their impact shines brightly and burns fiercely in the hearts and lives of all of us. We must continue to carry the torch of freedom, justice, and equality they both held and use it to illuminate those dark places they fought tirelessly to eradicate from our society.

I invite you to [read my full blog post](#) honoring these leaders and their legacy and the impact they both had on APS, this country, and indeed the world.

These are unprecedented times and we know it's going to be an unconventional start to the school year. At the same time, we are excited about welcoming our students and staff back for virtual learning because our students are eager to learn and thrive, and our teachers are dedicated to our mission. APS is committed to reopening in the safest way possible, and we are ready to continue the work of ensuring every child is prepared for college, career, and life.

Yours in service,

Dr. Lisa Herring