

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

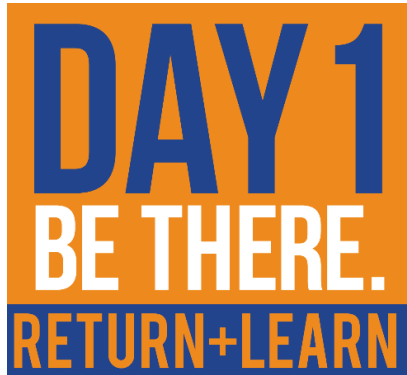
From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: August 5, 2020

Subject: Town Halls, Runway for Learning, Sign Up for Backpacks, and Other Updates

Dear Atlanta Public Schools Parents and Families:

Day One 2020 Return + Learn



There are a few key updates I want to share with you, and I want to make sure you have the latest information as we get closer to Day One.

Fireside Chat - August 6

Please join me and district leaders at our upcoming fireside chat on Special Education on Thursday, August 6 at 6 p.m. via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/332Au5t>. We look forward to answering your questions and sharing more information and updates as we work together to prepare for Day One. See you there!

The Runway for Return to Learning

We have created two weeks of pre-planning for our teachers and staff, starting August 3. These activities will be mostly virtual, but some may be in person and in small groups. During this time, we are providing professional development to prepare all our staff for our virtual teaching and learning model districtwide.

As part of Runway Week, we are paying particular attention to student wellness and preparation. We will find multiple ways – as part of our trauma to transition efforts – to connect with students to build relationships and ensure good mental health. This work is essential to ensure that all of our students – and all of us – remain well through these challenging moments.

During the week of August 17-21, all activities will be mostly virtual with some in-person activities needed in small or limited groups for parents to pick up needed supplies and materials for the first nine weeks. Please contact your school for more specific information about activities that week.

This chart helps illustrate our Runway for Return to Learning leading up to Day One:

Key Dates	Interaction	Key Activities
Pre-Planning August 3 – 7, 2020 August 10 – 14, 2020	Mostly Virtual some in person activities may be needed in small or limited groups for staff	Focus on Planning for the Virtual Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Families • Team building • Teacher Planning • Teacher Professional Development • Safety and Yearly Planning
Runway for Return to Learning August 17 – August 21, 2020	Mostly Virtual some in person activities may be needed in small or limited groups for parents to pick up needed supplies and materials for the 9 week period	Focus on Student Wellness & Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Student Learning • Social Emotional Learning Support • Health & Wellness Checks • Student Supply Distribution • Emergency Contact Information Submissions
Day 1: First Day of School August 24, 2020	Virtual Learning for all students <i>(for at least the first 9 weeks of school or until we have entered minimal/moderate spread)</i>	Focus on Student Learning and a Strong Start <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students Engage with Curriculum • Additional Student Assessments • Get to Know You Activities • Learning Expectations

Devices and Technology

During the Runway period and past Day One, our schools and Information Technology team will be working together to get devices and internet hotspots to our students. To assist us in identifying students who do not have sufficient technology, please complete the APS technology survey by August 7 to ensure your child has the technology needed by Day One:

<http://tinyaps.com/?techsurvey> or in Spanish: <http://tinyAPS.com/?techsurveyEspanol>.

Also, our partnership with Comcast through the Get Our Kids Connected campaign has been extended to September 30th. If you know an APS student who needs internet service, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/GOKCform> or call 404 802 KIDS (5437).

Nutrition Services

End of Summer Food Distribution

We will provide meals to all children in the community on Monday, August 10 and Monday, August 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. as part of our Summer Seamless Option waiver granted by the Federal Government. 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 or on [these APS bus routes](#):

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.

Federal Eligibility Application Schools

This school year, [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 districtwide 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.

Sign Up for Backpacks

Although the pandemic prevents us from hosting our annual Back to School Bash in our traditional format at the Georgia World Congress Center, it won't keep us from distributing the backpacks and school supplies that our students will need to thrive in an at-home environment. Instead of providing those materials at a central location this year, we will distribute backpacks and school supplies during Runway Week, the week of August 17. Be sure to sign up for a backpack at www.emptystockingfund.org/aps-backpack-request-2020/.

Is your contact information up to date?

We must be able to contact you directly so we can ensure you receive the information and computer equipment you need for your child(ren) to fully participate in virtual learning. All contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) can be updated from your Parent Portal account. If you need help updating your contact information or instructions on how to set-

up a parent portal account, visit our Enrollment website at www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/enrollment and click on COVID-19 Updates to view our parent tutorials. You may also contact your child's current school for assistance.

I want to thank you for your continued patience and support as we move toward Day One. We will always keep our students first, and we will continue to make their safety and health, as well as that of our staff, a top priority. Please stay healthy and be well.

Yours in service,

Dr. Lisa Herring