

July 1, 2024

Subject: Fueling Success: Empowerment in the Fast Lane for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dear Esteemed Trailblazer Families,

Welcome back to Harper-Archer for the 2024-2025 school year! We are thrilled to have you join us as we embark on a new journey of *fueling success* and empowering our students in the fast lane of learning and personal growth. Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we extend our warmest welcome.

### ***Starting the Engines of Learning***

Just like the excitement at the starting line of a race, the beginning of a new school year is filled with anticipation and potential. Our dedicated and talented team of educators are ready to guide and support every student as they navigate their unique path to success. We believe every scholar has the potential to achieve great things, and we are committed to providing an environment where they can thrive every day.

#### **Important Dates and Times**

- Open House: Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Harper-Archer Elementary School. Meet your child's teacher, pick up class and bus schedules, and sign up for Parent Portal.
- First Day of School: Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 7:45 AM. Scholars can enter the school as early as 7:15 AM. Dismissal time is at 2:15 PM. Please note that all early dismissals conclude at 1:30 PM.

#### **Morning Arrival and Transportation**

- Arrival: Scholars can enter the school from 7:15 AM. Classes begin promptly at 7:45 AM.
- Carpool Location: Please use the bottom lot for carpool drop-off and pick-up.
- Buses: Bus schedules will be provided at the Open House and are available on the school website.
- Parent Park/Walk: Parents who park and walk their children to the building should do so in designated areas for safety. (Fairburn Road near Jackson Memorial Church)
- Tardy Time and Process: Students arriving after 7:45 AM are considered tardy, and they must be escorted into the building by a parent/guardian and signed in for school.

#### **Additional Information**

- School Calendar: The school calendar, including important dates, is available on our school's website [www.haestrayblazers.com](http://www.haestrayblazers.com).
- Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT): This year's APTT dates are September 18, 2024, January 22, 2025, and April 23, 2025. These meetings are crucial for discussing your child's academic progress, but please use Parent Portal weekly to access your child's grades and attendance updates.
- After-School Program (ASP): Our After-School Program offers various activities to support learning and enrichment. More information will be available at the Open House and on our school's website [www.haestrayblazers.com](http://www.haestrayblazers.com).

## ***Empowering Our Young Drivers***

At Harper-Archer Elementary School, we see our students as the drivers of their own educational journeys. Our role is to empower them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to steer their way through challenges and opportunities. We are dedicated to fostering a love of learning, encouraging curiosity, and celebrating each student's progress along the way. Please anticipate Victory Laps Assemblies, STEM WoW days, Jr. Beta Club Inductions, Tech Fair Competition, Field Day, End of Year Celebrations, and a school year filled with academic and specials (art, dance, computer science, literacy/reading, music, art) classes.

## ***Communicating Effectively***

Effective communication is crucial for academic success. We encourage our students to express their ideas clearly and listen actively, fostering an environment where dialogue and understanding are prioritized. Parents, we value your insights and feedback, which help us better support your child's learning journey. I may be reached at (404)802-8505 or via email at [cjanuary@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:cjanuary@atlanta.k12.ga.us). To keep you informed and engaged, we use multiple communication platforms:

- Marquee: Check our school marquee for important announcements.
- Twitter: Follow us @APSHAES for updates and news.
- YouTube: Subscribe to our channel at [www.youtube.com/@haestrailblazers](http://www.youtube.com/@haestrailblazers) for videos and school events.
- Remind: Join our Remind group at [www.remind.com/join](http://www.remind.com/join) enter class code: @harperarch for timely alerts and reminders.
- Website: Visit our website at [www.haestrailblazers.com](http://www.haestrailblazers.com) for comprehensive information and resources.

## **Key Information:**

- GMAS Results: We mailed these results. If you did not receive them, please request them during open house.
- Parent Portal: The parent portal is a valuable tool for tracking your child's academic progress. We will send instructions on accessing and using this portal effectively.
- GoTeam: Join our GoTeam meetings to hear updates on educational programs.
- Testing Calendar: Review APS assessment calendar for important dates and information on upcoming assessments. <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/48457>
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## ***Collaborate Strategically***

Education is a team effort, and strategic collaboration between students, teachers, and parents is essential. By working together, we can create a supportive network that enhances the learning experience. Students will engage in projects that require teamwork, mirroring real-world scenarios where strategic collaboration is key to success.

## **Key Contacts:**

### **School Counseling Department:**

- Dr. Francine Samuels (Grades K-2): (404) 802-8518 or [fsamuels@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:fsamuels@atlanta.k12.ga.us)
- Mr. Nolan Green (Grades 3-5): (404) 802-8531 or [nolan.green@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:nolan.green@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

### **School Social Worker:**

- Ms. Stephanie Griffin:(404) 802-8530 or [stephanie.griffin@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:stephanie.griffin@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

### **School Nurse and Process for Medication:**

- Nurse LeRoy: (404) 802-8533 or [natalya.leroy@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:natalya.leroy@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

By fostering strategic collaboration and adhering to these processes, we ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all students.

### ***Problem Solving Creatively***

Creativity in problem-solving is a skill that will serve our students well throughout their lives. We encourage them to approach challenges with an open mind and innovative spirit. By providing opportunities for creative problem-solving, we help students develop resilience and adaptability. We also prioritize the safety of our scholars and staff; all fights will require parent conferences as a minimum.

### ***Excelling Academically***

Our commitment to academic excellence means providing rigorous and engaging curriculum that challenges students to achieve their best. As our scholars work their way into greater success, they will need to practice at home. Please ask them about their homework, and most importantly, remind them to read, write, and practice math at home.

### ***Crossing the Finish Line Together***

As we move forward into the 2024-2025 school year, let's remember that education is a collaborative effort, so we are honored and excited to partner with you and your scholar(s). We are prioritizing literacy and numeracy. By working together – students, parents, community members, and educators – we can create a vibrant and supportive environment where every student has the chance to succeed in the best place to learn, Harper-Archer Elementary School. As we work to get better each year, I look forward to meeting with each of you soon. Let's make this school year a memorable and empowering experience for all.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to a fantastic year of learning, growth, and achievement.

Sincerely,

***Crystal J. January***

Dr. Crystal J. January

Principal, Harper-Archer Elementary School