

July 26, 2021

Welcome New and Returning Raider Families,

Welcome Back! Heading back to school is more exciting than ever. After months of virtual learning and simultaneous learning, it is time for us to begin the work to transition back to our traditional setting. This will be an aMAYSing year as we work together as community as the "Culture of We", to ensure every student strives for EXCELLENCE. High expectations and accountability for all stakeholders will remain top priority. So, it is important that every scholar is DAY 1 ready. I look forward to working with you to ensure we are upholding the Legacy of EXCELLENCE.

SAVE THE DATE "RAID THE HILL" Open House August 4, 2021 11am - 1pm

During Open House, families will have the opportunity to register, meet and greet teachers, receive transportation information, learn about becoming a Microsoft Showcase School, join extracurricular activities, join PTSA, and much more.

There are a few changes we are excited to announce. Such as, we are the proud recipient of the Verizon Innovative Learning Grant, as a result every teacher and student will receive a brand-new Chromebook with a built in Wi-Fi. Details are forthcoming about the Chromebook distribution. In addition, we are happy to announce we are striving to become a Microsoft Showcase School. Starting at the 9th grade level every 9th grader will have the opportunity to become certified in the areas of Microsoft Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint. We are also offering a SAT Prep class during the day for out 11th and 12 grade students. So, we are very excited a about the various opportunities we are able to offer our scholars.

Communication is key for us to stay connected. We are committed to keeping you informed. So, please download the Benjamin E. Mays phone App, check out our website for the most updated information, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Please be sure we have your most updated email so you are able to receive our Weekly Parent Raider Report. We are also happy to welcome and announce two individuals happy to help you with any immediate needs: Project Manager, Michelle Walker: <u>michelle.walker@apsk12.org</u> or our new Bilingual Liaison, Victoria Silva-Fernandez, <u>Victoria.Silvafer@apsk12.org</u>.

This year will be different, but I am excited about the legacy we will create together as a family. The 1st Day of school is August 5[,] 2021 at 8:45m. I expect to see you on time and ready to have the most aMAYSing year.

Below you will find pertinent information so you and your scholar are Day 1 Ready. Please read this letter in its entirety. I miss you and I will see you soon.

Virtual Hugs, Your Proud Principal, Dr. Wilkins

Health and Safety Update

- 1. We are expecting most students to return. We are anticipating \sim 1,300 students.
- 2. While we are all working to create a new normalcy, teaching and learning will remain our focus.
- If you have not done so, you may want to consider a COVID Vaccination for your child. This is NOT
 a mandate. It is important to understand that some mitigation strategies used previously, such as
 social distancing, will not be possible with the return of our entire student body.
- 4. Suggestion: All students are encouraged to carry hand sanitizer.
- 5. As of the date of this letter, the district has shared that wearing masks for the upcoming school year is mandatory for all students and staff. As always, as information become available, I will share more important health and safety updates.

School Required Immunization

School-Required Immunizations

Per Georgia law, all rising 11th graders (entering or transferring) must have proof of a meningococcal booster shot (MCV4), unless their first dose was received on or after their 16th birthday. Documentation must be received before the first day of school to attend class. Exceptions showing medical or religious reasons must be submitted to the school on the Georgia Department of Health's official forms.

Registration Reminder: As a reminder: ALL NEW and Rising 9th graders MUST be enrolled in Benjamin E. Mays High School, regardless of if they have rolled over from Young Middle School. Online enrollment is available at<u>https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/16318</u>.

Students will not receive a school schedule without registering. In you prefer to register in person, please see the schedule below. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris Strozier, <u>ChrisStrozier@apsk12.org.</u>

Registration						
School-Required Immunizations						
Registration Dates						
Wednesday, July 21 and Thursday, July 22, 2021 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)						
Monday, July 26, 2021 – Thursday, July 29, 2021 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)						
Wednesday, August 4, 2021- Thursday, August 5, 2021						
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)						
Please visit the link below to see what you will need for registration: https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/15714						
Questions? Contact Mr. Christopher P. Strozier, Registrar (404) 802-5133 <u>chrisstrozier@apsk12.org</u>						

Yearly Schedule

- This year, we return to 4 x 8 Block Schedule.
 - What does this mean?
 - Students take <u>8 Classes</u> in Fall and <u>8 Classes</u> in Spring
 - 4 classes on A-Day; 4 classes on B-Day
 - Two FINAL Grading Periods (End of Semester 1 & End of Semester 2)
 - Final Grades post to transcript 2 x per year. Please review the table below:

	Fall Se August 5 – I 20	December 17,	Spring Semester January 4 – May 26, 2022			
Progress Report	September 2021	November 2021	February 2022	April 2022		
Mid-term Report Cards	Octobe	er 2021	March 2022			
Semester Report Cards *These are FINAL GRADES that post to transcript.	Januar	y 2022	Ju	ıne 2022		

Student Schedules

- Student Schedules will be visible in the Infinite Campus Portal on July 30, 2021.
- Schedules Changes are based on graduation needs, pathway completion needs, and/or extenuating circumstances.
- Teacher to Teacher changed is not permitted.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your counselor based on grade level.

Who Is My Counselor?								
Ms. Smith	nasmith@atlanta.k12.ga.us	9 th Grade						
Ms. Rucker	courtney.rucker@atlanta.k12.ga.us	10 th Grade						
Ms. Blount	ericka.blount@atlanta.k12.ga.us	11 th Grade						
Mrs. Aldridge	caldridge@atlanta.k12.ga.us	12 th Grade						

Building Orientation for 9th and 10th Grade Students

WELCOME TO THE HILL

"Legacy of Excellence" Building Orientation Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9th and 10th Grade Scholars (Only) 9th Grade 9am – 11am 10th Grade 11am – 1pm

This is not mandatory but encouraged for all Rising 9th and Rising 10th scholars. This is an opportunity to become familiar with the academy structure and to engage with academy counselor and academy leaders.

- If you plan on attending the **9th grade building orientation** on July 28th from 9am 11am, please complete the <u>Rising 9th Grade Building Orientation Google Form</u>.
- If you plan to attending the **10th grade building orientation** on July 28th from 11am 1pm, please complete <u>10th Grade Building Orientation Google Form</u>

Dress Code Corner: Adhering to the APS Dress Code Policy

In alignment to the APS Dress Code policy, we are asking that all students dress in a manner consistent with college and career readiness.

The following are not permitted: clothing with low-hanging or split sides, see-through clothing, halter tops, midriffs, fishnet tops, racer-back shirts, V-back shirts, shirts with spaghetti straps or shirts which expose the chest area.

Students are not permitted to wear sleepwear, pajama pants, leggings, activewear, slippers, slides, or house shoes at any time. (UGG sandals and Crocs must have back strap).

Students may wear skirts and shorts at mid-thigh length or longer. Short skirts or shorts may not be worn, even if pants, shorts, or leggings are worn underneath. Students may wear sleeveless shirts, but the straps must be neck to shoulder in width.

Any students not adhering to the dress code will be asked to change into appropriate attire or will be given the option to call a parent for a change of clothing.



Students are permitted to bring either a **CLEAR or SEE-THROUGH MESH BACKPACK**. Backpacks that are not clear or mesh will not be permitted and will be collected at the entrance. Students are permitted a small purse for personal items, however, be advised that bags large enough to hold a textbook or binder are considered book bags.

For student-athletes, we collaborate with your coaches to ensure athletic equipment bags are stored appropriately throughout the day until afterschool

CLEAR OR MESH BAGS CAN BE PURCHASED USING THE LINKS BELOW:

• <u>AMAZON</u>

• WAL-MART

Lockers are \$5 per student and will be available based on student request.

Accessing Technology Platforms

- Your scholar must utilize his/her district Username and Password to access key district accounts that are essential to extending education. (Note: most students from APS know this already)
 - Username = 1st initial of FIRST NAME + LAST NAME (up to 7 letters) + last 4 of Student ID #.
 - **Password** = <u>Lunch ID #</u> (NOT student ID, which may be different if coming from a charter)
- myBackpack is THE key portal for the valuable instructional technology resources needed for learning extension. This requires your scholar to log-in with their district information, as described above. The link to myBackpack is https://launchpad.classlink.com/atlanta
 - Once logged-in with district credentials, most programs are Single Sign On (SSO), so they typically will not need to keep entering UN/PW each work session.

Related to access, what if my child is having problems with his/her student account access?

• For student access issues (i.e. Username/Password), please contact our Media Specialist, Ms. Sales, at <u>dsales@atlanta.k12.ga.us</u>

Textbooks

Most of our textbooks offer digital versions. The teachers will share this information on their syllabus.

In general, we do not issue a textbook to every student. Instead, we utilize classroom sets. Textbooks serve as resources. They don't drive instruction.

We understand that some students prefer a hard copy for various reasons. If you would like a copy of a particular textbook, please contact your scholar's teacher for support,

Student Grades in Infinite Campus/Google Classroom

Teachers will continue to instruct, assess standards, and record grades in Infinite Campus, weekly. You can see your student's current progress/grade in Infinite Campus at any time. As students and families have specific questions about assignments and grades, please contact your child's teacher.

- Infinite Campus remains our official gradebook.
 - Parents/Guardians, ensure you have Infinite Campus Parent Portal Access (details below)
- You can expect at least 16 grades per semester (or 8 every 9 weeks). These should be evenly distributed over time (about 1 per week) and fairly distributed across grading categories.
- **IMPORTANT**: On a 4x8 schedule, students earn FINAL Grades that post to official transcripts EVERY SEMESTER.

Chromebooks

Students who received a Chromebook in Spring 2020 or during the 2020-2021 school year should return the device to Ms. Davida Sales, <u>dsales@apsk12.org</u>. Deadline to return the device, Wednesday, August 11th. If technical support is needed, please call 404-802-1000.

These Chromebooks will need to be returned before a student can be provided a Verizon, data-enabled Chromebook.

Any student who has been issued a Chromebook is financially responsible for the return of this device in satisfactory condition.

Media Center Resources

The Media Specialist, Davida Sales, will communicate opportunities for students to access digital resources at Benjamin E. Mays. Students in need of digital resources, please contact our Media Specialist: Ms. Sales at <u>dsales@atlanta.k12.ga.us</u>

STAY CONNECTED! HOW DO I STAY INFORMED?

Our two PRIMARY METHODS of COMMUNICATION

Infinite Campus Robocalls / Robotexts/ Messages:

- **ENSURE your contact information is accurate in Infinite Campus**. It is critical that Mays High School is able to contact your family directly to ensure you receive the information. All contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) can be updated from the Parent Portal account. Visit our Infinite Campus Parent Portal Help Page for instructions on how to set up a Parent Portal Account <u>https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/48412</u>.
- Need help updating your contact information? Contact our Registration Clerk, Kecia Carter (kcarter@atlanta.k12.ga.us) for assistance.

Additional Avenues for Communication

- Make sure to utilize the wide variety of online resources and social media sites to stay informed about school and district news and events.
 - Follow us on TWITTER: @APSMaysRaiders
 - o Our school website: <u>https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/mays</u>
 - APS website: <u>www.atlanta.k12.ga.us</u>
 - $\circ\quad {\rm Download \ the \ Benjamin \ E. \ Mays \ High \ School \ App \ and \ the \ Atlanta \ Public \ Schools \ App.}$

Social-Emotional Support

We are striving to serve the WHOLE Child, so we have multiple wrap-around serves to ensure we are able to meet the social and emotional needs of all students. Professional school counselors, social workers, restorative practices coach, behavior specialist, and the school nurse will be available to support students through individual and small-group sessions. We are also the recipient of a grant, which gives us a full time Transition Coach that will provide evidence-based behavioral health and social-emotional support services. If you have any specific questions or needs, please contact your school's professional school counselor or social worker. See below for contact information.

Raider Parent University

In September, Benjamin E. Mays will provide family training sessions on a myriad of topics aimed at providing our Raiders with the best shot at being college and career ready. Our priority is to collaborate with each family, as we support student learning and the whole child. For more information regarding Parent University, please reach out to Ms. Tamicka Jones (<u>Tamicka.jones@atlanta.k12.ga.us</u>) or by phone at 404-802-5107.

Student Tutoring

Benjamin E. Mays will provide free, supplemental tutoring through in-person formats before or after the school day (based on staff availability). Teachers are also available for office hours through appointment.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities (MHS)

Benjamin E. Mays is working in collaboration with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to develop and adhere to appropriate guidelines for athletic practices and competitions. We expect these guidelines to continue to evolve; each coach will provide updates to our student-athletes and their families, as appropriate. As you have specific questions or needs, please contact your child's coach or **Mr. Dallas Allen**, **Athletic Director at dgallen@atlanta.k12.ga.us**.

After-school Extracurricular Clubs and Activities

Benjamin E. Mays students have the opportunity to participate in an array of after-school extracurricular clubs and activities. More information in regards to clubs and organizations will be provided at **Open House** on **August 4th** at 11 am.

	KEY CONTACT INFORMA	TION
Dr. Mulanta Wilkins	mulanta.wilkins@apsk12.org	Principal
Mr. Travis Chapman	travis.chapman@apsk12.org	9 th Grade Academy AP
Mrs. Tina Robinson	tina.robinson@apsk12.org	Principal's Secretary
Dr Kenneth Vaughan	kenneth.vaughan@apsk12.org	10 th Grade Academy AP
Dr. NaTasha Woody	woodyn@apsk12.org	11 th Grade Academy AP
Dr. Angela Moore	amoore@apsk12.org	12 th Grade Academy AP
Mr. Antwayne James	antwayne.james@apsk12.org	Attendance/Discipline AP
Mrs. Sylvia Riggins	ssriggins@apsk12.org	Special Education Lead
Mrs. Beatrice Hutcherson	beatrice.hutcherson@apsk12.org	9 th and 10 th Social Worker
Dr. Garrick White	gwhite@apsk12.org	11 th and 12 th Social Worker
Mr. Dallas Allen	dgallen@apsk12.org	Athletic Director
Dr. Gerard Holmes	geholmes@apsk12.org	SST/504
Mr. Chris Strozier	chrisstrozier@apsk12.org	Registrar
Mrs. Michelle Byrdsong- Walker	michelle.walker@apsk12.org	Project Manager
Mrs. Victoria Silva- Hernandez	victoria.silvar@apsk12.org	Bilingual Liaison
Ms. Latanya Williams	latanya.williams2@apsk12.org	Nurse
Ms. Jasmine Guitroz	jasmine.guitroz@apsk12.org	Attendance Clerk
Mr. Harold Beasley	hbeasley@apsk12.org	Graduation Coach
Mrs. Breana Kinard	Briana.kinard@apsk12.org	Graduation Coach

Final Approval - 5/4/2020

APS Student Calendar 2021-2022 (option D)

				JAN	UARY	22							
	5 1	A T	w	Th F	5	5	м	т	w	Th	F	5	
Independence Day (observed) 5-30 Teacher Preplanning Days				1 2	3						1	1	3 Teacher Professional Learning Day
	4	6		8 9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4 Begin Semester 2
						9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17 M.L. King, Jr. Birthday
		2 13		15 16		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Instructional days: 19
	18 1	9 20	21	22 23	24	23/	24/	25	26	27	28	29	presentation de la tradición
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						6	7	8	9	10	11	12	21 Presidents' Day*/Teacher
First Day of School	8 9			12 1		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Professional Learning Day
structional days: 19	15 16			19 2		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	2001 Sec. 2007 Sec. 2
	22 2	3 24	25	26 2	7 28	27	28					1	Instructional days: 17
	29 30	31											
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Labor Day				2 3				1	2	3	4	5	
Labor Day	5	7	8	9 10	11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	21 Teacher Professional Learning Day
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structional days : 21	19 2	0 21	22	23 24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	26 2	7 28	29	30		27	28	29	30	31			
Fall Break (students and teachers) Indigenous Peoples' Day/Teacher rofessional Learning Day structional days: 18	S M 3 4 10 1	T	6	21 Th F 1 7 8 14 15	5 2 9 16	5 3 10	M 4 11	T 5 12	6 13	22 Th 7 14	F 1 15	5 2 9 16	4-8 Metro Area Spring Break Instructional days: 16
	17 1 24/ 2			21 22 28 29		17	18 25	19 26	20 27	21 28	22 29	23 30	
Teacher Professional Learning ay/Election Day 2-26 Thanksgiving Break Instructional days: 16	5 h 7 h 14 1 21 2 28 2	4 T 2 2 8 9 5 16 2 21	3 10 17	21 Th F 4 5 11 12 18 19 25 26	20	5 1 8 15 22 23	M 2 9 16 23	T 3 10 17 24	4	Th 5 12 19 26	F 6 13 20 27	5 7 14 21 28	26 Last day of school 27 Teacher Postplanning Day 30 Memorial Day Instructional days: 19 Semester 2: 93 days
		DECE	MBER	21				л	INE 22	2			School Year: 180 instructional days
7 End, First Semester	5 6	A T		Th F	5	5	M	T	w	Th	F	5	Photo: Descarding on the surger
-31 Semester Break		-	1	2 3	4				1	2	3	4	"Note: Depending on the number of instructional days lost to inclement
structional days : 13	5 4	5 7	8	9 10	- Internet	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	weather, instructional time may be
	12 1	3 14	15	16 17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	made up by any combination of make up days, virtual learning days or
omester 1: 87 days	19 2	0 21	22 3	23 24	25	19	21	21	22	23	24	25	extension of the school day.
	26 2	7 28	29	30 31		26	27	28	29	30			
	-											_	
			First/La	st day									