

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Staff

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: April 2, 2021

Subject: Post-Spring Break, Plans for SY2021-22, Vaccination Reminder and Survey, and Other Updates

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) family, Spring Break is here! I encourage you to use this time to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy the spring weather. This is also a time to reconnect with friends and loved ones, safely, while following the travel guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Remember, we have taken the precautionary step of transitioning to virtual instruction for the week of April 12th -16th as part of mitigating any potential spread of COVID-19 in our schools and buildings that may result from the anticipated high volume of travel during Spring Break (April 5th – 9th). The week of the 12th is also when the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to staff who signed up for our mass vaccination event.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, we're asking staff planning to travel during Spring Break to follow these steps:

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
- If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, you are encouraged to stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

In other words, staff who travel over Spring Break should self-quarantine at home and take a COVID test during the week of April 12th. As a reminder, location services in Kronos will be used as needed to verify the coordinates of anyone clocking in using the mobile app. Upon returning to face-to-face work and instruction the week of April 19th, employees will need to pass the worksite health screening questionnaire and are strongly encouraged to participate in surveillance testing at their worksite.

Visit and Tour of Cascade Elementary School from U.S. Senator Ossoff

I was thrilled to join Principal Momon, Board Chair Esteves, and Board members Grant and Briscoe Brown yesterday in welcoming U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff to Cascade Elementary School

where he toured the school, including a care room and the media center. Most importantly, Senator Ossoff talked with our staff about the important work APS is doing to keep our students and staff safe as we continue instruction virtually and in person.

Senator Ossoff used this visit to announce federal funding coming to metro-Atlanta school districts through CARES III, including approximately \$193 million for APS. This significant investment in public schools by the federal government will allow us to continue our recovery from the pandemic as well as help us reimagine the district's future going forward. He shared that the money doesn't have to be spent all at once, and he emphasized that the funding is intended to be used strategically and deliberately to meet our students' and staff's needs.

I must send a huge shoutout and appreciation to Principal Momon and her team for opening their school to the Senator and district leaders. Cascade Elementary exemplifies the tiger spirit, and we saw that in action yesterday!

I do have a few other reminders and updates before we move into Spring Break.

Vaccination Reminder

We held a fantastic mass vaccination event at Mercedes Benz Stadium last week, and I want to thank everyone involved! I am still very grateful for the partnership and support we have received from the Fulton County Board of Health, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and Fulton County Government. Nearly 1,600 APS teachers and staff members got their first dose, and they're scheduled to receive their second dose the week of April 12th when we will observe virtual teaching and learning. Please keep an eye out for an email from CovidVaccine@atlanta.k12.ga.us confirming your 2nd shot appointment. Thanks again to everyone, and remember, "Don't Wait! Vaccinate!"

Vaccination Survey

Since vaccination is such an important part of protecting our schools and communities, we need to understand how much of our staff is vaccinated against COVID. APS is asking you to complete the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXFKQY3>. Please be assured that APS respects your privacy; APS will not disclose any individual response but will instead only provide aggregate data (for instance, reporting that X percentage of teaching staff is vaccinated). Additionally, please rest assured that your responses will not impact your employment status with APS. I sincerely thank you for completing this survey and working so hard to keep our schools safe and our kids learning!

Five Days a Week in the Fall

As staff, I want you to be aware and prepared for our plan to return to five days of in-person instruction each and every week for our 2021-2022 school year. Like me, I'm sure many of you are excited about opening our doors and welcoming our students back into our schools for face-to-face teaching and learning.

We are focused on providing direct instruction to all students with all schools on a traditional bell schedule. It's important for you to know that there will be no asynchronous instructional

days nor simultaneous teaching, and all schools are required to implement intervention/acceleration/enrichment blocks.

While our default method of teaching will be face-to-face in our school buildings, virtual learning pathways will be available through Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA) and Atlanta Virtual Academy Jr., (AVA Jr.).

For AVA (Grade levels 6-12), students will receive direct instruction five days per week and will be on a traditional bell schedule. There will be no asynchronous instructional days and no simultaneous teaching. An intervention block will be embedded into the school day and families can choose direct instruction five days per week or self-paced instruction.

Students in AVA Jr., (PreK-5) will receive direct instruction five days per week, they will be on a traditional bell schedule and an intervention block will be embedded into the school day. There will be no asynchronous instructional days and no simultaneous teaching.

Again, face-to-face instruction will become our main option next school year, but our families will have an opportunity to enroll in virtual learning pathways. We will discuss all of this in greater detail during the Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 12. I encourage you to join us. That meeting will be held live on the Board of Education's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apsboard> and will also be available for viewing on-demand. I will continue to keep you updated on our plans for the next school year.

That's enough for now. I always need to thank you for your dedication and engagement, but I want you to take a much-deserved break and enjoy the time off! See you on Monday, April 12. Until then, stay healthy and be well.

Yours in Service,

Lisa Herring