

## MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Staff

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: April 30, 2021

Subject: Staff Bonuses, National Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Principal's Day, GO Team Elections, and International Internal Audit Awareness Month

### **Staff Bonuses in Today's Paycheck!**

As we enter into the final stretch of this school year, I encourage everyone – our students, our teachers, our staff, our families, and our entire community – to maintain the commitment and energy to finish the school year strong. We have overcome many obstacles and explored many new ways of teaching and learning. Do not let up!

I know the school year has been challenging, but I am pleased to note that when you look at your paychecks today, you will see your bonuses! That's only a small gesture of gratitude for your work and it is much deserved! For more information on compensation, including the recently approved 2% increase to pay scales, [please see my previous memo](#).

### **National Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Principal's Day**

I'm so excited that next week we will be celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Week! I cannot begin to express the admiration I feel for the women and men of Atlanta Public Schools who have faced the extraordinary challenges of teaching this school year.

Our teachers have shown incredible grace and dedication, and I am so proud of them. As part of our appreciation and celebration, we have prepared some fun activities for our teachers, including a special cooking class, a fitness program, and more. We also expressed our deepest appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices of our teachers and all of our staff through recent bonuses and raises.

We must also acknowledge our school principals as tomorrow, Saturday, May 1, is National School Principal's Day. We are appreciative of our principals all year long and every year, but I don't think we could thank them enough this school year. The pandemic hit our schools and community hard, and our principals remained on the front line, not only as academic leaders but as good stewards of their school community.

I'm not sure there are enough words to adequately thank our teachers and principals, but I know you will join me in taking a moment to celebrate them both.

**Upcoming GO Team Elections**

Next week, we will launch GO Team elections at every school in the district. GO Teams include parents, instructional staff, and community representatives who work in a collaborative fashion with the school principal. These teams are responsible for establishing strategic plans for their schools, voting on innovative school-based solutions and approving the school's budget. Additionally, these teams review school data and provide input to the principal related to school improvement.

Voting takes place from Thursday, May 6, through Sunday, May 16. Our school staff members will receive their personal voting links in their APS emails. Candidate profiles and more information can be found at [www.apsstrongschools.com](http://www.apsstrongschools.com).

**May is International Internal Audit Awareness Month**

Also, in May our district will recognize – for the first time – International Internal Audit Awareness Month as designated by the Institute of Internal Auditors. The focus of the month is to build awareness of the internal audit profession and the value it brings to an organization. The aim is not only to dispel misperceptions of the profession but also to enhance the district's knowledge of the essential role internal auditing plays in strong organizational governance, internal controls, and effective risk management.

The Internal Compliance team, led by Executive Director Connie Brown, has put together a great program. Please take some time this month to participate in the activities and become more knowledgeable about the importance of internal controls and managing risk.

The Internal Compliance team works hard every day to help make APS better and more accountable, but they cannot do it alone. It takes all of us, working together toward our common goal of enriching the lives of our students.

Thanks as always for your service and dedication. Please maintain your high level of engagement, stay healthy, and be well. #ThanksAPSTeachers!

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring