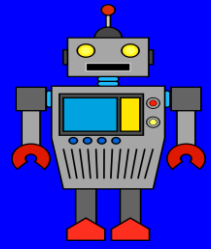


M. Agnes Jones Elementary School

# THE RAMS REPORTER



## Linking the School, Home and Community

M. AGNES JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the ONLY GADOE STEM/STEAM certified school  
and

COGNIA internationally STEM certified school in the ENTIRE state of Georgia!



Dear Scholars/Parents/Partners/Community,

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year!

I have hope! I have perseverance! I have patience! I am strong! I have what it takes to get through these very difficult times!

I have sadness! I have concerns! I have uncertainty! I miss the scholars, parents, faculty/staff and interacting with our partners and community!

I have faith in my district leadership! I know we are ready to teach our scholars virtually in a meaningful and quality way! I trust my faculty/staff! They are ready and well prepared to serve our scholars!

It is with all of these true emotions, feelings and assessments that I humbly ask you to trust M. Agnes Jones Elementary to serve our scholars! We have made tremendous progress in preparing ourselves to be THE BEST virtual educators to our scholars. We are committed to not only provide a high quality and meaningful academic force, but also one that can support our scholars in a social emotional way. Quality teachers, excellent support staff (administrative team, counselor, social worker, office staff, Chris 180 mental help) are still here and waiting to serve our scholars!

These are tough times because school is about community and we are used to face-to-face interactions. Yet, today, I know that we can bring the same sense of community virtually, that we have ALWAYS had at M. Agnes Jones Elementary School! We will reach out to your scholars and you! We want you to know that you can always reach out to us too!

We are here to serve you! If you need a device for your child, please take the technology survey located on the Atlanta Public Schools district website. We will ensure that you receive one. If you need a device repaired, call 404-802-1000.

We have added a wonderful addition to our staff, Ms. LaQuanta Clay, is our new parent liaison. Please reach out to her, if you need anything to support your child's academic and social emotional well-being.

Lastly, please be mindful of grade specific daily schedules for your scholars, which closely aligns to in-school learning:

8:00 – 8:15	SEL/Health/Connections/"Circling up" time
8:15 – 8:45	ELA
9:00– 10:00 SFA	Grades K-5 *Kindergarten
8:30 – 10:00 (2x a week for 15-20 minutes Independent Practice)	Pre-K Start/End Daily Instruction
8:00 – 12:45 (+20 min. independent practice)	K-2 Scholars report/end virtual class.
8:00 – 1:00 (+40 min. independent practice)	3-5 Scholars report/end virtual class.

Please know that I am here to serve your scholar to the best of my ability and hold myself to the highest expectations, to meet their individual needs!

Peace and Love,

Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk

## Opening Letter

August 24, 2020

Please join with me in ensuring your child(ren) receive a safe, engaging and rigorous virtual academic and social emotional experience during the 2020 -2021 school year. The school's leadership, faculty and staff are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of each scholar.

The administration, faculty and staff are asking **ALL parents** to follow the policies and procedures in the school and district handbooks regarding virtual teaching and learning. We promise if you follow the policies and procedures at **ALL times** our scholars will receive optimum learning daily. This goal will certainly serve OUR children well!! We are asking your **support** in implementing the arrival/dismissal procedure:

**Scholars morning virtual arrival-** ALL scholars enter their virtual classes 7:55 am. Tardy scholars will be documented in Infinite Campus. After 8:15 scholars are considered tardy.


**\*Note: Scholars are tardy after 8:00 am. There is NO grace period!**

### **Scholars afternoon learning framework:**

**Please check your child's schedule for Independent Practice times and teacher virtual office hours.**

Once again, I along with all of the administrative team, faculty and staff look forward to making a positive difference in the lives of your children and we look forward to another great school year at M. Agnes Jones!

*Your scholar was born for GREATNESS and second to NONE! #1*

Please help us by keeping in mind the following: 

### **Academic & Social Emotional Learning:**

#### **Georgia Standards of Excellence**

Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) will drive the instructional program at M. Agnes Jones. GES will provide a rigorous curriculum that ensures scholars are placed on the road to college and career readiness. Furthermore, scholars mastering the standards will be able to one day access good jobs in the increasingly competitive global economy.

We will continue with our implementation of Social, Emotional, Learning (SEL & SFA Getting Along Together), which builds on shared respect, responsibility and trust among scholars and school adults. Additionally, it ensures a virtual classroom and virtual school environment where scholars are orderly and on task. We will also provide, by appointment, face-to-face or virtual counseling, community outreach and family case-management services to scholars in need of special services.

Parents will be able to view scholar attendance, schedules, and other important scholar information in Infinite Campus. Parents will also be able to check grades via the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. Other information will be shared via our social media outlets including, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and the M. Agnes Jones Elementary School website.

#### **Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)**

GMAS is aligned to the GSE. The assessment (GMAS) will be used to gauge how well scholars are mastering the standards and, ultimately how ready scholars are to succeed in college and/or careers.

### **ASSESSMENTS**

Testing calendar is pending due to state waiver approval.

#### **Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) + Arts (A)**

Scholars will be immersed in hands-on, problem-based and project based learning through S.T.E.A.M. Various S.T.E.A.M. related competitions, such as robotics will be embedded in teaching and learning. **We are one of only five GADOE STEAM certified schools in the state of Georgia! As of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, M. Agnes Jones became internationally STEM certified by COGNIA.**

#### **Scholar Handbook**

The 2020-2021 Atlanta Public Schools (district) Scholar Handbook provides vital information and will help you understand organizational procedures and guidelines for the school as well as the district. The APS district scholar handbook will be available electronically. Please review the Scholar Bullying Incident Form. **Additionally, please review, sign and return the parent forms (SCHOLAR PERMISSION FORMS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SIGNATURE PAGE including the Scholar Code of Conduct, School Bus Conduct, Cellular Telephone/PED Parental Consent & Acknowledgement, Publicity Release, Clubs/Organizations).**

Opening Letter  
August 24, 2020

#### **Attendance/Tardiness:**

Improving attendance and scholar virtual engagement, including logging into the issued device for daily instruction, will continue to be a focus for us. **We need your help!** If scholars don't come to virtual school on time and on a regular basis, they miss essential learning skills which can cause them to fall behind or fail. If scholars are late, they miss valuable instructional time. We need your support in getting scholars to virtual classrooms on time. Scholars who are present and on time every day for the entire year, will receive special recognition awards, and their names in a drawing for a prize. We owe a special thank you to our Georgia-Pacific partners for donating the prizes and to you, our parents for helping us improve virtual attendance and engagement. Parents will be able to view attendance daily on the Campus Portal for Parents (CPP).

Scholars between the ages of six and 16 are expected to be present and to arrive to school on time every day in accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1, et seq.), and the Atlanta Board of Education Policies JB and JBD. Scholars who are absent or tardy miss valuable instructional time and other important school activities, and are less likely to master those skills, concepts and principles needed for academic success. Scholars who violate the attendance policy will be disciplined. Unexcused absences and/or truancy may lead to a truancy petition against the scholar and/or parents/guardian filed in juvenile court. Detailed information can be found in the scholar handbook.

Note: In order for scholars to be acknowledged as having perfect attendance for the year, they must be present **AND on time** every day of the school year either face-to-face or virtual. No exceptions!!! **No tardies or absences!!!**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law and the Atlanta Board of Education Policies

All children enrolled in APS for 20 school days or more are subject to compulsory school attendance, even if they are under 6 years of age. Every parent, guardian or other person who has control of any child between the ages of 6 and 16 must enroll and send their child to school. Any parent, guardian or other person having control of a child that has more than 5 unexcused absences, after being notified by school personnel, will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the following penalties:

- **Fine-not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00**
  - **Imprisonment-not to exceed 30 days**
  - **Community services-or any combination of such penalties at the discretion of the courts**
- Each day absent after 5 unexcused absences will constitute a separate offense.

#### **PROGRESS REPORT and REPORT CARD SCHEDULE**

##### **Atlanta Public Schools 2020-2021 Attendance Days & Grade Posting Windows Quarter 1 / Mid-Semester 1** **(42 days)**

August 24 – October 23

##### **Quarter 2 / End of Semester 1 (43 days)**

October 26 – January 15

##### **Semester 1 Total: 85 Days**

##### **Quarter 3 / Mid-Semester 2 (42 days)**

January 19 – March 19

##### **Quarter 4 / End of Semester 2 (43 days)**

March 22 – May 26

##### **Semester 2 Total: 85 Days**

**Year = 170 Days**

##### **Progress Report & Report Card Schedule** **Infinite Campus Grading Windows (9 weeks)**

October 21 – October 30

January 12 – January 22

March 16 – March 25

May 20 – May 29

##### **Progress Reports**

September 22

December 1

February 17

April 27

##### **Report Card Schedule**

October 30

January 22

March 25

June 3

## Opening Letter

### August 24, 2020

Each year M. Agnes Jones holds awards ceremonies for our scholars. There are specific criteria for each award. In order for the awards to have meaning, there needs to be criteria that scholars must meet. This means that not every scholar will receive an award.

Please know that these awards are not “given” by the teacher, but they are “earned” by the scholars. In order for scholars to earn awards in the following categories, they must meet the following criteria:

#### Principal’s List

To earn this award the scholar must receive *ALL A’s (90 or above)* in ALL Core Content Area Subjects (Reading/Writing (ELA), Math, Social Studies & Science), and Art for each end of semester report card (December and May). This is not the average for the school year, but for each of the final grading periods (End of Semester Report Card).

For example: If a scholar earns a 78 (Quarter 1 Report Card/October 17), but then continues to receive A’s increasing their overall average to 90 or above by the (Quarter 2 Report Card/December 20th) the scholar is eligible for Principal’s List. As long as the final grade for the semester is 90 or above at the end of the semester the scholar meets the criteria for Principal’s List.

If the scholar receives Principal’s List for both 1st and 2nd semester, they will be acknowledged at the end of the year Awards Day Program with the Distinguished Star Scholar Award.

#### Honor Roll

To earn this award the scholar must receive *ALL A’s (90 or above) and B’s (80 or above)* in ALL Core Content Area Subjects (Reading/Writing (ELA), Math, Social Studies & Science), and Art for each end of semester report card (December and May). This is not the average for the school year, but for each of the final grading periods (End of Semester Report Card).

#### Perfect Attendance

The scholar must be present and on time each day of the school year. Scholars must report to school each day before 8:00am to be counted on time.

#### Entering the Building \* BY APPOINTMENT due to COVID-19 Safety APS Protocol

**All persons, visiting the school until further notice will need to make an appointment with the appropriate personnel within the requested department.**

**When engaging in a face-to-face meeting or encounter with a school personnel member, all safety protocols must be followed, including, but not limited to:**

- Temperature check
- Wear a mask
- Socially distance (at least 6 ft.)
- Wash hands frequently and/or handsanitize

#### Virtual Volunteers

##### **All level 1 and Level 2 volunteers must complete a Volunteer Release Form!!!**

In support of scholar safety, the superintendent requires that all schools and administrative offices identify and screen all volunteers in accordance with the following guidelines. Security clearances for volunteers must be renewed every five years.

##### **Level 1**

Level 1 volunteers are non-district personnel who have no direct interaction with scholars such as volunteers working on playground construction or assisting with facilities maintenance when school is not in session. Level 1 volunteers do not require criminal background checks.

##### **Level 2**

Level 2 volunteers are non-district personnel who will have direct interaction with scholars with other adults present at all times. When level 2 volunteers interact with scholars, an APS employee or no fewer than two other adult volunteers must be present at all times. Level 2 volunteers do not require fingerprinting or GBI/FBI criminal background checks. School staff shall check the volunteer’s names in the Georgia and federal sex offender registries. Registered sex offenders may not volunteer. The site administrator or designee must approve or deny the request. Example of Level 2 volunteers include parents/guardians volunteering for a field day or school fair, classroom helpers, in-class tutors, performers and speakers from external agencies.

##### **Level 3**

Level 3 volunteers are non-district personnel who will have direct, unsupervised interaction with scholars. Level 3 volunteers shall be fingerprinted by the district and have a GBI/FBI criminal background checks on file prior to service. Payment for the record check must be provided by the volunteer or a sponsoring organization, such as a business partner, Parent-Teacher Association or the school. Level 3 volunteers must be approved by the Human Resources Division and the principal of the school prior to participating in activities involving direct, unsupervised interaction with scholars. Examples of Level 3 volunteers include chaperones on overnight fieldtrips who will have any unsupervised interaction with scholars and mentors who will have unsupervised interaction with scholars. Additionally, organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club are Level 2 volunteers.

Opening Letter  
August 24, 2020

### PTA/Parental Involvement

Parents are vital to the success of our school. We consider you our “partners in learning” and seek your input in our on-going efforts of educating children. You will also receive periodic parenting tips on ways you can assist your children at home and a monthly newsletter with activities you can do with your child to enhance learning. We hope you will find this information helpful. Quarterly newsletters will also be used to keep you abreast of our school and district’s activities. Monthly virtual parent meetings will be held based on your expressed needs and desires.

### PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION- PTA MEETING

During the 2020-2021 school year, there will be four PTA meetings (6:00pm). Membership is \$ 5.00.

Tentative PTA Dates:

PTA #1 - September 15th

PTA #2 - October 27th

PTA #3 - Winter Program/- December 8th

PTA #4 - April 13th

Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT)

In addition to virtual PTA meetings, parents will be asked to attend quarterly Virtual **Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT)** meetings. **Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT)** is a model of family engagement that’s focused on school and parents coming together to analyze individual scholar data in order to ensure parents know the strategies and skills to support scholars at home. Please look for more information regarding these meetings.

Fall Festival -11/07/20 (Tentatively 10:00-1:00)\* Please note this may change due to COVID-19 spread.

Fall Festival is a school/community event held for parents, scholars, staff, community and partners to fellowship at the school.

### VIRTUAL MAJ GO TEAM

Stakeholders (parents, faculty, and partners) work alongside the principal to give input on and approve the key improvement priorities for the school. The GO Team members provide input about budget, resources and operations to raise scholar achievement.

### BREAKFAST & LUNCH

**M. AGNES JONES ELEMENTARY**  
**WEEKLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
\*\*INCLUDES 5 DAYS OF BREAKFAST AND LUNCH\*\*

**DELIVERY (AT MIDDLE SCHOOLS' BUS STOPS):**  
3 PM - 6 PM  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

**DRIVE THRU PICKUP FROM THE SITES BELOW**  
3 PM - 6 PM  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Meals **MUST** be ordered 7 days prior to meal distribution.

Distribution will begin the week of August 24th!

Nutrition		
APS Food Distribution Sites on August 10 and August 17		
<b>BEST Academy/CSKYWLA</b> 1190 Northwest Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318	<b>Bunche Middle School</b> 1925 Neskey Lake Rd., SW, Atlanta, GA 30331	<b>Carver High School</b> 55 McDonough Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30315
<b>Douglass High School</b> 225 Hamilton E. Holmes Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318	<b>John Lewis Middle School</b> 1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Pky, NE, Atlanta, GA 30312	<b>King Middle School</b> 545 Hill St SE, Atlanta, GA 30312
<b>Maynard H. Jackson High School</b> 801 Glenwood Ave. SE, Atlanta, GA 30316	<b>Mays High School</b> 3450 Benjamin E. Mays Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30331	<b>Phoenix Academy (formerly Alonzo C. Crim High School)</b> 256 Clifton St., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317
<b>South Atlanta High School</b> 800 Hutchens Rd SE, Atlanta, GA 30354	<b>Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy</b> 1626 Westhaven Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30311	<b>Washington High School</b> 45 Whitehouse Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314

For more info, call us at 404-802-3900 or visit [www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutrition](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutrition) to place your orders.

### Homework/Independent Practice

Scholars will receive homework/independent practice on Monday - Thursday. Please see your scholar’s class schedule for the require independent practices minutes \* Please call the principal or assistant principal if your child is not receiving homework/independent practice on a consistent basis. Please provide a quiet place for your child to study and provide assistance as needed. Homework is an extension of our daily course of study and helps to ensure skill mastery and improved achievement. Scholars are also required to work on projects as assigned by their teachers.

Opening Letter  
August 24, 2020

#### **Virtual School Dress Code**

All scholars are expected to wear appropriate attire for all virtual class sessions. Scholars are encouraged to wear school uniforms or MAJ spirit t-shirts. Unacceptable attire includes, wearing a bonnet, blankets, bandanas, pajamas, spaghetti straps, t-shirts with inappropriate words and pictures. **We would like for scholars to dress as though they are at school and ready to learn!**

#### **Behavior Code**

In order to be successful in virtual school, scholars must learn self-control, responsibility, how to follow directions and show respect for self and others. This includes exhibiting behavior that allows teachers to teach and children to learn. It is a must that all scholars obey virtual class rules. Please help us by letting your child know that you understand the rules and support them. General rules are as follows: Listen carefully, follow directions and stay on tasks at all times. Scholars must respect staff, other scholars. This includes when scholars are engaging in virtual break-out rooms. All virtual Zoom backgrounds must be age appropriate. Scholars may not have backgrounds displaying guns, violence, vulgarity, etc. **Cyber-bullying, inappropriate verbal and non-verbal communication will not be tolerated.** You will be receiving specific classroom rules from your child's teacher.

#### **Our school's Social Emotional Learning (SEL) motto:**

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be responsible

#### **Cell Phones**

**Scholar Cell Phone Usage \*See district policy on-line regarding cell phones and other electronic devices.**

#### **Medical Emergency Information**

Please ensure that you notify your scholar's teacher as soon as possible, if your child has a medical need. We want to ensure that as we are teaching your scholar virtually, if any medical need arises, we will have an understanding of the situation and a way to quickly communicate with you via cell phone or text.

**Please know when strict enforcement of rules are implemented it is due to ensuring the wellbeing of ALL scholars. It is not the administrations' intent to cause hardship to scholars and parents but to make every day a safe, happy and academically rigorous environment for ALL scholars!!!!**

Again, I welcome you to a new school year and look forward to working with each of you on behalf of our scholars. **The telephone number for the school is (404) 802-3900. We are staffing the phones via a telework and office protocol.**

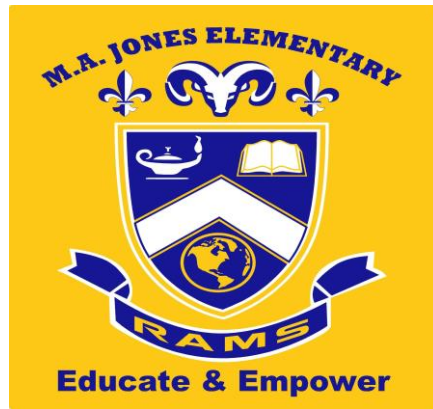
Sincerely,  
Margul Retha Woolfolk  
Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk, Ph..D.  
Principal

**Contact the M. Agnes Jones Communications/Partnership Specialist (Zella Myers) for further information.**

**M. Agnes Jones  
School Pledge**

**I am brilliant and born for greatness. I will positively impact my school, community and beyond. It is expected of me! No matter what I face I will overcome stereotypes and obstacles. Watch me, see what I can do to prove my greatness to anyone who sees me.**

2020-2021



**M. Agnes Jones Elementary is **Focusing** on...**

- **Scholar Achievement**
- **Scholar Success**
- **Georgia Standards of Excellence/Georgia Performance Standards Implementation**
- **Effective Teaching and Leadership**
- **Commitment to S.T.E.A.M. integration**
- **Strong Relationships Between the School, Parents, Partners and the Community**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Ethical Behavior**