
January 7, 2022

Finch parents and staff,

Thank you all for your efforts this past week! Together, we ensured that over 82% of our students were able to engage in remote learning to begin the second semester. **APS students and staff will return to school for in-person learning on Monday, January 10, 2022.** The school will open at 7:15 a.m. for student arrival. The instructional day begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m. **All students arriving after 7:45 a.m. must be escorted into the building and signed in by an adult.**

The increased spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has each of us on high alert. Maintaining the safety of our students and staff during the pandemic will remain a priority at William M. Finch Elementary School. This letter will provide each member of our learning community with details about Monday's return to learning and the COVID-19 mitigation strategies we are implementing for the benefit of all. It is imperative that we share and reinforce these responsibilities with both our students and one another.

COVID-19 Safety Mitigation

We will continue to follow current COVID-19 mitigation protocols:
<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/66278>.

- **Masks will still be required for ALL students and staff in the school building and on buses.**
- **We will utilize sanitizing foggers to disinfect the school prior to Monday, January 10th and on Wednesdays prior to the arrival of students and staff.**
- **All teachers will be provided with disinfecting solution and paper towels for use in the classroom.**
- **Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be filled and available in classrooms and hallways.**
- **We will continue to provide weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing and conduct contract tracing for positive test results.** Staff and students must complete their consent form here: <https://tinyurl.com/HealthyAPS>.
- **We will continue to follow DPH isolation (<https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact>) and quarantine (<https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>) protocols.** Please note: Quarantine and isolation guidance have been updated in alignment with the [CDC recommendations dated 12/27/2021](#).
- **APS will continue to encourage everyone aged 5 and older to get vaccinated for COVID-19.** Atlanta Public Schools is hosting COVID-19 vaccination events for eligible APS students who are ages 5 and older, APS families, and APS staff on **Saturday, January 8 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** We will be offering first shots, second shots, and boosters. All

vaccine brands will be available. For more information, visit: [Student Services / GetVaccinatedAPS \(atlantapublicschools.us\)](#).

- **Students or staff who are ill or presenting with any symptoms of COVID-19 should always contact the School Nurse and remain home.** Additionally, if a student tests positive with COVID-19 or is determined to be a close contact of someone who has tested positive, parents should continue to use our [self-report form](#) to properly notify school officials. Employees should report positive cases or close contacts using the [staff self-report](#) link as well.

HealthCheck Screener

Parents are asked to respond to the five daily health screening questions quickly and easily before your student reports to school. These questions will help you assess if the student has had exposure to COVID-19, has experienced any potential symptoms or illnesses, and if they have been advised to quarantine. The answers of this questionnaire will determine if the child should attend school or not. Learn more about the HealthCheck Screener here: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/65256>.

First Semester Grading Window

Due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases and the high number of quarantines in numerous schools, APS has decided to extend the first semester grading period to Friday, January 14th. This also means that the release of Report Cards will be delayed until the week of January 17th. We will provide parents with the exact date that report cards will be released.

Bus Transportation

School bus pickup and drop-off times will be delayed beginning Monday, January 10th. The best way to track your student's bus is by using the Here Comes the Bus app. This application is available in both the Google Play and App Store. Learn more about Here Comes the Bus here: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/65386>.

After School Tutorial

The start of our in-person After School Tutorial has been postponed until further notice. Students will still be able to login remotely to meet with their teachers on Wednesdays after school until in-person tutorial begins. Parents should contact their student's Homeroom Teacher if they would like their student to participate in After School Tutorial. All students isolating or quarantining due to COVID-19 will continue to participate in Wednesday's After School Tutorial.

Please feel free to contact the school at (404) 802-4000 if you have questions, or submit a Let's Talk! request at <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/8844>.

Best regards,

Gerald B. Johnson

Interim Principal

William M. Finch Elementary School