

October 16, 2020

Dear Finch Families,

Today, our superintendent, Dr. Lisa Herring, announced that Atlanta Public Schools will delay its return to face-to-face instruction due to an unfavorable trend in COVID-19 cases in our community and information garnered from consultation with public health officials and healthcare experts. As a result, the district will postpone all reopening plans for in-person learning until January 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who returned their intent to return survey. At the close of the survey we had 83 students (22% of enrollment) who planned to return to in-person learning and 77% to remain virtual with Finch. It is also important to note that 56% of our enrollment *did not* take advantage of the opportunity to complete the survey which automatically defaulted these students to remain in the virtual model. As a reminder, it is imperative that our families remain connected with all communication from the school and district in order to ensure all students are engaged in the most optimal learning experiences and services.

Atlanta Public Schools remains committed to keeping all families well-informed as we continue this journey in an unprecedented time. As a result, Dr. Herring will proceed with providing stakeholders with monthly health data checkpoints. Please mark your calendars for the next update from the superintendent during the Board meeting on November 2nd.

The difficulties and uncertainties created by the COVID-19 pandemic require our school community to be prepared for different teaching and learning scenarios. Nonetheless, our staff continues to be fully committed to our mission of providing EVERY child a quality education. We will continue to work in collaboration with the superintendent and district to explore ways to support our scholars in preparation of the potential return to some in-person services prior to January 2021.

We need the support and engagement of our families now more than ever as we continue in the virtual model as follows:

- Learning will continue to be structured, consistent school-wide, with both synchronous (face-to-face) and asynchronous (independent) learning taking place daily.
- Learning engagement by all students will continue to be required and essential to student success.
- Teachers will continue to be accessible beyond the scheduled instructional day to provide office hours and additional support for students.

Please note that asynchronous Wednesdays will discontinue effective immediately. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the week and must engage in synchronous (live) instruction for the entire instructional day to be marked present.

For additional details surrounding this most recent decision, I invite you to view the blog post in Superintendent Herring's weekly address "*The Week*" at (<https://talkupaps.wordpress.com/>). Finally, you are encouraged to attend our Title I/Principal Chat meeting this Thursday, October 22nd at 5:00 pm for information specific to our plans at Finch.

Thanks for your ongoing support. As always, please contact the school if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Forrestella Taylor
Principal