



## What's new at APS for the 2014-15 school year?

- APS has a new superintendent! Students will begin the 2014-15 school year under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Meria Joel Carstarphen.
- APS has created an ombudsman's office to address student, parent and community issues. The district ombudsman serves as an independent and confidential resource, providing assistance in resolving problems, complaints, conflicts and other school-related issues.
- Local School Council contacts (LSCs) will be posted on every school website.
- APS weapons policies were revised in response to changes made to state statute O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1. Weapons are not allowed on APS property, in schools, administrative offices, at school activities or in APS vehicles. Trained police officers are the only individuals who may carry weapons on APS property (schools and administrative offices), school buses and other vehicles, school safety zones and at activities.
- Students will need additional immunizations to enroll in APS schools. Visit **www.dph.georgia.gov/schools-and-childcare** for more information.

### Curriculum and Instruction

- The Georgia Milestones test will replace the CRCT, CRCT-M and the writing assessment for 3rd, 5th and 8th graders, as well as the End of Course Test (EOCT) for 9th through 12th graders.
- The following schools have new principals: Bethune, Brandon, Bunche, Carver School of Health and Research, Carver School of Technology, Crim, Deerwood, Douglass, Fickett, Gideons, Grady, Inman, Kindezi Charter, Latin Academy Charter, Mays, Miles, North Atlanta, South Atlanta CAD, South Atlanta HMS, South Atlanta Law, Sutton, Therrell, Washington and Young.
- Curriculum handbooks will be available online for parents and students.
- Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA), the district's free online learning program, will offer 44 courses to APS students this year. For the first time, APS students can take Advanced Placement (AP) classes, gifted honors and world languages courses through AVA.
- APS will assess students for gifted education in October only. Parent, teacher and student data referrals are due October 3, 2014.
- APS will launch the Gifted High School Redesign. Newly designed gifted delivery models for the high school gifted program are mentorship, internship, resource seminars and directed studies.
- The district will increase support for English learners by adding 10 new ESOL teachers.

### 2014-15 Bell Schedule:

School start and end times	AM	PM	
Elementary	8:00	2:30	<b>*North Atlanta High School will start at 8:45 a.m.</b>
*High	8:30	3:30	
Middle	9:05	4:05	

### SCHOOL RENOVATIONS AND RELOCATIONS FOR 2014-15

APS will continue to transform SPLOST dollars into safe and healthy learning environments that promote student attendance and academic success. To support this objective, schools in every APS region will undergo major renovations during the 2014-15 school year, while others will relocate to permanent new addresses.

#### SCHEDULED FOR RENOVATION

- Bunche Middle School ▶
- King Middle School ▶
- Mary Lin Elementary School ▶
- E. Rivers Elementary School ▶
- Sylvan Hills Middle School ▶

#### TEMPORARY LOCATION

- Archer High School Facility
- Coan Middle School Facility
- Students will remain at Mary Lin
- Old Sutton Middle School Facility
- Parks Middle School Facility

- **Drew Charter** will move grades 6-10 from the Kennedy Middle School facility to the permanent, new Drew High School (301 East Lake Blvd., 30317). Wesley International Academy will remain at the Cook Elementary School building for the 2014-15 school year.
- **Sutton Middle School** will remain at its current location during the 2014 school year. When Sutton's enrollment exceeds capacity at its new location, APS will establish a sixth-grade academy at the former Sutton facility (4360 Powers Ferry Rd., 30305).
- **Washington High School** will no longer be divided into small schools. Instead, there will be one high school with one principal and one staff, and students will share the same resources.
- The **Therrell High School campus** will continue to operate as three separate small schools; however, rather than having separate principals at each school, one principal will be assigned to all three Therrell Schools. All students and staff on the Therrell campus will report to the same principal.
- **All APS schools** will be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors.

#### TRANSPORTATION

- **13 new buses** operating on green diesel technology have been added to the APS school bus fleet.
- MARTA buses will no longer provide Forrest Hill students with round-trip service from the East Point MARTA rail station to school; However, Forrest Hill students will continue to receive MARTA cards to ride to the East Point rail station. **APS will provide Forrest Hill students with round-trip shuttle service from the station to the school.**

- APS is transitioning to a world language program that will allow middle school students to earn high school credit.

## Nutrition

([www.atlantapublicschoolsnutrition.us](http://www.atlantapublicschoolsnutrition.us))

- Lunch prices will increase. Elementary students will pay \$2.25 (40 cents for reduced lunch); middle and high school students will pay \$2.50; adults and non-APS students will pay \$4.
- The CEO (Community Eligibility Option) nutrition program is now The CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) program. The program requirements will remain the same.
- School cafeteria health scores will be posted on every school website.
- A new iPhone application is available for online meal-pay.

## Schools

- APS will no longer have year-round schools. Schools formerly operating under the year-round school calendar will operate under the normal APS calendar.
- Kennedy Middle School is closed.
- Coan Middle School is closed. Students residing in the former Coan attendance zone are now zoned to King Middle School. Students residing in the King attendance zone will continue to attend King.
- The King Middle School building at 545 Hill St., SE 30312 (404-802-5400) will be under construction for the 2014-15 school year; all classes will be held at the former Coan Middle School site, located at 1550 Hosea Williams Dr., NE 30317, until renovation is complete.
- Centennial Elementary School is now an APS charter school. Centennial is the first APS school to become a conversion charter (a charter school that previously existed as a traditional public school). As a conversion charter, Centennial receives increased flexibility and autonomy while working closely with APS. Centennial Academy will serve students in grades K-6 during the 2014-15 school year, and add a grade each year until grade 8.



- KIPP WAYS will open a primary school for kindergarteners in 2014 and add a grade each year thereafter.
- The Atlanta Classical Academy is a new APS charter school that will serve students in grades K-8.

## Technology

- APS classrooms will have an additional 4 to 6 computers available for students.
- APS is increasing school-based technical support.
- Students will have a new virtual desktop platform which will allow them to login remotely to an environment with the same look and feel of their classroom desktop and applications.
- The district will begin a \$15 million major infrastructure upgrade which includes switches, bandwidth and cabling to support digital learning across the district.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1** The APS Test Security Plan has been lauded by Georgia's Office of Student Achievement as an exemplar plan of testing security.
- 2** Atlanta Virtual Academy, APS's free digital learning program allows APS students to take credit recovery classes and accelerated coursework online. Enrollment numbers have tripled and course offerings have nearly quadrupled since the program began in the summer of 2013.
- 3** Nearly 2,000 seniors graduated from APS high schools in 2014, earning \$100 million in scholarships.
- 4** In the 2013-2014 school year seven APS schools earned the title "Reward School" from the Georgia Department of Education – reward schools rank among the top in the state for having the highest performance or highest gains by students over the last three years.
- 5** For the last 10 years, APS fourth- and eighth-grade students have demonstrated more consistent and significant gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (known as the nation's report card) than any other school participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).
- 6** 23 APS seniors were named 2014 Posse Scholars – the largest number since the program's inception in Atlanta in 2007 – earning full, four-year scholarships worth approximately \$100,000 each.
- 7** The four-year, on-time graduation rate for APS increased by more than 15 percent from 2012 to 2013.
- 8** The annual high school dropout rate for APS decreased from 11 percent in 2012 to 8.5 percent in 2013.
- 9** APS continues to be one of the leading producers of Gates Millennium Scholars in the state and nation.
- 10** In 2014, the district graduated the first group of seniors from the single-gender schools, B.E.S.T. Academy and Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy.
- 11** By spring 2014, every senior at the district's single-gender girl's school, Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, was accepted into college.
- 12** APS has received the Blue Sky Award from the Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program. The GaDER grants the award to organizations that have reduced emissions from more than 75% of their fleet.