



Sylvan Hills Middle School
1461 Sylvan Road SW, Atlanta, GA 30310
404-802-6200
Monica Blasingame, Principal
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August 6, 2020

Greetings Sylvan Hills Families,

We are excited to welcome all new and returning Golden Bears back to a new school year of learning and growing! As your new principal, I am personally grateful to continue this journey with the families of Sylvan for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year and hope that you and your families are healthy and safe.

As you are aware, the current return plan for Atlanta Public Schools is to delay the first official start day for students to August 24th and begin the first 9 weeks virtually for all. We are fully aware that this unusual scenario will stretch and challenge our work very differently. Nonetheless, our staff is working hard and fully committed to provide our students, families and community with the most optimal learning experience. While the reality is we will not be walking onto our campus every day in the new school year, I have confidence that I am working alongside the most talented and dedicated teachers and support staff in Atlanta Public Schools who are all committed to quality teaching and can assure you that the learning will not stop. Our teachers and support staff have come together with hope, vision and excitement to take care of our students and families amid these trying times.

Over the past few weeks there has been an abundance of information shared by the school district to prepare your scholar(s) and family for Day 1. All of this information can be located on our website, Sylvan App, Twitter (@APSSylvanHills), or Instagram (@apsylvanhillsms). The key details have been organized below to assist you with organizing and preparing for a great start.

Key Notes:

Pop-Up Bash-

Our Back to School Bash will occur on Tuesday, August 18th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. APS has partnered with the *Empty Stocking Fund* to make certain our students are prepared for learning! Parents must complete the APS backpack request form, so please register TODAY to receive a backpack and school supplies. Supplies for all registered families will be available for pickup by accessing: <https://linktr.ee/apsupdate>. Additional supplies are available through Sylvan's partnership with *United Way* (while supplies last).

Open House

Sylvan Hills Middle School is committed to following CDC COVID-19 Guidelines. Therefore, Open House/Orientation 2020 will be virtual via Zoom on Wednesday, August 18th from 5PM – 7PM.

Diagnostic Assessments

Assessing the academic readiness of our scholars will be critical as we address the loss of instructional time from Spring 2020. Homeroom teachers will begin calling to introduce themselves and will give information about diagnostic testing during the week of August 17th.

Day 1 - Return & Learn

APS' *Return & Learn* is **Monday, August 24, 2020**. The school day is from 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Tutorial/Independent Practice will occur daily from 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. on Monday - Friday. Your scholar's schedule will be mailed home the week of August 17th. Parents and caregivers with access to Parent Portal will be able to view schedules online on August 14th. Please call the main office at 404-802-6203 for more information on obtaining access to this system if you are not already set up.

Technology Update

As Sylvan prepares to Return & Learn this upcoming school year, technology will play a critical role. If your son/daughter needs a device, please complete one survey for each of your children attending an APS school. After the survey is completed, you will be contacted by your child's school to arrange an appointment. Visit <https://linktr.ee/apsupdate> and click the 'Device Survey' tab.

End of Summer Food Distribution

Meals will be provided to all children in the community on Monday, August 10th and Monday, August 17th. Meal bags with five breakfast meals and five lunch meals will be distributed at Carver High School between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. You can get those meals via walk up or drive-thru. Bus delivery of food will also be provided on some school bus routes. You can access bus routes and approximate delivery times by accessing <https://linktr.ee/apsupdate>. Starting August 24 – the first day of school – APS will only provide meals to APS students. Meal distribution will occur on Mondays of each week through the entire period of virtual learning. Meals will be distributed from 12 central school sites via bus routes or parent pick-up.

Families MUST pre-order meals each week through the MySchoolBucks online pre-order system by accessing (<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home>).

Stay Connected

Please visit our school's website regularly at <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/sylvan>. Teacher webpages can be found online and they are updated weekly with important class information.

Please reach out to your grade level administrator if you have any questions or concerns:

- 6th Grade – Ms. Mahogany Jackson – 404-802- 6210; mahjackson@atlanta.k12.ga.us
- 7th Grade – Mr. Robert Owens – 404-802- 6225; robert.owens@atlanta.k12.ga.us
- 8th Grade – Dr. Tara Cotton– 404-802- 6212; tara.cotton@atlanta.k12.ga.us

We strive to keep parents informed as you partner with us in your child's education. We are committed to maintaining instructional integrity through engagement with students and parents. Continue to remain safe. We look forward to a very positive and productive year together and are excited about seeing everyone soon. Again, welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

Yours in Service,

Monica Blasingame
Principal